

Presbyterian Banner

PITTSBURGH, SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1860.

General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America will hold its next meeting in the First Presbyterian Church, Rochester, New York, at eleven o'clock A. M. on Thursday, the 17th of May, and will be opened with a sermon by the Rev. WILLIAM S. BRONKHORST, D. D., Moderator of the last Assembly.

The Committee of Commissions will meet in the Lecture-Room of the church on the Wednesday evening preceding, at eight o'clock, to receive Commissions, and on Thursday morning, the day of the meeting, at nine o'clock, for the same purpose.

JOHN LEVISON, Clerk.
ALEXANDER T. MUGILL, Permanent Clerk.
P. S.—Stated Clerks of Presbyteries are respectfully requested to make out their lists of persons entitled to the Minutes on a separate sheet, and to send that, together with money for the Minutes, to G. H. VAN GELDER, Esq., Treasurer of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 320 WALNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

The Committee of Arrangements request Commissions and others, who expect to attend the meeting of the General Assembly, which convenes in the CITY OF ROCHESTER, MAY 17TH, to forward their names and Post Office addresses to SEYMOUR H. TERRY, ROCHESTER, N. Y., as soon as may be.

Places will be assigned to all such before their leaving home.

Those who do not send their names in season, will be provided with places on their arrival, on application at the Rooms of the Committee, at the First Presbyterian Church.

Due notice will be given of any arrangements made with Railroad Companies, for a reduction of fare.

Dated, Rochester, April 6th, 1860.
SAMUEL MILLER, LEVI A. WARD,
FREDERICK CLARKE, SEYMOUR H. TERRY,
SEYMOUR H. TERRY, Secy. of Com. of Arrangements.

Rev. James Rodgers, D. D.—This beloved brother, of the United Presbyterian Church, has been released by his Presbytery, on account of continued ill-health, from his pastoral charge in Allegheny City.

Another Venerable Minister Dead.—The Rev. E. F. COOLY, D. D., one of the oldest ministers of our Church, died suddenly on last Monday, at his residence near Trenton, N. J.

Church Commentary.—By special request, we give to our readers the action of the Tombekeekes Presbytery, on the Commentary question. Our own views we presented when the question was fresh. We expressed our opinion decidedly against the General Assembly making any such attempt, and gave our reasons. These we still believe to be valid.

THE EDUCATOR.

The number for April completes the first volume of this educational monthly. The editor, Rev. SAMUEL FINDLEY, has performed his part well, and the publishers are entitled to much credit for the taste and spirit they have displayed.

PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.

The report of this meritorious institution for 1859, is before us. It is replete with interesting facts concerning its objects and the modes of its management. The whole number of pupils during the year has been two hundred and one; of these, one hundred and fifty-six have been supported in whole or in part by the State of Pennsylvania; twenty by Maryland; eight by New Jersey; four by Delaware; and thirteen by their friends, or the Institution. Of those supported by the State of Pennsylvania, thirteen are from Allegheny County. The specimens of composition by the mutes, given in the report, are quite creditable.

CHANGE IN THE MANNER OF DIRECTING PAPERS.

Congress having amended the Post Office laws, so as to allow publishers to put on each paper the date to which the subscription is paid, we have concluded to adopt the plan. We commenced, last week, with a part of our issue, and hope to progress, till every paper shall bear, weekly, together with the subscriber's name, the date to which he has paid.

PRESBYTERY OF ALLEGHENY CITY.

This body met at Beaver, on Tuesday of last week. In addition to the usual routine business, the services in connection with the ordination of Mr. WM. E. McLAREN, as a missionary to New Grenada, were of unusual interest.

BOARD OF PUBLICATION—DR. EDWARDS' SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The N. C. Presbyterian, of April 14th, contains another letter from Dr. EDWARDS, on the Board of Publication—Its EFFICACY—and one from Dr. SCHENCK, in response to that of Dr. EDWARDS which we published two weeks ago.

Secretary SCHENCK seems, with others, to deplore "the existence of so much controversy about each and all the benevolent enterprises of the day." We join in deploring the "existence" of the controversy, and especially do we regret its necessity. But so it is. The public servants must be often called to account, and if there is an unfaithful one, then comes the "controversy." A free people will be guardful of their rights, and they will not permit a threatened conflict to impose upon them eternal silence. Agitation, though it be painful, is often an essential means of benefit.

In the Board of Publication, it has produced improvements in our Church Music, our Hymn Book, our Confession, our S. S. Visitor, &c. And it, or something else, has brought forth, in the *H. & C. Record*, this emphatic declaration, "The Board and its officers now address themselves to the work of the year before them, with the strong desire and determination, by God's help, to make it a year of still greater progress and usefulness." In our Domestic Board it has changed a Secretary who, by the Board's showing, did not work a third of his time, into a now reputedly diligent laborer, and has added, the last year, some ten or twenty per cent. to the Board's income, and to its working force in the mission field. Truly Zion's friends, and all the real friends of our "benevolent enterprises," are encouraged to print out abuses and to call for reforms, even though, thereby, they subject themselves to some "controversy."

The Secretary says further:
"I beg to assure you, Messrs. Editors, that no officer or friend of the Board, wishes to repress inquiry or to shun investigation into its affairs. Far from it. Nothing affords them greater pleasure than to use every proper opportunity, in every proper way, to explain and vindicate the plans and efforts of this important Board."

Oh, that this were so! really so! Controversy would then, on this subject, soon terminate. There might be inquiry, investigation, and perhaps discussion, but no controversy. But hear. The Secretary adds:
"Nevertheless the officers and friends of the Board do not believe it either a duty or advantageous to attempt an answer to every query which may be stated in every religious journal, however rare they may be that the statements are unfounded."
* * * * *
But especially do we regard it as no way at all a duty to answer the calls for information of those whom we know to have that information already.
Ah! Here it is. The "proper opportunity" is not when inquiries come through a "religious journal" and the "proper way" is not in the columns of a Church paper! Why? Would this be too public? Would the people then hear? And there is this important speciality: "We regard it in no way at all a duty to answer the calls for information of those whom we know to have that information already."
"In the Department of Production the figures are more encouraging. The number of new Books and Tracts issued is really an advance—not less than sixty per cent. on the average of five previous years—being fifty-one per cent. in our church; and of the latter a circulation of fifty-eight thousand, while we have one hundred and sixty thousand children in our Sabbath-Schools. The American Sunday-School Union published three papers, the *Times*, *Gazette*, and *Banner*—of the first more than twenty thousand copies, and of the second more than forty thousand copies monthly. Of the third more than one hundred and twenty-five thousand copies weekly—a total monthly issue of more than five hundred and fifty thousand copies. The American Tract Society, New York, publish two papers in English and one in German, viz: *The American Messenger*, circulation 196,000; *The Botschafter*, 27,000; *The Child's Paper*, 80,000.

"And for myself I am bold to say, while I say with regret that these two sets of periodicals are much better than ours, in all respects, that they deserve their prominent success. And there again is the Boston American Tract Society, provincial and fanatical—which already, by the close of its first year, has secured for its *Tract Journal* and its *Child at Home*, a circulation of more than one hundred thousand copies each—and the mechanical department of these papers is far superior to that of the *Record* and the *Visitor*."

It is mortifying to be compelled to make these statements, but it will be still more mortifying to see our inefficiency continue perpetually. Cannot the Board be incited to put forth its energy? From our knowledge of business, and of the Board's affairs, and of its field, we hesitate not to say, confidently, that it does not do one-half the amount for the spread of religious knowledge, which it might do and should do. We speak not to injure its credit. This would be suicidal. We but adopt the only means known to us, which are likely to awake it to efficiency.

* * * * *
"I have not nearer one hundred and sixty thousand families—Eps.

CONCLUSION OF THE SEMINARY TERM.

On Wednesday evening of last week, the concluding services of the Commencement at the Western Theological Seminary, were held in the First Presbyterian church, Pittsburgh. This was the thirty-third graduating class in this institution. The church was filled to the utmost limit. The exercises, were commenced by a prayer from Rev. Mr. ROBINSON, after which the following gentlemen delivered orations: WILLIAM T. BEATTY, Pantheism; SILAS G. DUNLAP, Revivals; DANIEL W. FISHER, The Divine Human; SAMUEL J. NICOLLIS, The Atonement; JOS. WAUGH, A Tribute to William Tyndal. Dr. ELLIOTT then presented diplomas to the graduates, and Prof. WILSON, in behalf of the Faculty, delivered an impressive address to the class. He closed by presenting each with a Bible. Mr. R. B. MOORE delivered the valedictory, and in behalf of the class responded in a feeling manner to Prof. W.'s address. WM. E. McLAREN had been designated by his brethren for this service, but was prevented by temporary ill-health. The exercises closed by the congregation singing:
"Say, brethren, will you meet us?"

The following are the names of the graduates:
Andrew W. Boyd, Mechanicsville, O.; Wm. T. Beatty, Kirtlandville, Mo.; David K. Colmey, Allegheny, Pa.; James D. Crider, O. B. Riebel, and J. Evans, Ebensburg, Pa.; Daniel W. Fisher, Arch Springs, Pa.; James D. Fitzgerald, York, Pa.; William Greenough, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Richard H. Jackson, Salem P. Roads, Pa.; Wm. F. Johnson, Richmond, O.; Robert F. Kenney, Allegheny, Pa.; Samuel P. Kinkaid, Baldwin, Pa.; John Launiz, West Manchester, Pa.; Noah A. McDonald, Shade Gap, Pa.; Samuel G. McFarland, Cherry Valley, Pa.; Wm. E. McLAREN, Allegheny, Pa.; Francis I. Moffat, New Castle, Pa.; Wm. J. Moffat, do.; Robert B. Moore, Pennsylvania, do.; Wm. C. Neely, Sewickley, Pa.; Samuel J. Nicollis, Westmoreland County, Pa.; Samuel Ramsey, Hopedale, O.; Lawrence M. Stevens, Monroe, do.; John P. Stockton, Cross Creek, Pa.; Edward P. Swift, Allegheny, Pa.; Joseph Waugh, Wellsburg, Va.—twenty-seven in number.

The residue of the class, not having attended the full three years' course, did not receive diplomas.

These young brethren go forth on the most important mission. They are to be ambassadors for the Lord of all! The immortal state of thousands, tens of thousands, is to be connected with their ministry. Every pious mind prays that they may have grace sufficient.

The exercises of the evening were deeply interesting.
Three members of this class are to go under our Board of Foreign Missions, to Siam—Messrs. DANIEL V. FISHER, N. A. McDONALD, and SAMUEL G. McFARLAND. Besides these, Mr. W. P. JOHN SON, is to go to Northern India. He is a brother of one of the martyr missionaries of South America, Mr. WM. E. McLAREN; one to the Kickapoo Indians, Mr. ROBERT J. BURTT; and one to Lake Superior, Mr. CHARLES P. FRENGI.

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN QUARTERLY REVIEW.

The second number of this journal is now before us, giving evidence of talent, zeal, and enterprise. We trust that it is destined to a long and vigorous life, with great usefulness and much favor from on high. The contents are: I. Foreign Missions; II. Letters on Psalmsody; III. The First Adam and the Second; IV. Verity of the Old Testament History; V. Secondary Use of the Ceremonial Law; VI. Systematic Benevolence; VII. Short Notices.

The article on Psalmsody is the conclusion of a Review, by Rev. J. T. PRESSLEY, D. D., of Mr. ANNAN'S late work. It is characterized by the evasions and assumptions customary with our brethren when they treat of this subject. To adhere to a literal version of the Book of Psalms, adapted as they were to the Old Testament worship, and to exclude all other portions of God's Word—To exclude even the songs of the New Testament and all its blessed subjects for praise—is essential to the distinctive existence of the denomination. Adopting, as they do, the same Confession with us, and the same Church Government, and mode of worship, how could they exclude us from communion, or excuse their schism, if it were not for their Psalmsody. And yet they cannot obtain, for use in song, a literal version of the Psalms, nor find one precept in the whole Bible, binding the Church to the perpetual use of that one book, and of that alone, in the singing of praise. Mr. ANNAN'S book must possess a great amount of truth, or of epistemousness. It gives our friends an immense trouble.

PRESBYTERY OF BALTIMORE—RECONSTRUCTION OF BOARDS.

This Presbytery seems to have enjoyed their late meeting greatly; in a fraternal spirit, and in the transaction of important business. A writer in the *Presbyterian*, calls it a "model meeting." The dismissal of Rev. THOMAS E. PROCK from his connection with the Central Church, that he might attend upon his professional duties in the Union Theological Seminary, is to be regarded as the discharge of a duty. We are opposed to the dissolution of pastoral relations, except when there is a fully adequate cause; and we think that the causes alleged are, often, far from being adequate. "And we think, also, that Presbytery has the right to judge, and should judge, in every case; and that they should, in some cases, interpose an authoritative veto." But the veto is an implied censure, to justify which, there should be some very important reason—such a reason as we would not suppose to exist in connection with a judicious, and well informed minister; on the one side, and the Board of Directors in a Theological Seminary, and two Synodical bodies, on the other.

This Presbytery disapproves of the proposed reconstruction of the Boards. This is the proposition of the Rev. D. M. SMITH, D. D., of the last Assembly. Dr. SMITH is Chairman of a Committee on the subject, which is to meet next month. Our Boards we regard as excellent, and should be sorry to see any attempt at a radical change. Keep them alive, wide awake, and active; keep up the attention of the churches to their working and a deep Christian interest in them, and their experience and occurring necessities, will effect all good and wholesome modifications.

The New S. S. Visitor is greatly praised by the *Presbyterian* of last week. A copy to us has not yet arrived.

THE TIME OF GOING TO THE ASSEMBLY.

As frequent inquiries have been made on this subject, we would state that according to the information we have been able to obtain, those who leave Pittsburgh at 1 o'clock in the morning, will reach Rochester at 10 o'clock, and those who leave Pittsburgh at 1 o'clock, and 45 minutes in the afternoon, can arrive at Rochester early the next morning. Probably it will be best for those who may be able to attend the devotional meetings contemplated previous to the meeting of the Assembly, to leave Pittsburgh at 1 o'clock and 45 minutes on Monday afternoon; or if they cannot leave on Monday, they can go at the same time on Tuesday.

CHURCHES OF BALTIMORE AND NEW-LANCASTER.

Where congregations enjoy the labors of a devoted minister of Jesus Christ, for successive years, the attachment becomes very strong. That attachment gives facilities for still greater usefulness, and the field where it exists, should not be left by the spiritual husbandman, unless under some plain call from the Master. But there are calls which must be heeded; and when one of these comes, it is pleasing to find the people accord to their pastor's history of purpose, and assure him of their continued esteem and confidence.

A case of this kind we note in the churches above named.—Rev. WILLIAM M. DONALDSON had served them for eleven years, with great acceptance. Feeling it his duty then to ask the Presbytery of P. Wayne for a dissolution of the relation, the people remonstrated; but still, Presbytery having granted the pastor's request, the people continue their testimony to his great worth and high usefulness. This, it is true, is nothing singular. To love and be loved, is the happy lot of many pastors and many people. But it serves as an occasion for the remarks we just made.

REV. HENRY GRATTAN GUINNESS.

This well-known Evangelist is at present laboring in this city. He preached last Sabbath afternoon to the congregation of Dr. PLUMER, and in the evening in the First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Mr. PACZKOR'S. Upon both occasions an immense concourse of people were present, and hundreds left without being able to obtain admission. He is preaching every night during this week, in the First Church, to very large audiences.
Mr. GUINNESS makes no pretensions to elegant oratory, or profound argumentation; his sole aim, as is plainly evident, is to preach the Gospel plainer, scripturally, and feelingly, that he may win souls to Christ.

REVIVALS.

Millersburg.—Rev. J. A. E. SIMPSON writes:
"This church has enjoyed a precious visitation of the Spirit. Nearly two months ago, the Methodist Episcopal church held a protracted meeting, during the progress of which, one hundred and twenty or thirty presented themselves as inquirers. At the close of their meeting the Lutherans held a series of meetings, and received a large accession. After this, services were commenced in our own beloved church, on Tuesday night, March 25th, and were continued through the remainder of the week; and on Sabbath, April 1st, which was our communion Sabbath, fourteen persons, some of them young and some their heads of families, sat down for the first time around the table of the Lord."
"A deep seriousness pervades the minds of many, and perhaps, never before in this city. The people have been exhorted to be faithful to their head, and prayers have been offered for the preservation of the temporal authority of the Pope. And the *Limerick* (Irish) Chronicle gives information that a "Papal Brigade" is now organizing in New-York, to fight in behalf of his "Holiness, the Pope," in case the emergency of his affairs in the Italian States should require their vigorous presence. The same paper also says that the "Piper's Army" has been invited to cross the Atlantic and become American citizens, and join this force of pious crusaders. This whole report sounds amazingly like a "canard," but if such designs have ever entered the brains of any of the Pope's devoted servants, their realization will do but little toward settling the Italian difficulties. Italy is dependent for her crown upon the military prowess of the followers of Buonaparte; and poor old gentleman is in a deplorable condition indeed.

EASTERN SUMMARY.

BOSTON AND NEW-ENGLAND.
The Episcopates of the New England metropolis are not according to any paragonic scale. The entire outlay of the city for the present year, is estimated at \$2,034,080; while the income from the water works, markets, &c. is \$672,175, leaving \$2,361,905 to be raised by direct taxation.

The American Board of Foreign Missions is by no means in a prosperous condition with respect to funds. Its condition is really alarming to its supporters, and its very many well-wishers throughout the world. The contributions and the contributions are falling off. The receipts for the first seven months only amount to \$158,962, which is \$10,000 less for the same period last year. This leaves a sum of not less than \$228,000 to be secured during the remaining five months. Cutting off the Choctaw Missions has not benefited the Board, at least in a pecuniary point of view. Its officers and patrons will doubtless have no proper means to make up all deficiencies, and to be able to present an encouraging report at the annual meeting.

The People of Boston still retain the custom that has fallen into disuse in so many other places, of having an elaborate speech from one of their ablest orators on the Fourth of July. The speaker before the city government on that day, for this year, will be the Hon. Edward Everett.

Messrs. GUYEN & LINDSAY have in press a "Selection of Christian Churches and Seats from the East, East of Christianity," by the Rev. J. B. MARDEN. The well-known ability of the author, and the high character of the publication, led us to expect an exceedingly valuable work for reference.

The *Frazer's* or *Suffring* will be sorry to learn that Prof. AGEZIEZ is suffering much from weakness of the eyes, which is a great hindrance to his scientific pursuits.

The *Boston Post* says that the *Crucifixion* is raving with great violence at Cape Cod and vicinity. Nearly every piece of marsh, swamp, or upland that can be made arable for the culture of this berry, has been secured by capitalists, that it may be devoted to this purpose. So great is the demand for the *Crucifixion*, and so profitable has its cultivation been heretofore, in this region, that the excitement concerning it, promises to rival that of the *Morris* *Mattresses*, of which most people remember something, or that of the *Cape Cod*, which prevailed in generally just now in Vanuatu County, and the adjoining districts. By official statistics it appears that in 1855 there were in Massachusetts no less than thirty thousand one hundred and twenty-six acres of land in cranberries, producing a crop whose aggregate value was returned as \$146,074, being an average of more than \$46 per acre.

A HISTORY OF WILLIAMS COLLEGE is now in press that will be welcomed by the graduates and friends of the institution, and by all who take an interest in the great work of missions. It will consist of a large octavo volume, of five hundred pages, with engravings. It will contain an introduction, by Gov. WASHBURN, a memoir of the life of the Founder, prepared by Hon. Joseph White; and biographical sketches of the early friends and patrons of the College; a memoir of

the several Presidents, and the history of their respective administrations; an account of the buildings, libraries, apparatus, and progress in the college studies; besides, a large space has been given to the religious history of the institution, mostly prepared by Prof. Albert Hopkins.

The religious history of this institution has a remarkable one; the blessing of a "habitable grace" has always rested on it in a remarkable degree. It was here that Newell, Hall, Rice, Richards, and Nutt, were instrumental in setting into operation those agencies by which the American Church was awakened to the performance of its duty to the heathen world. The history of such an Institution prepared by a competent hand, cannot fail to be a success.

PRESBYTER WOODLEY OF YALE COLLEGE will soon publish a new work on the Law of Nations.

PHILADELPHIA.

EVERY STRANGER, upon visiting this city, passes almost involuntarily in front of the venerable pile of brick buildings on Chestnut Street, known as the State House, which contains the famous Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776. The erection of this building was sanctioned in 1729, and completed in 1754. It has nearly the same appearance now that it had in 1778, though some few "considerable" changes have been made. The bell that still gives forth its notes from the edifice, was brought from Europe in 1782; but owing to a crack received at its trial ringing, it lost its tone, and had to be re-cast. This was done by Isaac Norris, Esq., Speaker of the Colonial Assembly, who inscribed on it in the motto which it still bears, "Independency, 1776."

The old chandelier that lighted the "Hall" the night before the Declaration, still hangs there. And in the same place may be seen the pew in which Washington, Lafayette, and Franklin sat, when attending Christ's church, on Second Street.

The PENNSYLVANIA BIBLE SOCIETY will hold its Fifty-second Anniversary in the church on Washington Square, on the 22d of May.

NEW-YORK.

Business continues active, though the large sales to the distant South and the far West, have been mostly completed. A brisk trade is now in progress with New-England, Pennsylvania, and the adjoining States.

The AVOCATOR SALES are still immense, and in many instances the importers of fancy goods are losing heavily.

The IMPORTATIONS have fallen off, while there is a considerable increase in the exports. Money is as plenty as ever, and can be had at rates unusually low.

BRONX HOURS are ever active and restless in advancing the interests of the Papacy, and is just now greatly excited about the "Bill" to which poor FINE IX, is likely soon to be reduced. The people have been exhorted to be faithful to their head, and prayers have been offered for the preservation of the temporal authority of the Pope. And the *Limerick* (Irish) Chronicle gives information that a "Papal Brigade" is now organizing in New-York, to fight in behalf of his "Holiness, the Pope," in case the emergency of his affairs in the Italian States should require their vigorous presence.

RECONSTRUCTION OF BOARDS.

The Episcopates of the New England metropolis are not according to any paragonic scale. The entire outlay of the city for the present year, is estimated at \$2,034,080; while the income from the water works, markets, &c. is \$672,175, leaving \$2,361,905 to be raised by direct taxation.

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PHILADELPHIA.

EVERY STRANGER, upon visiting this city, passes almost involuntarily in front of the venerable pile of brick buildings on Chestnut Street, known as the State House, which contains the famous Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776. The erection of this building was sanctioned in 1729, and completed in 1754. It has nearly the same appearance now that it had in 1778, though some few "considerable" changes have been made. The bell that still gives forth its notes from the edifice, was brought from Europe in 1782; but owing to a crack received at its trial ringing, it lost its tone, and had to be re-cast. This was done by Isaac Norris, Esq., Speaker of the Colonial Assembly, who inscribed on it in the motto which it still bears, "Independency, 1776."

NEW-YORK.

Business continues active, though the large sales to the distant South and the far West, have been mostly completed. A brisk trade is now in progress with New-England, Pennsylvania, and the adjoining States.

The AVOCATOR SALES are still immense, and in many instances the importers of fancy goods are losing heavily.

The IMPORTATIONS have fallen off, while there is a considerable increase in the exports. Money is as plenty as ever, and can be had at rates unusually low.

BRONX HOURS are ever active and restless in advancing the interests of the Papacy, and is just now greatly excited about the "Bill" to which poor FINE IX, is likely soon to be reduced. The people have been exhorted to be faithful to their head, and prayers have been offered for the preservation of the temporal authority of the Pope. And the *Limerick* (Irish) Chronicle gives information that a "Papal Brigade" is now organizing in New-York, to fight in behalf of his "Holiness, the Pope," in case the emergency of his affairs in the Italian States should require their vigorous presence.

RECONSTRUCTION OF BOARDS.

The Episcopates of the New England metropolis are not according to any paragonic scale. The entire outlay of the city for the present year, is estimated at \$2,034,080; while the income from the water works, markets, &c. is \$672,175, leaving \$2,361,905 to be raised by direct taxation.

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