

Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1862.

Having purchased for our office the "Banner" to use as our official newspaper, we have had the pleasure of receiving from the publishers a copy of the same, which we have read with interest and satisfaction.

Large Accession.—The Central Presbyterian church of this city, Dr. JACOBUS, received an accession of forty-three on certificates, and three on profession of faith, at a late communion.

Mr. Everett's Lecture, on Tuesday evening, on "The Origin and Cause of the War," was listened to by a house entirely full, and with unwavering attention throughout. The lecture is a very able, clear, and interesting presentation of the subject.

The Church of Seneca, Ohio, under the pastoral care of Rev. W. M. FERGUSON, was greatly revived during the services held there during the week of the world's prayer-meeting. Ten were added on examination; seven of these were young men. In a few years the church there has risen from twenty-six members to one hundred and thirty-five, with most flattering prospects for the future. God has greatly blessed them.

The Christian Commission.—In another column we print the address of the Christian Commission for the Army. Bad as the times are made by the rebellion, and sad as are the horrors of war, there is still a large amount of Christian benevolence in our land. The address will direct to the means and facilities for conferring great benefits upon those who are imperiling their lives in their country's cause. We who live at ease and in safety, may well contribute to their comfort; and especially all of us who have sons, brothers and neighbors in the field, embrace the opportunity presented by the Commission, of manifesting our benevolence.

Three Hundred Copies of the Banner were ordered last week, for the soldiers, to be sent for two months. We trust the order will be made permanent. We send a number of packages, of ten to forty, to different regiments. Will not the soldiers' friends, and especially those who possess the Christian's heart, greatly multiply these requests. The men plead for them, and we can do for them, but we make no pecuniary gain thereby.

We furnish Banners at the rate of one and one-fourth cents each; that is, we send twenty copies for fifty cents weekly, and at the same rate for any large number. To the Army of the Potomac packages go by Adams' Express, free of charge—a gratuity thus given to the cause by that enterprising Company, and an incitement to Christians to send the paper. The charge made by us pays the paper-maker and pressman. Our own services, the quota of office rent, type setting, &c., is a gratuity. We then, again, entreat the soldiers' friends, to send them Banners.

DIRECT TAXATION. "Taxation" is not a pleasant word. People do not like it. But there are circumstances when a Christian and loyal people will willingly bear even an unusual and large burden of this kind, rather than risk a greater evil. The dangers of an expanded paper currency are so great and startling that it cannot be depended on for relief in the present emergencies of our country. The "material aid" must be had.

Now the practical question before the people, and which our legislators have to meet, is this: Have the people of the loyal States the ability to pay \$150,000,000 or \$200,000,000 per annum, in the way of taxation, to preserve the finances and trade of the nation from embarrassment? We may be aided in answering this question by reference to what Great Britain did under somewhat similar circumstances, and in doing this we quote from The World, which says:

In the years 1811 to 1815 the population of Great Britain was about 12,000,000, and the resources of the country had been drained by the exhausting process of an expensive war with France for about fifteen years, and yet the British people submitted to the following startling figures:

Table with 3 columns: Year, Taxation, Loans, Expenditures. Rows for 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815.

In 1811, when the above commenced, the national debt of Great Britain was \$2,105,000,000 (three thousand one hundred and five millions of dollars), and on February 1st, 1815, its amount stood as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Rows for English total debt, Irish unredeemed debt, Total, Exchequer Bills, Treasury Bills, Army, Navy, Ordnance, Civil List, and Bank.

Total floating debt, three hundred and fifty-five millions of dollars. The twelve millions of British in 1815 could not only pay these enormous burdens but end the war in that year, prosperous in manufacturing industry and at the highest pinnacle of political power as a nation.

REPROBATION OF A SYSTEM OF OPPRESSION UPON THE MORALS AND JUDGMENTS OF THE OPPRESSORS.

Those who, for a year or two past, have had access to Southern newspapers, the messages of public officers, and the sermons and speeches of distinguished men, have been astonished at their moral perversity—their want of truthfulness in the statement of facts, and their shocking libels on their Northern brethren. Their justification of perjury on the part of officials, is also wonderful. DAVIS, STEVENS, and MASON, SELL, BRECKINRIDGE, and ten thousand more—every man who was in Congress; every man who ever accepted a commission of any kind under the General Government; every man who ever sat in a State Legislature, or held a State office, swore solemnly to support the Constitution of the United States. And yet, see the traitors, and the treason justified. Contemplate the perjured multitude. It is utterly astounding.

And not only do we find this defection in morals in those who profess no principles beyond their temporal interests. We find it equally manifest among those who claim to both fear and honor God. We find it among the ministers of religion. We find it in men born under freedom's auspices, and educated in Northern schools.

Among recent instances of awful perversity, we are pained to notice that of Rev. Dr. MOORE, of Richmond, Va. The Presbyterian of January 11, gives the following, as an extract from Dr. MOORE'S sermon on the late Fast Day:

"Never, since the terrible scenes of La Vendee, under the ravaging hordes of Republican France, has the old heathen warrior, the Victor (wee, to the conquered!) been more unmistakably sounded by an army of invaders. Let this tremendous crusade become successful, either by mismanagement in the army, or cowardice and greediness at home, and history furnishes no page so dark and bloody as that which would record the result. Our best and bravest men would be slaughtered like bullocks in the shambles; our wives and daughters dishonored before our eyes; our cities sacked; our fields laid waste; our homes pillaged and burned; our property, which we are perhaps selfishly hoarding, wrested from us by fines and confiscations; our grand old Commonwealth degraded from her proud historic place of 'Ancient Dominion,' to be the vassal province of a huge central despotism, which, having wasted her with fire and sword, would compel her by military force to pay the enormous expense of her own subjugation; or in default of this, parcel out her broad lands to invading emigrants as a feudal reward for the rapine and murder of this new Norman conquest; while the owners of these lands must either remain as covering factors for insolent conquerors and oppressive lords, or wander as penniless and homeless fugitives in a land of strangers."

How Dr. MOORE could write and utter such words and thoughts, is exceedingly strange. How could he? A part of them might proceed from the mind of the reckless and conscience-seared traitor, robber and murderer, who dreaded the execution of the law's penalty. But how could Dr. MOORE speak? He cannot plead that he imbibed in childhood a hatred of the North, and grew up in prejudice and in ignorance of Northern uprightness and generosity. Such a plea might palliate the course of Dr. PALMER and THORNWELL, but not of Dr. MOORE. Dr. MOORE is, by birth and education, a Pennsylvanian. It was his lot, in childhood and youth, to be one of those whom his present confessor calls the "mudsills" of society, but none the worse for this. Northern benevolence took him up, and educated him for the ministry. He was, for some time, pastor of the Presbyterian church in Carlisle. All that Dr. MOORE has, which makes him worthy of respect, he owes to the North—his superior education, gentlemanly manners, nobleness of spirit—every thing which caused him to be acceptable to a wealthy and adored Richmond congregation, he owes to the North. He went from us already a made man—accepted and admired.

Now, what has caused the moral defection in Dr. MOORE? What has caused him to conceive in his heart, and utter from the sacred desk, and publish to the world, the above quoted? Our readers will perceive that we thus speak of one whom we have long known personally; whom we have esteemed as a friend and loved as a brother, and whom we can even now pardon without a confession—we thus speak not to expose the fallen, but to get at the cause of the fall. We would reach and expose the monstrous destroyer of truth, honor and virtue.

What then is the fatal cause of the evil which we mourn? It is THE SYSTEM OF OPPRESSION which prevails in Mr. MOORE'S new surroundings. According to this system, men, of a certain lineage and color, are doomed to perpetual bondage; and that not merely a bondage obligating them to service or labor, but a bondage which deprives them of some of the most precious rights of humanity.

Of this system we may remark, that, 1. It deprives men of the first social right of creation; a right belonging to Paradise; that is, the family right. One part of this right is marriage, and this is denied to slaves, as to its sacredness and permanency. Slaves marry, it is true, according to the usages of the Church; but the laws of the State do not sanction the act, nor protect the relation. The master may violate it at pleasure. He may separate the parties, and make the separation perpetual. Thus, what God has joined together, this system puts asunder. The other part of the family right, is that of the parent to his children. This right is utterly ignored and made void by the system. The parent may not train his child, nor the child honor his parent. The child is the master's property, and is reared for the master's uses, to serve at his will, or to be made an article of merchandise for gain.

THE SOUTHERN CONFESSION.

The American Presbyterian has a copy of the Southern Presbyterian of Columbia, S. C., under date of December 7th. Among other remarks relative to the contents of the paper, we have this:

"From various ecclesiastical reports we gather a number of interesting facts. One thing is clear—the THORNWELL doctrine that the Church has nothing to do with secular matters, is now utterly repudiated in South Carolina. One half of the male membership of the churches in South Carolina Presbyterian are reported by the Synod to be in the army; and but for their female members, their Sabbath Schools would have to be abandoned. In Bethel Presbyterian, in the same Synod, the attendance on the services of the sanctuary has been greatly reduced by the war. Efforts for the evangelization of the colored population of one blood with us, say the Synod, are spoken of as vigorously and successfully prosecuted. There is nothing of the proud and defiant tone of Southern politicians in the following sentences in the narrative: 'Notwithstanding Providence has greatly blessed us with abundant harvests, yet from all our Presbyteries we hear of the sad ruin which our present calamities have wrought throughout our beloved Zion. The number which appear in our sanctuaries is few—our homes have been dismantled, and already have many been called to lay their loved ones in the grave. May God, speedily, avert from us this terrible scourge, and say to the destroying angel: 'Stay thy hand, it is enough.'"

Hon. James P. Strotter.—The vacancy on the Bench of the Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Allegheny County, was filled by the death of the Hon. WM. B. McCLURE, has been filled by Gov. CURTIN, by the appointment of JAMES P. STROTTER, Esq., of the firm of PENNY & STROTTER, of this city. Judge STROTTER was

born in Juniata County; graduated at Jefferson College in 1845, in the same class with Senator LATHAM, from California; studied Law at Carlisle, in this State, and at the University of Virginia, in which State he was admitted to the bar. His professional career in this city since 1849, is well known. The fact that he was the unanimous choice of the Pittsburgh Bar, was highly complimentary. His learning, legal ability, dignity of manners, and Christian character, give promise of entire success in the high station to which he has been called.

Princeton Theological Seminary.—The Catalogue for 1861-62, of this venerated and excellent Institution, is before us. The attendance given is, Resident Graduates, five; Senior Class, fifty-three; Middle Class, forty-four; Junior Class, sixty-three. Total, one hundred and sixty-five. The students are from thirty-three Colleges, and from twenty-one States of the Union, and four foreign States. All but nine are Graduates. The Professors are Revs. DR. HODGE, McHIGG, GREEN, MORRIS, and Rev. C. W. HODGE.

Lectures Extraordinary are given, by Prof. ARNOLD GUYOT, L.L.D., of Princeton College, on the Connexion of Revealed Religion, and Physical and Ethnological Science, and by Prof. LYMAN H. ATWATER, D.D., on the Connexion of Revealed Religion and Metaphysical Science.

Revival.—An interesting revival is now in progress in the church of Tarentum, Allegheny Presbytery. Many inquirers are found of all ages and classes. Some have found peace in believing, and a deep solemnity prevails in the congregation.

The Banville Quarterly Review.—The December number of this ably conducted and interesting Quarterly, is before us. It contains: I. Imputation, part second; II. Cometary Astronomy; III. The Civil War, its Nature and End; IV. Identity of the Church.

The third article is understood to be from the pen of Rev. J. BRECKINRIDGE, D.D. It has been extensively published, we understand, in a separate form. It is largely quoted in the daily and weekly journals. It is Christian in its spirit, patriotic and reasonable. We may yet give a specimen of it to our readers, but would advise those who have the opportunity to read it all.

EASTERN SUMMARY.

BOSTON AND NEW-ENGLAND. THE CITY OF BOSTON, like some other cities of note, has a debt by no means inconsiderable. On the first of January it amounted to the handsome sum of \$9,624,699.79. Against this the authorities had cash bonds and mortgages on hand amounting to \$1,232,063.94.

In this "Athens of America" they have, at times, strange doings. At the Lyceum Hall, on Sabbath, Dec. 8th, Miss LIZIE DOTE, a celebrated trance-lecturer, issued forth in the following incoherible blasphemy and nonsense:

O Lucifer, thou son of the morning, who fell from thy high estate, and whom mortals are prone to call the embodiment of evil, we lift up our voices unto thee. We know thou canst not harm us unless by the will of the Almighty, of whom thou art a part and portion, and in whose economy thou playest thy part: and we cannot presume to sit in judgment over Deity. From the depths of thine infernal stream forth, divine truths. Why should we turn from thee? Does not the same inspiration rule us all? Is one in God's will better than another? We know thou art yet to come up in his expanded creation, purified by the influence of God's love—for his love is not yet perfected while one of his children writhes in misery. So, O Lucifer, do we come up and stand before the throne of the Ancient of Days, hand in hand with thee. As thou hast been the star of the morning, thou wilt again become an angel of light, O Satan, we will subdue thee with our love, and thou wilt yet kneel humbly with us at the throne of God.

Such stuff as this is disgusting and revolting, and we would gladly conceal it from the public eye, were it not an exhibition of the delusions of Satan practiced even now. Devil-worship finds an advocate and an audience, even in the metropolis of New-England. But this is not much worse than what was done by Elizabeth Oakes Smith, at one time one of the most popular female writers in this country, in the newspapers and magazines. She wrote a glowing article in praise of the Witch of Endor, in whom she professed to discover all that was lovely in womanhood.

THE AMERICAN BOARD, suffering, like all our great Benevolent Societies, from the hard times, has sent out a "Letter to Pastors" in the best mode of making collections, suggesting a plan which deserves the serious consideration both of pastors and of Christian laymen. It is that of systematic contributions by all the members of a family. At present the vital defect in our method of benevolence, is that but few give, and these irregularly, according as they happen to feel in a liberal mood, or as they are pined with solicitations. This is all wrong. If Christian benevolence is a duty, it is a duty which devolves on all rich and poor, old and young; and if all would but give, and give regularly, even were it ever so small a sum, the total would be ample for all the enterprises of the Church.

REV. CHARLES LITTLE, formerly missionary of the American Board in Madura, Southern India, on Wednesday, Jan. 8th, was installed pastor of the Congregational church, in Chelsea, Ct.

ACCORDING to carefully compiled statistics of the Congregational Quarterly, just issued, it appears that the number of orthodox Congregational churches in the United States and British Provinces, is 2,856; of these, 919 have settled pastors; 1,940 have stated supplies; 456 pulpits are vacant; 565 ministers are not in service. The membership of the churches is given at 259,119, of whom 158,239 are females. Of the whole number, 32,180 are reported as being "absent" from the churches with which they are connected. The additions for the year were 12,151, of which 5,522 were by profession. The dismissions were 10,539, of which 3,708 were by death, and 6,831 by excommunication. Number of baptisms—adults, 2,151; infants, 4,544. Number of members of Sabbath Schools, 246,547.

NEW-YORK. THERE HAS BEEN less stringency experienced this week than last, and the rates for temporary loans are reduced 1 and 1 per cent., the range being 6 and 7 per cent. There has been also more activity in the discount of business paper. Some large disson of prime grades have been passed at 6 and 7 per cent., at dates from 60 days to 90 days, and at 7 and 8 per cent. for dates from four to eight months. Single names of high grade pass at 8 and 9 per cent., and second grades at 10 and 15 per cent.

THE ANNUAL REPORT of the City Superintendent of Schools, states that during the year 1861, \$1,500,000 have been expended in the support of our public schools, and nearly an equal amount has been raised for their maintenance during the ensuing year; \$820,000 have been paid to the teachers, male and female, who have conducted the operations of these schools; \$76,000 for school apparatus, and \$250,000 for building, remodeling, and furnishing school-houses, and upwards of \$150,000 for the support of the various evening schools, the Free Academy, the incidental expenses of the Board of Education, and the salaries of its officers. One hundred and sixty thousand children, between the ages of four and twenty-one, have been under instruction for a greater or less period during the year, in the several public and day schools, exceeding by nearly twelve thousand the number taught during the preceding year; while in the forty evening schools, taught during a period of five months, from fifteen to twenty thousand pupils were under instruction. The average daily attendance of pupils in the several day schools during the year, was upwards of sixty-two thousand the average of the preceding year; and in the evening schools this average amounted to about ten thousand. Seventeen hundred teachers, about fifteen hundred of whom are females, have been in daily attendance upon these schools, and a large proportion of them have been engaged in the tuition of the evening schools.

Address of the Christian Commission.

Office of the Christian Commission, New-York, Jan. 13th, 1862. The following named gentlemen were appointed a Christian Commission for the Army, pursuant to the resolutions of a National Convention, held in the city of New-York, November 16, 1861: Rev. Rollin H. Neale, D.D., Boston; Charles Demond, Esq., Boston; Rev. Bishop E. S. James, D.D., New-York; Rev. Benjamin F. Matthews, New-York; Rev. Benjamin C. Cutler, D.D., Brooklyn; Mitchell H. Miller, Esq., Washington; George H. Stuart, Esq., Philadelphia; John P. Crozier, Esq., Philadelphia; Rev. M. L. P. Thompson, D.D., Cincinnati; Clinton B. Fisk, Esq., St. Louis; John B. Farwell, Esq., Chicago, Illinois; John D. Hill, M.D., Buffalo.

CEPHAS BRAINARD, Secretary of the Commission. The Christian Commission met in Washington, and arranged a plan of operations, which they now submit to the public, and call upon the friends of the soldiers to aid them in their work.

The objects to be promoted are the spiritual and temporal welfare of the brave men who now are in arms to put down a wicked rebellion. They propose to do this by aiding the chaplains and others in their work— 1st. By furnishing to them religious tracts, periodicals, and books. 2d. By aiding in the formation of religious associations in the several regiments. 3d. By putting such associations in correspondence with the Christian public. 4th. By cultivating, as far as possible, the religious sympathies and prayers of Christians in their behalf. 5th. By obtaining and directing such gratuitous personal labor among the soldiers and sailors, as may be practicable. 6th. By improving such other opportunities and means as may, in the providence of God, be presented. 7th. By furnishing, as far as possible, profitable reading, other than religious, and wherever there is a permanent military stock, establishing a general library of such works. 8th. By establishing a medium of speedy and safe intercommunication, between the men in the army, navy, and their friends and families, by which small packages of clothing, books, and medicines, and other articles of social affection can be interchanged. 9th. By procuring, as far as possible, and of high character, in various cities, have generally offered to give the time and attention needed to carry out this plan, and we hope to be able to appropriate to the benefit of the soldiers, all contributions entrusted to us, with a small expense for intermediate agents. But we need money to provide religious and other reading for the army, and a very large sum can be judiciously and profitably used in this way.

The Bible, Tract, and other benevolent societies supported by the State of Pennsylvania, the largest number (28) belong to Philadelphia; Allegheny and Lehigh Counties send 11 each; Luzerne, Chester and Berks, 6 each; Lancaster 5; Bedford, 7; Blair, 5; most of the other counties from 1 to 4 each.

Great care is paid to the health and comfort of the pupils, and the sanitary condition of the institution is reported to have been of a satisfactory character. The expenses of the institution for food, clothes, &c., for 1861, were \$16,892.76; for salaries of teachers, \$13,455. The amount received from this State last year, was \$23,256.72; from Maryland, \$8,010.10; New-Jersey, \$1,665.66; Delaware, \$733.33. The report says that Philadelphia has set the example to other cities and towns of the Commonwealth in providing for the support of three deaf mutes, which, it is hoped, will be extensively followed.

Annual Report of the Female Bible Society, of Pittsburgh, for the year ending Dec. 31, 1861. The Board of Managers of the Female Bible Society, of Pittsburgh, in reviewing the history of their operations the past year, see ground for both humiliation and thanksgiving. There is a variety of reasons for regret and sadness, none for discouragement or loss of confidence. The civil war which has affected injuriously the monetary interests of the country, has had its effects on our own city, and as might be expected, has operated unfavorably on our receipts. But this is nothing new or strange. In looking over the history of past years, we find it has always been the same. Years of financial depression have been years of diminished operations by this Society. Yet these periodic fluctuations have been only as the flux and reflux of the waves, in a rising tide, whose course is still onward. The immediate pressing wants of the volunteers raised in our country during the war, so occupied the attention and efforts of many of our managers, that they have failed to make their usual annual collections. Still we have great satisfaction in being able to report something done in the good cause. The report of our Treasurer shows the amount collected during the year to be two thousand five hundred and five dollars and ten cents. Of this sum one hundred and twenty dollars has been applied to constitute four life members to the Pennsylvania Bible Society. The balance has been paid to that Society for Bibles and Testaments.

We are happy to state that we have participated with other Bible Societies in supplying the soldiers with an important portion of the Word of God. We have furnished five hundred volunteers with the New Testament.

That our Society has been permitted to send forth the pure streams of the water of Life, for more than thirty years, admits matter for devout gratitude. How many souls have been saved and glorified by our instrumentalities we do not know; but he knoweth, who has said, "that his Word shall not return unto him void, but shall accomplish that whereunto it is sent." The present distracted state of our country should lead us to feel more deeply than ever the value of the blessed Bible, and constrain us to be more ready in coming years than before, to give it a wide circulation, not only throughout our land, but in other lands, as the providence of God prepares the way.

The annual meeting of the above Society was held in the Session-Room of the First Presbyterian church, on Thursday, Jan. 2, 1862, Rev. Dr. Aikin in the Chair. The Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were read and adopted, after which an election of officers and managers took place, of which the following is the list: President—Mrs. Dr. Brooks; Vice-Presidents—Mrs. McChurg and Mrs. McCracken; Secretary—Miss Crozier; Treasurer—Miss Crozier; Managers—Mrs. Denny, Mrs. A. Laughlin, Mrs. J. Laughlin, Mrs. J. B. Morgan, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Rowan, Mrs. Barclay, Mrs. Semple, Mrs. J. Irwin, Mrs. W. Thaw, Mrs. Peers, Mrs. S. Rea, Mrs. Dr. Prentley, Miss Thaw, Miss Fahnestock, Miss Laughlin, Miss Breed, Miss Arthurs, Miss Hagg, Miss Ralston, Miss Kerr, Miss Trainer, Miss Lane, Miss Brackneridge.