

Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1862.

Mr. Hargrove's Rev. N. G. North, captured at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, has been exchanged for the Rev. Mr. Mimes, of Maine, who was captured at Bull Run.

Presbyteries in Africa.—The United Presbyterian Church of America has now a Presbytery of Egypt; the first, probably, that has been in operation there since the third century of the Christian era. There are now at least four Presbyteries in Africa.

Indemnity.—The Board of Foreign Missions, a few years ago, lost a printing press and other property, by a disturbance in China. The last treaty with that country made provision for the payment of such losses; and as a consequence, the Board recovers \$20,000.

To the Soldiers.—On our first page, we present to these honored friends a letter from a highly valued correspondent; and on our fourth page, some valuable selections from Hall's Journal of Health. Disease destroys far more soldiers than does the sword. Sanitary measures are hence of the first importance to our army.

Clarke's School Visitor.—This is a Day-School Monthly of sixteen pages, issued in Philadelphia, and edited by Rev. ALEXANDER CLARKE. It is a valuable production, adapted to advance the knowledge of the young, to interest them in reading, and to improve their tastes, habits and morals. Price 50 cents a year; or eight copies for \$2.00. It deserves an extensive circulation.

Exchange of Prisoners.—A kind treatment of prisoners is one of the claims of humanity, and belongs to the amelioration of the horrors of war. Exchanges during the strife with the South have been difficult, because the enemy are rebels, and as such deserve punishment. The contest has, however, attained to such dimensions that it becomes a duty, for the time, to wage it according to recognized belligerent customs. We are hence pleased to see our Government admitting an exchange of prisoners. Several hundred of our brave men have thus been relieved from captivity; and the practice will doubtless be continued.

Edward Everett.—The Young Men's Literary Association has obtained from this distinguished Lecturer, the promise of an evening. Mr. EVERETT is to be in Pittsburgh on the 21st inst., and lecture in Concert Hall. Keep this in mind, and be sure to attend, if practicable. The subject selected by Mr. EVERETT is: "The Origin and Character of the War." Much instruction may be expected by even well-read men; and the manner of its presentation cannot but charm every person of taste.

An additional motive for buying a ticket may be found in a desire to aid the Association. Our young men put themselves to great expense to procure the highest order of talent, for the entertainment of the public, and they should be generously assisted in meeting the bills.

The Synod of the Pacific.—This Synod has unanimously washed its hands of all sympathy with the views of Dr. SCOTT, on the state of the country. At its late meeting the following resolution offered by the Rev. JOHN ANDERSON, of Stockton, was unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That Synod has no possible sympathy with the treasonable opinions thought by some to have been entertained by Dr. SCOTT, and that we detest treason against the United States Government, coming under whatever guise it may, or by whomsoever uttered, as a heinous sin against God, and a detestable crime against the nation.

Upon this action Dr. BURROWS, who now edits the Pacific Examiner, spends two mortal pages of lamentation.

DEATH OF REV. DR. RUFFNER.

The Rev. HENRY RUFFNER, D.D., LL.D., for many years President of Washington College at Lexington, Va., died at his residence in Kentucky on the 17th of December, in the 73d year of his age. Dr. RUFFNER was a man of great learning and great ability. He was remarkably well acquainted with the whole scope of the Romish controversy. And he was ardently the country's friend.

Some dozen years ago he published a pamphlet, addressed to Virginians, on slavery; which caused great commotion at the time; and certain politicians and others stigmatized him as being little better than an Abolitionist. In the pamphlet the following stirring language is found:

"Cast it off, West Virginians, while yet you have the power; for if you let it descend unbroken to your children it will have grown to a mountain of misery on their heads. * * * Then by a forbearance which has no merit, and a supineness which has no excuse, you will have given them for their inheritance this lovely land blackened with a negro population—the offspring of Eastern Virginia—the illegals and slaves—the hideous progeny of that cup of abomination which has already sickened to death the Eastern half of our Commonwealth. Delay not, then, we beseech you, to raise a barrier against this Stygian inundation—to stand at the Blue Ridge and with sovereign energy say to this Black Sea of misery, 'Wither! wither! thou shalt not pass.' * * * May Heaven direct your minds to the course dictated by patriotism, by humanity, and by your true interests!"

And it is stated in one newspaper that just previous to his death, he issued another pamphlet, arguing against the continuance of slavery in Western Virginia. If this is so, it is probably merely a new edition of his former work on the same subject.

He was the father of the Rev. HENRY RUFFNER, formerly pastor of the Seventh Presbyterian church, Philadelphia.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

It is with sorrow that we reiterate the truth that our Education Board is not adequately sustained. It has been obliged to borrow largely, to meet its pledges to our consecrated young men. This should not be. Borrowed money must be repaid, and with interest too. Will the churches come forth, liberally and cheerfully, and repay the money thus obtained, and so replenish the treasury, that there may be enough, henceforth, to meet all wants? Or does the system fail of the approbation of the churches, and is a change necessary?

To economize more than is now done in the working force of the Board, is hardly practicable, without impairing its efficiency. The husbandman must employ good laborers, and enough of them; and must sow good seed, and not sparingly, if he would thrive. That parsimony which would renege unduly in these departments, tends to poverty. And the churches may apply this in seeking a supply of ministers, as well as in managing the Office of their Board.

Neither can the Board safely economize in the amount given yearly to each candidate. It now ranges from \$75 to \$125. Let there be no diminution here.

Will the churches then ask the Board to educate fewer young men? How would this correspond with duty under the Saviour's instruction: "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest?" Is not the harvest still great? But the laborers you say, have become numerous—too numerous? Alas! look abroad on those whitening fields all around, before you thus speak. Behold the wastes of heathendom. Contemplate also the home desolations. What mean those thousand vacant Presbyterian churches; and those other thousand destitute villages and neighborhoods, where there ought to be churches; and those still other thousand fruitful hills and vales, soon to be occupied by teeming multitudes who will need Gospel ministrations. Verily the laborers are still few, compared with the work to be done in the Lord's harvest fields.

We are referred to the number of unemployed ministers. Well, there are some—perhaps many—but not so very many. We know but very few healthy ministers, who are idle. You say that when an important vacancy occurs, there are speedily a score or two of applicants. But are the persons whose names are brought forward by their friends, all idle? No, truly; most of them are men already toiling hard in the harvest. There are but very few unemployed ministers, who have health to labor as becomes the pastor. There are five times as many unoccupied fields needing laborers, as there are unemployed ministers.

The Board, however, must look at things as they are; and if it cannot awake the churches to more liberality, it must try to diminish its own wants. It is but the executor of the will of the churches, and must, according to that will, modify its operations. It must diminish its expenditures; and this, as we have seen, will require a diminution in the number of candidates.

How shall this diminution be made? Evidently by raising the qualifications. It must raise the standard of piety, talent, and adaptation to the work, in those whom it will receive; and must make greater attainments in literature a prerequisite. It will thus diminish the number of the recipients of its bounty, and shorten the period of their receiving aid; and in both these ways will economize its funds. At the same time, also, it will advance the excellence of the ministry it educates.

And a change of this kind may be just what the Church desires, both to justify her aspirations and to stimulate her benevolent liberality. Many persons would contribute cheerfully and largely to educate a youth of eminent qualifications, who would not give a farthing to any other. If then the standard adopted by the Board, and the Board's vigilance, and the fidelity of the Presbyteries through whom the Board gets its information, and the conduct of the young men wherever they shall be seen, shall all be such that Christians shall have full confidence that only the worthy shall be received, and only those who prove themselves perseveringly worthy shall be retained, the cry about the scarcity of funds will cease speedily. The treasury will be kept full, and the education cause will become the most popular of our benefactions.

Suppose then the Board, being first duly authorized by the Assembly, shall raise the standard, and shall issue to the Presbyteries a form of certificate which shall be adopted and solemnly attested, in reference to every candidate for whom application is made—say, he is over eighteen (or twenty) years of age; for two years a communicant member of the Church; distinguished for good sense, prudence, industry, and good manners; much above mediocrity in talents; and has completed his Freshman (or Sophomore) year in College, with distinction. All this to begin with; and then the Board and the Presbytery, with all delicacy, respect, and paternal kindness, shall attend to the candidate's progress.

We make these suggestions to the Board and the Presbyteries. We have long thought that some improvements might be made in our system; and we are not alone in this thought. But we neither dictate nor urge. We most cordially cooperate, as things are, and if our brethren think it best to attempt no change, they will find us still their fellow laborers.

But permit us to urge, that laborers—real laborers—consecrated men—men who love the work and are qualified to perform it, is the want. It is the great want of the Church and the world. Give us a thousand such men—men like PAUL—men of talents, learning, prudence, zeal, devotedness—men who feel that they must preach the Gospel; who to them if they do not; and they will all find employment. They will not wait for a good invitation. They will not measure their footsteps by the amount of funds in the Domestic Board's treasury. They will not condition their labors upon a donation from the Church Extension fund. They will go forth; and a congregation will start, and grow, and strengthen; and a church edifice will arise. Jesus thought of men. It was men he sent forth, without purse or scrip. And it was the sending forth of men that

EDUCATION.

Ministers are the gift of God. Jesus calls, qualifies, commissions and sends them. Their increase is also his gift, and this he bestows, in answer to prayer—that is, to the prayer of faith—that prayer which leads to a diligent use of the instrumentalities through which ministers are sent—that faith in a good harvest, which leads the husbandman to labor wisely and diligently. We refer readers to some excellent remarks in the Record, and to some of our own views, presented in another column.

REV. JOHN H. BOOCOCK, D. D.

Those of our readers who happened to be present at the close of the General Assembly, in Rochester, N. Y., will remember the ridiculous figure cut by this gentleman in a speech made by him on a resolution of thanks to the citizens of that place, for their attentions and Christian hospitality. Sordidulous was the speech and so unworthy were his insinuations that the leading Southern members of the Assembly requested reporters and editors of both secular and religious newspapers to make no report of it. So earnestly urgent were they that no notice at all was taken of it. The Rev. Dr. STANTON, of Chillicothe, in a late number of the Presbyterian, gives the following account of him and his late doings: "This gentleman, a Virginian by birth, was the pastor of the Bridge Street Presbyterian church; the oldest church in the District of Columbia. He is a brother of Hon. THOS. S. BOOCOCK, a candidate for Speaker of the House of Representatives in the last Congress. He was preaching and praying session all last Winter; to use a phrase often heard; prayed for the Southern Confederacy and its President, directly; and after the fall of Sumpter, when President LINCOLN called out seventy-five thousand troops, he gave such free scope to his dilatory tongue, that the Government, considering his social connections and influence, concluded to remove him. His amiable wife hoped that sixty thousand of those soldiers would fall by yellow fever; and openly proclaimed it. In the early part of May, Dr. B. preached as usual one Sabbath, neither he nor his congregation having any intimation of the events of the morning, but when the morning came he was notified by the military authorities that he must forthwith leave the Capital, and be sent to the military camp in Virginia. He is now a chaplain in the rebel army."

The noble and loyal old Commodore STRIBLING, is a member of this church. He is a South Carolinian by birth, and some of his sons are in the rebel service. Dr. STANTON says:

"As an evidence of Com. STRIBLING's patriotism, one remark of his is worthy of being printed in letters of gold. He said to Secretary WALKER: 'Sir, if you command me, I will go with a fleet and shell Norfolk to-morrow, although I have two sisters living there!'"

MR. SPURGEON ON THE WAR.

Mr. SPURGEON did not join in the mad cry in England for war with this country. But on the contrary he opposed it and spoke against it, as a Christian and a friend of humanity should.

In a "Sermon for the Times," delivered on Sunday, December 8th, he said: "The pacemaker is a citizen, and though he is a Christian, he remembers that Christianity is not a religion of the individual, but of the citizen; and that to improve it for Christ's glory, the pacemaker, then, as a citizen, loveth peace. * * * The pacemaker remembereth the war with Russia, and he recolletheth that fools were there that we should have meddled there, to try to crush the great power of the East, and to have money, and no advantage whatever that is perceptible. He knoweth that this nation has often been drifted into war for political purposes, and that usually the pressure and burden of it cometh upon the poor workingman, upon such as have to earn their living by the sweat of their face. Therefore, though he, like other men, feareth hot blood, and being an Englishman born, feeleth the blood of the old sea-king in his veins, yet he represseth it, and saith to himself, 'I must not strive, for the servant of God must be gentle to all men, set to teach, patient.'"

"So he putteth his back against the current, and when he heareth everywhere the noise of war, and seeth many that are hot for it, he doth his best to administer a cooling draught, and he saith, 'Be patient; let it alone; if the thing be an evil, yet war is worse than any other evil. There was never a more powerful power in the world, said he, and whatever loss we may sustain by being too quiet, we shall certainly lose a hundred times as much by being too fierce.' And then in the present case he thinketh how ill it would be for two Christian nations to go to war—two nations sprung of the same blood—two countries which shall have a closer relation than any other two countries upon the face of the earth—rivals in their liberal institutions—coadjutors in propagating the Gospel of Christ—two nations that have within their midst more of the elect of God, and are the great followers of Christ than any other nations under heaven. As he thinketh within himself, it were ill that the bones of our sons and daughters should go again to make manure for our fields, as they have done. He remembereth that the farmers of Yorkshire brought home the mould from Waterloo with which to manure their own fields; and he knoweth that of their own sons and daughters; and he thinketh it not meet that the prairies of America should be enriched with the blood and bones of his children; and on the other hand he thinketh that he would not smite another man, but would sooner be smitten by him, and that he would rather be a peaceful man, than a warrior. 'What I would not do myself I would not have others do for me, and if I would not be a killer, neither would I have others kill for me.' He walketh in vision over a field of battle; he heareth the shrieks of the dying and the groans of the wounded; he knoweth that even conquerors themselves have said that all the enthusiasm of victory has not been able to remove the horror of the dreadful scene after the fight; and so he saith, 'nay, peace, peace!'"

HOME AND FOREIGN RECORD.

The first number of volume XIII. of the Record, has appeared. This periodical should be extensively read and read. It costs but fifty cents, for a single copy; and only half that amount for each, if fifty copies are ordered to one address. Write to PETER WALKER, Esq., 811 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

The Board are exceedingly desirous to pay up all balances to their missionaries; at the close of the fiscal year, March 1st. If the contributions to their treasury, during January and February, shall be as they once were, and a little more so, the Board can accomplish this very desirable result. God has given us most bountiful harvests, and he has not yet permitted a hostile foot to tread freedom's soil. Shall not the churches make a due acknowledgment? And is not an acknowledgment due in this way, seeing that a large part of the patriotism, moral power and blessedness of the country has come through the operations of our Domestic Board?

Receipts in November: at Philadelphia, \$7,835; at Louisville, \$121.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

INDIA.—The latest news is under date of September 7th. The brethren enjoyed their usual health. Two native Christians had recently died. Their faith was so evinced as to give hope of eternal life.

SIAM.—The missionaries speak of respectable audiences, good attention, and a spirit of inquiry among the people.

CHINA.—The mission in Shantung is promising. Mrs. CULBERTSON's health is quite feeble.

JAPAN.—There is opposition to the work in this country, which will try the faith of the laborers.

SOUTH AMERICA.—Mr. M'LAREN reports good progress.

INDIAN TRIBES.—The mission schools among the Omahas and Chippewas, are flourishing.

Receipts in November, \$14,200.

PUBLICATION.

The Board is not adding much to its list of publications; neither is it able to carry on the work of Colportage, as it formerly did. It is, however, laboring much, and hopefully, for the army.

Receipts in November: Donations, \$2,790; Sales, \$2,343.

CHURCH EXTENSION.

The good man always desires to have a house for God. Help the poor, and the few, to the gratifying of this desire. Receipts in November, \$2,194.

THE RIGHT VIEW OF THE CASE.

The Canada papers have generally been very ferocious against us in the Trent affair. Their voice has been almost unanimous for war, while their language has often been most unjust in its charges and insulting in its manner. But in New Brunswick, the Colonial Presbyterian, which is probably the ablest paper published in that province, espouses the Federal cause with a warmth which deserves our grateful appreciation. In a recent article it says:

"It is as it appears much more difficult for a true British subject to sympathize with the South than with the North, and we are convinced that the principles enunciated by the pro-Southern Canadian and New Brunswick press, would, if practically carried out, be fatal to the safety of the British Empire. They are, in short, uttering a blasphemous and impious defiance to all Divine and human laws. 'Curses' are not the only things which, like chickens, 'come home to roost.' Evil principles bring retribution in their train. To hold that, apart from any exercise of oppression by a Government, creating a moral right of revolution, its authority is to be cast off as pleasure or through spite; its property seized; its courts of justice subverted; to hold that all oaths of allegiance to it may be violated without moral guilt or political degradation, is to hold that civil government rests upon no Divine sanctions or other stable basis. We maintain that there has rarely been a more just war waged in this world than that by which the Federal Government aims at suppressing the Southern rebellion and preserving the nationality of a great people. As British subjects, we resent any insults to our nation's flag, and other symbols, and we maintain that it is worse than external war; to be an enemy to occupy an honorable position as compared with being a traitor. How well it looks to see those who are ready to fly to arms to maintain the honor of the British flag, in the same breath denounce the United States for its authority to be cast off to the reproach of Fort Sumpter!"

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

The United Presbyterian Theological Seminary, in Allegheny City, has just issued a neat Catalogue for the present session. This institution has 72 students in attendance. The Seminary of the same Church at Xenia, Ohio, has 33 students; and the one at Mounmouth, Ill., 22—total 126. This indicates a high degree of prosperity in this branch of the Church of Christ. Graduates of these Seminaries are now engaged in the work of missions in Syria, India, China, and Egypt; and among their present students, the churches expect to find several for the foreign field.

EASTERN SUMMARY.

BOSTON AND NEW-ENGLAND.—THE DEPARTURE OF Messrs. Mason and Sillid created no excitement. A small steamer conveyed them quietly, in the evening, from Fort Warren to a British vessel waiting to receive them. It is said that the rebel Commissioners would have been much better pleased if a demonstration of almost any kind had been made. This Fort is from time to time receiving new prisoners, so that from all appearances it will be pretty well filled before the Winter is ended.

One of the most successful ASTRONOMICAL DISCOVERIES of the present day is, Mr. HORACE P. TUTTLE, of Harvard College. A few days ago he discovered a comet comet near the bright star *idea* Virginia. This is the tenth comet independently discovered by Mr. Tuttle within the last four and a half years, which is more than has been done by any previous astronomer in the same length of time.

ORESTES A. BROWNSON has become one of the institutions of Boston, if not of the country. He says so many strange things, and in such strange ways, that he is certain to attract attention, even from those who have no agreement with his peculiar opinions. But occasionally he lets off a right good thing, or gives a new turn to an old saying which makes it peculiarly

pointed. In the present state of the National conflict, the following, one of his latest, will be relished. He says: "We have talked about the sublime courage of dying for our country—of standing up in the ranks to be shot at—to be killed for this glorious cause; but what is needed now is the courage to kill somebody." To this sentiment most people will give a hearty assent.

THE DICTIONARY WAR is about to be revived. The rival publishers of Webster and Worcester Dictionaries are leaving no means untried to promote the circulation of their respective works. State legislatures are impudently by the agents of each to place a copy in every public school. Between seeking to accomplish this and seeking to defeat one another in the same attempt, the publishers have their hands almost full. In Boston, Worcester is undoubtedly the favorite; but in Massachusetts and the New-England States generally, Webster is most popular. Cambridge University throws its influence for Worcester, and Yale College for Webster.

NEW-YORK.

THE THREE MONSTER BANKS of the city of New-York are the Bank of Commerce, with a capital of \$9,148,000; American Exchange Bank, with a capital of \$5,000,000; and the Metropolitan Bank, with a capital of \$4,000,000; showing an aggregate of over \$18,000,000, or more than the entire banking capital of several whole States.

The suspension of the banks created but little excitement. And it is generally admitted that in the present state of the country, it is about the best thing that could have been done. The banks will now be able to accommodate their customers to a degree that would have been impossible, with the possibility of a drain of specie staring them in the face. The greatest evil to be apprehended is an unwarrantable expansion of business because of these bank facilities. According to a carefully prepared statement of the World, "The New-York banks hold now about thirty per cent. more coin than the average of the six preceding years, at the corresponding period of each year. The average was about \$19,000,000, while they hold now actually about \$26,000,000; and in the years of active business, 1855, 1856, 1859, and 1860, when the country's transactions in regular trade were more than double that of the present period, their specie reserve ranged from \$11,000,000 to \$20,000,000, with a monthly export of specie to Europe of from \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000." December 28th the average of specie held was \$80,000,000, as against the average of \$19,000,000 for the six preceding years.

THE SUFFERINGS of the little homeless, wandering children of this great city continue to attract the attention of the philanthropist and the Christian. Much has been done for their relief, but very much yet remains to be done. At present they suffer from the want of proper food and clothing, and healthful dwellings. But their exposure to every kind of demoralization and vice is still more painful. Here many candidates are in process of training for almshouses, penitentiaries, and, it may be, scaffolds.

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS of this county, last Saturday, no less than ten persons were convicted of various degrees of homicide, and brought to the bar for sentence. Such a spectacle may well startle the public mind, and lead us to inquire the causes of this wholesale reckless of human life. Six of these murderers had come to the felon's dock by interpenance, while the conviction in the seventh case, that of Jeffers, was due solely to his confessions made while under the influence of intoxicating drink. This exhibit is but a transcript of the general calendar of crime; at least two-thirds of the offenses being directly or remotely due to this chief cause.

Incitements to the vice of drunkenness abound in the most public thoroughfares; not only at hotel bars and porter-houses, but tricked out in all the tinsel halls of the stage. The scores of concert-halls, which have suddenly sprung up with mushroom-growth, corrupt their visitors at every step. In these haunts, the cup that steals away the brains and makes men mad for murder, is wreathed with the double allurements of the tripping-house and the theatre. A determined effort is to be made at the next session of the Legislature to prohibit the licensing of such pernicious places. But the friends of good order will not succeed unless they earnestly set about the work. Al-ready the enemy are organizing an opposition, which, with the means at their command, will enable them to present a serious if not formidable resistance to any repressive measures.

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, in this city, the principal theological school of the New-School Presbyterians, has in the Senior class, 38 students; Middle class, 32; Junior class, 39. Total, 109.

PHILADELPHIA.

THE LATE threatening state of affairs between this country and England, has awakened the attention of the people of this city to the need of greater protection against a possible invasion from a foreign foe. For it is abundantly evident that we have nothing to expect from the nations of Europe, and least of all from England. The hollowness and insincerity of all her declarations of friendship are now fully apparent. The Secretary of War has directed the Chief of the Engineering Department to make an early examination of the fortifications on the river Delaware, with a view to the safety of Philadelphia.

"One of the chief difficulties is the want of cannon of large calibre. The various foundries under Government control are worked to the utmost, and unlimited orders have been given to the Fort Pitt, Alger, and West Point foundries. The present production is eight or ten large guns a week, but in the course of ninety days they will turn out twenty a week. The adoption of wrought iron gun-carriages has facilitated operations."

"Fort Delawere is intended to mount one hundred and thirty-five eight, ten, and fifteen-inch guns."

THE CHURCH of which Rev. Albert Barnes is pastor was open on Christmas morning, and he preached a sermon. His text was Gal. iv. 5.

"But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman,

Rev. Charles Avery's Bounty to the Colored People.

Mr. Avery in his life-time conveyed a valuable property, consisting of twelve houses on and near Fifth Street, in the city of Pittsburgh, to a Trustee, "to hold the same after his (Avery's) decease to the use and behoof of the African Methodist Episcopal Church of this City, Pittsburg, and Allegheny; the net rents, issues and profits thereof to be applied, under the direction thereof to be applied, under the direction of the official body representing said Corporation, to the support of the Gospel among the colored people of the cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny." The Trustees of the African M. E. Church received the same from Mr. Avery's death to the present time—some two or three years—and have applied them extensively to the support of the preaching of the Gospel in their own congregation.

Brown's Chapel, a congregation of colored people of Allegheny City, thinking this was not a fair performance of the trust, and claiming a right to pass in the Court fund, filed a bill of injunction in the Court Common Pleas of this County against the African M. E. Church, or Wylie Street church, requiring them to give an account of their stewardship; and show what disposition they had made of the funds. An account was accordingly filed, showing an application of the fund to the payment chiefly of the salary of the pastor. To this, their own preacher's exceptions; and after Brown's Chapel filed exceptions; and after argument, the following opinion was delivered in the case, on Saturday, Jan. 4th, by Judge MELLON.—It certainly was not Mr. Avery's intention to confine his bounty to the African M. E. Church of Pittsburgh. If he had so intended, he could have conveyed the property to that body directly, without the intervention of a trust at all. His deed, therefore, in this particular body, is to be intended as a trust for the colored people who compose it, exclusively. He does not say that the "net rents, issues and profits" shall be applied under the direction of this official body, to its own use, but to the support of the Gospel among the colored people of the cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny. It is hard to see how the Trustees could have so far mistaken their duty as to apply the entire fund to the payment of their own minister's salary, ever since they have been the recipients of the bounty. It is difficult to regard it in any other light than an abuse of the trust, and confidence reposed in them by the general assembly of the colored people composing the congregation of the African M. E. Church are entitled to their proportionate share of the fund, according to their relative wants and necessities, and no more; and if that share is applied under the direction of the Trustees to the maintenance of the minister, as the best method of the support of the Gospel among the colored people, it is a legitimate exercise of discretion of which there is no reason to complain. Mr. Avery has made the Trustees his almoners, and pointed out to them the particular objects and purposes of his bounty, and left the manner and details of the immediate application of the fund, to their own judgment. The colored people of the cities are the objects of the bounty, and the support of the Gospel among them, the purpose.

And whilst we do not find fault with the application of the share of any particular congregation to the payment of their preacher's salary, we do not deem that the only mode of supporting the Gospel; and perhaps such application of the fund in a congregation applying able to support their minister, will be the best mode of supporting the Gospel, could be more efficiently supported through other channels, might be deemed questionable. Under the directions of this deed, we would not infer that Mr. Avery intended to aid in supporting the Gospel most, in that society of colored people, or in that channel, where support might be least needed; and we think we can find no warrant under this deed for believing a comparatively wealthy congregation from the entire burden of supporting their minister; and this would be the result of the interpretation contended for on behalf of these Trustees. That the deed of the property is made to this particular body, gives no better or greater claim on the income from the same, than upon the colored people in either city, seeing the same deed declares expressly that such income shall be applied to promote a particular purpose amongst an entire class. The Trustees of this congregation are appointed the almoners of the bounty merely, and under their direction, it is to be applied to the support of the Gospel among the colored people of both cities. It is not to be applied, under their direction to the support of any particular church, or congregation, or sect or denomination of Christians, but simply to the support of the Gospel among the colored people. The colored people of this particular church are no more entitled to the deed than are any other colored people elsewhere in either city. They are entitled to their just share, according to their numbers and relative wants, but in our opinion no more.

The line of duty in the execution of this trust seems to us to lie in a fair distribution of the fund, equally as near as may be, among the objects of the bounty—not to the colored people individually; for that would not be the purpose of the deed; but collectively in such Societies, or congregations, as are best calculated to promote the support of the Gospel, and the cause of Christianity. This, with some regard to the relative wants and necessities of such Societies, seems to be the most obvious channel by which the bounty may be applied to the purpose which it intended.

May he who has said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," reward these kind friends, who have cheered our hearts, with a hundred-fold more in this life, and in the world to come with an everlasting crown.

R. McPHESSION.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The following contributions to the Board of Colportage were received from November 13th, 1861, to January 6th, 1862:

Table listing contributions to the Board of Colportage from various churches and individuals, including Allegheny Synod, Beaver Synod, and others, with amounts ranging from \$2.00 to \$17.15.

JOHN CULBERTSON, Librarian.

THE NEW YEAR AND THE CONGREGATION.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—I hope New Year was a happy day in your families. It was one that will long be gratefully remembered in mine, as a day without clouds; when we experienced the feelings of Paul, at the meeting of the brethren at Appi Forum: "He thanked God and took courage."

With your permission, I will, through the medium of the Banner, convey to the people of my charge, (Rich Valley, Pa.) and others, the grateful acknowledgment of myself and family, of their kind visit and the generosity and liberality with which it was crowned.

To the ladies we are very thankful for the handsome and excellent cooking-stoves, articles of apparel, provisions, &c., they bestowed. We are no less grateful to the gentlemen for coal, flour, meal, corn, oats, a fine rigging for my horse, &c., and to some known and unknown friends, for pocket money. Nor were our hearts less cheered by the kind remembrance of one of our members now in the service of our country.

After partaking of a sumptuous entertainment provided by the ladies, the evening was spent in mutual salutations and religious exercises. I will, through the medium of the Banner, convey to the people of my charge, (Rich Valley, Pa.) and others, the grateful acknowledgment of myself and family, of their kind visit and the generosity and liberality with which it was crowned.

Col. Joseph McCabe addressed the people in behalf of the congregation of Mansfield, and Mr. Warren in behalf of the congregation of Mt. Pisgah. Col. H. Lee addressed Mrs. McPherson in behalf of the ladies, and Col. M. B. Brown responded. During his remarks he took occasion to endeavor to awaken a deeper interest in behalf of our brave soldiers. And in this connection I would remark to the credit of the females of our community that they have not been idle in trying to meet the wants and minister to the comfort of our army.

After uniting in supplicating the presence of God to journey with us till the end of our days, and imploring his blessing that peace and prosperity may smile upon us, we separated.

May he who has said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," reward these kind friends, who have cheered our hearts, with a hundred-fold more in this life, and in the world to come with an everlasting crown.

R. McPHESSION.

A Bad Sign.—One of the first evidences of a decline in religion is an indifference to the religious newspaper. I have sat in churches where scores of members have been excluded. If the excluded were reading men, and took a religious newspaper, I backward was a discontinuation of the paper. This is the "result of thirty years' observation."—Biblical Recorder.

Encouraging Results.—On last Sabbath, sixty-eight persons were baptized in the church of Lower Brandywine, Presbytery of Newcastle, of which the Rev. D. W. Moore is pastor. A number of these persons are adults, and the remainder were their children. They first offered themselves to the Lord, and then consecrated their households to him. Mr. Moore has these are the first fruits of his ministry, in Presbytery.

PRESBYTERIAL NOTICES.

THE PRESBYTERY OF HIGHLAND will meet in its regular session on the 13th inst. at 10 o'clock P. M. JAMES HOWLAND, Stated Clerk.

THE PRESBYTERY OF BELLEVILLE will meet, according to adjournment, at Cross Roads, on the Third Sabbath of the year, 1862. Members coming by Railroad