Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1860.

DANVILLE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

The Graduating Class of the late Commencement, at Danville Seminary, numbered sixteen. The *Herald* speaks of the examinations as having been highly satisfactory. Rev. B. M. HOBSON, of Lexington, Mo., preached on the occasion. Dr. EDGAR, of Nashville, delivered the address. Certificates of a full course were given to the graduates. The institution flourishes.

The Trustees resolved upon effective efforts to erect suitable buildings for the accommodation of the students, for lecture rooms, library, &c. They wish also to erect Professors' houses, and to found additional scholarships. For these purposes they desire an addition of $100,000 to their funds. They have appointed Rev. Dr. BULLOCK their agent, to visit the churches and make collections.

CHURCHES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

LAWRENCEVILLE.—The Rev. RICHARD LEA, for many years the laborious and efficient pastor of the church, in this place, gave notice, a short time ago, of his intention to ask Presbytery for a dissolution of the pastoral relation. Following this announcement the largest congregational meeting ever held in this church, with great cordiality, asked Mr. LEA to reconsider his determination and remain with his present charge. Mr. LEA has acquiesced in the request of his people. We are glad of this; for we cannot afford to part just now with a brother so useful and so greatly beloved.

EAST LIBERTY.—The Presbyterian church of this rapidly growing place has determined to erect a new house of worship at an expense of $20,000. Brother MCILVAINE has a wide and encouraging field of usefulness before him.

ALLEGHENY CITY.—Dr. PLUMER's congregation has purchased a lot for $4,400, on which a neat and substantial, but plain house of worship will be erected forthwith, costing from $8,000 to $10,000.

OUR WANT AS A DENOMINATION.

Our doctrines are established; our Form of Government is, in general, the best and most Scriptural held by any Church; and our system of agencies for conservative and aggressive effect, is admirably adapted for its purposes. It is therefore evident that we do not need any new constructions of our system of faith, or any radical changes in our Form of Government, or in the machinery of our Church operations. Nor is much new legislation required; but few cases can arise for which provision has not been already made. Our Minutes are already burdened with masses of legislation.

But the great want of our Church is the infusion of new life, vigor, and activity, into the pastorate, the eldership, the membership, the Colleges and Theological Seminaries, and the Boards and Committees. Let the wealth, talent, influence, and piety of our Church, be employed as earnestly as men of the world exert themselves for the accomplishment of their plans, and, under the blessing of God, our Church may expect an expansion and increase such as no other Church has ever had. Let us not be content with boasting of the past; let us seek success in the future, for the good of man and the glory of God.

PRINCETON.

The *North Carolina Presbyterian* quotes our correspondent's remarks, relative to the nomination of Prof. DABNEY, of Virginia, for a chair in the Seminary at Princeton, and opposes it strongly. We admit that there is "something due to courtesy," and that there are "rights which should be respected." One of these rights, however, is that of the Lord to the services of all his people in any situation in which he has need of them; and another is that of his Church, under him, to call whom she will of her sons to any service to which she may deem him adapted. Seminaries have their rights; but no one has exclusive rights. Each holds its right subservient, first to Christ, and next to his Church. Hence it is not reasonable to say that a Professor upon whom the Lord has bestowed the highest gifts shall be consigned, perpetually, to the instruction of twenty students, when he is needed to teach five or ten times twenty. Let the Church appoint the most gifted of her sons to work where they can serve her most usefully, and let them heed her call.

If then the General Assembly shall judge, with the Directors at Princeton, that Prof. DABNEY is the man adapted to fill a vacant chair there, it is likely to say so; and if it shall so vote, the Professor, as a good man, even at the cost of much self-denial, is not likely to say nay.

PROGRESS.

The *Presbyterian*, in noticing our remark, pleasantly uttered a week ago, that we should have some little share in the credit for the increased activity of the Boards of Domestic Missions and Publication, says:

"The *Presbyterian Banner*, in referring to the prosperity of these Boards attributes it to the efforts made by that journal to arouse the agencies or officials to activity, and to a due regard to the interests of the Church. The Boards are certainly doing well, but whether they are indebted to this source for their prosperity, admits of a very wide difference of opinion."

This is quite a progress in kindness toward us. The day was when our contemporary ignored us utterly. After some years, it began to speak of us, but only as evil in our influence toward Church agencies. It now recognises the possibility that we may be really useful. It says that the question of these Boards' indebtedness to us for their prosperity, "*admits* of a very wide difference of opinion." Of course there must then be some very just and very strong reasons in our favor, as well as against us, to justify this "very wide difference" of opinion. We thank our contemporary for the *admission;* and we are pleased that it and we can rejoice together in a benefit, even though we may differ a little in our notions as to the proximate causes:

When the *Presbyterian* shall again speak we would respectfully urge that it shall answer some of the very important questions on which information is asked.

THE REVISED BOOK OF DISCIPLINE.

The extensive alteration in our Standards, which is proposed by the New Book of Discipline, is to be pressed, it seems, upon the General Assembly, this year, with both ardor and hope. Dr. THORNWELL devotes to it another long article, in the *Southern Presbyterian Review*, and expects personally to urge it at Rochester. He thus exults in his prospects: "From recent indications we are inclined to think that the tide of prejudice which, at first, set so violently against the Revised Book of Discipline, has begun to ebb, and that the current is now changing in its favor. Objections are daily losing their force, misapprehensions quietly subsiding, and the propriety of the changes becoming more obvious." We had estimated the matter differently. We had supposed that the attempted change was met by the churches, and opposed on *principle*, rather than from prejudice;" and that the quietness attained was the result of a confidence, that fundamental truth would not be undermined, and that the love of change would not prevail.

Some of the alterations suggested would be improvements, if the people were familiar with them; but this class are not of such importance as to compensate for the evils necessarily incident to changes in fundamental law. The Standards of a Church ought to possess stability. They may be ever regarded as alterable, and as susceptible of improvement, but no alteration should be attempted but where, in the opinion of the people generally, there is an evil which may be thereby avoided, and a benefit be secured in its stead.

But our main objection to the New Book, as we intimated on its first being proposed, is, that it alters and subverts a fundamental principle in regard to the *status* of our children. True, it admits their right to baptism, and that, henceforth, they are members of the Church, entitled to its privileges and bound to the discharge of all the duties which are incumbent on members; but, strange inconsistency, it makes them not subject to judicial process. That is, they are members, and are yet not to be treated as members; they are bound to all duties, and yet are not to be subject to discipline for the neglect of them; they are entitled to all privileges, and yet are excluded from paternal chastisement, divinely adapted to work the peaceable fruits of righteousness!

The status of our baptized children, Dr. THORNWELL, in the article before us, expresses in words and phrases such as these: "Of the world and in the Church." The Church is to treat them "precisely as she treats all other impenitent and unbelieving men; she is to exercise the power of the keys and shut them out from the communion of the saints. She is to debar them from all the privileges of the inner sanctuary." "Dead in trespasses and sins." "Their whole life a continued sin." "Their very righteousnesses abominable before God." "The whole state of non-professing members is unsound—let the Church consign them, by a single word, to the position which universally attaches to impenitence." "The baptized non-professor is actually in the very position in relation to the sacraments and communion of the Church, in which ex-communication puts the professing offender. The key is turned, and both are shut out from the inner sanctuary." He also speaks of the children of the saints, though they are God's by covenant claim, and consecrated to him in baptism, and trained with his people, as being "slaves;" and says, "their condition as slaves, determines their treatment."

This, as seems to us, is all wrong. Men have no right so to speak of the children of the Church. They are born in the family. They are the offspring of God's handmaidens. He says of them: They are mine. They have been given to God in the way of his requirement, and with faith in his promises. He has set upon them the visible seal of his own proffered covenant. He has begun to write his name in their foreheads; forming their judgment, impressing their heart, and guiding their life. He has made them to differ from the mass of mankind; in their relation to him, in their sentiments regarding him, and their feelings and conduct toward him. They have been educated for him. They read his Word, reverence his Sabbaths, associate with his people, sustain his ordinances of worship, commune with his children in prayer, praise, the hearing of the Word, and the grace of giving. They call themselves Christians. They are Christians; not heathens, not Jews, not infidels. They believe with Christians, they associate with Christians, they worship with Christians. They acknowledge sinfulness and helplessness, but hope for the mercy of God, and that only in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. We speak here not of all, for some, through parental neglect and Church unfaithfulness, have grown up untrained for God—in the world and of the world. And yet, even of these we would say, "Destroy them not, for a blessing is in them." But we now speak of those, and they are many; who have enjoyed a measure of parental faithfulness, and a wise and diligent Church care. And, Oh! if the Church would faithfully discharge her duty, what multitudes of such would there be! God would be faithful on his part. He would be abundant in his grace. Well, it is of such that we speak—these born, baptised, and educated members. Now, wherein do these, in all the visibilities of the Church, differ from other members? They do not come to the Lord's table. They are disobedient to that distinctive command, "This do." Why do they decline? Is it from a deep sense of unworthiness; or because of a tender conscience, or a morbid sensibility, or defective instruction? Do they wish to come, but stay away through fear? Or are they careless about their soul's salvation? Or are they hostile to Christ, and determined that he shall not have them? The Church should know these things—know them well—and direct her course accordingly.

After all God's claim upon our offspring and their recognition in general, so fully, of that claim, are they to be disowned, repudiated, treated as slaves, as unbelievers, as men of the world, as ex-communicated persons; and are they to be shut out, and to have the key turned upon them? And all this without a trial, without investigation, without a hearing? No, say we. If they are to be, *de facto*, ex-communicated, turned out, cut off from the Israel of God, let them know why. Give them a hearing. It is their right. Deal with them as children, long, faithfully, kindly, before you count them aliens. Cut them not off till by a fair and full investigation, in which they have had unrestricted opportunity to defend themselves, you have proved them to be reprobates.

We verily believe that a neglect of our members by birthright, is a crying sin in our Church. The neglect is not total, by any means. Neither are we sinners above all other men in this aspect. But still, we are sinners greatly. We have been sinners against the Word of God and our Standards; and now the effort is being made to alter our Standards, so as to make them conform to our sinful practice. Better by far would it be, to change in the other direction. Let us reform our practice. Let us teach our children that they are Christians, educate them as Christians, and treat them as Christians. Let us, with all fidelity, give them the means of the covenant, and trust God that he will give them its benefits. We will then not be compelled to mourn over divided families, or lost sons and daughters; but we and ours shall rejoice together; and our Church will be a brilliant light, shining in a dark world.

A SEAT IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLINED.

According to custom, the Presbytery of Louisville, appointed Rev. W. L. BRECKINRIDGE, Moderator of the last General Assembly, a Commissioner to the Assembly of this year. It was his duty, by the constitution of the Church, to open the meeting with a sermon, and to preside over the organization of the house, and till a new Moderator should be chosen. This duty being recognized, it has been a universal custom to appoint the Moderator of the preceding Assembly as a Commissioner to the next; and a failure to do so could not but be regarded as a pointed disrespect to the Assembly, and a discourtesy toward the brother. The Louisville Presbytery followed the custom, in making the appointment, but they accompanied it with instructions which they knew Dr. BRECKINRIDGE could not obey, and, thus they put him under the necessity of declining. The matter is to be regretted; and the more especially as it is manifestly part of a plan to carry a new measure, changing the principles and policy of our Church, and possibly involving a sectional issue.

The following, from Dr. BRECKINRIDGE's letter of declinature, will show his views of the case:

"The *Presbyterian Herald*, of the 12th inst., has brought me the proceedings of our Presbytery, in session at Owensboro' on the 5th inst. They make known to me that I was chosen a Commissioner to the General Assembly; and, further, that the Presbytery heartily approves (and request the Commissioners to sustain) the action of the General Assembly of 1859, and also that of 1848, on the subject of the relations of the Church of Christ and voluntary Societies formed for the purposes of Art, Literature, and Secular Morality.'

"In the report of the proceedings it is added, that 'this resolution called out an earnest and animated discussion, in which its passage was advocated by Messrs. Robinson, Rice, and others, and opposed by Messrs. Matthews, Hopkins, Hill, and others. The motion was finally adopted without a count.'

"There is a very clear and wide distinction to be taken between the action of the Assembly of 1859, and that of the Assembly of 1848, cited by the Presbytery. The latter declares that the Church has no power to require of its members the support of the Societies in question; while it asserts the right, and, on occasion, the duty of the Church to favor or oppose them, according to its judgment of their merits. This view of the subject I do heartily approve. I trust that I shall be ready at all times to defend and support it.

"But the action of the Assembly of 1859 denies to the Church all right to have any thing to do with such institutions. Believing this view of the subject to be false in its principle, narrow in its spirit, and every way hurtful in its influence, I do heartily condemn it, and I can do nothing under any circumstances to support it. It is plainly in conflict with the sentiments and usages of our branch of the Church from the beginning. I think it has been justly described as setting forth a 'new and startling doctrine.' I find no warrant for it in the letter of the Divine Word, or in the spirit of the Gospel. I believe that it was inadvertently uttered by the last Assembly without arresting the attention of the body; and now that it has fairly engaged the thoughts of the Church, I do not doubt that it will be disavowed by the coming Assembly."

It is to be hoped that the Assembly at Rochester, will take a firm hold of the subject here presented. We know that it is sectional, and on that account we regret it the more deeply. But it is an aggression, unprovoked, and needless. And it aims at the destruction of fundamental principles of Christian duty. We trust that it will be put down by an overwhelming vote.

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH—ITS PROGRESS—ITS BOOK CONCERN.

This body is holding its quadrennial session in the city of Buffalo, New-York. The attendance is very large, and its reports, discussions and conclusions, will be looked for with much interest. Among the subjects of importance that will receive much attention, are the proposed rule with regard to the exclusion of slaveholders from membership, the introduction of laymen to the Conferences, and the Presiding Eldership.

The address of the Bishops gave some interesting facts concerning the progress of this Church:

The number of members and probationers in 1855 (in the Church,) was 799,481, and of ministers 5,408; the former in 1859 numbered 974,345, and the latter 6,877; making an increase respectively of 174,914, and 1,469. The number of church edifices is 9,805, and of parsonages 2,540; with an aggregate estimated value of $21,341,624—an increase in two years of 960 churches, and 366 parsonages, at a valuation of $3,341,624.

The increase of the Sunday Schools is alluded to with much satisfaction, as the catalogue of Sunday School books, and the number of teachers and scholars, are rapidly increasing. The publications of the Church have become very numerous. The aggregate number of pages printed and circulated since the last General Conference, in tracts, bound volumes, and the monthly illustrated tract, *Good News*, is 54,170,900.

The New-York Book Concern shows that it possesses a net capital in real estate, cash, merchandise, printing office, and materials, bindery, and notes and book accounts of $540,721.80; and that the total number of books published during the last four years is 3,800,000, besides 27,802,000 pages of tracts. Total sales for the four years $1,175,867, an increase of $175,133 over the previous four years. The debt of the Book Concern in 1856 was 170,704, but now only amounts to $67,809. The total profits of the Concern since 1836 are set down at $1,171,584.

Our Methodist brethren have not found that a full exhibit of the actual state of their Book Concern has injured its prosperity in any way. They tell the people what they have and what they want, and hence they enjoy the confidence of the churches.

CARROLL COLLEGE.

A country takes its character, very much, from its literary institutions; especially from those which are established early, and conducted energetically. It has been the habit of Presbyterians—it is an out-going of their spirit—to carry literature with them, and to plant it in a virgin soil, and to cherish it with assiduity. A few of them penetrated Wisconsin. They established Carroll College. They cling to it. They are unable, alone, to make it what it should be. They ask help. Let that help be contributed.

We give the following satisfactory information:

This Institution, under the supervision of the Presbyterian Synod, of Wisconsin, is located in Waukesha, fifteen miles West of Milwaukie, on the M. and Mississippi Railroad, has a beautiful and commodious edifice for instructive purposes, on a site of ten acres, with adjoining lots, for the purpose of accommodating the erection of Professors' residences. It has been in successful operation, with a full College organization, for the last six years, aided by the Presbyterian Board of Education, while its endowment, which has been as yet only partially effected, is in progress; it has graduated three classes successively during the last three years, and has a senior class of six to graduate in July next, with lower classes to succeed it in regular progress. The President and Fiscal Agent, is now making an appeal to the friends of Christian Education, in its behalf, to facilitate the prosecution of its appropriate work, without interruption, while passing a pecuniary crisis at the West, which has crippled so many similar enterprises. Any special information will be cheerfully communicated by the Agent, to any and all who may desire it, and will favor him with an interview.

The following testimonials are appended, to assure those who may not be acquainted with the agent, that the character and importance of the enterprise, are such as to invite their confidence, cooperation and liberality.

JOHN A. SAVAGE,
President and Fiscal Agent.

The Presbyterian College, in Wisconsin, at the head of which is the Rev. Dr. Savage, is one of those infant institutions which are indispensable to Church progress in the new countries. Those who know our history as Presbyterians, know that to such schools, such pioneers, such humble, earnest efforts, we have owed the supply of ministers. My confidence is great, that if this College be supported, it will do more for sound Presbyterianism in the North-West, than ten times the same outlay in other ways, or a hundred times the same outlay a few years hence.

Constant as are the demands made on the beneficent among us, I hesitate not to make an earnest plea for this enterprise, at the doors of those who love the Church of our Fathers.

J. W. ALEXANDER.

April 4, 1856.

WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY,
Allegheny City, Pa., March 14, 1860.

I have been on the site of Carroll College, seen its officers and students, and conversed with the brethren of that region. I have not a doubt of the wisdom of founding and sustaining that institution, and heartily commend it to the friends of sound Education and true religion.

[Signed,] WM. S. PLUMER.

The General Assemblies.—One of the Editors is at Rochester, as a Commissioner, and will faithfully report the proceedings. The other will briefly note affairs in the Assembly which meets in this city.

Aerolites.—See an interesting communication in another column.

EASTERN SUMMARY.

BOSTON AND NEW-ENGLAND.

GENERAL BURGOYNE, and the other British officers, together with a portion of the privates, captured by General Gates at Saratoga, were afterwards quartered at Cambridge, Medford, Charlestown, and Watertown, in the vicinity of Boston. Mr. Charles H. Morse, of this city, has now in his possession the original parole signed by Gen. Burgoyne and his officers; and it is decidedly a long list of "fighting men"—containing no less than one hundred and eighty-eight names. The signature of Gen. Burgoyne was usually firm and handsome, but in this instance it is written in a broken and tremulous manner. Here, too, is the name of Gen. William Phillips, written by himself. This is the Britisher who once wrote to General Washington as "Mr. Washington," then as "George Washington," and afterwards as "General Washington."

The formal INAUGURATION OF PROF. FELTON, as President of Harvard College, will take place on Monday, the 28th of the present month. It is intended to make the ceremony quite an imposing one. There will be a long procession of the Corporation of the College, the faculty, students, and citizens generally, under the direction of a Chief Marshal.

The *Christian Examiner*, a UNITARIAN JOURNAL, has been frequently of late admitting that the Orthodox faith is not altogether a delusion, and even acknowledging some tendencies in its own convictions toward some of the truths of the Evangelical system that have for the most part been repudiated by modern Unitarians. But in its wide charity it is slow to acknowledge these as essentials to the Christian faith. In a recent notice of Prof. Hunton's view of the Trinity, that journal says:

With the notion itself, the Athanasian conception of the Godhead, we have no quarrel. As an article of speculative theosophy, we have not only no objection to it, but are willing to confess a speculative leaning toward it. But when it is thrust dogmatically forward, as one of the essentials of the Christian faith, as binding authority, and as Scripture doctrine, we feel it to be a falsity and an offence.

This admission is certainly no very great advance.

A PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH was organized in East Boston in 1854, and united with the Old School General Assembly in 1858. This was the first Presbyterian church in connexion with our Assembly, in Boston, for seventy-five years, or since the Federal Street left the General Assembly. This church has just completed the erection of a handsome and well-located house of worship, at a cost of about $16,000. This building was appropriately dedicated on the afternoon of last Sabbath week. The opening prayer was made by the pastor, Rev. H. H. Johnson, and a sermon was preached by Rev. R. W. Henry, of New York, from Haggai i: 7, 8. It was an able production, setting forth the reasons why God took pleasure in having places erected for his worship, and the feelings of reverence, gratitude, and attachment with which men should regard them. The choir sang the beautiful Scotch version of the eighty-fourth psalm, and several appropriate hymns.

Mr. Henry is the brother-in-law of the pastor, and was formerly pastor of a church in Chicago, but is now colleague with Dr. McElroy, of the Scotch Presbyterian church, New York. Both of these brethren began the work of the ministry in the Associate Reformed Church; both received their theological training in the Seminary of that Church at Allegheny, under the Rev. Dr. John T. Pressley; and Mr. Henry is a native of Allegheny County.

PHINEAS ALLEN, ESQ., senior editor of the *Pittsfield Sun*, which he founded as long ago as 1800, died last week, at the venerable age of eighty-four. He was the oldest editor in the Union.

NEW-YORK.

The JAPANESE AMBASSADORS arrived last week, but did not land, not wishing to appear anywhere in public previous to presentation to the President. They remained on the United States steam frigate *Roanoke*, until her departure for Norfolk, from which place they will proceed directly to Washington.

This city, last week, lost one of its oldest and most distinguished lawyers, in the death of GEORGE GRIFFIN, ESQ. Whatever opinions might be entertained concerning other members of the bar, no one ever failed to place Mr. Griffin among the very first. He was of New-England parentage, born January 14, 1778; graduated at Yale College, studied law with Judge Butler, of Wyoming, Pa.; married the daughter of Col. Zebulon Butler, who commanded at West Point during the Revolutionary War, and who defended his native place in the terrible Indian massacre at Wyoming; and came to New-York at the age of twenty-eight. Here he at once took a very high position, and was immediately acknowledged the equal in eloquence and legal learning to Emmett, Wells, Hoffman, Duer, Jones, Livingston, Wood, and others, who composed a legal galaxy that has never been surpassed. He was a remarkable instance of the union of the most overpowering eloquence, the closest logic, and the most exact knowledge of law. Many of his speeches and arguments will be models for succeeding generations, and extracts from his addresses have been declaimed in almost every college and academy of the land. He was closely related to great men, both collaterally and in his own immediate family. Many now living remember well the glowing eloquence and fervid appeals in the pulpit, of his brother, the Rev. Edmund Dorr Griffin, President of Williams College, and one of the luminaries of the Presbyterian Church in his day. Francis Griffin, the eldest son of George Griffin, of great eminence as a lawyer, and a man of most lovely disposition and blameless character, died in 1851. The Rev. Edmund Griffin, another son, died at the age of twenty-one, after having given bright promise of extraordinary ability and usefulness. Charles, another son, and a member of the same profession as his father, died last year. Most of his grandchildren are of full age, and some of them, of both sexes, give evidence that they inherit the talents of their ancestor. Mr. Griffin was a zealous member of the Presbyterian Church, and after his retirement from the bar, devoted several years to the production of two religious works of great ability, entitled "The Sufferings of our Saviour" and the "Evidences of Christianity."

Last week was "ANNIVERSARY WEEK," and a large number of strangers were in the city, for the purpose of attending the annual meetings of the different Societies. But, as a general thing, these meetings are not so well attended as in former years. Residents of the city take but little interest in them, except when some special emergency arises, as in the case of the Tract Society; and persons from a distance have grown weary of being entertained every year by the same speakers. This employment of nearly the same speakers every year has been a great mistake; and our General Assembly should take warning in time, and cease to confine its appointments for the annual sermons in behalf of the Boards, to a few individuals, residing in peculiar localities.

At the Anniversary of the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, the Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen presided, and the Scriptures were read and prayer offered by the Rev. Dr. Vermilye. The Annual Report gave the following summary:

Eighty-one new auxiliaries have been recognized. Of Life Directors, eighty-eight have been made, and of Life Members, one thousand five hundred and thirty-two. The receipts of the year amount to $435,956.92, being an increase of $20,945.55 over the previous year. Of this sum, $241,299.57 are from sales of Bibles and Testaments, and $197,657.35 gratuitous. The number of volumes issued is 753,772; since the organization of the Society, 14,278,881. Grants of books have been made to auxiliaries, benevolent Societies, and individuals, to the amount of $47,628.80.

New Books—A new German Bible, 12mo., has been published; a modern Armenian Bible, 8vo., with references; a nonpareil Testament and Psalms, 32mo.; a diamond Testament and Psalms, 48mo.; and portions of the New Testament in Cherokee, 24mo. Now in preparation, a minion reference Bible, square 16mo.; a minion Bible, without references, same size; a minion Bible, same size, without accessories, for Jews; a pearl reference Bible, square 18mo.; a pearl Bible, without references, same size; a Cherokee New Testament, 12mo. *Agents*—There are forty-one agents employed by the Society, including one in the Levant, one in Brazil, and one in Mexico. *General Supply*—This work, commenced four years since, is still in progress, with much encouragement. *Grants of Money*—These have been made for publishing and circulating the Scriptures in Spanish America, France, Germany, Italy, Turkey, Syria, India, China, Africa, and the Sandwich Islands, to the amount of $38,259.77, aside from the funds expended in the Bible House in printing foreign versions. Our extended commerce, and numerous missionary establishments abroad, are making increased demands every year for means to prepare and distribute the Scriptures in different tongues. Of this we will not complain, but rather give thanks to God, who is thus opening the way for his Word among all nations.

Addresses were made by the Rev. Dr. Plumer, of Allegheny City, Rev. Dr. Fisher, Rev. R. W. Henry, and others. After the conclusion of Dr. Fisher's speech, a letter was read from the Earl of Shaftesbury, in response to an invitation to attend the anniversary. He expressed his inability to come on account of the pressure of his public duties. The Academy of Music, where the meeting was held, was not more than one-third full.

The Thirty-fifth Anniversary of the AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY was held in Rev. Dr. Hutton's church, on Wednesday morning of last week. In the absence of the President, Hon. Thomas S. Williams, the meeting was called to order by Hon. Wm. C. Alexander, Vice President. Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Burchard, of New-York.

It appears from the Annual Report, that during the year the Society's agents made 630,000 family visits, offered prayer in 425,000 of them, and circulated 443,000 volumes by sale, and 120,000 by grant. Since the commencement of this work the colporteurs have made nearly eight millions of family visits, and offered prayer in some millions of habitations. They had circulated by sale in nineteen years, 6,860,000 volumes, and bestowed two millions on the poor without money and without price. Foreign appropriations in cash for the year, $12,000; since its formation, $510,000. Of the publications circulated during the year, there were in the Northern and Middle States, 12,350,000 pages, value $8,000. In the Western and Northwestern States, 6,500,000 pages, or $4,000. In the South-western States, 15,871,000, or $10,000. Of the six hundred and forty-nine colporteurs and students at work during the past year, two hundred and twenty-three labored in the Northern States, one hundred and fifty-two in the Western States, and two hundred and sixty-one in the Southern States.

Printed during the year, 731,700 volumes, 11,047,400 publications, or 238,870,800 pages; total in thirty-five years, 15,778,529 volumes, 226,582,305 publications, or 5,596,286,134 pages.

Gratuitous distribution for the year, in 3,040 distinct grants, 55,018,032 pages; and 12,800,340 pages to members and directors; amounting to about $45,000.

Receipts and Expenditures.—Received in donations and legacies, $111,964.87; sales, $232,636.56; received on insurance and expended before April 1, $82,718,91; making, with balance in the treasury, $380,762.93. Expended—Manufacturing and issuing, $226,058,67; colportage, $79,616.20; colporteur agencies and depositories, $29,497.99; cash for foreign lands, $12,000; all other expenses, $38,690.07—making $380,762.93.

Speeches were made by the Rev. Dr. Riddle, of Jersey City, formerly of Pittsburgh, Wm. E. Dodges, Esq., and the Rev. Dr. Wolcott, of Chicago. This last gentleman submitted the following resolutions, upon which he made an animated speech:

WHEREAS, This Society, in 1857, on recommendation of the Committee of fifteen, adopted a resolution affirming that those moral duties which grow out of the existence of slavery, as well as those moral and evil vices which it is known to promote, undoubtedly do fall within the province of this Society, and can and ought to be discussed in its publications, and this declaration still stands in full force; therefore,

Resolved, That the reasons which urge to such discussion still remain, and now press upon the Society with accumulative weight.

Whereas, This Society, at its last meeting, declared that "it has no doubt in relation to the sin of the African slave trade, and the great wickedness of recognizing that iniquitous system in any form;" and

Whereas, During the past year evidence has accumulated until the fact has become notorious and flagrant, that this accursed traffic has been pursued by vessels sailing from various ports of this country; therefore,

Resolved, That the publication or republication of suitable tracts, setting forth the iniquity of the African slave trade, would meet the warm approbation of this Society.

At the conclusion of his speech, the Rev. Mr. Lee, of Brooklyn, offered the following, evidently intended to cast ridicule on Dr. Wolcott's resolutions:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Society, the opening of German lager beer gardens in New York, on the Sabbath, is contrary to the law and Gospel of God, and that there are many other practices in New York and Brooklyn, and in various parts of New England, which are deserving of our disapproval and hearty condemnation.

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be directed to publish against the evils of abolitionism.

Whereupon a motion for adjournment was made by the Hon. Greene C. Bronson, which was carried amid much confusion. To say the least, this was not a very dignified *finale*, on the part of a great national Society. Nothing would have been lost by less haste, and a full expression of opinion. After the adjournment, the Life Members elected the old Committees by an overwhelming majority. They are as follows:

Publishing Committee.—Rev. David Magie, D. D., Elizabethtown, N. J.; Rev. Wm. R. Williams, D.D., Rev. Wm. Adams, D.D., Rev. Benjamin C. Cutler, D.D., Rev. Neh. Adams, D.D., Boston, Mass.; Rev. Thomas Dewitt, D.D.

Distributing Committee.—Wm. Forrest, Alfred M. Treadwell, Alfred S. Barnes, Samuel S. Constant, Dr. Wm. N. Blakeman.

Finance Committee.—Richard T. Haines, Moses Allen, Thomas C. Doremus, Richard S. Fellowes, George N. Titus, Esq., Oliver E. Wood.

The head-quarters of the BOSTON TRACT SOCIETY, is in the metropolis of New England, but the first anniversary was held in Dr. Cheever's church, in this city, last week. The following is a statement of the operations for the year:

Whole number of tracts published during the year, fifty-four—copies printed, 1,129,550; whole number of volumes published, sixty-seven—copies, 131,577; whole amount of printing done, (tracts and books,) 22,283,532 pages. The Society publishes two papers, called the *Tract Journal* and *Child at Home*, of which they have printed, altogether, 1,112,000 copies. In addition to their own publications, the Society has purchased and distributed $17,797.17 worth of matter published by other Societies and booksellers. They have paid in aid of the Press at foreign missionary stations, $1,000. They have employed thirty-three colporteurs, of whom two were engaged in the slaveholding States. The charitable distributions of the Society to hospitals, seamen, missionary associations, Sunday-Schools, &c., in the way of tracts and books, amount to $11,928.06. The sales during the year, including publications in the hands of colporteurs, amount to $47,732.98. The finances of the Society show a balance in the treasury of $902.80—the total receipts from sales, legacies, &c., having been $67,600.86, and the total expenses, $66,698.06.

After the reading of the report, Dr. Tyng made an able and characteristic speech.

PHILADELPHIA.

MAYOR HENRY was duly inaugurated Mayor for a second term, last week. In this ceremony Rev. Dr. Brainard read a portion of the second chapter of first Timothy, with the ninety-first Psalm, and offered prayer. Then the oath of office was administered by Judge Oswald Thompson. This was followed by an address from the Mayor, in which he pledged himself to fulfill the duties of his station faithfully, impartially, and according to the best of his ability.

The REV. D. R. GOODWIN, D.D., of Maine, has been elected Provost of the University of Pennsylvania. This office was made vacant, some time ago, by the resignation of Prof. Vethake.

Philadelphians take great interest in the PUBLIC SCHOOLS of their city, and are proud of their continued success. The Philadelphia *Ledger* says:

In the year 1850, the public school system of the city included 256 schools, 727 teachers, and 45,383 scholars. In 1859 it had reached 323 schools, 1,062 teachers, and 61,745 scholars. In 1850 there was one teacher to every sixty-two scholars. In 1859 there was one teacher to every fifty-eight scholars. The proportion of schools was somewhat different. In 1850 there was one school to one hundred and seventy-seven scholars. In 1859 there was one for every one hundred and ninety-one scholars. Thus, while the number of teachers in proportion to scholars has multiplied, the number of schools in proportion to scholars has not kept even pace.

The AMERICAN SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION celebrated its Thirty-Sixth Anniversary last week. John P. Crozier, Esq., Vice-President, presided. After the singing of a hymn, and a prayer, Rev. B. B. Westbrook, Secretary of Missions, read the annual report. During the year the number of new schools organized directly by missionaries where none previously existed, 2,091; teachers pledging themselves to conduct these schools, 14,225; children enrolled at the time of organization, 83,278; schools visited and aided by the missionaries, 3,701; teachers laboring in these schools, 30,355; scholars in attendance, 215,168; whole number of schools organized and aided, 5,792; whole number of teachers, 44,580; whole number of scholars, 298,446; volumes of religious books supplied to these schools directly by the missionaries, about 224,000; making, in 18mo. pages, more than 20,000,000.

The business of the Publication Department has grown largely. The sales have increased from $202,426.30 to $234,436.82. The number of new books issued is larger than in any former year, and they seem to be meeting very general acceptance, and to be doing a good work. The Society has now a large number of volumes in various stages of progress, and most of them ready for publication.

Addresses were delivered by Rev. N. H. Schenck, Rev. Hiram Eddy, Rev. J. Hyatt Smith, Rev. W. J. R. Taylor, and the exercises closed with a benediction by Rev. Mr. Craycraft.

For the Presbyterian Banner.

Our German Mission Churches.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Allow me to call the attention of your readers to the visitation of God's Spirit among the Germans of Rochester and vicinity. Nearly three months ago, a little church consisting of thirteen persons, was organized and placed under the care of Allegheny City Presbytery. Since then, whilst I was preaching only every third week, the Lord has been pleased to bless my feeble efforts there to the hopeful conversion of many. On Sabbath, the 29th day of April, we had a most precious communion season in the church of Brother Cunningham, in Bridgewater. Twenty-one persons, among whom the aged and the young were found, were, on examination, admitted to the sealing ordinance of the Lord's Supper, and five infants were baptized.

The people feel very much encouraged, and hope for greater things yet. In West Manchester the work is progressing somewhat slower, but cheeringly enough. On last Sabbath four persons were received into the church, and took their seats at the Lord's table. Three children were baptized. The entire number of German Presbyterians belonging to my charges is sixty-six, and the average attendance on Divine worship, may be said to be seventy. To the Lord be all the praise.

Yours respectfully,
JNO. LAUNITZ.

West Manchester, May 8, 1860.

For the Presbyterian Banner.

Fall of Aerolites in Guernsey and Muskingum Counties, Ohio.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—The usual equanimity of the good people of this portion of Ohio, was much disturbed at noon on the 1st inst., by a succession of tremendous explosions in the heavens, at an angle of about forty-five degrees from the earth. These reports were heard over an area of from seventy-five to one hundred miles square. In parts of Guernsey and Muskingum counties, the shocks were really terrible, so much so, as to shake the largest buildings, in a manner similar to the loudest thunder—causing much alarm to some, and wonder to all.

The sound, to my ear, was like that of a large volume of steam passing through cold water; as may be heard, on a small scale, when a railroad engineer turns the steam-pipe of the locomotive in the water-box of the "tender"—the noise being low, and heavy, with an occasional *note* of peculiar emphasis. It seems the phenomenon was of a meteoric character, as many great stones fell near the villages of New Concord, Claysville, Point Pleasant, and Hartford. Some of these aerolites I have seen. The one before me, found by our townsman, Mr. R. J. Clark, weighs nearly four pounds, is cubical in form—sides smooth—corners rounded off—has a dark iron-colored surface, excepting where one point was broken off in the fall, by striking against the root of a tree. The texture of the stone is granulated closely, resembling a common fine-grit sand-stone, though somewhat heavier, its specific quality being about 3.45.

More than twenty of these specimens are now in the possession of persons in this community. Some of these are much larger than the one above described, but of the same *general* appearance. The largest I have heard of, weighs fifty-six pounds, and was found on the farm of Mr. Law, West of Cambridge. Messrs. Noble and Hines in the same vicinity, have secured the next largest. One of these weighs fifty-two pounds, and the other over thirty-five pounds. These gentlemen saw both these stones fall; being in the field at the time of the explosion, and looking up they saw them coming to the ground with great velocity, attended with a whizzing sound. One fell a few yards East, and the other a like distance West of them. They ran immediately to the spot where the first fell, and found it buried in the earth to the depth of near two feet! They dug it out. It was yet warm, and emitted a sulphurous smell. The other in its descent, struck a fence, breaking two rails, and sinking into the ground about sixteen inches!

We know other parties that have specimens of great size, weighing forty-three and a half, thirty-six, twenty-three, and sixteen pounds, and almost all weights down to half a pound. If I can procure a good specimen I may send it to you, Messrs. Editors, as a present, and for your inspection.

Now, what I want is this, that some scientific man that reads this account, or hears of this extraordinary meteoric shower, will give us and the world a *satisfactory* account of the *origin of these stones*, of their *peculiar* shape, of the *cause of the sound* in their descent, and the *reason of their warmish temperature* immediately after their fall. We do not ask a rehash of the old *cometary, lunary*, or *planetary* theories. These we know, and they are all unsatisfactory. Nor will we listen to the *asterodic* hypothesis. This is old and obsolete. Notice; the sound reached the earth *before* the body. Many persons heard, then looked, then saw; so that to say that the sound was the result of the explosion seems untenible, for the velocity of heavenly bodies in their orbits, as well as that of ponderous b