

Banner and Advocate.

PITTSBURGH, DECEMBER 4, 1858.

THEME.—\$1.50, in advance; or in Clubs \$1.25; or, delivered at residence of Subscribers, \$1.75. See Prospectus, on Third Page.

MEMBERSHIP.—Should be prompt; a little while before the year ends, so that the same may be fully paid for a steady supply.

THE RED WRAPPER, indicates that we desire a removal; if, however, in the haste of mailing, this signal should be omitted, we hope our friends will still not forget us.

REMITTANCES.—Send by mail, unless hand carried, whenever possible. Send by mail, with ordinary care, and troubling nobody with a knowledge of what you are doing. For a large amount, send a Draft, or Large notes. For correspondence, send small notes.

TO PAYABLE CHARGE, Send postage stamps, or a letter, and send for more papers, say \$2 or Seventy numbers, or \$1 for Thirty-three numbers.

DIMINISH all Letters and Communications to REV. DAVID MCKEEHENY, Pittsburgh, Pa.

PHILADELPHIA.—MESSRS. J. V. Cowell & Son, South-west corner of Seventh and Chestnut Streets, will receive payments for *Presbyterian Banner and Advocate*.

THE SYNOD OF PITTSBURGH appointed the Second Sabbath in December, as a suitable time to present to the churches the subject of the Seminary, and to receive donations for the endowment of the Fourth Professorship.

Columbia Theological Seminary.

This Institution now numbers thirty-five students. Eleven entered with the present term, and four or five more are expected. A student, writing to the North Carolina Presbyterian, says: "A spirit of living, active piety, characterizes the students. The religious meetings are well attended, and much interest is manifested in the subject of missions. All appear imbued with the spirit of their Divine Master, and solicitous being qualified for future usefulness in his vineyard."

Our London Letter.

This correspondence, always worth far more than the year's subscription, is, this week, of special value. We refer the reader particularly to the advance of Presbyterians, as noted in the addresses of Drs. McCrie, Hamilton, Angus, Hopper, and McLean, at the Festival of the Theological College; to the account of the Cardinal's visit to Ireland; and to Thomas Cooper, and the indications of a great revival in England.

"Our London Correspondent" and our synopsis of "Foreign Intelligence," must keep our readers enlightened on the condition and progress of affairs abroad. The youth who shall grow up under these advantages, will be well-informed men and women.

The Confession of Faith.

The New School Presbyterians have shown a love to the CONFESSION OF FAITH and SHORTER CATECHISM, which may well stimulate their older brethren. Their Publication Committee have got up a new edition, in paper covers, 68 pages, 18mo., for general circulation. The price is six cents. Why have not the conductors of our Publication House done something like this, only better? Better is practicable; and the subject was presented to them, years ago. Do they not love our Standards? Ought not every family to possess a copy? Would not the Confession and Shorter Catechism, make a precious present to a friend, and also form an excellent little work for gratuitous distribution? There is a very great want of a truly noble and enlightened denominational seal among Presbyterians.

Movement in the City Councils. At a meeting of the Common Council, Pittsburgh; Nov. 29th, there being present, Messrs. Bailey, Caldwell, Campbell, Darlington, Dickson, Dignam, Erett, Floyd, Hamilton, Hunter, Hutchinson, Little, McAudens, McGeary, Morris, Reed, Ross, Robb, Sergeant, Sterling, Thompson, Ward, and McKelvey, President.

Mr. Robb presented the following:

WISDOM.—The members of this Council, before entering upon their respective duties, have bound themselves to endeavor their faithful discharge under the solemnity of an oath—thereby recognizing their accountability to God—and wishing ever to cherish a proper sense of that accountability, so as to act in their office, and behavior, that may be congenial to God. And it is a duty to direct us in the discharge of our difficult and varied duties would have a happy influence in securing this result; therefore,

Resolved, That our President be requested either to lead us in prayer, or call at his pleasure some other person to do so, that we may thus be wisely directed in the management of all interests committed to our care.

This paper was read three times, and passed. This indicates a very correct public sentiment in our city, and a favorable state of social feeling.

Short Sentences.

There should be a good religious newspaper in every family.

Any practicable time is a good time to begin, but now is the best time.

Men should wisely prepare for entering upon a new year.

Every subscriber should renew promptly, and induce his neighbor to subscribe.

The readers of a good paper have more benefit from the editor's mind, than he has from their money.

Females and children have an immense interest in a religious journal.

Youths who grow up under the training of a good newspaper, become leading men in society.

Printers cannot live upon air. They want it, and something more substantial.

NOTE THIS.

The club price for eight and upwards, is \$1.25.

—For twenty and upwards, to the same congregation, the price is \$1.25, and a copy is added for the pastor.

A new name may be added to a club, at any time, at club price.

—The price to separate subscribers, is \$1.50.

—From Mission churches, and sparsely populated neighborhoods, four papers (separately directed,) are sent for \$5.

THE PRESBYTERIAN BANNER AND ADVOCATE.

Response to the Resignation.
We present our readers, this week, with the Response of the Executive Committee of the Board of Domestic Missions, to the allegations of Dr. Happersett, in his letter of resignation. It is to be regretted there should be charges injuriously affecting the business Board by the retiring officer. But much having been made, it became the Committee to explain or repel them. And, from these revelations it behoves the churches to learn wisdom.

The promptitude with which the Board abolished the Secretaryship, and the historical statements now made, clearly prove some important facts.

1. The gentlemen who conduct the Board's business, have a deep respect for the will of the Church. The Church expressed a desire to be relieved from the expense of an office which she deemed needless. Her agents have effected that relief. If she should, at any future time, express her will for a second Secretary, or for a third, they would comply with equal readiness. Obedience to rightful authority, is the first law. Let it be revered, though, as we think, the day when the Presbyteries and people will consent to a multiplication of officers, is not likely soon to be witnessed.

2. The Board would study economy. They dispense with an office when there is no longer any needful work for the officer to perform.

3. They abolished the office from principle, and not from hostility to the occupant. When the occupant got together enough of his friends—members of the Board who but seldom attend—to sustain the office, they yielded. They did not, as they might have done, abolish the office at the next monthly meeting. No; but they received a proposition from the occupant and his friends, and fixed his dues accordingly. It was not a resignation, professedly in good faith, occurred, that they abolished the office.

4. They desire efficiency. He that receives wages should work. They had yielded to their brethren who came in to instruct them, and had passed, in general terms, the business order which was suggested to them. And when they found that, under the general order, the work was not done, they then gave specific directions, and asked for reports.

Did the Board do right? Doubtless our laborious pastors, and our toiling elders and people, will say, Yes. They will say that the Board should not employ an officer, for whom they have no need; and that when they engage a man for a service, he should work by directions, and should give evidence of his labors. The missionaries make their reports quarterly; and, no report, no pay.

The Corresponding Secretary, makes his report every week. The Treasurer and Clerk make reports when called upon, and being in the house, and under the Board's eye, their work is open, every day, to inspection.

The Western Executive Committee, report monthly. And what is an Associate Secretary, that he should be exempt from the common law of the Board? Modesty, we know, does not like to obtrude its own great and good works upon the public notice;

but here is a case where an employee, like his brother laborers, may be justly required to make report of his doings.

It has been intimated that there was, in the Board, something personal against the incumbent. If so, we never had any knowledge of it. So far, at least, as the two Secretaries are concerned, there could have been nothing of the kind, or it must have been latent, up to June 25th; for, on that day, in the presence of that large meeting of the Board, it was stated by one of them and confirmed by the other, that there never had been any difficulty, nor an unpleasant word between them.

Such intimations should not be made without some proper evidence. Conjectures, and especially injurious conjectures, should not be resorted to when an adequate cause for a thing is already clearly manifest, for the abolishing of the office, is, that it was needless, expensive, and unacceptable to the churches; and the cause for the "specific instructions" was, that the Committee were bound to have the work done which was entrusted to their management.

If there was ill will against Dr. Happersett, and if he was a laborious and useful servant of the Church, but was, with malice prepense, instructed out of office, a grievous wrong has been done. But if, on the other hand, the Committee and the Board have honestly done their duty, then to receive an unsubstantiated insinuation against them would be a wrong equally grievous. Well, what are the facts? We want not conjectures, "surmises," "whispers," but things definite, tangible, and clearly stated. The Committee set forth distinctly and officially, with their names, what they did. And they state the reasons. They seem to have been in the honest discharge of a sacred duty; and so they must be regarded by an honest church and a truth-loving public, till there shall be some definite and adequate evidence to the contrary. Far are we from having a disposition to screen public servants, but equally removed are we from a spirit that would cherish an unmerited suspicion.

The celebration, on the 25th of November, was creditable, in a worldly point of view. The military, the surviving soldiers of the war of 1812, the fire companies, various Societies, the farmers, and the workers of many of the factories, turned out in procession. The music, decorations, bunting, &c., &c., were fine. The address of A. W. Loomis, Esq., we did not hear, but it is spoken of with much favor.

Such things are great consumers of time and money, and, with some persons, of morals, too; and, also, on a damp, chilly day, as was the 25th, they are injurious to health. Still, there are some advantages attending them. They perpetuate the remembrance of important events. They cherish patriotism. And, with a few, they lead to thanksgiving. "O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men."

A Christmas Present.*
Christmas is coming, and we are pleased to have it in our power to tell our friends where they may get, at a small expense, a truly valuable present for their children, and for the children of their neighbors. It is a book, a good book, and pretty, too. A judicious minister sends us the following note:

"The Lost Children," is the title of one of the most attractive little volumes, just issued by W. S. Haven, corner of Market and Second Streets. Whoever reads one chapter, will wish to read all. Nothing is over-wrought, yet all is sprightliness and

*See *Loose Children*, or, Henry and his Torch. By the Author of "The Widow's Stipend." Pittsburgh: W. S. Haven. Pp. 98, 24mo.

attractions, and many a day, or week, to ride abroad at the expense of the Church, and to enjoy the fat of the land. That he did not do so, good men, in the absence of commanding evidence to the contrary, will ascribe to good motives. Other men will ascribe his conduct to something which they are conscious is a prevalent motive with themselves.

These things are painful—exceedingly so. But there is some consolation in the hope that they will strengthen in the Church the now growing spirit, that pastors, elders, and Presbyteries, must themselves attend well to their own work; that salaried officers must not be multiplied beyond real need; and that salaries, while duly liberal, to sustain talent, must yet be so moderate, and the duties required so great, that none but industrious and devoted men will accept of them. The opinion also will be confirmed, that a few men in office at the centre shall not be allowed to send forth their *dicta* for the Church's sanction, but shall, as good and faithful servants, receive and execute the intimations of her will.

These sentiments are of vast importance, and their spread and growth will compensate for the endurance of many things which are not in themselves pleasant.

EASTERN SUMMARY.

BOSTON AND NEW ENGLAND.

Though Boston is generally considered the literary Athens of America, it must be confessed that some things are found there which seem more in consonance with vulgarity and degradation, than with civilization and refinement. The things to which we now refer are connected more or less with the sale and use of intoxicating drinks. And in these, as well as in many other ways, the city exerts a great influence over all New England. Indeed it is said that the wealth and influence of Boston run dealers had very much to do in breaking down the "Maine Law" in its own State. And it cannot be denied but that this power has done very much toward rendering all the restrictive laws of Massachusetts in a great measure a nullity. Even in the use of liquors, this city is as bad, in proportion to the population, as New York or New Orleans. The Chief of Police reports the number of places in the city where intoxicating liquors are sold, to be 3,500. The number of persons arrested during the year has been 21,000. In addition to these, 10,918 were lodgers at the Station Houses, and 916 were assisted home by the police. Now, the cost of arresting, lodging, and assisting home these persons, is estimated at an annual expense of \$300,000 to \$500,000. And the amount of money paid in twelve months to the dram shops, giving to each an average of three dollars per day—exceedingly moderate allowance—has been the enormous sum of \$3,286,500. This sum would purchase fifteen barrels of flour for every family in the city, or pay \$100 rent for every family! This reduces the actual expenses to their pecuniary value; but who can form any proper estimate of the wretchedness, woe, and misery entailed on thousands?

The *Hoosac Tunnel* is one of the great internal improvements in which the wealth and enterprise of Boston and vicinity are largely interested. This work is steadily progressing.

The first effort to fortify the junction of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, was made by the English. Capt. French, with a small company, arrived here in February, 1754, but in April of the same year, his being unfinished, he was assailed by one thousand French and Indians, who came down the Allegheny, in batteaux and canoes, under command of Capt. Contrecoeur, and was obliged to surrender.

The next year, 1755, Gen. Braddock, with one thousand British Regulars, and one thousand two hundred provincials, made his fatal effort toward the recovery of the place. Braddock's field, though then a wood, will long be remembered.

Three years afterwards, in 1758, the expedition under General Forbes, was planned, and carried to a successful result. There were, in this expedition, about five thousand troops, one thousand six hundred and thirty of whom were British regulars. Colonel Washington, Colonel Bouquet, and Major Grant, were among the officers of note, under General Forbes.

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At the late meeting of that useful institution, the *Historic Geological Society*, an interesting discussion took place concerning the religious opinions of William Shakespeare; and a Committee was appointed to learn what they were, if possible. Mr. Smithett read a valuable paper on the origin of the Indian tribes in the region of the Amazon and Orinoco, which throws considerable light on the colonization of the islands and Southern continent of the new world. We give a brief synopsis, taken from the *Recorder*:

Mr. Smithett traced, on the theory of Humboldt, the origin of all the American Indian tribes or races, to the Semitic Tartar, or Scythian races of the North of Asia and Europe, and proceeded to examine the migration Southward, until the period of the formation of the United States. He then passed to the consideration of the traditions extant among the Caribes and Arawak people of the Orinoco, with notices of the scores of distinct tribes now occupying the vast country between the river and the Amazon, accounting for the distinction of features and character, as well as diversity of language to be observed among them.

The *Thanksgiving Collections* taken in the different churches, for the poor, were unusually liberal.

The *Boston Branch* of the American Tract Society, in the early part of the present financial year, determined not to employ soliciting agents, but it has been found necessary to return to the old method, and agents are again in the field. The absence of the agents has not doubt lessened somewhat the contributions, but a deeper cause is to be found in the division of sentiment between the Boston branch and the Parent Society, at New York, and in the different lines of policy adopted with regard to publications touching the subject of Slavery.

Many know not what to do, or in what direction to turn their contributions. The best friends of both Societies, in this quarter, are exceedingly anxious to avoid any occasion for the renewal of the strife of the past.

The *Young Ladies' Seminary*, at Mount Holyoke, still continues the career of prosperity so long enjoyed. There are now two hundred and ninety pupils in attendance, which is more than the usual number. Mary Lyon has left successors who endeavor to make it extensively cultivated, and is the happy home of millions of Christians.

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An instance such as the following, which we clip from an exchange, does not often occur, especially when the ages of the parties are taken into account:

On Sunday, the 7th inst., Rev. Mr. Smith, of Princeton, N. J., sixty years of age, preached in the Congregational church, Easton, Mass., and on the same day, Rev. Dr. Smith, D.D., of Durham, Ct., his father, over ninety years of age, preached in the Congregational church, at Sheffield, ignorant of the fact that his son was in an adjoining parish.

NEW YORK.

The frequent exercise of the *Pardonning Power*, in connexion with the state of things in this city, as mentioned in our last, is beginning to awaken much attention. What security can there be to life and property, when it is only with the utmost difficulty

that a criminal can be convicted, and when it is so easy to let him loose again upon the community, through the exercise of Executive clemency. Much of the business done by the present Governor seems to consist in pardoning convicts, and some of them of the most hardened and dangerous classes. This power should exist somewhere, but there should be a responsibility attending its exercise.

"*Harper's Weekly*" has a wide circulation, and claims to be a "Journal of Civilization," but some of its illustrations must be intended to promote "civilization" by way of contrast; as we once heard of an old man, who got drunk every day for the purpose, as he said, of showing to his children the bestial effects of intoxication. The principal illustrations of one of the late numbers, were several views of the late horrible attempt to murder the Goudy family, by an unnatural son, and of the suicide of the murderer. Concerning the *Louisville Journal*, makes the following sarcastic remark:

"Civitatem" Illustratur.—*Harper's Weekly* is a wide circulation, and claims to be a "Journal of Civilization." It has among its illustrations of its last number several views of the late revolting attempt at murder and successful outrage in New York. We do not regard such events as illustrative of any advance in civilization.