

Presbyterian Banner

PITTSBURGH, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1861.

Having purchased for our office the "Banner" of the... of our subscribers now have their papers addressed to him...

Receiving Agent.—The Secretary of the Board of Education asks us to say that THEODORE H. NEVIN, Esq., has been appointed their receiving agent in this city.

Installation.—The installation of Rev. A. C. McLELLAN, as pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian church of this city, will take place on the evening of Thursday, next week, the 21st inst., at 7 o'clock.

Worse Calamities than War, is the title of a sermon preached in the Park Presbyterian church, Erie, Pa., September 26th, by Rev. W. M. BLACKBURN. The preacher says: National sin is more deplorable; Treason is worse than war; Secession is worse than war; National weakness is worse than war.

Trustees Western Theological Seminary.—There will be a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Western Theological Seminary, on Tuesday, the 19th of November, inst., in the Lecture-Room of the First Presbyterian church, Pittsburgh, at 10 o'clock A. M.

JOHN T. LOAN, Secy.

The Committee on Revision.—It will be seen, by the notice in another column, that the Assembly's Committee to revise the Book of Discipline will not meet at Washington, next month, as was stated at the time of their adjournment, in this city.

Disabled Ministers' Fund.—Dr. JONES, Secretary and Chairman of the Disbursing Committee of the Trustees of the General Assembly, calls earnestly for help. There are applications from disabled ministers who are in great need, which cannot be met unless funds are increased.

A REPROOF AND A SUGGESTION.

The following incident shows how a bishop met with an unexpected reply, and at the same time suggests a most important truth: However many helpers the minister of the Gospel may employ in this interpretation and illustration of Scripture, or however deeply he may be read in standard theology, let his sermons bear the impress of his own mind and be warmed by the impulses of his own heart.

Bishop BURNETT, at one of his visitations, when the name of a very old gentleman was called over (of whom a private complaint had been made that the parish could not endure him), he gave such bad sermons, gravely obliged the poor parson: "I am told, Mr. —, that your parish is very well satisfied with your sermons, but they are much dissatisfied with your sermons. Now, there is no excuse for this; for, instead of preaching extempore, as I am told you sometimes do, or giving them your own compositions, you have only to preach good printed sermons, and they will have no cause for complaint."

TELEGRAPH TO THE PACIFIC.

The completion of the Telegraph, connecting the Atlantic with the Pacific, is one of the triumphs of the day; in art and enterprise. News can now be sent almost instantaneously from any of our cities on the Eastern seaboard, to San Francisco.

This very slender wire, stretched for thousands of miles, is to be a powerful social tie. It will be one of the strong bonds, retaining our country in unity, and adding greatly to social bliss.

The completion of the telegraph line will facilitate the building of the railroad; and the two combined will hasten the settlement of the country.

Even the importance of this work, inestimable as it is, is surpassed by its high significance. It is an additional and a striking proof of the resources and energy of a great and educated people.

WHY HAS DIVINE PROVIDENCE BROUGHT WAR UPON OUR COUNTRY?

God is in the war which now afflicts the land. This position no Christian will dispute. And on the part of God, the infliction is both just and benevolent. He punishes nations for their sins; and, in our case, we trust, he means that it shall result in benefits.

The sins which have provoked God's anger may be embraced under the four heads—national infidelity, national immorality, national pride, and national oppression or slavery. Three of these are confessed by all who advance any serious claims to be regarded as Christians.

And further: Slavery may have been a sin in us at the commencement of our national existence, but there may have been palliating circumstances. It may have been introduced in our pupillage, and may have been against our will.

Now, what are the facts? We are not about to discuss the question whether Slavery is a sin per se. An answer to this would depend very much upon the definition given to Slavery.

When our fathers affirmed the principles of freedom, declared independence, and appealed to God for help; and when God had heard their cry, and independence was achieved and a national government formed, Slavery was in the land.

But what can our readers do? They form a part, and a very influential part of the public; and public sentiment is the arbiter in this land.

A Washington correspondent of the New-York Tribune recently promulgated a thought which calls loudly, just now, for the awakening of the friends of temperance and humanity.

The origin also of the war; its locality; the demands, pleas, pretenses, inventions, arguments, &c., of the conspirators, are all connected with slavery, and tend to teach us why it is that God sends the chastisement.

Now, what does God require at our hands to the appeasing of his anger? 1. Confession and humiliation. 2. The non-extension of slavery.

By our Constitution and laws we are, nationally, under bonds to our brethren of the South. These must not be violated by us.

The most discouraging feature in our present condition, viewed Godward, is our declared purpose to preserve, nationally, the status quo of slavery.

The labels to disturb the nation, all the laws of war, and the rights of all defenses shall be voided, the obligations by which we are bound, and compel us to produce and enforce emancipation.

We still pray that he may deal with us in mercy, and not in wrath; and that, by the guiding light and sweet influences of his Word and Spirit, he may bring our whole people to that state of feeling and that course of conduct which shall make peace and prosperity consistent with his wise, upright, and equitable government of his own intelligent creatures.

A FIELD FOR TEMPERANCE EFFORT.

The army of the United States presents at present, one of the finest fields of labor, for the advocates of temperance.

But they need help. And they should have it extensively. Congress gave some aid at its last session, by a law restraining liquor dealers in the district of Columbia, from selling to soldiers.

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opened to them is never formed a church, but a mere association of individuals. The two standards are in a single paragraph of a communication giving an account of a visitation by Bishop DE LANEY, in Western New-York.

And again he commenced a visitation by officiating in the Baptist house of worship, &c. Be as soon as the bishop enters an Episcopal house of worship, the term church is employed.

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Suspension of Religious Papers.—The Western Recorder, the Baptist paper of this city, has suspended publication, leaving only the only religious paper in Louisville.

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is considerably increased, and the effects of the distribution of Government funds for the products of the West are beginning to be felt already.

The ARRIVAL of GEN. SCOTT, last week, created considerable stir. The Mayor, Common Council, Board of Aldermen, and the Committee of Public Safety, respectively waited on him, and many of the leading citizens honored him with a call.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT in 1820 took the lead of the nations in declaring the slave trade piracy, and in affixing to it the penalty of death.

THE NEW-YORK Independent at last becomes more under the criticisms made upon it for publishing such stuff as is often found in Beecher's sermons.

THE REV. THOMAS M. CUNNINGHAM was installed pastor of the Alexander Presbyterian church, Philadelphia, by the General Presbytery of Philadelphia, on the evening of Thursday, 8th ult.

THE REV. FRANCIS LADD delivered the charge to the pastor, and the Rev. Dr. Olmstead the charge to the people.

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So long as these plans continue every Dutchman ought to render to them all his cooperation. He ought to judge some or all of them unwisely or imprudent, but his only course is to fall in and help them forward as much as he can.

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and had accepted the chief command. Col. M. regularly educated and experienced officer, having resigned the position of Chief Colonel in the regiment commanded by Col. S. W. Black, &c., at the seat of war, to occupy

THE REGIMENT is made up chiefly from the rural districts, in the adjoining counties, and will be characterized as one in which sobriety, good order, and a just regard for the claims of morality and religion will be duly maintained.

THE PRESENCE of persons from neighborhoods and families as immigrants, and regarded as immigrants, solicited in the completion of the regiment.

PERSONAL. The Hon. John C. Breckinridge, ex-Vice President of the United States, has just resigned his place in the Senate.

IR-STATES. Wigfall.—The New-York Evening Post gives the following hard account of this precious new Brigadier General: "Wigfall has been a Brigadier General, and the Richmond Examiner rejoices over him, and putting activity in one of the most useful friends we had in the Senate."

Private Napoleon's Report.—We have seen a private letter from a gentleman who knows of what he writes, which says that the Prince Napoleon, since his return from America makes no disguise of his aversion to the "public" and "private" decided both in "public" and "private," he decided to be able to whip the slaveholders, but that it will do it, and ought to do it, and the sooner the better.

A Sixteen Princess, who refused the hand of the first Napoleon, is now living at Dresden. She is over eighty years old and has never married. She has two sisters over sixty years old, who have also refused offers from Dukes, unnumbered, and are still leading lives of non-like celibacy.

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