

Banner and Advocate.

PITTSBURGH, AUGUST 28, 1858.

TERMS.—\$1.50, in advance, or in Clubs \$1.00, delivered at residence of Subscriber, \$1.75. See Prospectus, on Third Page. REWEALS should be promptly a little while before the year expires, that we may make full arrangements for a steady supply. THE NEW WRAPPER indicates that we desire a renewal. If, however, in the haste of sending this signal, we have not stated, we hope our friends will still not forget us. REMITTANCES.—Send payment by safe hands, when convenient. Or, send by mail, enclosing with ordinary care, and trusting society with a knowledge of what you are doing. For a large amount, send a Draft, or large note. For one or two papers, send Gold or small notes. TO MAKE CHANGE, send postage stamps, or better still, send for new papers say \$3 or seventy numbers, or \$1 for Thirty-three numbers. DIRECT ALL Letters and Communications TO REV. DAVID MCKINNEY, Pittsburgh, Pa.

THE LENGTH of the Report on the Book of Discipline, excludes several communications marked for this week.

ATTENTION is requested to the articles of "Minimus" and "J." The writers are invited to publish. Other articles are marked for insertion. From some letters we may but give brief quotations; but we value every word of encouragement which we receive. We work for the churches.

Summary of the North West.

By the Constitution of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary for the North West, the Board of Directors is required to meet prior to the annual meeting of the several Synods. The Board is, therefore, called to meet in the city of Chicago, on Tuesday, the 14th day of September, at 9 A. M., No. 19 Portland Block. A full attendance is requested. S. T. WILSON, President of Board.

An Important Notice.

Three numbers after the present, will terminate the sixth year of the Presbyterian Banner. Many subscriptions will then terminate. A prompt renewal, a full renewal, and a large increase are vastly important. Our brethren, the pastors and elders, are most earnestly requested to make up large lists, and to forward them without delay. Where they hold themselves responsible for the payment shortly, we cheerfully send at their request, to part or even to all the names in their list.

Western Theological Seminary.

The Board of Directors of the Western Theological Seminary, will meet in the Lecture-Room of the First Church, Pittsburgh, on Thursday the 23d day of September next, at two o'clock P. M. W. B. McCLYNNER, Secretary.

The Board of Trustees of the Western Theological Seminary.

The Board of Trustees of the Western Theological Seminary, will meet in the Lecture-Room of the First Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, on Thursday, the 23d day of September next, at two o'clock P. M. FRANCIS G. BAILEY, President.

Board of Colportage of the Synods of Pittsburgh and Allegheny.

The annual meeting of the Board of Colportage of the Synods of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, will be held, in pursuance of the direction of the two Synods, on Tuesday, the 7th day of September next, at the Presbyterian Rooms, St. Clair Street, Pittsburgh, at 2 o'clock P. M. A full attendance is requested.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

Ministry.—Rev. D. McKinney, D. D., Geo. Marshall, D. D., J. M. Hastings, D. D., Howard, D. D., Richard L. J. Hughes, E. R. Swift, John H. Wilson, E. R. Brainerd, Richard Bard, D. Campbell, D. D., L. L. Conrad, M. W. Jacobs, D. D., S. M. McClung, L. R. McAbay, Robert S. Walker, Wm. M. Blackburn. Elders.—S. McManister, Wm. James B. Lawson, Robert McKnight, S. S. Spencer, James Schoonmaker, Jas. Corbush, M. D., Luke Loomis, John B. Wilson, E. R. Brainerd, Richard Bard, Francis G. Bailey, Wm. Campbell, S. P. Johnston, J. D. McCord, T. H. Nevin, Wm. Bakewell. Wm. Bakewell, Secy.

The Synods.—A Suggestion and a Request.

The following has been handed to us for publication. We heartily join in the request. We trust that our Christian brethren in the places appointed for the Synodical meetings, will not think that too great a liberty is taken, in the proposition. They will reflect that the move is good, and that the people themselves are to participate.

Our friends of the congregation of Blairsville.

Our friends of the congregation of Blairsville, have already intimated to us their wish to receive the Synod of Pittsburgh thus early. It has been suggested that the brethren—the ministers and elders—who may attend the approaching meetings of the different Synods of the Presbyterian Church, convene, as far as practicable, one day earlier than that to which they adjourned, for the purpose of special prayer to God for the outpouring of his Holy Spirit upon the churches under their care. Various brethren throughout this region, and some elsewhere, have been consulted on the subject, and all have approved and expressed the desire that the suggestion be carried into effect. We feel authorized, therefore, on the ground of this common desire, to request that the members of the respective Synods make their arrangements accordingly, and meet one day sooner than the day to which they adjourned, for the purpose specified. The officers of the churches where the Synods are to meet, are requested to make provision for the entertainment of the members, in accordance with this suggestion. Let the brethren remember the day of Pentecost. Let them think of what God has wrought in the midst of our churches, during the past season, and come together in the exercise of a holy, confiding faith, and he will do still greater things for the glory of his great name. Are not the churches receiving an extended fulfillment of this promise of the Lord of Hosts? "I will yet come to pass, that there shall yet come people, and the inhabitants of many cities; and the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the Lord; and to seek the Lord of Hosts: I will go also." So it is; and so let it be again; and the whole nation; and all its cities shall unite in this blessed work. MANY BROTHERS.

The Discussion Progressing.

The relation between the Church and her Boards, is a subject of vast importance. Its consideration cannot be properly done up in a few articles. The investigation requires time and labor. And they are worthy of both. If there is any thing about any of those great and important agencies which requires concealment, it is wrong; and it should be sought out and removed, at whatever cost. The shrinking of certain men from such an investigation, shows a consciousness of something existing in their connection with the Boards, the knowledge of which, on the part of those whose funds they consume, would be damaging.

The Presbyterian, in its anxious desire to heap up blame upon "Dr. McKinney," and to crush him, by its own force, and by a personal enemy, and by the weight of "all the Boards," has somewhat turned the discussion away from the points at issue; but they must not be lost sight of. In its last number, (Aug. 21st.), in speaking of a second very long, and really a shameful article of its correspondent, who falsely styles himself "Western Pennsylvania," it says:

We lament the whole controversy, which has taken personal character, and the facts of which are certainly not all on one side. May we not hope that it will rest here? Its further agitation will only lead to greater severities, and tire the patience of most of our readers. (The italics are ours).

Is this a threat intended to silence us? The concealment of our assailant might justify us in retiring, even without this stimulant. But we choose not to desert the cause.

We have therefore concluded to brave the "greater severities." We contend for principles; and we have many assurances that the churches are not tired. They wish us still to insist upon economy in disposing of their funds, and upon an open, honest, and faithful service on the part of their employees. Sincerely they cannot tolerate.

We hence penned, and sent off to the Presbyterian, a brief article, alluding to its correspondent. The vituperation, in which he abounds, and some of the merely personal allusions, we noted not. To the few things only which belong to the discussion, did we respond. We retained a copy of our article, for our own paper, that it might appear in both journals simultaneously. It is as follows:

MESSRS. EDITORS.—Your Correspondent, "Western Pennsylvania," resides, by your own statement, not in that region. And he is evidently not a representative of the sentiment, the spirit, nor the conduct of the ministers and churches there. By what word, then, shall we designate his assumption of the name over which he writes? And what a character does this assumption give to all his utterances!

I now offer a few more words on the discussion, and

I ask your readers to kindly re-peruse my article in your journal of August 14th, and to note carefully its facts, arguments, and spirit; and to examine all my editorials on this subject, to which they can find access.

2. I, with you, regret that there should be "personalities." But malignity, you know, does very little injury, where people are intelligent. And "greater severities" from the same source would be entirely innoxious.

3. If my argument militates against any Board, there must be something wrong there. I have insisted upon having laborers enough, and fairly compensated; and have contended only against a useless office, and inefficient incumbents.

4. My appointment on the Committee of the Board was made without any management of mine, and without the slightest suggestion by me, directly or indirectly.

5. I did not oppose the election of Dr. Musgrave, nor did I tender a protest against it. On the contrary, I officially extended to him the invitation of the Board, and personally urged his acceptance, having the fullest confidence in his integrity, ability, and industry. And before he would accept, it was made to appear satisfactorily, that there was not in the Board a single dissenter from his occupying the position to which a majority had called him.

6. Dr. Happersett was tendered, from the first, a place in my columns, to correct any mistakes which might be made respecting his position and services. Between him and me, personally, there was nought, so far as I knew, but untrilled friendship. It would have been, and still would be, my pleasure and privilege to make him the full amends, if I have done him any wrong.

7. The conduct of an incumbent in and with regard to his office, is always a proper subject for candid and responsible inquiry, by his constituents. To this alone I alluded; and that only when impelled to do by an assailed through his friends.

8. If Dr. Happersett desires a further investigation into his official career,—the time and occasion of his appointment as Assistant Secretary, his labors under Dr. Jones and Dr. Musgrave, &c., &c.—he has but to adopt his nameless advocate's assertions and insinuations, and make them openly his own.

9. It is, both in Church and State, the right of the accused to cross-examine the accuser's witnesses. Hence the bringing out, on my part, of the sentiments which I have reversed and honored friend, Dr. McDowell's sentiments not confidentially communicated, but often uttered and well known; and sentiments which are a credit to his head and his heart.

10. Let not the churches, by these personalities, be turned away from the great subject before them—that is, economy in the use of sacred funds, no useless offices, a due service on the part of those who draw from the Church Treasury, and especially a control by the churches over the agencies of their own creation.

11. It is remarkable that not a fact which I have stated, has been called in question, as to its substantial correctness, and not an argument has been advanced by opponents tending to show the need of an Associate Secretary, save that which is based on the presumption that pastors and missionaries will not do their duty, and that Presbyteries are inadequate to their work, and that hence there must be a traveling Secretary exercising Episcopal functions.

DAVID MCKINNEY.

WEST LIBERTY ACADEMY.—This is a new Institution, located in Ohio County, Va. It is intended for boys, and now sends forth its first Circular, signed A. F. Ross, A. M., Principal. Mr. Ross is an experienced teacher, and the vicinity of the school to the head-quarters of Campbellism, will give it an importance in the estimation of the community.

The Committee on the Book of Discipline.

This very able Committee have brought forth their labors to a close. The result, so far as they are concerned, is on our first page. It will now be for the churches to examine and to prepare, by their Commissioners to the Assembly next Spring, to amend, if need be, and to adopt and send down to the Presbyteries for confirmation.

From a hasty glance we are disposed to say, that the emendations are, for the most part, very judicious. Two or three, however, may not meet with unanimous approval. Chap. I., Sec. III., seems inconsistent in its parts. If baptized persons are "members of the Church," "under its government," and "bound to perform all the duties of members," and "bound to perform all the duties of members," as they assuredly are, then they are certainly "proper subjects" for discipline. They have a right to it, as an instituted means of grace, and the church Session is bound to extend it to them.

But possibly there may be some special significance attached to the phrase "judicial prosecution," as distinct from Church discipline. If so, then the Section reads strangely. They are members under the government of the Church, and bound to perform all the duties of members, and yet may neglect and transgress, and not be brought before a judicator! This is anti-Scriptural and anti-Presbyterian in doctrine, or it is a justifying of a great dereliction in duty, as to practice. We trust that the churches will never sanction it. Let the Section be amended.

Chap. III., Sec. VI., and Chap. IV., Sec. XIII., provide for the employment of counsel, other than members of the Court. "Professional counsel," as such, may not be employed, but any church member may be. This is an innovation. It provides for the introduction of lawyers, who may be professors in the church concerned, as advocates before the Session, and in one case, and possibly in all, as appellants and appellees, before all the Courts up to the Assembly. What may be the practical working of this scheme, we cannot predict. The churches will likely look at it before they sanction it.

Our columns will be open to discussion, pro and con, to a reasonable extent.

What Does it Mean?

A writer in the Presbyterian Herald, of August 19th, says, under this head:

Two of our Boards have declined to comply with the clearly expressed wish of the Church, as made known by the General Assembly.

After due and full consideration the last General Assembly expressed the thought that the Board of Domestic Missions might and should disengage with the Assistant Secretary, as the Corresponding Secretary said he could easily discharge the duties of the office without the Assistant Secretary, and thereby save to the Church \$1875.75, the amount paid to him last year, and enough to send out ten missionaries. Yet the Board of Domestic Missions has declined doing so, and has re-elected said Associate, &c.

Again: The General Assembly directed the Board of Publication to strike out one hymn and insert some other in its place. Yet said Board declines doing so. What does this mean? Do these Boards remember how the General Assembly once spoke to the Board of Directors of Princeton Seminary, when it assumed and acted on authority that, to it, did not belong? We hope these Boards will re-consider their acts, and not go contrary to the clearly expressed wish of the Church.

A Foundation Laid.

The Corner Stone of an edifice for the Second Presbyterian Church, in this city, was laid on Monday, the 23d inst. An eligible site has been chosen, corner of Penn and Irwin streets. The building is to be large, substantial, and tasteful. The exercises were brief, but varied, pertinent and interesting. They were conducted by Rev. Wm. D. Howard, D. D., the pastor. Prayer by Drs. Campbell and Elliott. Reading of the Scriptures by Dr. McKinney. Addresses by Drs. Jacobus and Plumer. Psalm by Mr. Fulton. Historical Statement, the Laying of the Stone, and Benediction, by Dr. Howard.

The foundation is laid in faith and prayer, and the energies of a willing people are consecrated to the erection. It is a temple for the Lord of Glory, where he will meet with and bless his people.

Confession of Faith in German.

The Board of Publication has issued the translation of our Confession, Catechisms and the Form of Government, in the German language, as requested by the Assembly. We hail the appearance of this book, and we trust that our Board may be able to devise an effective agency for circulating it among the masses of the German speaking population of our country. We understand that the translation is well, and faithfully executed, and that some of our leading theologians who have watched the progress of the work with becoming interest, are entirely satisfied with the ability displayed by the learned brother, to whose care this important work was committed.

WASHINGTON COLLEGE, PA.—The Catalogue for 1857-8, shows the College classes to embrace—Seniors, twenty; Juniors, twenty-two; Sophomores, thirty; Freshmen, twenty-three; Preparatory, thirty—Total, one hundred and twenty-five.

HANOVER COLLEGE, IND.—This Institution, pleasantly situated on the North bank of the Ohio, sends forth its twenty-sixth Annual Catalogue. In the regular classes there are sixty-four students, and in the Scientific and Preparatory, sixty-eight. Total, one hundred and thirty-two. The Presidency seems to be still vacant.

THE PRAYER MEETING in the Hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, is held every morning, at 7 1/2 to 8 o'clock. It is attended with interest. All are invited.

Instruction of Negroes.

The following we see given as an extract from the pastoral address of the Bishops, sixth in number, of the Methodist church, South:

The relation of master and servant is recognized in the New Testament, and the duties of each prescribed. The observance of these moral rules we regard as integral to the morality and piety of our members. The benign spirit of our holy religion not only demands that masters should render to their servants that which is just and equal in wages, as to food, raiment, and shelter, but that religious instruction should be provided alike for servants as for children. The Gospel is God's gift to the black man as well as to the white, and Christian masters should see to it that all their dependants are regularly supplied with the preaching of the Word, and all the privileges of the Church of God.

The salvation of the colored race in our midst, as far as human instrumentality can secure it, is the primary duty of the Southern Church. Let us earnestly seek to meet our responsibilities, and then, whatever "evil things" ignorance and prejudice may say of us, we shall have the blessing of a good conscience, and the blessing of Him who is Judge of all.

In the City.

PHILADELPHIA, August 28, 1858.

DEAR BANNER.—At the close of our last, the famous "Century Plant," or "American Aloe," now on exhibition at Parkinson's Saloon, was mentioned, together with the object to which the proceeds are to be applied. Hundreds visit it daily, and persons come from a great distance to behold the wondrous plant, certainly the finest of the kind that has ever bloomed in the United States. The present is a favorable time for such an exhibition, since the city is thronged to an unusual degree with strangers from all parts of the country. For now is the very height of the business season. Merchants have returned from the mountains, the sea-side, the Falls, and indeed all the different Summer resorts, to meet their customers and fill their orders.

The amount of business transacted in this city is not fully appreciated by people at a distance, for everything is conducted much more quietly than in its metropolitan neighbor, New York. And the amount of miscellaneous manufactures is really immense. They are not confined to any particular locality, but may be found in every street, and all the adjoining towns. A careful collector of statistics estimates the capital now employed here in manufactures at \$72,500,000; number of hands engaged, one hundred and thirty-two thousand; and the annual product; \$145,348,738. The single item of hosiery, manufactured principally in Germantown, now amounts to over \$2,000,000 per annum. And the railroad connexions with the West and South must continue to bring these products into the market, with a large increase from year to year. In the natural course of things, the Pennsylvania Railroad, in connexion with the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad, must at length become the great medium of intercourse between the East and West, and a corresponding increase of visitors and traders must be the result. Preparations for this event are already being made in the erection of a new hotel, one of the largest and finest in the United States, on Chestnut Street, immediately opposite the Girard House.

But every visitor to this place will lose much if he confines his observations to the streets, stores, and buildings of the city proper. If he would escape the monotony of the long rows of similar dwellings, let him betake himself for a day to Norristown, Germantown, and Chestnut Hill, where new and splendid edifices, of the most approved architecture, grounds laid out and ornamented with the greatest skill and taste, and the most beautiful landscapes in the distance, will greet his delighted vision. In these places, some of the most enterprising and successful merchants of Market and Chestnut Streets have their residences, and also many of the prosperous clerks and mechanics. And yet we are confident, after making all due allowance for our Western partialities, that nature has been as prodigal of her gifts, in the way of beautiful prospects and enchanting scenery, along our own Monongahela, Allegheny, and Ohio, and especially the last, as to the most highly favored spot in this vicinity. Every visitor to Germantown will, as a matter of course, visit the old battle-ground—almost the only spot in the neighborhood untouched by the hand of modern improvement. The old Chew house used on that memorable day as a kind of fort, remains much as it was immediately after the battle. The stone walls without, and the partitions within, still retain the marks of the terrible warfare. And the older inhabitants point out the position of the opposing parties, and the various routes taken by the fugitives, as they heard them described in their youthful days, by those who had witnessed the whole conflict, and aided in relieving the wounded, and burying the dead.

The pastors are returning to their labors, and the churches are beginning to fill up with the accustomed worshippers. Rest from labor, new scenes, and a bracing atmosphere, have imparted new vigor to the wearied pastor, and he comes back to his duties with renewed earnestness. The Gospel will be faithfully preached, and no means of entreating men to be reconciled to God, will be left untried. But the Secretaries of the Boards have, for the most part, no holiday. There they sit from day to day, engaged in the same perpetual round of duties, with little variety of life, without the genial sympathies of a loving congregation, and yet expected to give entire satisfaction to every member of the whole Church. No easy lot is that of the Secretaries who do the Church's work, obey its requirements, and receive its commendations. To fulfill its mission, enjoy its affection, and have its prayers. And at times allow these faithful servants short seasons of relaxation as others; their hearts will be

lighter, their minds clearer, and their labors less onerous.

The merchant that gives no holiday to his clerks, is not wise; and the congregation that denies a few Sabbaths of rest, and a change of associations, or the means for taking such a respite, will suffer loss in the end. The health, spirits, and vigor of the pastor will deteriorate, and the people will be the losers in the same proportion.

Much has been done, of late years, in the work of Church Extension, by the Presbyterians of Philadelphia, and several of the new enterprises promise the most successful and happy results. But the population is increasing so rapidly, and so many destitutions are continually discovered, that a great work yet remains to be done by our Church, in connexion with all the other Evangelical denominations represented here. Several new Presbyterian organizations are now projected, under most favorable auspices. A delightful spirit of harmony and co-operation exists at present among the different branches of the Church of Christ, and great care is taken, for the most part, to avoid interfering with the efforts of one another in any particular locality, since there is ground enough and work enough for all. Indeed, in some of the Union meetings there seems to be quite a superabundance of assertion with respect to Christian Union, and of declamation against denominational exclusivism. At a time when all are working harmoniously together, or each denomination cultivating assiduously its own field, it does certainly seem inappropriate, unnecessary, and contrary to good taste, for each denomination to be reminded every day of the calamity and unchristian character of the differences existing in our ecclesiastical organizations. We have the same object before us, and serve the same Master, let us go forward and do his work at once. To keep a large army composed of different races, or of the subjects of different governments united, it is not best to be reminding the soldiers constantly of the feuds and hatred of former days. And really those who make the most parade of Union, and the loudest professions of high regard for all branches of the Church of Christ, are, after all, not the most reliable friends of Union. We doubt the sincerity of the friendship of one, who is continually filling our ears with professions of love and attachment.

The most *Secularian* sermon it has been our fortune to hear for some time, was one to which we listened yesterday afternoon, though it was professedly on the *evils of Secularism*. Thus it is that good and sincere men may often deceive themselves. The laymen in the different churches are doing nobly; never before has their influence been so extensive or with such happy results. Would that, in every place throughout the land, the piety of the Church could be so actively engaged as it is here. Too long have the private members been hiding their talents as if they were not to be used, and folding their arms as if they had nothing to do.

But long enough have we loitered here; duty beckons us Westward, and we must obey. A.

Some Thoughts on the Discussion.

DR. MCKINNEY.—I have just finished reading the last communication of "Western Pennsylvania" to the Presbyterian, in answer to yourself. I am grieved to think that any Presbyterian minister could be capable of writing and publishing such a tissue of rude personalities and disingenuous special pleadings. I am disappointed in the usually cautious editors of that paper, that they did not exclude from their columns a trade, that would have dishonored the most unscrupulous partisan political sheet. It is not my purpose to enter the lists in this controversy—I am rather a looker on in Vienna. But for the credit of our Church, I must enter my protest against such controversy. The Presbyterian heads its editorial column with a *blush* at the admission of such an article, but soothes its regret with the justification, that the fault of severity "is not all on one side."

Can it be that the Presbyterian and its correspondent fancy that its readers have no discrimination? Does it suppose that, with your articles before them, its readers can believe its misrepresentations of your arguments and your spirit? Does it fancy that we are such dolts as not to see through its attempts to mislead us? Whether you are right or wrong in your understandings, it is simply an insult to our understandings, to tell us that your spirit is bad—that your language is intemperate—that you deal in personalities, and are disingenuous in your statements of facts. After first reading the Presbyterian's description of your answer to "Western Pennsylvania," I turned to read the answer itself; and I confess that I was amazed, that the editors would venture such a description in the same paper in which the thing described was printed. The reader of the description would be led to expect a boiling bowl of hot "pepper-pot," and when he turns to peruse your calm and dignified argument—your dispassionate array of facts—and your respectful treatment of every body named or alluded to—he is forced to the conclusion that all the heat and pepper was in the editor's own brain.

Permit me to direct attention to one or two things, which, at this stage of the controversy, ought to be noticed.

1. It was disingenuous in "Western Pennsylvania," to adopt a signature that would mislead its readers to suppose that he lived in that region, and spoke its sentiments; when every body that knows who he is, knows that he lives East of the mountains, and East of the center of the State.

2. No public man, and especially no minister, has a right to enter the lists, in any grave discussion of an important public question, merely for the purpose of venting his personal spleen.

I have had extensive opportunities of ascertaining the sentiments of our brethren, and with scarce an exception, they are of opinion that the advantage, in point of both sound argument and good temper, is with you. And all see through the shallow attempt of men who, being angry themselves, keep "shrieking" to you to keep your temper.

4. This controversy has assumed an importance that does not belong to the simple question of the propriety of the *freedom, candor, and independence of the religious press*—the right of men to acquit

their consciences, when acting in a public trust; and the propriety of excluding any reformer in any one of the Boards, unless the officers of the Board and the paper that claims to speak *ex cathedra* shall say *sic volumus*. It is now to be decided whether it is an ecclesiastical felony, for a Presbyterian minister, in the exercise of his constitutional rights, as a member of the General Assembly, and of one of the Boards of the Church, to propose and maintain any measure that may seem to him to be for the good of the cause, but which may be unpalatable to the *central power*; and whether, for said felony, he is to be pursued with hue and cry—his person and *status* "spotted"—his temper malign—his good name decried as infamous, and he at last to suffer ecclesiastical death. The moment any body questions the *infallibility* of "the Boards," he is to be set down as a man of "bad spirit," "a restless spirit," "a disturber of the peace," &c. Will the people of God tolerate this thing any longer? Has not this morbid folly been carried far enough?

Go on, Doctor, in the same calm, firm, argumentative manner that has hitherto marked your share in this battle, and God's people will stand by you. We know you will not permit your own comments to flow into the coarse personalities in which they have indulged. Deal, as you have done, in *facts and reasonings*, and the misrepresentations by which you have been assailed, will rebound upon the heads of their authors.

MINIMUS.

For the Presbyterian Banner and Advocate.

What is Right

DR. MCKINNEY.—Considering your position as Chairman of the Committee on the Board of Domestic Missions in the General Assembly, as a member of that Board, and as a faithful journalist, I cannot see that you could have done otherwise, than to bring out the facts necessary for the Church to know (and yet not impart to any one), respecting the continuance of an Associate Secretary. Permit me to say, that three out of the four reasons assigned by the respected editors of the Presbyterian, in their issue of July 10th, why an Associate Secretary should be continued, proposed to create an office contrary to the parity of the ministry, and to take duty out of the hands of the Presbyteries.

1st. It is proposed that "Presbyteries and churches should be visited with the single object of bringing them in as regular contributors, through the scheme of Systematic Benevolence."

If the recommendations of the General Assembly, and of Synods, do not bring "them in," and if their own voluntary determination, founded on information, does not constitute for a constituted superintendent any church to the object, in such matters, Presbyteries respect wise recommendations of Church Judicatories, but have a right to disregard all injunctions. Presbyteries and pastors wish to make their own arrangements.

2d. The editors say, "An Assistant Secretary would have a wide and useful field before him, in visiting and encouraging the missionaries already in the field. He would thus see how faithfully their duties were performed." &c. It is not every missionary within the bounds of some Presbytery, and are not the members of it the persons to see "how faithfully the duties" are performed? Wherefore, then, this new Bishop?

3d. It is proposed that this "agent" should "inquire into the actual condition of missionary churches," &c. This is exactly the duty of Presbyteries, before they recommend any church to the Board for support. But must an agent, also, be appointed to do it?

The fourth and last object proposed to be accomplished, is important; but it could be better performed by different agents, as preachers, too, from Presbyteries, than by one Associate Secretary at Philadelphia, viz., to overlook and see the whole field, as far as practicable, and select new missionary stations. Such ministers might be supported by the Board.

EASTERN SUMMARY.

BOSTON AND NEW ENGLAND.

The Beechers are moving men, and they cause movements in society, and especially in the Ecclesiastical world. Charles Beecher, who, some years ago, came out in a volume endeavoring to account for the depravity of man's nature, universally, by the theory of a pre-existent state, in which each one had sinned voluntarily, was soon after installed over the Orthodox Congregational church, in Georgetown, Mass. Previously to his installation, he had also set forth his hostility to Creeds in such a way as mightily to please Unitarians. Before the Installing Council, he maintained his belief in the old heathen notion of Pre-Existence; that Christ, while on earth, was in a state of probation; was obscure on the doctrine of justification; and admitted only with difficulty, as says the Boston Recorder, "if at all, the idea that the sufferings of Christ are a proper satisfaction to the justice of God, even in the sense of the younger Edwards." And still he was installed, to the surprise and grief of many.

After noting these facts, the Recorder asks, "whether are we drifting?" We give part of the answer.

The beginning of the answer has been received. It is furnished by a correspondent of the New York Christian Inquirer, (Unitarian,) of July 23d. This correspondent had heard Mr. Beecher preach, and saw him admit twenty or more to the church, and administer the rights of baptism to some of them. In his sermon, he informed his congregation, says this writer, "that belief in Calvinistic Creeds should not be a qualification for admission to the Christian Church." "that the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, as held by the Unitarian, is an ecclesiastical organization should be so few and simple as to exclude no true Christian." "that the pathway to the Church of Christ should be unobstructed by theological tenets," "that Christ may redeem all men in the next world, if not in this," and "that God may pardon there as well as here."

After speaking of the fact that Mr. Beecher is not the pastor of an Independent church, but of a Congregational one—a church having a Platform or Creed, and guided by Councils—it shows the inconsistency of his conduct, and the present tendency of affairs, thus:

He might then (if in an Independent Church), preach against Creeds, and admit members without one. He might revive an Indian Preacher, be obscure and foggy on justification, and the proper satisfaction of Christ's sufferings to the justice of God. He might put Christ on probation here, and the sinners of the whole world on probation in the next world. A multitude preach in this way, and their sermons are not thought worthy of a newspaper letter. On the occasion referred to, Mr. Beecher used this formula of baptism: "I purify thee, in the name." &c. In other quarters this would not be surprising or noticeable. Our concern now is not with the man, nor with his doctrines and forms. It is with his position given in the way it was, and with such a fact as an index of tendencies. If published reports

and our memory serve us, the position, above stated, was first published, or clearly stated, to the Council of Installation.

The tendency of men in high places to do just as they please, and of Councils to permit and sustain such things, is manifest in our Church also.

The Meeting of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, takes place this year at Detroit, on the 7th of September. Excursion tickets, available for return till October 1st, from Boston, are offered at \$18.00. The kindness of Railroad Companies should be acknowledged.

NEW YORK.

Business is not very brisk, money is plenty, and loans, on good security, are easily effected. The new United States five per cent. stocks sell at six per cent. premium. The receipts for customs are still small, and the exports are far short of those of 1856.

The Niagara, of Cable celebrity, has reached New York, after a slow passage from New Foundland. She was received with great enthusiasm. Her officers have been granted three months leave of absence, as a holiday. Mr. Field regards the Cable as an entire success. On its being landed, he tested its power by applying to it his tongue, and was nearly knocked over.

A State Sabbath Convention is to be held in Syracuse, on the 14th of September, to devise means for the better promoting of Sabbath observance, especially by closing the locks on the State canals. The different cities and counties are requested to send full delegations.

The Revival news is still gratifying. Meetings are held in many places, and there is a good attention, deep interest, and no disorder. Three thousand conversions are supposed to have taken place in Brooklyn during the late revival. Some estimate the number much above this.

The City Hall has been partially destroyed by fire. The dome and central portion of the upper story were destroyed. The public documents, however, are safe, and the wings of the building are unharmed save by water and violence. The fire commenced shortly after midnight, in the cupola, and the flames spread so rapidly that it was soon a ball in a blaze. The firemen were promptly on the spot, and labored hard to arrest the conflagration, but in vain. The cupola and upper part of