

Banner and Advocate

PITTSBURGH, MAY 23, 1857.

TERMS.—\$100, in advance or in three installments of \$33 1/3 each, delivered at residences of subscribers...

LETTERS OF BUSINESS.—Persons sending us lists of subscribers, and especially in making remittances, will please direct their letters, always, (as requested above) to REV. DAVID MCKINNEY, Pittsburgh, Pa.

AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.—The Rev. R. S. Cook, so long connected with this Society as one of its principal Secretaries, having resigned on account of ill health, the Rev. J. M. Stevenson, D. D., of New Albany, Indiana, was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy.

SABBATH SCHOOLS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN PITTSBURGH.—These Schools met together in the First Presbyterian church, on the afternoon of last Sabbath. The spacious edifice was entirely filled by children, teachers, parents, and interested spectators.

PITTSBURGH AND ALLEGHENY ORPHAN ASYLUM.—The annual meeting of the friends and patrons of this interesting and useful institution, was held in Exelator Hall, Allegheny city, on Tuesday afternoon, the 12th inst.

DANVILLE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.—The exercises at the close of the last term of this institution of our Church, were of a very interesting character. They were introduced by a sermon to the graduating class, on Sabbath, the 3d instant, by the Rev. R. J. Breckinridge, D. D., and a sermon for the Society of Inquiry, by the Rev. Stuart Robinson, D. D.

THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST.—We reprint by request, a description of the person of our Lord, when he had his tabernacle in the flesh, walking among men and doing good.

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Human Deterioration—France.

It is well known that there are alternations in the races of men—an advance, a summit of their excellence, and a deterioration. We might illustrate this in the history of the Egyptians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, &c. Frequent, however, as are the exemplifications of the fact, and few as are the instances of a declining race being invigorated, we do not still believe that deterioration, after a growth and an acme, is a necessary law of humanity.

The French have, for years, filled a very high niche in the temple of fame. Of European nations, the Greeks declined centuries ago. The Italians, also, in generations long past, descended from their high position, and have since occupied an inferior place in the scale of nations. And the Spaniards have been, for an age or more, a greatly deteriorated people.

But it is different with France. The number of inhabitants is said there to be merely stationary; and the physical stature of the people has declined, though her relative social standing is yet high as ever. The influence of France on the politics, literature, and fashions of the world, is still immense. Her martial prowess is as great as in any past age.

The North American, speaking of this deterioration, and of the statistics to which we have alluded, says: We are told that before 1789 the minimum height for enlistment in the line was five feet one inch, French measure.

We note two influences producing this state of things. One is, the social habits of the French. The family tie, with its benignant effects on population, virtue, and physical development, is eviscerated. Many live without marriage. Marriage is oft deferred till advanced life; and when contracted, even early in life, there is quite a desire that the number of children shall be few.

The other deteriorating influence to which we alluded, is war. This, from the Revolution in 1792 till the fall of Bonaparte, in 1815, was the regular business of the nation. Men perished by the myriad. The armies were recruited by conscription. This plan of operation called to the battle-field, and to death there, all the more vigorous young men from the masses.

Since 1815, the destruction of life, by war, has been comparatively small. But the sources of a large and vigorous supply were already cut off. The population has been barely able, since then, to maintain its numbers. To have supplied recruits to keep up such a war-waste, till this day, would have been utterly impracticable. The effort would be still deteriorating, or to recuperate, is a question for time to show.

Such things as these—causes producing their late, but certain effects—cannot be seen nor appreciated by politicians. But Christians should be ready to know and understand them; and with Christians here, most happily, is still the control and direction of moral habits.

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ing of moral habits. Let them, then, maintain the family in its moral purity and piety, as the great conservative and elevating influence in the land—the family as instituted by God and regulated by his revealed truth, written in the Bible.

Ecclesiastical Correspondence.

The correspondence which, for many years, happily subsisted between the Congregational churches, and our own, is likely to terminate. A number of the District Associations have so advised. A similar inclination has been manifested in some of our Presbyteries.

We greatly regret that there should be a necessity for this disruption. Why cannot these members of Christ's family treat each other with courtesy? They recognize each other's good standing in the household. There is a very great similarity in their faith and worship, their education and sympathies, and in their modes of sustaining the ordinances and extending the common cause, among the destitute at home and the heathen abroad.

The correspondence between the Congregational Associations and the General Assembly was, as before intimated, a happy interchange of visits by Delegates, for many years. Latterly, however, there have been occasional interruptions to this harmony.

from the correspondence; and hence the indications of non-intercourse, to which we have alluded. If they claim it as their right to reiterate without limit, their admonitions, censures and rebukes, they must be resisted. Such a right never is granted in social intercourse.

We are pleased with this evidence that the result of the effort, thus far, is highly encouraging to the friends of the enterprise, and that it affords such promise to become, by God's blessing, an instrumentality of the greatest good to the African race, both here and in the land of their fathers.

Early in the year, there were circulars and other documents, relative to the Institution, sent to the different Presbyteries; from many of which, in all sections of the Church, responses have been received, expressing not merely a general approbation of the enterprise, but a confidence in its management, and a lively interest in its success.

The President of the Institute, and also Rev. J. M. Dickey, of Oxford, are now in our city; the former expecting to remain for some weeks, to operate on behalf of the cause. Addresses in his favor were delivered, on Sabbath last, in several of the churches.

The closing exercises of the occasion were had on Wednesday evening, in Dr. Swift's church, Allegheny city. Dr. S. led in the opening prayer. Addresses, or sermons, were delivered by Messrs John H. Clark, Edward L. Belden, and David A. Cunningham, members of the graduating class.

The number of benevolent Religious Institutions, and their prosperity, is a subject for much thankfulness; and notices of them are a duty. But to give the Reports of all, or even an abstract of the Reports would require much space.

Table with 3 columns: Institution Name, Total Recs., Total Exp. Includes American Tract Society, American Board of Foreign Missions, etc.

Waldenses Coming to Western Virginia. A communication has been published in several of the religious and secular newspapers, from the Rev. Mr. Lorriax, who has been for some time laboring for the spiritual benefit of the French population of Boston, designed to awaken the sympathy and call forth the benevolence of the American people in behalf of a large number of pious, frugal, and industrious Waldenses, anxious to emigrate to this land of civil and religious liberty.

The Ashmun Institute. On the 31st of December last, as we noted on the occasion, pretty fully, the Ashmun Institute was dedicated to the purposes of its erection, and the Rev. J. P. Carter, A. M., of Maryland, was installed President, and Professor of Theology.

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both the German and the English languages, 2 exclusively the German, and one devoted his time to the Swedish, Danish and Norwegian, in the Northern counties, 28 in New Jersey, and 2 in Delaware.

The aggregate time of service is equal to 50 years, 8 months and 8 days. They visited 140,612 families, and conversed and prayed with 77,431 families. They found 18,158 families who habitually neglected evangelical preaching; 5,717 were destitute of religious books except the Bible; 8,268, exclusive of Roman Catholics, were destitute of the Word of God; 9,987 families of Roman Catholics were visited.

The circulation of Books and Tracts by this Branch during the year is equal to 213,950 volumes of the average size; the reading matter of the American Messenger and the Child's Paper, the monthly circulation of which from the office, has now reached nearly 55,000 copies, equals about 111,000 similar volumes, making the entire circulation from the Depository over eighty-one million two hundred and eighty thousand pages.

Of this amount, 9,855,780 pages, which at the Society's price amount to \$6,590.52, have been gratuitously distributed by Colporteurs, Agents, and others, including specific grants of 238,970 pages to Sunday Schools; 343,320 to Mission Sabbath Schools; 174,570 to emigrants.

Board of Publication. Mr. Edmond—Allow me to group together a few facts, gleaned from a somewhat careful examination of the last Annual Report of this most excellent agency of our Church, and to suggest some points on which these reports ought to be more explicit.

The Board is to be viewed in two aspects: The one a bookelling and publishing concern, managed on strictly commercial principles; the other a charitable and missionary enterprise, conducted on benevolent principles.

Viewed in a business light, the results of the year's operations are as follows: The aggregate of sales by colporteurs, branch depositaries, and central stores, was 297,566 volumes, valued at \$68,610.30.

When we compare the last report with those of former years, it appears still less satisfactory. The report gives only the results of eleven months' business. If we increase it, by the average amount of the monthly sales, we get \$69,835.05, as the total for a year.

The means of increasing the efficiency of the Board, and the causes that retard it, are subjects deserving the attention of the Church. Are these causes organic, or functional? Are they inherent in the principles on which the business of the Board is conducted, or do they arise from the want of proper energy and enterprise in those who have the management thereof?

The duty of the Church to supply her members with an orthodox, devotional, and theological literature, was the grand idea from which the Board had its origin. In carrying this out, it must not only publish books of the right kind, but also use every available means to get the people to buy them.

Another means of giving the books publicity is by furnishing the editors of prominent newspapers with copies of their publications as soon as issued. Publishing houses know the value of this practice, and act on it. But the Board does not carry it out even with the papers of its own denomination.

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country so extended as ours, is impracticable. For the present, the only way in which we can for communication with the central store, supplemented, is by a judicious and judicious system of colportage. In a business review, the report of this department is deficient in not giving the cash realized from sales, valued at the average price of the sales, would realize \$27,678.80. The expense of selling this amount were \$11,663.31—forty-two per cent. No person, I think, will object to the amount expended in this department. But a question suggests itself here. Could not be more work done, or more liberal terms for this expenditure? The Board allows ten per cent. discount on all cash sales.

These remarks are dictated by no feeling of hostility to the Board itself, or to those members, personally, who have the management of its operations. No person in the Church has a higher idea of the capacity of the Board, or of its great usefulness, than I have. No one esteems more highly than I, the amount of good done by the annual circulation of nearly 300,000 volumes of a healthy, orthodox, religious literature.

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