

Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1862.

Thanksgiving.—The Governor of New York has led off in the appointment of Thanksgiving day. He has named November 27th.

Adjutant Josiah S. Stoddard, who fell at one of the late battles in Maryland, was the son of Rev. P. O. STODDARD, D.D., pastor of the Presbyterian church, Lambertville, N. J.

Miller Academy.—This institution, at Washington, is advertised in our columns. It is a good Christian school. Many of its pupils having gone to the army, room is made for recruits.

A Scholarship in Jefferson College.—A benevolent gentleman, in Pennsylvania, has a FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP, which he wishes to give, gratuitously, to a minister who has "the largest number of sons" to educate, and "the least means" to do it with. Information may be communicated to us.

Minister Deceased.—We learn from an exchange that Rev. JOHN F. COWAN died at his residence in Carondelet, Missouri, on the morning of the 29th ult., aged sixty-one years. He had been a resident of that State since 1829, having emigrated thither from Pennsylvania in that year. He was the intimate personal friend of the late Senator BRANTON, and on the death of the eminent Missourian, preached his funeral sermon in St. Louis. Mr. Cowan was a firm Union man, and at the period of his decease was chaplain at the House of Refuge Hospital, St. Louis.

Prayer on Monday and Tuesday Next.—God hears prayer. Men's hearts are in his hands, to turn them as he will. He restrains the wrath of man. He guides the inquiring in the right way.

All this being so, we suggest that Monday and Tuesday next be a season of special prayer to God, that he will direct the people aright in the casting of their votes at Tuesday's election. We would ask God to judge for us, and so to influence and guide us, that there may be blessed results to the nation, to the glory of his own name. All Christians can thus pray.

We do not suggest meetings on those days, but family prayer, closet prayer, mental prayer. And it would not be amiss for pastors, on the Sabbath previous, to ask God's guidance of the public hearing, on the occasion to which we refer.

God is great in mercy. God's praise is connected with our nationality, our peace, our righteousness. We can plead for his own name's sake, for Jesus' sake, for his own people's sake.

REV. R. J. BRECKINRIDGE, D.D.

The rebel raid into Kentucky, exposed the life and property of this distinguished patriot, and many persons indulged in great fears. But the rebels, bad as they are, have still some magnanimity and good sense. They can appreciate, or some of them can, the greatness of soul which makes a man faithful to his country amid all dangers; and they can also look forward and calculate consequences. To injure Dr. BRECKINRIDGE could do their cause not a particle of benefit; while his death, by their hands, would damage their cause far more than it could possibly be injured by his life. The Doctor is reported as safe. The *Presbyter* of October 2d, says:

"We have been told by a reliable man, an elder of one of our churches, who is a surgeon in the army, and who passes ad libitum between Richmond, Kentucky, and this city, that Dr. B. is at his farm in Fayette County, Ky. He saw him frequently in Lexington since the battle of Richmond. A Kentucky minister also says that Gen. KIRBY SMITH offered him a guard to protect him, and he declined it. He is safe. The blood of many secessionists in Kentucky will be spilled, if the rebels do him damage."

THE ELECTION OF NEXT TUESDAY.

Every Christian who has a right to vote should go to the election. Ministers and people have equally an interest in good government, and to have good government we must have good men chosen to office. We want right political principles, and faithful and able men to legislate on those principles and to enforce the laws.

The *Banner*, however, has never advocated particular men for office, and never entered into party schemes. And in our individual and social capacity we have not been tied to party. But we have our political principles, and our favorite measures for promoting the public weal, and sometimes also we have quite a preference among candidates. We always feel a strong outgoing of soul toward a good man. Such an one would we choose for any service. We would say, with the Psalmist: "I will not know a wicked person." "Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land. He that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me."

We make it a point not knowingly to vote for an imbecile, or a man utterly ignorant, or a drunkard, or a gambler, or one otherwise grossly immoral. We strive to carry our religion into our politics, and to let religion rule there as supremely as elsewhere. "Whether ye eat or drink, or whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

The election next Tuesday is not to be for a President, nor, in this State, for a Governor? But still it is important. We want good Congressmen, and a wise, honest, and patriotic Legislature. We want Union-loving, upright, and God-fearing men in every office, that He who rules in righteousness may bless the nation.

HOME AND FOREIGN RECORD.

The interest felt in this monthly ought to be greatly increased. It might be possible to adapt it a little more than it is to the public taste; but it is still true, that if the public taste was what it should be, the *Record* would be hailed, just as it is, with far more pleasure than now greets its arrival. It tells of Zion's labors and progress, of her joys and sorrows. It is the organ of our own Church activities, and should be sought for and welcomed.

DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

This is the dry season. Vegetation languishes. The streams fall; the pastures are scorched; and the trees are checked in their growth. It is unusually dry. And the channels of benevolence are as nearly dried up, as are the channels of our natural brooks. The Lord send refreshing showers.

The Secretary, addressing the churches, says: "While expecting light receipts, from all previous experience, during the Summer, we have been sorely disappointed in the great falling off of this season. While a merciful Providence enabled us to report to the General Assembly freedom from our oppressive debt of last year, we well know that, with no balance of receipts, unless the churches came up to our help, we could not meet our obligations; and so entering the new fiscal year with such caution as possible, resisting, with pain, the requests for new appointments, we yet find ourselves, at this writing, \$7,000 in debt to the missionaries. Our hope of ability to discharge this debt in the increasing and continued liberality of our contribution. We cannot make the full tale of bricks without the straw. We cannot meet our present, limited obligations—limited in comparison of other years—unless the usual measure of contribution rule. And yet, so far, we are pained to mark a falling off in the amounts heretofore acknowledged. This disturbs us. We ask if it is to be the rule? If so, what defence has the Board against accumulated debt? Compelled to reduce the appropriations 25 per cent. to overtake a debt which threatened to crush us, we have not dared to leave that figure. But must we, to save the credit of the Board, reduce still more?"

This state of things must not continue. Our feeble churches must have the Gospel. Our sparse settlements must be nurtured. The country needs the Word of God. The missionary is as useful as the soldier. The country provides the one, the churches must furnish the other. Heavy taxes diminish our means; but frugality will increase them. We can retrench our expenditures greatly. Let us do so, till the war is over. Our country is worth the sacrifice, and the cause of missions is yet more worthy. What say pastors? They are the men to bear the blame, if the work shall languish. The people will both save and give, if duly instructed and kindly imprompted.

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should give it up, and then we should ask no favors and no justice from that source; but this Union belongs to thirty millions of people—not to the President. They will control its destiny, not any president. Nor will his conduct alter our determination to fight forever for the Union of these States. Dissolve the Union, and then—? What? Do you escape emancipation? Would not war come? And would it not then be a crusade against slavery? The rebellion has brought all this upon us. It can bear no other fruit. The more power it gets the more calamities it will inflict. Let the rebels now lay down their arms, and obey the laws of the Federal Government, and this proclamation of the President is a nullity. They can relieve the country of any dangers or injustice from such a source. They will not do that; not an iota of their pride and ambition will they sacrifice. We can only say to them what we have always said: Obey the laws, and drop this rebellion, or we shall compel you; and when that is done, we shall settle the account with the President for this proclamation."

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A CAUSE OF THE WAR.

The war is a rebellion. It is the outbreaking of self-will. It springs from a spirit which rejects authority. It may be charged on slavery, on the tariff, on sectional animosity, on the interests of trade. But the real cause lies deeper than all these. It is to be found in a violation of the Fifth Commandment. In the character of family training lies the root of the evil. Rebellion springs from a want of reverence for legitimate authority. A generation trained from infancy to manhood, to duly honor their father and mother, could never have become rebels against a government so clearly ordained of God, and so beneficent in all its influences. Parents do not exercise their proper authority. They do not exact the reverence, the love, the obedience, the honor which, by God's law, is their due. Youth thus educated do not reverence any authority as they should. They make their own will and desires their law, and are ready for just such scenes as secession is enacting.

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THE PRESENT FRESHMAN CLASS OF YALE COLLEGE.

The other classes are comparatively small. Yale, with other Colleges, has suffered numerically in consequence of enlistments in the army.

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PHILADELPHIA.

WE HAVE OBSERVED, in one or more of the secular journals, strongly denunciatory notices of the ministrations of religion to the wounded of the army. It is not unlikely that instances occur of injudicious zeal on the part of those who would attend to the soul as well as the body, but these, we are persuaded, are by no means numerous. We quote with pleasure from the *North American*, the following testimony in favor of the religious ministrations of the hospitals:

A great deal of good is being done at the military hospitals by simple, unpretentious Christians. How great, the day of judgment will show. Never before was such a field of usefulness opened. Never before was a harvest so whitened for the sickle. We are glad to say, also, that in this field the laborers are not few, nor inefficient, though there is room for all that come.

Visit the hospitals on the Sabbath day, or any time, and one idea impresses the mind, that scores of men have found, are finding, and will find salvation, who, under other circumstances might have forever lost it. There is no denying this. We have heard it from the lips of the convalescing soldier, his honest eye fixed upon us as he made the statement, with a sincerity about which there could be no mistake.

The messengers of grace to the soldier—let it be said to the credit of the pious men and women who visit the hospital. The clergy are ready to do their duty; but the harvest of sheaves garnered among the invalid soldiers are the sheaves of the messengers of mercy, who, in a capacity wholly private, bind up the wounds of the sufferers, and point them to the Scriptures for that strength with which only the Christian is endowed. Divine services at the hospitals on Sunday are now interesting beyond description. The gloom of the most desponding Christian will here be turned into gladness, when he sees the abundant fruit that has followed the silent workings of good people. The attention paid to the exercises by the soldiers is undivided. They listen as men listen who have found that all their past lives have been a mistake. Not that there are not many among the soldiers who profess religion, but they are in proportion so few to those whose knowledge of it extends no further than its name.

There are many persons who conscientiously seek for opportunity to fulfill the injunction, "For as much as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Such persons, wounded soldiers, will be surprised at the welcome that awaits them, and at the fertility of the soil that invites their cultivation. Going out into the highways and byways, bringing in the lame, the halt and the blind; is a sacred duty, but in the hospitals is the plenteous harvest of the Christian laborer.

INSTRUCTIONS have been received by the Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, forbidding the shipment of goods or supplies intended for disloyal persons. All parties concerned in such shipments must take the prescribed oath of allegiance to the Government, before their goods will be permitted to leave the port. This measure is wise and just. The time is past for showing favor to those who would destroy the Government. Stringent laws are demanded; and their rigorous enforcement is indispensable.

THE PRESIDENT ON A REVIEW. HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, FRIDAY, OCT. 5, 1862. The President, in company with Gen. McClellan, reviewed to-day the general corps of the army of the Potomac, beginning with that of Gen. Burnside, near the mouth of the Antietam, and concluding with that of Gen. Franklin, at Bakersville, and those of Generals Porter and Reynolds.

At the review of each corps the people collected in large numbers, and manifested the greatest enthusiasm in meeting the President and "Little Mac."

The prevailing