

# Presbyterian Banner.

VOL. X. NO. 29.

PITTSBURGH, SATURDAY, A

PRIL 5, 1862.

WHOLE NO. 497.

## UNION MEN AT THE SOUTH.

We have maintained, and still firmly believe, that a large majority of the people of the South are in favor of the Union Party by falsehood and deception, partly by force, and partly by fear, they are numbered with the rebels. But there are a few who resist all pressure.

The following we quote from a letter of friendship, just received:

"I got, on yesterday, a letter from a dear friend, who moved, three years ago, from Delaware into Virginia, near to Fredericksburg. I send you an extract. He writes from Wilmington, Del.:

"Dear friend, thank God, I have once more got under the protection of our old flag; but to do so, I had to flee, and leave my wife and little ones to the mercy of the rebels and the niggers. But I trust that God will take care of them. The time had arrived that I could get to stay with them no longer. I had either to go into the rebel army, or to flee to escape it, and I chose the latter. I oftentimes would think, or try to make myself think, that it was my duty to submit to the powers that be; but my whole nature would rise, and so revolt at the idea of me entering a band of outlaws, that it would have been about as easy for me to have sacrificed my own family as to have entered the service on that side. The Union men in the South are truly in the furnace of affliction. I have five brothers left there, who would enter the army on that side with the same disgust that I would. They are as true to the Union as any man can be, but they are overpowered. What drove me off, was a call for the militia. Three of my brothers are over age, and the other two had the promise of being exempt by working for the rebel government, but God only knows what will become of them. If ever there was a hell on earth, it is the South at this time.—Here he tells me how he escaped by going West, round the rebel lines, and then he says that they are suffering for the necessities of life.—Salt, more than any one article else. It was selling at 50 cents a quart; coffee, there was none to be had; tea is \$4 per lb.; and dry goods at the same rate. Many of the ladies are dressed in muslin frocks. They color it as well as they can, so that it would not be white. They are worse off, if possible, than the men."

"It is just two weeks since this friend made his escape from Fredericksburg. The rebel leaders were in a perfect panic at the time, or he thinks that he could not have escaped at all. They are themselves flying, and so permit others to fly. What a dreadful state of things! How vigorously should our armies move to the relief of Union-loving people of the South! Here are six brothers—their name is —, all Union men, and there are multitudes of others. Mr. —— was accompanied by two of his neighbors, fleeing as he was. He lays all the blame of this rebellion on the leading politicians of the South. They are certainly the immediate instigators of it; and this is, I suppose, what he thinks.

"There are great rejoicings here at the Union victories. Our ardent prayer is that they may continue, till the rebellion is utterly crushed. I saw the prisoners in Chicago. They looked bad—badly clad, dirty and sickly. A great many of them are very sick. They die on an average of four a day, it is supposed; seven dead the day before I went in. Their disease is Pneumonia, from exposure at Forts Henry and Donelson. There are a great many boys among them—from 16 to 19—sons of rich and respectable parents. How sad it felt in looking at them, and talking with them.

"With grateful acknowledgments to the conductors of the *Banner* for large amounts of sterling matter, I remain yours, affectionately."

For the Presbyterian Banner.

## A Field of Labor.

OTTUMWA, IOWA, March 11, 1862.

MY DEAR FRIEND:—You ask my counsel in regard to a field of labor and associated topics. I feel that I am poorly qualified to be a counsellor in so grave a matter, yet I may throw out some thoughts that may prove useful to you.

It is obvious to suggest that the indications of God's providence should be closely observed. An invitation to a particular field or circumstances directing you to a particular locality should be allowed to have their due weight. If, moreover, while you pray God by his Providence and Spirit to direct you, you find your thoughts and desires going out toward the missionary work, whether Domestic or Foreign, it would seem to indicate that special attention be bestowed in that direction.

Do not allow yourself to be solicitous as to where you shall labor. Give attention as yet, and even to the very close of your Seminary course, to your studies, assured that you will need all the furniture which your opportunities can afford. And if God has called you to the ministry a field of labor will, in due time, be indicated.

But you are very likely to have your mind occupied with thoughts as to the particular kind of field you are to occupy, whether Domestic or Foreign, and if the former whether in the East or in the West. Strive to obtain just views of yourself, particularly of your deficiencies. I would not have you deprecate your own talents or attainments, or allow yourself to be disengaged in regard to the work to which you have been called, for we can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth us. But each one has his felicitous endowments, and likewise his own peculiar deficiencies. The former most men are quite ready enough to find out, and the latter, experience will teach if nothing else. Too many ministers find out, after a mortifying experience, their unfitness for particular positions. This is more likely to be the case where the minister seeks a particular field, than where he waits prayerfully for Providence to point out a field for him. The counsel of some judicious and candid friend who knows you well, might be of some service to you. There is no position where sinners come within the sound of his voice, where a minister is so talented and influential as to be "out of his element." There may be positions, however, to which a particular minister, owing to deficiencies and peculiarities, is poorly adapted, while he might be highly useful in a different position.

You speak of pecuniary embarrassments, and intimate that you will be "some-in debt" when your course is completed. The

prospect of saving money from a minister's salary to pay debts, and especially in the Western field, is not very flattering.

Such being the case, if you have no way of meeting these liabilities but from a prospective salary, it seems to me that an opening for labor somewhere in your own region, and which would involve no great expense in travelling, might probably be best for you, at least for the present.

In regard to the Domestic Missionary fields, and especially as relates to the regions in which my lot has been cast, the importance of sustaining our operations here can hardly be overestimated.

Though we might rejoice to see many of the young men from our Seminaries, yes and many of the elder ministers who are unemployed, pushing out West, relying upon the providence of God and eager to labor where Christ has not been preached. If the pecuniary support of such should be meagre, and if some self-denial would be required, they would fare no worse than pioneers generally—no worse than our ministers who first came to Iowa, or those who "broke ground" in Western Pennsylvania.

To an enterprising young minister, this Western field affords at least some things as easy for me to have sacrificed my own family as to have entered the service on that side. The Union men in the South are truly in the furnace of affliction. I have five brothers left there, who would enter the army on that side with the same disgust that I would. They are as true to the Union as any man can be, but they are overpowered. What drove me off, was a call for the militia. Three of my brothers are over age, and the other two had the promise of being exempt by working for the rebel government, but God only knows what will become of them. If ever there was a hell on earth, it is the South at this time.—Here he tells me how he escaped by going West, round the rebel lines, and then he says that they are suffering for the necessities of life.—Salt, more than any one article else. It was selling at 50 cents a quart; coffee, there was none to be had; tea is \$4 per lb.; and dry goods at the same rate. Many of the ladies are dressed in muslin frocks. They color it as well as they can, so that it would not be white. They are worse off, if possible, than the men."

"Earth's joys are but a dream; its destiny Is but decay and death. Its fairest day A rainbow shone on the wreathes of storm." But it is not so in heaven, for "the former things are passed away." These separations will soon be over. One hour of heaven will amply compensate for all the trials of the earth; and that will be a glorious reuniting. The social intercourse, too, of a young minister with his people, and with his ministerial brethren, is apprehended, peculiarly cordial and free, here in the Great West.

The shadows of the picture I will not undertake to delineate. Meager support is the chief. They are as true to the Union as any man can be, but they are overpowered. What drove me off, was a call for the militia. Three of my brothers are over age, and the other two had the promise of being exempt by working for the rebel government, but God only knows what will become of them. If ever there was a hell on earth, it is the South at this time.—Here he tells me how he escaped by going West, round the rebel lines, and then he says that they are suffering for the necessities of life.—Salt, more than any one article else. It was selling at 50 cents a quart; coffee, there was none to be had; tea is \$4 per lb.; and dry goods at the same rate. Many of the ladies are dressed in muslin frocks. They color it as well as they can, so that it would not be white. They are worse off, if possible, than the men."

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I have one other thought which I have often wished could be whispered in the ear of brethren thinking of coming West. The thought is this. Send your best men, or at least those who are not below your average; keep your inferior ministers in the East. I firmly believe that a minister whose deficiencies in ability, or attainment, or prudence, or common sense, are very marked, can be far more useful among our old churches in the East, than he can be here in the West. There are many communities in the Middle and Eastern States who have been thoroughly-trained up in church-going habits, and who will not fail to be present in the house of God, even though the minister may be in bodily presence weak, and his speech contemptible." Here he tells me how he escaped by going West, round the rebel lines, and then he says that they are suffering for the necessities of life.—Salt, more than any one article else. It was selling at 50 cents a quart; coffee, there was none to be had; tea is \$4 per lb.; and dry goods at the same rate. Many of the ladies are dressed in muslin frocks. They color it as well as they can, so that it would not be white. They are worse off, if possible, than the men."

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