

Banner and Advocate.

PITTSBURGH, FEBRUARY 20, 1858.

TERMS: \$1.50, in advance or in Clubs...

TO BIBLE DISTRIBUTORS.—See "Bible Notice" of O. Thorn.

MUCH MATTER, prepared for this issue, has been laid over...

Commissioners' Funds.—The Treasurer of the Presbytery of Ohio...

The Pastors and Sessions of the Ohio Presbytery are respectfully referred to the following extract from the Minutes of the last meeting of Presbytery:

"Resolved, That the Treasurer of Presbytery be directed to call the attention of the churches to the importance of contributing at an earlier period than usual to the Commissioners' Fund, and with increased liberality."

To meet the spirit of the above resolution, it is desired that collections be taken up so as to be paid over the month of March.

"How is it?" Under this caption the North Carolina Presbytery, states that in Charlotte, S. C., the usual Synodical collection for missionary purposes was \$80.75; and that two weeks later, the Methodist Conference took up \$1200 for the same object.

Convention of Elders and Deacons. At the late Sessions of the Synod of North Carolina, in Charlotte, a preliminary meeting was held by the Elders and Deacons there present, to make arrangements for holding a Convention of the Elders and Deacons within the bounds of the Synod, at a future day.

New Churches Dedicated. One year ago last October, a church was organized at Fort Dodge, Iowa, with five members. From this small beginning, a good year-meeting, a flourishing Sabbath School, and the regular means of grace, have been secured to the people.

Last Sabbath week, the Ninth Presbyterian church of Cincinnati was set apart to the service and worship of God. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Rice, of Chicago, and the dedicatory prayer was offered by the Rev. Dr. Briggs.

Central Presbyterian Church. A church, thus designated, was organized in Pittsburgh on the evening of the 10th of February, by a Committee of the Presbytery of Ohio.

The Spirit comes upon us, it is that we may thus work. I cannot give the beauties of this discourse, or put on paper the thrills of feeling that now and then vibrated through the house in the souls of all.

Synodical Convention at Cincinnati.

Our brethren have had a most delightful meeting. Rev. W. L. Breckinridge, D.D., of Louisville, Ky., acted as Moderator, and the Rev. E. B. Raffensperger, of Bellefontaine, and the Rev. John Crozier, of Illinois, as Clerks.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 12th, 1858. REV. AND DEAR BROTHER.—I hasten, at your request, to give you a brief account of the gracious time we have had here during the sessions of the Synodical Convention.

The last evening of the Convention was devoted to hearing the address to the churches, prepared by the Rev. Dr. Rice, of Columbus, and Rev. Dr. Briggs, of Chicago. The Convention had agreed to have preaching in the Central church, but so full of interest was the afternoon's exercises, that the vote was reconsidered, and the service recalled.

The attendance has been large, and fully up to our expectations. Pastors, elders and private members from all parts of the four Synods represented in the Convention, and from other Synods also, were present with earnest hearts to pray and wait before God for his blessing.

There could have been no better test of the interest felt by us all, and near, in the Convention, than the impassioned character of the weather on Tuesday, February 9th, the evening of which was the time for assembling. It poured torrents of rain, during a greater part of the day and the whole of the evening.

The sermon of Rev. Dr. Humphrey, of Danville, was listened to by a large auditory with breathless attention. The first Presbyterian church of our city was crowded to its utmost capacity, notwithstanding the storm of rain!

"Salvation! O the joyful sound!" The President arose, and said, "The time has come when we must pray—let us pray!" Those words "let us pray—how sweet, how sad! That prayer will be remembered by all. It fell from the lips of the President, all associated with holiness and grace, and while it shed a blessing upon the blessed God, our Father, for his love and kindness to us, his unworthy children. Every word sank into our souls. O that we could have delayed still longer!

Some who were present at the Convention in Pittsburgh, say that you brethren there had more of this blessed experience than we have had, &c. a longer time of it. We lost a part of the first day, but we made up for it by the completion of the organization, and settling some unnecessary questions. But we made up for the loss, the last evening. And now, we say, God is indeed the hearer and answerer of prayer!

San Francisco. Some of the newspapers in this city appear to take quite a laudable interest in the affairs of the Church. We notice in the Times, especially, extended and seemingly fair notices of the sermons and lectures delivered by pastors in the city.

House of Refuge. REFUGES belong to the Reformatory measures of the times, and are among the issues of Christian benevolence. Youthful delinquents, and children who have none to control them, are sent there to be restrained, governed, taught and employed; and thence due time to be bound out, according to law, in families which will afford them good homes.

Every week brings to our notice some precious evidences of revival. In some places a few merry drops are falling, but in others the mighty shower is coming down.

LEATHERWOOD, PA.—A delightful work of grace has been in progress for some time in the church of Leatherwood, Presbytery of Clarion, and thirty-nine have been already received into communion of the church by profession of faith.

HOLIDAYBURG.—The great kindness of God is still manifest in this place. The additions to the Presbyterian church now number fifty-four, to the Lutheran one hundred and three; to the Baptist near forty, and to the Methodist about eighty.

VALPARAISO, IND.—In the church at Valparaiso, Indiana, between twenty and thirty express a hope in Christ, and others are inquiring. Letter next week.

TALLADEGA, ALA.—The Rev. Dr. Nall, formerly pastor of the Second church of Mobile, presented his work as Synodical missionary in Talladega, Alabama, for two weeks. The first fruits are over sixty hopeful conversions in that town. The work was still in progress in great power.

THE BIBLE SOCIETY. [We have reason to believe that many pastors and churches felt, as represented below. But the cause of apprehension for evil, is now removed. It will be long before another attempt will be made, through the American Bible Society, to innovate upon the good old English Bible.—Ed.]

DR. MCKINNEY.—We have received two circulars from the Bible Society, calling for funds, to which we do not see fit to respond, until the Board of Directors do actually receive their old and presumptuous terms, and give our old Bible, with its Evangelical headings, instead of those loose generalizations which they have substituted with so much temerity; yea, and I might say, with such an apparent spirit of accommodation to the carnal views of those who would treat, for example, that excellent portion of the Old Testament, the Song of Solomon, as a mere love-ditty. Perhaps this may be too severe an animadversion on their proceedings; but let any one compare the headings of the new edition in that Book with the headings in the same Book in the old edition; and he cannot but feel as if there were a wonderful falling off from Evangelical sentiments in the direction of Latitudinarianism. Let not the ancient landmarks be removed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT. Rev. J. T. Bliss, Walnut Grove, Ill., speaking of the kindness of the people of his charge, says: "The most of the families composing the John Knox Church, with a part of the Altona people, call on a child in the P.M. of the last day of 1857, having their wagons and carriages laden with provisions of all kinds, and various other useful articles to the amount of \$40, which, with former presents, during the year, would amount to at least \$100. Having expended nearly all our salary in building, we were greatly relieved by the presents, but the noble spirit which prompted the good people to give of their hearts, substance, and the pleasant social interview enjoyed with them, were more valuable still, and will be remembered with pleasure many days hence."

It was truly one of the pleasant "Sunny" spots of pastoral life. When the public servants of Christ are thus reminded that their labors are appreciated, and the truth begin to appear, how cheerfully can they go forward in the proclamation of the glorious Gospel of the blessed God, leaning upon all-sufficient grace!

Rev. W. MOHRER GRIMES has received a call from the church of McConnellsville, Ohio.

Rev. W. J. ALEXANDER having taken charge of the congregation of West Union, in the Presbytery of Washington, his Post Office address is changed from Canonsburg, Pa., to Dallas, Marshall County, Va.

Rev. JOHN EIKIN, D.D.—The notice which we offered on an exchange, last week, that this brother had been called to Fairview, Pa., was premature.

Rev. JAS. NAYLOR, of Mehlberg County, Va., has received a call to the church at Middleton, Carroll County, Miss.

Rev. T. R. MARKHAM was installed pastor of Fulton Street church, New Orleans, on the 24th ult.

Rev. T. C. STUART'S Post Office address is changed from Fort Smith, Ark., to Pontotoc, Miss.

Rev. THOMAS H. ARMSTRONG has declined the invitation from the church at Shreveport, La., and accepted one from the church at Trinity, La.

Rev. JOHN A. SMYLER has removed from Liberty, Miss., to Livonia, La.

Rev. G. W. COPPIN has resigned the care of the churches of Sharon and Augusta, Ky.

Rev. THOMAS G. SMITH, of Cincinnati, has received a call from the church of Shelbyville, Ill.

EASTERN SUMMARY.

BOSTON AND NEW ENGLAND. The Legislature is determined to have, hereafter, but one session per day, and that in the afternoon. The forenoon will thus be given to Committees for the careful preparation of reports and business. No doubt too little time is given, in most legislative bodies, ecclesiastical not excepted, for digesting and examining the various measures proposed, and hastening and imperfect legislation is the inevitable consequence.

Several interesting meetings have been held in the State House, at which important information was communicated by gentlemen connected with the various Reformatory Institutions, to promote increased attention to the subject of home education. No one, not acquainted with the annals of crime, has any proper conception of the vice and misery springing from a neglected or evil education at the parental fireside. To reform the young, is now a great object among Christians and philanthropists; but we must go a step farther back to reach and remedy the evil. Parents must be brought to feel their responsibility, and to perform their duties to their children.

The State Prison at Charlestown now contains four hundred and ninety convicts. Great regret is felt for the loss of the Statues of John Adams and Daniel Webster. The Ogdens, in which they had been stippled, was abandoned at sea, and the whole cargo has gone to the bottom. The statue of the former was intended for the chapel of the Cemetery at Mount Auburn.

The Libraries at Harvard are rapidly becoming places of reference from all parts of the country. They are open to all visitors, and their use is as free as is consistent with the safety of the books. The different collections now comprise one hundred thousand volumes, and about thirty thousand pamphlets. These have been received, for the most part, from publishers, authors, and friends of the Institution. The income from the library fund, is only \$300 per annum. Donations of books and pamphlets, on all subjects, are respectfully asked from all parts of the United States.

The series of Discourses at the Pitts Street chapel, the character of which we have already described, is attended, with great interest. The fourth of the series was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Nehemiah Adams, of the Essex Street Congregational church, to a crowded audience, from 1 Cor. ii: 2. In the first part of the discourse, the speaker dwelt upon the Scriptural warrant for the Congregational system; its various characteristics, and benefits; and how it is distinguished from the systems of the Baptists and Episcopalians. When he came to the Trinitarian branch of the subject, he held forth, boldly and truly, that the Plenary Inspiration and supreme authority of the Word of God—both Old Testament and New—is the only rule of faith and practice recognized by the denomination he represented. Then he set forth clearly, and ably defended, the Supreme Deity and true humanity of the Redeemer's person, and his expiation of the sins of men by his death on the cross. In the conclusion he spoke, with great force, of some of the experimental tests of a sound and saving faith, which give their invariable testimony in favor of the truth he had been declaring. This able exhibition of the Congregational system will not soon be forgotten by those who heard it.

At a late meeting of the Historic-Geographical Society, Professor Stone, of Andover, read an instructive paper on the "First Promoters and Settlers of Massachusetts Colony." The paper especially new and valuable, was that which related to the principal promoters of the enterprise in England, who never came to this country. The author obtained the materials for this part, in a visit to the mother country, since they are not accessible in this.

The Trustees of Bangor Theological Seminary have issued an earnest appeal to its friends and patrons, for additional contributions to its funds. This Institution is worth about \$100,000, but one half of this consists of the Seminary buildings, grounds, and library, leaving only \$50,000 of a permanent investment for the support of the Seminary. This Theological Seminary has always been considered sound and reliable, and has done much for the churches of that part of New England in which it is located.

An unfortunate collision has occurred between some of the students of Yale College and the firemen of New Haven, in which one of the latter lost his life. The utmost prudence and energy was necessary on the part of the Faculty and many citizens, to prevent an open conflict between the two parties.

Powerful Revivals are in progress in the churches in Litchfield and Hartford Counties, Connecticut. In the churches of the city of Hartford, young men seem to be the special subjects of this blessed outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Indeed, many years have passed since there has been such a general awakening among the churches throughout the Eastern States. There is great anxiety to hear the Gospel, and the Word is "in demonstration of the Spirit, and of power."

NEW YORK. One not acquainted with the events of the last few months would not suppose any sudden depression or great revulsion had occurred, if suddenly placed in the midst of the excitement pervading Wall Street, at this time. Merchants are more wary than for many years, but the dealers in stocks are beginning to venture largely and risk much. And every effort is made, as before, to raise the price of certain stocks and to depreciate others.

The Mayor has caused quite an alarm among the Gambling Establishments. His police have arrested some of the principal agents in this destructive business and are on the alert for others. Many of the keepers of these places are men of possessing

Address.

To the Churches in connection with the Synods of Kentucky, Cincinnati, Indiana, and Northern Indiana: BROTHERS BELIEVED IN THE LORD.—We, a company of Ministers and Ruling Elders of the Synods of Kentucky, Cincinnati, Indiana, and Northern Indiana, assembled together in a Convention for conference and prayer, to seek a revival of religion in our churches, venture to address you, in order to engage your co-operation in seeking for this great blessing.

There are various topics belonging to this general subject, the discussion of which, if the time allowed, would be appropriate and profitable. Among these, are, the true nature of the blessing which we seek, a revival of religion; and the evidences of the fact, that the present state of religion in our churches is such as exhibits the urgent need of such a revival. The first of these topics we must, however, here assume to be in some good measure understood. The evidence of a great and urgent need of a general revival of true religion, alas, abound on all hands! They are found in the conformity, in different degrees indeed, but yet general and widely prevalent—of the members of the churches to the world in the various forms of worldliness; in the absence, very extensively, of any proper state of fear of God; in the existence, more or less, of offences, on the part of Christians, against the law of Christ; and in the abounding of ungodliness and sin in the world without, for whose salvation the Church is set.

I feel, wishing here any particular discussion of the topic, let us inquire what are THE CAUSES of the present state of things in the work of the Church in men, and of the consequent low and defective state of religion among us, which is generally acknowledged and deplored.

The general cause of this state of things, which neither comprehends all other causes, it ought never to be forgotten, is the alienation from the life of God, which belongs to fallen men, the darkness of their understanding, the enmity against God of their carnal mind, and the corruption of their whole nature, and the unmodified remainders of all this which are found, even in those who are born of God and numbered among his saints. But, without dwelling here on this general and radical cause, whose influence is every where, and in all times—universally felt in hindering the work of the Church, let us specify some of the particular causes of the evil state of things which appear among ourselves.

1. And, among these causes, we note, as the first and principal of them all, the general neglect of a due use of the Word of God, in the private study of the Scriptures, the instruction of the Church, in Catechetical instruction, and in the ministrations of the pulpit.

It is an established principle of our Church, and of all Christians every where, that the Spirit of God maketh the reading, and especially the preaching of the Word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation. Such is the testimony of the Scriptures themselves. It is the commandment of our Lord himself: "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think that ye have eternal life; and it is they which testify of me." And, in his sacerdotal intercession, in his prayer for his people to the Father of lights: "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth."—John v: 39; xvii: 17.

Soaring, then, in the Word of God is of such excellency and such efficacy, that the Spirit, quick and powerful, imparteth any two-edged sword, piercing to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, of the joints and marrow; and a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart; the rod of his strength, by which his people are made willing in the day of his power; the sincere milk, by which they who are born of God grow; the bread and the meat, by which his children are fed; light to their eyes, and balm to their souls, giving light and life, and health and blessing; can it be doubted that if this blessed Word of God were duly used; according to the design, for the purposes; and in the manner, for which it is given; it would produce its appropriate effects? And is it not apparent that the exceedingly defective and low state of religion of which we complain, is in chief part, owing to the neglect of the use of the Divine Word?

Is it not true that there is, with the members of the Church generally, a great neglect of the private study of the Scriptures for the ends for which they are given? "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness."—2. Tim. iii: 16. Are the Scriptures fully, thoroughly, faithfully studied, with prayer, with meditation, with self-application, for these ends? Of the righteous man, whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates thereon day and night, it is affirmed, that "He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, but bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper: he shall be as a tree planted by the rivers of water, and that shall not see when heat cometh; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit."—Ps. i: 3; Jer. xvii: 8. Is it not the want of this health in the desert; that men in places of the wilderness a salt land not inhabited?

And so, also, is it not true, that there is a great neglect of a due use of the Divine Word in Catechetical instruction of the people, of all classes, all ages, and all degrees of attainment? The Catechetical exercise is confessedly the form of instruction best adapted to excite and secure the attention of the learner, to ascertain the state of his acquaintance with the subject of his study, and to communicate to him clear, precise, and definite knowledge. This form of instruction was a powerful means of the improvement of the people in Divine knowledge, in the ancient Church; and we cannot but think that the extensive diffusion of it is among the causes of the unsatisfactory state of religion in our own times. Often do we see people, failing to acquire from the ordinary forms of religious discourse, a distinct understanding of the elements of religious knowledge, while for the time they have had to be teachers of others, they have need that one teach them which be the first principles of the oracles of God, are ever learned and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

And so again, is it not true, that there is a great failure of a due use of the Word of God, in the general neglect of the exposition of the Scriptures in the ministrations of the pulpit? Let us not be misunderstood. However few we who are here assembled together in this Convention may be to estimate ourselves, we are very far from despising the preaching of the Word, in the ministry. On the contrary, we believe that a general fact, the preaching of our ministers is in many respects distinguished by a high degree of excellence and of adaptation to

DEATH OF ANOTHER MINISTER.—The Rev. Thomas Cleland, D.D., a well known, able, and faithful minister of the other branch of the General Assembly, died at his residence in Mercer County, Ky., on the 31st of January.

WASHINGTON, O.—A precious revival is in progress. Many students of the Academy rejoice in hope. Letter next week.

DEATH OF ANOTHER MINISTER.—The Rev. Benjamin F. Templeton, pastor of the Lombard colored Street Presbyterian (New School) church, died on the 7th inst., of congestion of the lungs. He was a modest, amiable and good man. Some years ago he labored for a time as a minister in Cincinnati, and afterwards in Pittsburgh.

DEATH OF ANOTHER MINISTER.—The Rev. Thomas Cleland, D.D., a well known, able, and faithful minister of the other branch of the General Assembly, died at his residence in Mercer County, Ky., on the 31st of January.

WASHINGTON, O.—A precious revival is in progress. Many students of the Academy rejoice in hope. Letter next week.

WASHINGTON, O.—A precious revival is in progress. Many students of the Academy rejoice in hope. Letter next week.

WASHINGTON, O.—A precious revival is in progress. Many students of the Academy rejoice in hope. Letter next week.