Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1861.

☞ Having purchased for our office the "Right" to use Rick's Accountant and Dispatch Patent, all, or nearly all, of our subscribers now have their papers addressed to them regularly by a singularly unique machine, which fastens on the white margin a small colored "address stamp," or label, whereon appears their name plainly printed, followed by the date up to which they have paid for their paper—this being authorized by an Act of Congress. The date will always be advanced on the receipt of subscription money, in exact accordance with the amount so received, and thus be an ever-ready and valid receipt; securing to every one, and at all times, a perfect knowledge of his newspaper account, so that if any error is made he can immediately detect it and have it corrected—a boon alike valuable to the publisher and subscriber, as it must terminate all painful misunderstandings between them respecting accounts, and thus tend to perpetuate their important relationship.

**** Those in arrears will please remit.*

Dedication of a New Church in Salem, Ohio.—The new Presbyterian church in Salem, Ohio, was dedicated to the worship of God, last Sabbath. The dedication sermon was preached by the Rev. SAMUEL J. WILSON, D.D., of the Western Theological Seminary, to the largest audience ever assembled in that town. The church is a beautiful one; cost over $8,000, and is capable of seating five hundred persons. The people deserve great praise for their taste, enterprise, and liberality in this good work. Brother MAXWELL has many things to encourage him in this arduous field of labor.

SOUTHERN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

A General Assembly of the Old School Presbyterian churches in the Confederate States has met at Augusta, Georgia, and elected the Rev. FRANCIS MCFARLAND, D.D., Moderator. Dr. MCFARLAND was Moderator of the General Assembly that met in the city of New-York in 1856. Thus men upon whom our whole Church has bestowed honors, are among the first to seek its disruption.

The pastor of the church in which this Southern and Secession Assembly met, is a native of Steubenville, Ohio, a graduate of Jefferson College, Pa., in 1844, studied theology partly at the Western Theological Seminary and partly at Princeton, and was for several years pastor of the Chartiers church, in the Presbytery of Ohio—the Rev. JOSEPH R. WILSON, D.D. It is not improbable that all the different branches of the Presbyterian Church in the Seceded States may be united in one General Assembly. Already plans for the organization of schemes of Home and Foreign Missionary effort, Publication, and Education, have been laid.

CARE FOR THE POOR OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY.

One of the beneficent effects of the Gospel is to induce the people to make provision for the old and sick and enfeebled poor. The cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny have each a well conducted poor-house. And the County of Allegheny has an admirable establishment of this kind on the Washington road, six miles from this city. The location is a beautiful one; the farm fertile and well cultivated; and the buildings are large and commodious. The present number of inmates is about two hundred, comfortably clothed and fed with abundance of plain and excellent food. The Institution is under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. PATTERSON, in every way admirably suited for the arduous and responsible position. The matron is Mrs. KARNS, who is devoted to a work for which she possesses rare qualifications. The Directors, Messrs. DAVIS, MILLER, and CHALFANT, are untiring in their efforts to save the County expense, and to make the poor comfortable and happy. The County owes them a debt of gratitude for their self-denying labors. Much attention is given to the moral and spiritual well-being of the inmates. The Gospel is preached to them almost every Sabbath by some neighboring minister; and they are supplied with Bibles, religious books, tracts, and newspapers. Such an institution is a credit to any county.

COMMENDATIONS.

These are always pleasant, when accompanied by evidences of esteem and cordial love. And such it is our happiness often to receive, smoothing the roughness in our editorial path, and cheering us in our assiduous toils.

A letter from a ministerial brother, just received, says: "Thus far I have found a readiness to subscribe for the *Banner*, exceeding that of any former year. All loyal people are pleased with your course in reference to the Government and the Rebellion. The promptness with which you took your position, at the opening of our troubles, and the consistency and spirit with which you have maintained that position, give great satisfaction. None question the propriety of your course, but those who are disloyal at heart. The wish of your friends is, that you may be able to hold on your way and become stronger and stronger."

Another letter, by a Christian layman, received at the same time, says:

"Your course in relation to this unholy rebellion is gaining you hosts of friends. You are contributing powerfully to *the formation of a correct public sentiment upon the duty of Christians in reference to social and national sins.* This is as it should be. The law delivered by MOSES was written on two tables, one of which defines our duty to God, the other our duty to man; and that minister who fails to enforce the duty of compliance with the *whole* Decalogue, is derelict to his trust.

"I hope the Presbyterian Church may soon be found occupying its preëminent position of the old revolutionary times—foremost in defence of Liberty—foremost in denunciation of oppression."

Some of the most judicious, and conservative of our brethren, have expressed to us their approbation. A few subscribers have withdrawn. Others have taken their places. We accord to our brethren full Constitutional and Christian liberty, even when its exercise operates against ourselves.

We again ask our friends for coöperation. We wish our subscription list greatly increased: *first*, that we may be more extensively useful; and *next*, that we may have the means of living in comfort and doing our part in supporting both Church and State, as enjoined in Scripture. *The diminution in our advertising income, makes an increase in our subscriptions peculiarly needful.*

THE OLD YEAR.

The year just hastening to a close has been a memorable one. Rapidly has it passed away, but deeply has it impressed itself on the records of time.

In our own country has the year been specially eventful. At its beginning, the sound of an approaching storm was heard. One State had seceded from the general Government, and was placing itself in armed opposition, while others were preparing to follow. Rapidly did the frenzy spread, and sadly did it infect its subjects. Politicians, planters, tradesmen, lawyers, ministers, women and children, were carried away from allegiance by the hurricane. Soon seven States prove disloyal, and set up a government of their own. Four others follow them. The Federal City is threatened, the rebel flag floats defiantly in sight of its inhabitants. Men are amazed, overwhelmed, paralyzed. Sumpter is fired on and taken, and the American flag is lowered in the presence of traitors.

This is enough. The spell is broken. The heart of every true American is touched. The old spirit of patriotism is revived. Party lines are broken down. Farmers, mechanics, laborers, bankers, lawyers, and ministers, rush forward to grasp the fallen standard, and raise it higher and plant it more firmly than ever before. Matrons and maidens exhibit the spirit of the women of '76. Parents arm their sons for the field; the wife sends the husband, and the blooming betrothed does not withhold her lover. Soon an army of half a million is in the field, with munitions of war such as an army was never supplied with before. The progress of the invader is stopped; the capital is safe; and the entire suppression of the most inexcusable and wicked rebellion that ever reared its head in this world, is only a matter of time.

It is true that we have had disasters. Big Bethel, Bull Run, Ball's Bluff, the death of General LYON, and the surrender of Colonel MULLIGAN, will not soon be forgotton. But let us also keep in mind our successes—in Western Virginia, at Hatteras, at Port Royal, in Kentucky, and latterly in Missouri; while Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri, have been held in the embrace of the Union. We have raised not only one of the largest and best appointed armies the world ever saw, but also gathered up and created a formidable navy; while in all our vast expenditures not a dollar has come from abroad. Nor should we lose sight of the fact that the controlling power of slavery, that bore itself so haughtily in our national counsels, and that with quiet self-complaisance assumed so much in Ecclesiastical assemblies, has been broken for ever. It has exposed its own designs, overturned its own supremacy, and must be henceforth content with a lower place, and an inevitable decline.

Much pain and suffering must necessarily result from such a state of things. Many have fallen in the field. Many lie in hospitals. And great sorrow rests upon many families. And what self-denial has been practiced! What sacrifices have been made! The wants of the poor and the sick have been provided for. For these many now toil who hitherto knew not the signification of labor. And the Bible, the tract, the religious newspaper, and the pious chaplain have gone forth on their errands of love. Christian nurses find their way to the hospital and relieve its dreariness by their smiles, cheerful words, and delicate attentions. And notwithstanding all the fearful evils of the camp, many a drunkard has there been kept from his cup; many have there for the first time in their lives heard the glorious Gospel of the Son of God; and though it be a fact that in the camp many will throw aside the profession of religion altogether, yet many will develop graces and awaken to usefulness such as might never have been exhibited under more favorable circumstances. And how much fervent prayer ascends to God for our country, our Government, our Congress, our soldiers, from our churches, our prayer-meetings, our family altars?

The year will also be remembered because of the completion of the work of sundering the Protestant Churches of the land. Every church any part of which was in the Southern States embraced in the Confederacy, has been rent. Ministers loudest in depriving the Church of all power of uttering a word relative to the duties of Christians as citizens, were the first to repudiate their own teachings, and take the lead in disrupting both Church and State. "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us." The sin of the schism rests on them.

The most painful thing discovered in reviewing the past twelve months is the low state of piety in our churches. Men's thoughts have been otherwise occupied than with religion. Christians have been agitated about other things, and have given but little attention to the concerns of the soul. Our temporal calamity has been so great that we have not been mindful, as we should have been of a still greater calamity. And the unconverted have been indifferent to the welfare of their immortal part. Rebellion, treason, and devotion to country, have filled their thoughts, but alas! they have forgotten God. Still, in many places there are those who mourn and sigh because of the desolations of Zion, and pray for a return of the Holy Spirit; and here and there sinners are found turning unto the Lord.

And to add to our troubles, a few days ago a cloud of war seemed to be wafting to us from across the Atlantic. May the Lord preserve us from this new and great evil!

These things have a purpose. We deserve severe chastisements. As a nation we have sinned, and as churches and individuals we transgress. The rod comes in mercy. It leads to repentance and reformation. God is teaching us as a nation, as churches, as Christians, as citizens. Oh that we may have wisdom to understand his lessons! Let us consecrate ourselves anew to his service, trust in his providence, trust in his grace. He doeth all things well. Let us be true to ourselves, true to our country, true to our Church, and true to our God.

"Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face."

THE POLICY.

There is no small degree of complainings against our Government and Generals for a want of successful progress in the waging of the war. We suppose it possible that more might have been done. It is possible also that an attempt to do more, might have resulted in defeat and great consequent loss. And this is not only possible, but even probable. It must be remembered that we are not permitted to do just what we please. We have a foe before us to dispute our progress—a foe powerful, brave, and cunning. We tried further progress at Great Bethel, Bull Run, Ball's Bluff, Belmont, and Wilson's Creek; and the results are known. The probability is, that the Government has conducted the war with a very great degree of wisdom, and that the fault has been, a rather too hasty advance.

The exhausting policy may, in this war, be not only the humane one, but also the truly effective. If you can safely hold on, and your antagonist must perish by delay, you know how to make the victory sure. Now, if the North are unanimous and resolute, they can, without much suffering, and with no near danger of exhaustion, place men and ships in such positions and numbers as, by fighting only a few battles, and these only where success is certain; to strain the enemy's power to the utmost and wear him out rapidly.

Toward this policy we must confess that we have some inclination, especially as it is less bloody than a direct and vigorous advance, and as our enemy's great power lies in his fighting within or behind his fortifications. And we are willing to leave the choice of the mode to our generals, who have the fighting to do. Their judgment is immensely superior to ours, as is also their information relative to the positions and strength of the foe.

But while we have some leanings in the direction indicated, we feel far more favorable to a rapid advance, using *the means most destructive to the power of the enemy.* The war will be ended the sooner; and the peace which is to follow will be the more cordial and enduring. Nothing short of decided victories over our foe, *in the battle-field*, will humble his pride, check his boasting, and make him kindly and cordially take his place, side by side with us, on terms of equality and fraternity. If conquered by our navy, he will grumble and fret, inasmuch as he has no navy to meet us. If conquered by our using his slaves, he will still be unhumbled and think himself wronged. He has been wont to despise our manhood, as inferior to his; and if he is overpowered by the means alluded to, he will despise us still. But if conquered on land, which he regards as the field of his prowess, conquered by the rifle, the cannon and the sabre, his own chosen weapons, he will feel himself to be really beaten and will acknowledge our power and spirit, and treat us as worthy of respect.

Another advantage to flow from a prompt and vigorous onward movement, and the consequent shortening of the war, will be our relief from the danger of being embroiled with other nations. To this we are constantly exposed, while our warfare interferes with the world's trade.

While then we would not utter a word of censure for the delays of the past, nor take any part in pressing our commanders to an unduly precipitate action, we would give our vote against delay, and in favor of the speediest use of the most effective means of crippling and utterly conquering the foe. After he shall have submitted to the Constitution and the laws, we would be as lenient as justice will permit, and as generous as may consist with security for the future.

WEEK OF PRAYER.

Amid the excitements of the day, let not ministers or churches forget or neglect the following recommendation of the last General Assembly, viz.: "That the churches be requested to observe the week, from the 5th to the 11th of January, 1862, inclusive, as a season of special prayer for the prosperity of the work of Christian missions throughout the world." At no time has the American Church had greater reason for prayer that God would protect and bless his people and save sinners, than now. The times are ominous; but the Lord reigneth. Let us draw near to him; humble ourselves before him; cast our care upon him; and entreat his interposition for the sake of his dear Son, Jesus Christ. He is ready to hear the voice of our cry. He will send deliverance now, or give strength and grace for the endurance of yet greater calamities.

The following topics are suggested by a Committee of the Foreign Evangelical Alliance, as suited for a prominent place in the exhortations and prayers of the successive days:

SUNDAY, Jan. 5th.—Sermons on the Holy Spirit; his divinity and personality, his offices and operations. Prayer for the Lord's blessings upon the services of the week.

MONDAY, 6th.—Humiliation and confession of sin: as individuals, as families, as churches, and as a nation. Thanksgiving and praise for recent religious awakenings.

TUESDAY, 7th.—Home objects for prayer: The conversion of the ungodly, the cessation of intemperance and immorality, and the spread of vital religion in our families and households, among our rulers, the rich and the poor, our soldiers and sailors, the authors of our literature, secular and religious.

WEDNESDAY, 8th.—Foreign objects for prayer: The revival of pure Christianity, and the extension of religious liberty in Europe and the lands of the East; the overthrow of every form of antichristian error; the conversion of the house of Israel; the prevalence of peace among all nations, especially in America; and a yet more abundant blessing upon our brethren and sisters engaged in the work of missions, Christian education, and literature in foreign lands.

THURSDAY, 9th.—The Church of God and the Christian ministry: The increased spirituality of the Church, and its more decided separation from the world; brotherly love, sympathy, and union of labor among the Lord's people; a higher standard of piety and power among Christian ministers and all their fellow-laborers; the outpouring of the Spirit upon our universities and colleges, and on the rising ministry at large; the conversion of the young, and a large blessing upon Sunday and other schools.

FRIDAY, 10th.—The Word of God: that it may be received with increased faith, reverence and love; that its assailants may be enlighted and brought into the way of truth; that the power of the Divine Spirit may attend its private study, and its circulation throughout the world.

SATURDAY, 11th.—The Lord's Day: that its Divine institutions may be recognized, and its desecration at home and abroad may cease.

SUNDAY, 12th.—Sermons on the signs, dangers, and duties of the present times; motives to personal holiness and Christian activity.

ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES.

No two countries should be more tolerant of each other's wrong-doings, nor more ready to contribute to each other's welfare, than Great Britain and North America. The freest countries on earth; the most enlightend; the most nearly alike in laws, government and social institutions; the most intimately connected and mutually beneficial, in productions, trade and commerce; identical in language, literature, art, and science; kindred by blood; similar in religious faith; and having capacities to do each other the greatest injury, with the least resulting benefit—being such, the two countries should love and help each other, and bear and forbear, and permit nothing to engender strife or provoke alienations.

Our own feelings have long been, for England before all the world. In early life when reading the history of the Revolution, and when noting the events leading to the War of 1812, we felt provoked. But all ill-will had passed away, on our contemplating such facts as are above stated. It has hence been with extreme pain, though with an abiding spirit of forgiveness, that we have witnessed the part taken by the English since the breaking out of the Southern conspiracy. And we fear now, that there is great danger of our mind drifting off with the strong popular anti-English current. We will try to interpret their course charitably, if they will not compel us to conclude that they are determined to do evil.

As a sample of the current in which public sentiment begins to flow, we quote a paragraph from that sober, sensible and ably conducted journal, the *North American*. The editor is speaking of the *Trent* affair. He quotes from the Queen's proclamation warning British subjects that they would not be protected, "in carrying officers, soldiers, dispatches, arms, military stores or materials, or any article or articles considered or deemed to be contraband of war according to the law or modern usage of nations;" and he argues hence that the act of Capt. WILKES cannot be *a cause* for war. But he adds:

"The truth undoubtedly is, that the ascendant sentiment in England is really hostile to us, is really desirous to aid the rebellion, to break up this Government into two or more jarring factions, and to ruin and rule us both and all, as far as possible. This selfish enmity we fully appreciate, and will take care to remember until the world ends. It is not likely that a condition of cordial friendliness, so lately nearly restored after the sufferings of two early wars, will ever be attained. We cannot afford to waste much love on a nation which seeks the first moment of serious trouble with domestic treason, to stab us to the heart. It would have been tolerable to find England neutral in this contest, but it is intolerable to find that country violating every profession of opinion, every asserted step of amelioration in the intercourse of nations, in order to destroy us, the most enlightened nation of this continent, if not of the world."

As we regard freedom and Protestantism, humanity and the kingdom of Christ, we regret the aspect and tendency of affairs. We will not accept a war with England, if we can avoid it; but if forced into it, we shall approve of not only waging it with vigor, but of enlisting the aid of France, or Russia, or both, till the wanton foe shall be deeply humbled.

THE PRESBYTERIAN HERALD.

Our contemporary quotes a brief notice from our columns:

"PRESBYTERY OF SANGAMON.—This Illinois Presbytery, at its late meeting, passed a series of resolutions, denying the right of any ecclesiastical body to take such action with regard to the state of the country as was taken by our General Assembly last Spring, although the Presbytery is careful not to mention that proceeding. This is the only Presbytery North of Mason and Dixon's line that has made such a record. Let it stand alone in all the inglorious distinction it has thus acquired."

It then adds:

"The above sneering paragraph we clip from the *Presbyterian Banner*, of Pittsburgh. The Presbytery of Sangamon, we presume, will not be greatly moved by it to change their wise and judicious course. When the other Presbyteries, which are now fairly launched on the sea of politics, find themselves all split up and divided, as we predict they will be before our troubles are settled, they will wish that, like the Presbytery of Sangamon, they had let politics alone altogether, and confined themselves to their spiritual functions, which are all the functions that a Church court ought to have."

The Presbytery of Sangamon was as really meddling with "politics" in censuring the course of the Assembly, as was any other Presbytery in approving of it. And our brother of the *Herald* must be sadly deficient in his knowledge of what is said by MOSES and the Prophets on public affairs; and of the action of our Saviour in himself paying tribute, and in deciding for others the question to what civil authority they should pay tribute; and of the teachings of the Apostles relative to the duties of the people toward the government under which they live—sadly deficient in knowledge, or under the influence of some strange feeling, when he could write the above paragraph.

HOW TO MAKE A CHURCH FLOURISH.

We have quite a number of feeble churches in our land. Very many are not able to have a pastor at all. Others keep a pastor for awhile, on a small salary, poorly paid; and they get in debt, and starve their minister, and he leaves them. Others again keep their minister, but do not flourish. They send off no colonies, and do but little for education and missions.

Why all this? It is the nature of religion, when the true seed is planted in a good soil and well nurtured, to grow, thrive, flourish. It is so in the individual soul, in the community, and in the wide world. Why then have we so many feeble churches—old churches too, which, for the time, should have possessed great vigor, and been bearing much fruit? It is not from a destitution of sound Gospel teaching, for, through pastors, supplies, books, tracts, and periodicals, a great amount of religious instruction is given. Why then do they not grow?

A few churches are so situated that there is not material on which to operate—no disengaged souls around them who might be brought in to increase their numbers and strength. Such churches, however, are very few. Such a situation is exceeding rare. In the bounds of almost every congregation, there are scores of people who belong to no evangelical church. Just look around—let pastors, elders, men, women, and youths look—and see how many immortals there are who attend no orthodox church—indifferent ones, unbelievers, Universalists, Romanists. There is material in great abundance, with which to fill a church.

Why then, we ask again, do such numbers of our churches remain, year after year, and even generation after generation, so very feeble? One reason, and a prevalent one is, *they do not present attractions.* Their light does not shine. The spirit of Christ is not manifest. There is but little sociability, little kindness, little love, beyond a small knot, possibly, of kindred or otherwise attached ones. And there is some strife, some tale-bearing, and much cold indifference toward the stranger, the poor, the retiring and the less educated. Nobody wants to join such a society. Other societies present greatly more prospect of kind attentions, sweet social intercourse, friendly greetings, sympathy in sorrow, help in the day of need. Hence the old resident stands off, and the new comer goes to another congregation; and though the city, or town, or country becomes more and more populous, the poor, feeble church abides still poor and feeble.

Our readers, by this time, see how to make a church flourish. It must be made attractive—a sweet, social, peaceful, cheering, edifying, helping Christian home.

IN MEMORIAM OF REV. ROBERT JOHNSTON.

Such is the title of a discourse by the Rev. E. P. SWIFT, D.D., detailing the life, labors, and character of a venerable father of our Church in Western Pennsylvania, lately gone to rest. This sermon was delivered before the Synod of Allegheny, at its late meeting in Newcastle, and was listened to with fixed and solemn attention. The text is a fruitful theme on such an occasion—"Your fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live for ever?"

The Rev. ROBERT JOHNSTON was a lineal descendant of OLIVER CROMWELL, by BRIDGET his eldest daughter, who was first the wife of General FLEETWOOD, and afterwards of General IRETON. He was licensed to preach the Gospel by the Presbytery of Ohio in 1802, spent a year as a missionary in Ohio and Kentucky, and was successively pastor of the churches of Scrubgrass and Bear Creek; Meadville, Sugar Creek, and Conneaut Lake; Rehoboth and Round Hill, and Bethel in Indiana County, and took an active part in all the educational, temperance, and religious movements of the last fifty years He died at the house of his son in Newcastle, Pa., on the 20th of May, 1860, in the 87th year of his age.

A MISTAKE.

The *Presbyter*, in preparing to make a quotation from our notice of Dr. RICE's Sermons, says: "The *Banner*, of Pittsburgh, has an able review of these sermons, from which we make some extracts, only reminding our readers that the *Banner* 'took sides' with Dr. RICE against Dr. MACMASTER on the effort to oust the latter."

The *Presbyter* should not attempt to remind its readers of a thing which never occurred. The *Banner* never coöperated with Dr. RICE in any of his Seminary schemes; though we were the early and unwavering advocates of a Seminary for the North-west. We never, that we are aware of, made the slightest movement to supplant Dr. MACMASTER by giving his place to Dr. RICE. Nor did we ever advocate the appointment of Dr. RICE to a Professor's Chair. The ground we steadily occupied, in regard to Professors in the Seminary was, that the churches in the region to be served, should have the nominating of the men; *men on whom they could unite.*

Meeting in Behalf of our Soldiers.—An interesting meeting was held in the Second Presbyterian church, of this city, on Thursday night of last week, to take into consideration the religious wants of our soldiers, especially of those from this vicinity. Addresses were made by Mr. BLISS, Rev. Dr. JACOBUS, Rev. Dr. BAIRD, of New-York, and Rev. Mr. CHASE, of the Baptist church. We understand that another meeting will soon be held when definite action will be taken. We are persuaded that our people in this region have not been as watchful for the spiritual interests of those who have gone from us to fight for our country as they ought to have been, or as Christians in some other places have been. It is high time to awake to duty in this matter, for while many regiments have excellent chaplains, others have miserable excuses.

EASTERN SUMMARY.

BOSTON AND NEW-ENGLAND.

THE BOOK PUBLISHERS of Boston have been holding back some important works for several months, awaiting a more auspicious time. These are gradually finding their way to the public notice. Among other new books, Messrs. Gould & Lincoln have just issued "Ellicott's Life of Christ." A course of historical lectures on the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, being the "Hulsean" lectures for the year 1859, preached before the University of Cambridge, with notes, critical, historical, and explanatory, and a carefully prepared index. A scholarly and able work, not making a parade of learning, yet not shrinking from its exhibition where necessary, but chiefly anxious to give the ripe results of investigation in forms adapted to popular use. The author has given special attention to the elucidation of the order and succession of events. A book of this kind is in many cases more valuable for a proper comprehension of the Gospel narratives than the minute criticisms and annotations of the professed commentator. After reading this course of lectures, one would sit down to the reading of the Gospels with greatly increased benefit and interest.

THE FIRST NUMBER of *The Continental Monthly* has made its appearance. It is intended to discuss political questions, and also to employ some of the best writers of the day in its literary department. In some of its features it appears very much like a rival to the *Atlantic*, This number is fresh, various, and able. The articles on the "Edwards' Family," and on the "Graveyard at Princeton," are genial and appreciative. And the opening paper, on "The Situation," is a calm and thoughtful view of the great struggle in which our country is now engaged. The longest and most ambitious article treats of Ralph Waldo Emerson, in a style sufficiently involved and inflated. The development of Unitarianism in this country is made the starting point of free thought among our people, and the most progressive Unitarianism is regarded as the highest form of religious belief and culture; while its opponents are spoken of as actuated by anything else rather than a reasonable and Christian spirit. As might have been expected, after such an introduction, Mr. Emerson is made the highest of priests, ministering in the holiest of temples. And when he reached the pantheistic and blasphemous conclusion, "I am God in nature," and declares "The simplest person who in his integrity proclaims God, becomes God;" his eulogist says: "In Emerson the last height is reached;" and may *we* not add, the lowest depth. We trust this is not to be the animus of this new Monthly published by J. R. Gilmore, 110 Tremont Street, Boston. If it is, the shorter its life the better.

THE ABANDONMENT of Unitarianism and the adoption of Orthodoxy, by Rev. N. S. Folsom, who had been for twelve years a Professor in the Unitarian Theological Seminary at Meadville, Pa., last August, was duly chronicled; but he has already returned to his former belief, and withdrawn from the Essex North Congregational Association, with which he had connected himself.

The late JACOB HAYES, of Charlestown, Mass., by his will, bequeathed $20,000 to the Bangor Theological Seminary, for the purpose of establishing a Professorship, to be known as "Hayes Professorship."

The venerable THOMAS S. WILLIAMS, LL. D., for many years Chief Justice of Connecticut, died on Sunday at Hartford, at the advanced age of 84 years and 6 months. He was a graduate of Yale College, subsequently studied with Chief Justice Swift, and was admitted to the bar in 1799. He subsequently represented Hartford in the General Assembly a large number of terms, and in 1817 was elected to Congress. Between 1834 and 1748, when he resigned, he filled the position of Chief Justice, having previously been an Associate Judge of the Supreme Court. He was the President of the American Tract Society, and one of the Vice-Presidents of the American Bible Society.

NEW-YORK.

The suspension of SPECIE PAYMENTS by the banks of New-York city has been made the prominent subject of financial writing in several of the New-York journals, which have taken up the views expressed from time to time by the foreign banking firms, and agents of houses abroad, who sympathize with the rebel cause. The object of the foreign sympathizers was to cause a run upon the banks, and coerce them into suspension, in order to embarrass the future movements of Government negotiations for loans, in the hope that this state of affairs would paralyze confidence, and pave the way for compromise and recognition of the Southern States as a separate confederacy. But the journals which have advocated suspension, during the last month, were simply in the interest of certain stock speculators, who have been striving to get Mr. Chase to issue $200,000,000 or $300,000,000 of irredeemable demand-notes as currency, for the purpose of producing an inflation of prices by depreciating the currency of the country. They then expected to realize immense profits by stock operations. On Tuesday morning some of the journals reported that a meeting of bank managers had been held on Monday to discuss the expediency of suspending specie payments, and also stated "that two of the leading banks were paying coin only in small sums." The whole of these statements were without foundation.

New-York has many a FEARFUL CONFLAGRATION inscribed on its annals. The greatest was that of 1835, which many of our citizens yet vividly remember. It broke out on a bitter December night, and raged three days before it could be stayed, completely laying waste the business part of the city, consuming six hundred and forty-eight houses and stores, with $18,000,000 worth of property; nor was it stopped until buildings were, by the order of the Mayor, blown up with gunpowder. In 1845 occurred another great fire, which, though happily inferior in extent to that of 1835, yet did immense damage, laying waste the the entire district between the Eastern side of Broad Street and Broadway.

THE steamship *City of Glasgow*, which arrived at this port on Monday from Liverpool, brought one hundred and twenty-five cases of arms for the government, besides a large quantity consigned to private individuals, and a large quantity of army blankets. An additional amount of arms was ready for the steamer, but she was unable to bring them.

QUITE A SUDDEN CHANGE has taken place in the ownership and editorial control of the *Independent*. Dr. Bacon of New Haven, Dr. J. P. Thompson of New-York, and Dr. R. S. Storrs of Brooklyn, who have been its editors from the beginning, announce in rather curt terms their withdrawal, and "that henceforth they are not responsible for what may appear in its columns." And *Henry Ward Beecher* has issued his *salutatory* as responsible editor. The name of the present proprietor has not yet been made public. What the future character of the *Independent* may be, none can foretell, any more than one can determine from the text, what Mr. Beecher will preach about. But it is not probable that he will do any thing more than shape its general course, and exercise something of a supervisory control. The former editors frequently disavowed any responsibility for the utterances of Mr. Beecher in the sermons published in its columns.

PHILADELPHIA.

THE OLD BATTLE-GROUND, at Germantown, has been at length invaded by the demands of modern improvement. A stately old mansion is now going up on the spot where the strife was deadliest in that fierce encounter. This entire property was formerly owned by the Chew family, one of whom became the wife of ex-Senator Mason, whose ambassy to Europe, in behalf of secession, was so unceremoniously stopped, and who is now entertained at the national expense in Fort Warren, near Boston.

THE EPISCOPALIANS are now erecting in this city, an Episcopal Hospital of great architectural beauty and of large size.

The entire building will consist of a group of five pavilions, of which three only are now being constructed, designated as the centre building and wings, connected with each other by covered corridors; the length of the entire front thus formed, being two hundred and fifty-eight feet. The depth of the centre building, including the chapel, is about two hundred and fifty-six feet; that of each wing, two hundred feet, and the space between them on each side of the centre, sixty-three feet. The entire cost will be $250,000.

The consent of the canonical number of Dioceses having been obtained, and forwarded to the Presiding Bishop (Brownell, of Connecticut,) the Rev. Wm. Bacon Stevens, M.D., D.D., Assistant Bishop elect of this diocese, will be consecrated to the Episcopal Office, on January 2d, at St. Andrew's church.

Since it is not generally supposed that the Rev. JOHN C. LEYBURNE, D.D., lately one of the editors of the *Presbyterian*, is likely to take his seat at the next meeting of the General Assembly, there is already considerable casting about for a successor. It is said that there are several gentlemen whose friends favor their claims. Let this marter rest until the proper time. And if any persons attempt to electioneer for themselves or to allow their friends to do so, in advance, let *them be passed by* when the election comes off, whoever else may be chosen. Canvassing for place in the Church should meet with a repulse such as will cure the evil.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

Rev. CHARLES WADSWORTH, D. D., of Philadelphia, has been called to San Francisco, to the church lately vacated by Rev. Dr. Scott. We have seen no intimation of Dr. Wadsworth's view of the case.

Rev. T. DE WITT TALMADGE, of Syracuse, New-York, has declined the call of the Third Reformed Dutch Church, Philadelphia, late Dr. Berg's.

Rev. J. M. BARNETT's Post Office address is changed from Superior, Wisconsin, to Hill Side, Pa.

PERSONAL.

One of Payson's Illustrations.—Said he: "Suppose we perceive a number of children playing together in the street, we could not, without previous knowledge, determine who are their parents, or where are their homes. But let one of them receive an injury, or get into any trouble, and we learn who are his parents, for he immediately runs to them for relief. Thus it is with the Christian and the man of the world. While we observe them together, pursuing the same employments, and placed in the same circumstances, we may not be able at once to distinguish them. But let afflictions come upon them and we are no longer at a loss; the man of the world seeks relief in earthly comforts, while the Christian flies to his heavenly Father, his refuge and support in the day of trouble."

Mr. Spurgeon at Bristol.—The London *Daily News* gives an account of the sermon by Mr. Spurgeon, with other exercises, at Bristol, on the occasion of the opening of the new Baptist chapel on the Stokescroft Road. The details are such as to give ground for apprehension that the nervous organization of the preacher is becoming seriously impaired by his labors.

Methodist Preachers in the Southern Army.—We see it stated that in the Confederate army, around Manassas, there are one hundred and twenty Methodist preachers, either as privates, captains, or chaplains. A cavalry regiment was being recently formed in Texas, to be commanded throughout by Methodist clergymen. Dr. Carter, President of the Soule University, Texas, thoroughly acquainted with military matters; Dr. Boggs, who has seen service; Dr. Wilkes, of Texas, and Mr. Gillespie, of the New Orleans *Advocate*, are to be officers in this regiment. The equipments will be lances, like those of the celebrated Polish Lancers, revolvers, and double-barreled shot guns.

Jeremy Taylor's Pulpit.—A correspondent of the *Scottish Guardian* says: "As you have recently admitted several letters on Irish Church matters into your columns, I think it may possibly interest your readers to know that the identical pulpit from which Bishop Jeremy Taylor preached in Dromore Cathedral, after having done duty for some time as a dog-kennel, is now used as a Summer-house in the garden of one Majee, a builder near the town of Warrenpoint, County of Down, whose house is also garnished with various ornaments gathered from different old churches."

Dr. R. J. Breckinridge said, in his late masterly paper on the civil war. "There are conditions in which vast bodies of slaves may be considered a very powerful element in the military strength of the South; the chief of which considerations are, first, that the military force of the United States should not be able to penetrate the heart of the disloyal region; and secondly, that after penetrating that region, the General Government should be weak enough to treat slave property, in the hands of the rebels and traitors, as if it was sacred."

VARIETIES.

Armor-plated Vessels.—It is stated that the French are abandoning the idea of plating wooden ships, and are henceforth to build only of iron. Wooden hulls are found to be incapable of enduring the vibration of so heavy machinery and guns while under so great external weight. La *Gloire*, for this reason, is declared to be a failure. No wooden ship can sustain the armor necessary to resist modern ordnance without being racked to pieces.

Fire-proof Columns.—The iron columns used in the construction of the fire-proof warehouses in Liverpol are all hollow, and are filled inside with fire-proof concrete.

The Old Paths.—There are eight thousand laborers now engaged upon the Suez canal in Egypt. It is intended that steam communication will be established by it between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea.

A Mistake.—In comparing our national indebtedness with that of other countries,