

Presbyterian Banner

PITTSBURGH, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1861.

Having purchased for the office the "Banner" to use in place of the old one...

Temperance.—The Lectures of Mr. Gough on Saturday and Monday evenings, were attended by such numbers that Concert Hall was packed.

The Rev. Dr. J. H. Morrison, the veteran missionary of our Board in Northern India, visited some of our churches on the last Sabbath, and interested them deeply in the great subject of Foreign Missions.

The Church at Hollidaysburg, Pa.—Rev. David H. Barron, late of the Western Theological Seminary, and more recently of Mt. Pleasant, Pa., was installed at Hollidaysburg on the 12th.

An Apt Comparison.—The Duke of ANGLE differs from some of his aristocratic English brethren, in his estimate of American troubles. He thinks that "more tremendous issues were never submitted to the arbitrament of war" than those involved in our present conflict.

A SABBATH REVIEW. The general sentiment of this country is strongly in favor of the observance of the Sabbath in a becoming Christian manner.

But, where are we to think of a great review on the Sabbath? If to make an attack on the enemy on the Sabbath is to be condemned, much more must we condemn the mere passage of a review on that day.

On Sunday morning a large party took a special train to Annapolis, for the purpose of witnessing a review of the Massachusetts, New-York, and Connecticut troops, now encamped near Annapolis.

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INTERPRETATION OF SCRIPTURE.

The power of the preacher, the piety of the Christian, and the growth of the Church, depend greatly on the degree to which they may be acquainted with the letter and spirit of Scripture.

But at the same time much is lost owing to a careless reading and ill-directed study of the inspired word. The efficacy of the best weapons depends much on the manner in which they are used.

Yet many are hindered in this matter from the fact that they do not know how to go about it. Their ideas of Divine truth are gathered up by scraps, and much of the Old and New Testaments is to them as a sealed book.

In treating of interpretation, he lays down and applies the following maxims, which are capable of being understood and practised by all intelligent readers of the Bible.

1. The object of interpretation is to give the precise thoughts which the sacred writer intended to express. 2. The method of interpreting the Scripture must be the same we employ in explaining any other book.

3. The sense of Scripture is (in general) one; in other words, we are not to assign many meanings to a passage. 4. The interpretation of the Scripture requires suitable preparation.

5. We must know the character, age, sex, and other peculiarities of the writer. 6. Let there be a constant appeal to the tribunal of common sense.

7. Study attentively the tropes and figures of the sacred Scriptures. 8. Attend to Hebrew and Hebraisms forms. 9. Much of Scripture being prophetic, we should acquaint ourselves with the nature and laws of that kind of composition.

THE RIGHT OF SEARCH.

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Slavery, as we have often said, we regard as doomed. It was deeply concerned in bringing the war upon the country; and by the war it is receiving its death-wound.

God's hand is in everything. Not a sparrow falls to the ground without our Heavenly Father's consent. And God means to teach men by his providences. He thus makes himself known; points out to men their duty, instructs them as to their sins, and calls them to repentance and reformation.

These thoughts we commend to our correspondent, who writes to us as follows: "Messrs. Editors.—It is true that the man who violates his contract with the church, always meets with some marked reprobation." Several persons have told me that they never knew it to fail.

Without giving a universal affirmative to the question first proposed, and an unlimited sanction to the opinion of the elder, we would say: 1. Let every man who suffers loss, acknowledge God's hand in it, and consider why it is that God afflicts him.

2. Let each one judge himself in such matters, rather than to judge his neighbor. God's eye beholds things which are hidden from us, and he may intend to effect a reformation where we were ignorant of its necessity.

3. Let all wisely and intelligently assure themselves that they withhold nothing from God which he requires. It tends to poverty. It is visited with displeasure. It is a sin to be repented of on earth, or to be punished hereafter.

THE DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS. Our worthy and acceptable European Correspondent, last week, gave the readers of the Banner a vivid account of the crowning of the new King of Prussia, intimating at the same time that this new King held notions somewhat lofty as to the right by which he assumed the control of the reins of Empire.

Our contemporary, in its issue of Nov. 29d, recurs to the thought, but with greatly more modesty. It now says: "The plan which we regarded as most practicable, to make the Board of Domestic Missions the centre of intelligence, by means of a record, which should embrace items of information concerning both the unemployed ministers and the vacant churches, as would be likely to bring them together." Doubtless something might be done in this way; but if there is to be nothing but a record, only little would be effected.

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INTERPRETING PROVIDENCE.

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Some of the lessons taught by providences, are very plain—so plain that nothing short of prejudice and perversity can fail to read them intelligently. Others are more obscure; but, cultivating a doleful spirit, and wisely using the written Word, we may very generally know what God means by his dispensations.

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EASTERN SUMMARY.

BOSTON AND NEW-ENGLAND. THE PEOPLE of Boston are quite jubilant over the fact that Messrs. Mason and Slidell are to be in their keeping, at Fort Warren, for the Winter.

The late ANNUAL CONVENTION of UNITARIANS occupied much time in discussing the causes of the want of life, earnestness, and growth, in the denomination. These defects were acknowledged by all; but almost every speaker assigned a different cause, and prescribed a specific of his own. But the Rev. Mr. Martineau, one of the most prominent Unitarian ministers in England, and who was expected to visit this country last year, for the purpose of awakening the zeal of American Unitarians, has lately been making a confession worthy the attention of Unitarians and all others.

I am constrained to say that neither my intellectual preference nor my personal admiration goes so heartily to the Unitarian heresies, sects, or professions of any age. Ebionites, Arians, Socinians, all seem to me to contrast unfavorably with their opponents. I am conscious that my deepest obligations as a learner from others, are in almost every department to writers, not of my own creed. In philosophy I have, and I learn most that I had imbibed from my early text books, and the authors in the help that fails me in Crell and Beisheim. In devotional literature, and religious thought, I find nothing of our time does not stand before Augustine and Pascal. And, in the poetry of the Church, it is the Latin or German hymns, or the lines of Charles Wesley or Keble, that fasten on my memory and heart—and all else feel poor and cold. I cannot help this.

A GENTLEMAN OF CONCORD, N. H., who has had some military experience, proposes to raise a regiment of artillery, consisting of six hundred men, exclusive of officers, to be armed with one hundred rifled guns, of the most approved pattern, of the capacity to carry a two-pound ball two and one-half miles, and with the necessary number of chambers capable of making no less than thirty discharges per minute. Each gun to be mounted on a two-wheeled light carriage, and carrying its own ammunition boxes, and to be drawn and managed in battle by six men each, instead of horses—the men drawing their own gun-carriages by the use of breeches instead of drag-roops. Their extreme lightness will enable them to be readily passed over fences and ditches or up embankments. The men would also carry side-arms.

THE NUMBER of students in Yale College is 599, divided as follows: Academical students—Seniors, 98; Juniors, 119; Sophomores, 133; Freshmen, 112. Professional students—Theology, 27; Law, 28; Medicine, 38; Philosophy and the Arts, 44. The first term commences Sept. 11th, and ends December 17th, when a vacation of two weeks occurs. The number of books in the various libraries is 69,500. The American Oriental Society have a library of 2,600 in the College Library. Thirty thousand specimens comprise the mineralogical and geological cabinet.

The old perplexing query, "How many children had John Rogers?" has at last been definitely and historically settled. At the late celebration in Norwich, Conn., Chancellor Walworth spoke to the sentiment relative to the first settlers of the town, as follows: He named the original settlers of Norwich, Dr. Theophilus Rogers among them, fifth in descent from the famous John Rogers, the martyr. The Chancellor settled the long-pending dispute about the number of John's children (nine small children, and one at the breast); the primer says—were there nine or ten? by exhuming from some old hide a letter or address from John to the Government, in which was a passage to this effect: "I would that my worthy wife might come to see me; she has with her ten children, which are hers and mine, and I would comfort her somewhat."

NEW-YORK. On Saturday, November 16th, the association of the United States Bank managers agreed to take \$50,000,000 of United States bonds, payable twenty years from July 1st, bearing 6 per cent interest, to be paid semi-annually, at a price which shall be equal to seven per cent bonds at par. The bank managers agreed to pay the accrued interest from July 1st to October 16th, and after the latter date they receive the interest. Under this arrangement, the cost of the loan, on October 16th, including interest, is \$1,599,000, or in fractions 151,599,000. The amount due to Government on the 50,000,000 of six per cent bonds is \$45,795,478, and the New-York Bank's share is \$32,056,284. The bank managers agreed to take them at 94-100 for the \$35,000,000 allotted to them. The bank managers have granted to them an extension of the option to take the remaining \$50,000,000 of Treasury 7-3-10 notes from December 1st to January 1st. The work of the Bank President's and the Secretary of the Treasury at the American Exchange Bank, was satisfactory. All parties present, and the results, to all the interests of the country. There was some discussion as to the expediency of issuing the bonds in sterling, or with it.

PHILADELPHIA. One of the PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS of this city, visited with great interest by strangers in the United States Mint, over which the Hon. James Pollock, ex-Governor of Pennsylvania, so gracefully and efficiently presided. Harper's Magazine, for December, contains a very instructive account of this institution, from which we make the following extracts: During the first five months of 1861 there have been coined 12,248,037 pieces, in value \$31,428,206. The gold demand has been about double, 1,461,000 having been coined. The present interruption of foreign importations has caused a great influx of gold to be coined for home use. Since the commencement of the mint in 1793, there has not been so much value coined in any year (save in 1851, when only \$9,889,000) as was struck in value, \$18,355,889 pieces were struck in value, being 1861. The greatest coins were 23,085,716 pieces, including in 1851, the half-cent, and in value \$49,258,058.43 were struck. The largest number of pieces were coined in 1858, amounting to 69,770,991. The largest amount of change at the Philadelphia Mint, up to June, 1860, is \$1,943,338. The amount of a value of \$429,426,504. The amount of the branch mints was \$22,503,000 in value. Very

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