

Banner and Advocate.

PITTSBURGH, SEPTEMBER 11, 1858.

TERMS.—\$1.50, in advance, or in Cents \$1.25, or, delivered at residence of Subscribers, \$1.25. See Prospectus, on Third Page. **MEMORIALS** should be prompt a little while before the year expires, that we may make full arrangements for a steady supply.

THE LEND-WRAPPER will, however, in the haste of mailing, if necessary, be omitted; 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 troubling nobody with a knowledge of what you are doing. A large amount, and a safe, or better, remittance, can be made by the Post-office, for one or two papers, and Gold or small notes.

TO MAKE CHANGE, send postage stamps, or better still, send for more papers; say \$8 or Seventy numbers, or \$1 for Thirty-three numbers.

DISMISSED all Letters and Communications to AMB. DAVID MCKINNEY, Pittsburgh, Pa.

COLLEGE ENDOWMENT.—A second article on this subject will appear next week.

MILLER ACADEMY.—This Institution, under the care of Rev. J. E. Alexander, sends forth its Annual Catalogue; pupils, sixty-one.

CHESTNUT LEVEL, PA., presents an excellent opening for a minister, or other Christian scholar, who would wish to take charge of a literary institution. See advertisement of Rev. Lindley C. Rutter.

UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST.—The Fifth Annual Report of the Board of Missions of this religious denomination is before us. The missionary spirit seems to prevail largely. A summary of the agents employed and the work done, &c., would be an improvement to the document.

AN INVITATION.—The Session of the Presbyterian church of Marion, through Rev. Alex. S. Marshall, present their earnest desire that the members of the *Synod of Iowa* meet on Wednesday, at 7 o'clock P. M., in order to spend a day in conference and prayer with the congregation, previous to the stated meeting of Synod.

STRONG LANGUAGE.—The article on first page, over the signature of "A." is timely. Let writers and speakers, as well in conversation as in public, and those also who lead in prayer, heed it. Extravagance in the use of words, is rapidly making our language to become a very indefinite medium of thought, and is even, by misappropriation, depriving us of terms by which to express the really great and grand.

A CALL TO THE PEOPLE.—"IOTA" asks that all the churches in the *Synod of Iowa*, engage in prayer on the evening of the *Synod's* meeting, to pray. Doubtless the request will be heeded. And may not the suggestion be made as extensive as the call for the meetings of *Synods* twenty-four hours in advance of their appointed time? Let all the people pray. This will be a comfort.

Scripture Baptism.

We are pleased to learn that the first edition of two thousand copies of Fairchild on Baptism, has been already sold, and that a new edition is in progress. We should be pleased to hear of the sale of a similar number every six months, for a long time to come. The work is worthy.

The Board of Publication have also, we understand, ordered the "Great Supper," by the same author, to be translated into German. This is a judicious movement, for which many will call the Board blessed.

Seminary 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.

One number 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. McNAUL, Secretary.

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.

An Invitation.

Upon consultation with a number of brethren connected with this, and the adjoining *Synods* of Northern Indiana and Cincinnati, in behalf of the church of Richmond, I take the liberty to invite the brethren of those *Synods* to meet in the Presbyterian church of this place, on Wednesday evening preceding the meeting of Synod, for the purpose of prayer and conference in regard to a revival of religion in all our churches.

Brothers, upon arriving in the city, will please go immediately to the church, on Fifth Street, one square South of Main, where they will find a committee in waiting to assign them suitable lodgings.

J. F. SMITH, Pastor.

Pittsburgh, La., Sept. 5th, 1858.

THE PRESBYTERIAN BANNER AND ADVOCATE.

Bengel's Gnomon.*

A few weeks ago, we drew the attention of our clerical readers to the character of the publications of the Messrs. T. and T. Clark, of Edinburgh; and according to promise we return to this subject again, with the view of commanding the great work of Bengel, which has now been rendered into English, and issued by this judicious and enterprising firm. It is well known, that notwithstanding the great amount of rationalism and downright skepticism which abounds among professedly theological writers in Germany, still the literature of the German Church is rich in the possession of sterling works of an Evangelical character, which may be used not only with safety, but with great advantage, because of the wondrous amount of information which they contain, and their great suggestiveness. The German mind is not superficial. The literary men and theologians of that land do not hurry all their every-day thinking into print. They are toilsome and patient in the collection of materials, and with an untiring industry they will plod along, arranging their matter, and adding to it from all available sources, until generally all information that can be collected on their subjects, will find its place either in the text, or in the annotations of their works. This characteristic of German-writers is not a mere modern growth. It is an obvious trait in their productions, from the Reformation downwards. Conjoined with this remarkable patience in research, the older German writers often displayed an unusual power of condensation; so much, indeed, was this brevity of expression and accuracy of terms sought after, that in writers like Bengel, a short sentence, a clause, and even a word, was made to convey a large amount of information. The great object of the Edinburgh publishers is to make such judicious selections from the modern literature of the Continent as shall give the mere English reader the really valuable and safe productions of the Evangelical mind of Germany, and in order to afford an opportunity of procuring the best of the older Continental works on criticism, the celebrated "Gnomon" of the renowned Bengel, is now issued from the press.

This Critical Commentary on the New Testament, was originally published in A. D. 1742, and ever since it has been growing in the estimation of the learned. Notwithstanding modern scholarship has been exceedingly industrious in the department of Exegesis, yet Bengel still stands forth in the front rank, and in some respects he is superior to all his competitors. His brevity is only equalled by his perspicuity, and as a modern writer observes, he "condenses more matter into a line than can be extracted from pages of other writers." Hence modern readers are required to watch his sentences under the conviction that neither clauses nor words are introduced to round a period. He was deeply imbued with a devout reverence for the Written Word of God, and his object throughout all the work, was to educate the true meaning of the Board's proceedings, and since the sentiments of ministers and people have come to be somewhat known, the papers have said but very little on the subject. It will, then, be time enough for the *Presbyterian* to declare the opinions of the newspapers, when they shall have uttered them.

Our contemporary says, further: "The largest donors to the Board are the strongest advocates of continuing the office. The churches in New York are the most liberal givers, and yet the greater part of the contributions there are due to the efforts of the Assistant Secretary, and in these views we know the New York laymen sympathize."

Now, the *Presbyterian's* access to the sources of information, as to matters in New York, is much more easy than ours; but still, we doubt the correctness of the statement, as put forth by the General Assembly, that some of the largest giving pastors and churches in New York sustain the Assembly and the Executive Committee, in their efforts at retrenchment. And why should they not? They wish their gifts to be effective for good, and they have confidence in the Committee's judgment, expressed by their vote, that the office is not needed. And they have no idea of sustaining a structure, or forcing upon the churches a measure after it shall be known to be unacceptable.

And farther; it is not always wise to defer to the largest givers, for they sometimes know the least about an effective practical use of their gifts; and sometimes it would be far better to want their donations than to abide by their advice. But, happily, this class of benefactors are oftentimes the least disposed, of all men, to dictate. They give to the cause without prescribing to their bountiful dispensers of their bounty. The *North Carolina* will be so kind as to set this matter right.

The subject shall have been fully investigated—approved by the wealthy as well as by the poorer churches, and by the few dozens of larger donors, as well as by the many ten thousand smaller contributors, will be the action of the last Assembly, and which was attempted to be carried out by the business Board, and for which the one journal still pleads.

The North Carolina Presbyterian.

This journal has a very able correspondent, who urges upon it the fact that the Assembly's proposition to the Board of Domestic Missions, relative to the abolishing of the Associate Secretarship, was an expression of the Assembly's will, which should have been obeyed. The argument is unanswerable. But the *North Carolina* is a worthy pastor:

Dear Doctor—I set out in my ministry with a determination to do all that I could in order to have my "people" give of their substance for carrying on the operations of Christ through the instrumentality of the Board. Personally, I set in the Board of Domestic Missions has always been less than in the others—from what I have been able to ascertain with reference to its operations; but I made no exception of this Board in the determination referred to above. The Minutes of the General Assembly will show the reasons far this determination has been carried out.

But now I am "in a strain." I wish to adhere to this determination, and yet I am very unwilling to ask my people to contribute to the treasury of the Board of Domestic Missions, in the face of the fact that the inconsiderable portion of the funds of the Board of Domestic Missions is to be given to an office who is destined to be unnecessary for the execution of the *Presbyterian* of the 24th ult.:

If the reports of the Assembly's proceedings are not wholly reliable, the *North Carolina* is right in its contention that the motion was by no means to abolish the office, but to refer the matter to the consideration of the Board, for their judgment of the expediency of dispensing with it.

We have examined the *Banner* to see if this statement was denied by the editor. As he has not done so, we hold it to be conclusive on this point, he being the *Chairman* of the committee which presented the resolution.

The *Presbyterian's* remark we supposed that we had answered several times, not by direct contradiction, but by a fair statement of facts; which, to the candid mind, is always more satisfactory. But we must respond again.

The particular words we used in the argument in the Assembly, we cannot recall. They certainly were not those attributed to us above. We say certainly, because they do not express the idea we endeavored to convey; and we have the credit of commonly speaking with much plainness. The whole question was argued by us and others, and voted on in the Assembly, on the ground that the office was not needed as an agency among the churches, the *Systematic Scheme having superseded it.*

Dr. Breckinridge then took the ground that the work of the office (at Philadelphia, as we understood him) was too great for any one man to perform. We responded that it was not; that the work could be done by one man, and had been done by one man, and well done; but that if the Board thought that the office-work could not be done by one man, the resolution was not an injunction, and they could retain the office.

The ground taken in the Assembly, by the advocates of the resolution, was most clear and distinct, that the Secretarship, as an Agency, was not needed, and should not be continued. This was a matter which the Assembly, representing all the churches, could well decide. The office-work they could not so well judge of. This matter they left to the Board, though with a very strong expression of opinion, as is clear from the resolution itself, and from the arguments used and the vote which followed, that even there, there was no need for a second Secretary. The resolution, and the arguments upon it, pro and con, left no room for the shadow of a doubt, but that it was the Assembly's will and wish that the office should be discontinued; unless, perchance, the Board thought that the office-work could not be done by one man, the resolution was not an injunction, and they could retain the office.

We conclude by suggesting that the rich ministers and rich elders, who insist so strenuously upon retaining the office of Associate Secretary, shall give an extra donation to the Board, equal to the amount of the incumbent's salary and expenses; and shall let the fact of their bounty be known, without delay. They will thus obviate one great hindrance to a liberal, and cheerful, and general contribution to the Board's treasury.

Home and Foreign Record.

DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

The September number of the *Record*, contains the concluding part of this Board's Annual Report. This Report should be read extensively. It contains not only what the Board has done for the year, but it presents many thoughts of vast importance to the efficient carrying on of this great work of the Church.

This Board sends out but very few missionaries, as its own motion; and the few it does send, are only to new settlements, where Presbyteries are not yet organized. Where a country is embraced fairly in the supervision of a Presbytery, then the Board sends a missionary only under the Presbytery's call, and on an appropriation of the Presbytery's suggestion. Hence it is utterly unjust to say, as the *True Witness* did recently, that the Board neglects the South-West. There are Presbyteries in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, and the Board rejoices to receive recommendations from these Presbyteries, and to commission their nominees, and they vote large appropriations thereto than they do for the Middle or Western States. The Board has not Diocesan powers, to send, and to bid receive, and to recall.

The remarks in the Report, on aid receiving but non-progressive churches, are excellent. Presbyteries are bidden to look into this matter, and to direct their attention to the sacredness of the fund, makes the multitude look after it to see what is accomplished, induces prayer for its fruitfulness, and must certainly, if there is any ground to suspect wastefulness in one channel, induce donors to either withhold or to direct their gifts into another channel: The members of the last General Assembly, many of them, observed this feeling to grow just as they made efforts to extend Systematic Benevolence, and to obviate the evils we have noted, as well as to discharge a sacred duty, they sent down their proposition to the Board. Something was needed to be done; and something must be done. The churches are not to be thwarted in their good purposes by those to whom they have committed a sacred trust. Their feelings was long kept almost suppressed, as to its utterance, by a pointed use of the terms, "croakers," "fault finders," &c., &c., but it has become too strong and too well founded any longer to dread such epithets. It put down the Traveling Agency system; and now it demands that a needless Secretarship shall be abolished, whether the officer shall travel as a collecting agent, or as a supervisor of vacancies, missionaries, pastors, or what not. Presbyteries have been wont to regard the Presbyteries as the church, fix the missionary circuit, (it being one congregation or more,) name the man to be appointed, and suggest the amount of aid

desired, provided the state of the funds will authorize its appropriation. This is their work, in their own field; and the missions, as well as the mission churches, are parts of themselves under their watch and care. Whenever, then, the Board employs a Secretary to look after these things, the Presbyteries may justly complain; first, of the interference, or the unauthorized surveillance; and next, of the waste of funds in the way of salary and traveling expenses.

Feelings not uncommon, are expressed in the following letter, intended for our column:

Dear Doctor—I set out in my ministry with a determination to do all that I could in order to have my "people" give of their substance for carrying on the operations of Christ through the instrumentality of the Board. Personally, I set in the Board of Domestic Missions has always been less than in the others—from what I have been able to ascertain with reference to its operations; but I made no exception of this Board in the determination referred to above. The Minutes of the General Assembly will show the reasons far this determination has been carried out.

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If the reports of the Assembly's proceedings are not wholly reliable, the *North Carolina* is right in its contention that the motion was by no means to abolish the office, but to refer the matter to the consideration of the Board, for their judgment of the expediency of dispensing with it.

We have large and interesting congregations,

and some eighteen or twenty inquiries. Scarcely a day passes that we do not hear of some new ones. Since I commenced my labors here, a fine list of members has joined, coming from far and near. It is a pleasure to us to have these added to our church, and to the cause of Christ.

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