

Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1861.

We have made ready for our office the "Right" to use Dick's Accountant and Dispatch Papers, all or nearly all, of our subscribers now have their papers addressed to them by name. We have also made ready for our office on the white margin a small colored "address stamp," or label, which will be pasted on the back of each paper, by the date up to which they have paid their paper—this being authorized by an Act of Congress. The date will be printed on the stamp, and will be the date of payment, in exact accordance with the amount as received, and thus be an ever-ready and valid receipt; and this is a great convenience to all who have their newspaper account, so that if any error is made he can immediately determine what has been paid, and when it was paid.

** * * Those on arrears will please remit.*

Dedication.—The dedication services of the new Presbyterian church, in Sewickley, will be held next Sabbath. Preaching in the morning, by the Rev. M. W. Jacobus, D. D.; afternoon, by Rev. S. J. Wilson, D. D.; evening, by Rev. Wm. M. Paxton, D. D.

Supplying a Pulpit.—An "Elder" asks us: "Have the elders of a church a right to leave it to a vote of the members and supporters, to determine who shall fill the pulpit as a supply, say for the term of a year?"

The large number of vacant churches in our connexion, renders it a matter of much importance for elders to know just what are their duties and prerogatives in relation to the filling of the pulpit. The regular way is, for the elders to ask the Presbytery to appoint the supplies. In presenting the request, they may, very properly, suggest a name, or names. But in doing so they are supposed to intimate not so much their own personal wish as the desire of the people; and if the purpose is to have a *Stated Supply*, it is not only their right but their duty to consult the congregation on the subject. There may be cases in which the will of the people is so well known, that a formal vote on the question is not needful; but in some circumstances it may be vastly important. A *Stated Supply* is in the place of a Pastor, and the congregation, as seems to us, should have an opportunity of saying whom they desire to occupy toward them the intimate relation.

REMEMBER THE SOLDIERS.

Our Board of Publication makes an earnest appeal for aid, in its gratuitous distribution to the soldiers. Read the Circular, in another column, and you will receive information that will make your Christian heart leap for joy, and stimulate in you the grace of giving.

Some of our soldiers—and they are our sons, brothers' and neighbors—must soon and suddenly enter the eternal world. They should be prepared—well prepared, before the day of battle comes. Others of them—hundreds of thousands—will return to our domestic circles. Shall they return Christians, orderly, affectionate, an honor and a pleasure to us; or will they come home polluted by vice, habituated to sin in its grossness, dishonest, murderous in spirit, and seared as to conscience? They will not return as they went. That is certain. They will be improved by religion, or they will be more hardened than ever, and more deeply steeped in vice. Which it will be, depends greatly on the churches. The evil will be done by Satan, the world, and their wicked companions. The evil may be prevented, and good made to result by chaplains, books, tracts, and religious journals. The men have much leisure, and their soul must be active. Supply it then with wholesome excitement. Satisfy its longings by administering wholesome food. Let the men have religious meetings, and knowledge through pure channels, and a spiritual guidance, and the camp will prove a place of blessing, and our young men will return an honor and a joy.

Our Board has facilities for doing a great and good work. It is thus actually engaged. Help it. Send to it liberally the means of manufacturing books, and of forwarding them to the armies.

DR. BULLOCK AND THE PRESS.

It is sometimes the lot of a Christian minister to obtain a large share of notoriety, greatly to his surprise and annoyance. And doubtless this is the case with Rev. Dr. BULLOCK, of Baltimore. The Doctor declined to preach to his people on Thanksgiving day, and declined even to be present in the congregation. This fact, with the reason that he gave for it, has been the occasion of some very severe criticisms. It is not easy, among conflicting statements, to get hold of the precise facts, and especially of the words, manner, and spirit of the minister. The Baltimore *Republican*, which Dr. HILL, of Louisville, an intimate friend of Dr. BULLOCK, says is "calm and cool," and evidently truthful," thus narrates the event:

"OBSERVING THE DAY.—Some excitement prevails among the members of the Franklin Street Presbyterian church, in consequence of the remarks made last Sunday morning, by the pastor, Rev. Dr. BULLOCK, who is, by the way, a brother-in-law of the Hon. JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE. The Doctor, after reading the Proclamation of the Governor, observed that he thought the day would be more appropriately observed by sitting in sackcloth and ashes than by thanksgiving and praise; for the nation had fallen upon awful times. However, to such of the members as desired to observe the day, the church would be opened, and service conducted, but he would not be there."

How a Christian could think that, of the Middle, Northern, and Western States having food and raiment in the richest abundance, and quiet homes, and entire protection in person and property; and the Sabbath, the Bible and the Church; and a hope of heaven through a Redeemer—how a Christian, and especially a Christian minister, in such circumstances, could think that we had nothing to be grateful for, or could refuse to unite with God's people in "thanksgiving and praise," we cannot conceive. It may be admitted, as the Louisville *Republican* contends, that Dr. BULLOCK is treated harshly by the *Advertiser*, and other critics; but still he cannot but feel that he has been injudicious, and that his conduct and remarks were adapted to give great pain to many persons in his congregation. A man, who so feels ought of his own free will, and accord, to pull up stakes and remove to a people of kindred interest, and to institutions of his own, in which he could possess something whereto be grateful,

FUNERAL OF REV. H. G. COMINGO, D. D.

Wednesday morning of last week, was broken, frosty and bracing; just such a morning as makes one feel strong and hopeful. At 7 o'clock we entered the cars, near our country home, and in two hours found ourselves at the station in Steubenville. This place we had frequently visited, and every time before this there was a kind voice to welcome us, and a warm hand to grasp us. But to-day that voice is silent, that hand is cold: and we, along with multitudes of others, have come to attend the funeral ceremonies of the Rev. HENRY G. COMINGO, A. J. senior. Then he was the same genial friend and devoted Christian as ever since. He was a man of public spirit in all great and good enterprises. He would be missed in the General Assembly and in the Synod; and especially would the members of Synod remember his holy earnestness at the last meeting. He would be missed in the appropriate Florida, observing the principles of equity to which we have alluded. The necessity of the case, and the great national benefit to result, and the powerful considerations of justice, freedom, and humanity, all urge the Colonizing measure recommended; and Providence points very directly, just at present, toward Florida.

At the hour of 10 o'clock, the body of our deceased brother was carried into the church by the Elders, followed by the widow, her two orphan boys, and her relatives. After these came the clergymen of the city and others from a distance. The church had been already filled by the congregation and inhabitants, so far as they were able to obtain admittance. As the body—enclosed in a beautiful burial casket, and arrayed in the suit of clothes presented him a few days previous to his last illness—was slowly carried up the aisle, an involuntary sob escaped hundreds of lips. So audible was the weeping that no heart was untouched. The house was completely draped in black. The solemn services were introduced by singing the 63d Hymn—

"Vital spark of heavenly flame."

The Rev. J. B. PATTERSON, pastor of the Second Presbyterian church, then read appropriate selections of Scripture, taken principally from the 15th chapter of 1. Corinthians. After this, prayer was offered by the Rev. JAMES I. BROWNSON, D. D., of Washington, Pa. Then the Rev. C. C. BROWN, D. D., said, that owing to the fact that he had been the predecessor of Dr. COMINGO in the pastorate of that church, and his long intimacy with his deceased brother, it would naturally be expected that he should say something, on this occasion, of his worth and of his hopes. But neither the state of his health nor his emotions would allow this at present. On a future occasion he would discharge this duty. He then introduced the venerable Rev. HENRY WEED, D. D., of Wheeling, a member of the first class that graduated at Princeton Theological Seminary. Dr. WEED said:

"The close of these services, the vast assemblage, including Christians of all denominations and classes, even Jews, and those having no regard for any forms of religion, passed in front of the pulpit, with slow steps and tearful eyes, to behold for the last time on earth the face of him whom they all loved."

The Rev. HENRY G. COMINGO, D. D., was a native of Kentucky, and a graduate of Centre College at Danville, in that State. Here, for two years after graduation, he acted as tutor, having for one of his pupils Vice-President JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE, whose treason was a source of great pain and mortification to his former instructor. In the Theological Seminary at Princeton, he passed through the full course. And now, after twenty-five years of successful pastoral labor, he has died, in the very midst of his usefulness, mourned by all who knew him. His church, his wife, and his orphan sons, have the sympathies and prayers of many—very many.

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was being loosed, and the golden bowl broken.

He was followed by the Rev. Mr. ANBORN, of the Methodist Protestant church, who bore testimony to the generosity, worth, and Christian character of the deceased.

The Rev. DR. JACOBUS, of the Western Theological Seminary said; at the risk of disturbing the impression now made, he must refer to another feature of the character of his dear departed brother. He had met him twenty-six years ago, in the Seminary at Princeton. He was a senior, D. D., who had died on the previous Sabbath morning, in the 53d year of his age. The whole city seemed to feel that it had met with a great loss. The children in the streets played less merrily. The countenances of men and women were more than usually serious, and they talked in subdued tones. While business seemed almost entirely suspended.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

We last week, gave to our readers the President's Message entire. It came by telegraph to one of our neighbors, and was set up in haste; and we obtained it so shortly before going to press, that we could not give it the proper revision. The inaccuracies, however, are not such as to greatly obscure the sense.

The Message may be regarded as an able State paper. It is plain, direct, unadorned, comprehensive. There is no effort at rhetoric, no boasting, no intemperate denunciation, no egotism. If we should make any criticism, we would say that there is a lack of ardor. It is not sufficiently adapted to the awaking of enthusiasm, in a cause so great as that of preserving the country's unity, and life, and inestimable blessings; and of proving to a wondering world the capability of man, under a free religion and with freedom of thought and action, of maintaining good government and a largely extended empire.

The Christian will be pleased to see an acknowledgment of the hand of God in his own troubles, and of gratitude for favors enjoyed, with a call to a firm reliance upon his providence for what we need in the future. God as really rules nations, as he does individuals. He is not to be ignored by those in authority, nor mocked in National councils. His law is over all, and it becomes rulers, as well as the ruled, to acknowledge his being and rightful sovereignty, and to be guided in all things by his commandments.

The admirers of our Constitution, and of a government of law, will also be delighted with the Message. The President will make no assumptions of power. Neither is he disposed to recommend any legislation which would infringe upon the prerogative of the people.

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