

REV. DAVID MCKINNEY, Editor and Proprietor.

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Presbyterian Banner.

VOL. XI. NO. 6.

PITTSBURGH, SATURDAY, OCT. 25, 1862.

WHOLE NO. 526.

THE PRESBYTERIAN BANNER.

Publication Office:
GAZETTE BUILDINGS, 24 FIFTH ST., PITTSBURGH, PA.
PUBLISHED WEEKLY, EVERY SATURDAY, EXCEPT
ON SUNDAYS, HOLY DAYS, AND THE 1ST AND 31ST OF
MAY AND JUNE.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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A RETURN FOR THE COPY OF THIS BANNER, TO BE
SENT TO THE PUBLISHERS, MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE
20TH INSTANT OF EACH MONTH, IN ORDER TO BE
PRINTED IN THE NEXT NUMBER.

A RETURN MADE TO ADVERTISERS BY THE YEAR,
SHOULD BE MADE BY THE 15TH INSTANT OF EACH
MONTH.

REV. DAVID MCKINNEY,
Proprietor and Publisher.

Reply of the Presbytery of Allegheny City to the published Remonstrance against accepting the Resignation of the Rev. William S. Plumer, D. D., as Pastor of the Central Church of Allegheny City.

The publication of the Remonstrance presented to the Presbytery of Allegheny City, on the 19th of September last, by the Central Church of Allegheny City against the acceptance of the resignation of its pastor, Rev. Wm. S. Plumer, D. D., is the occasion for the issuing of this reply in this public and formal manner. The proper method for that church to have pursued, according to Presbyterian law and usage, if dissatisfied with the course of this Presbytery, would have been to have appealed to the higher judicatories of the Church. And if the Remonstrance had only been circulated in this vicinity, where most of the facts in this case are so well known, no mention of it would have been necessary in this Presbytery. But since this document most probably will find its way to distant parts of the Church and the country, where the people may not be familiar with the history of the case, a proper regard for our own reputation, and the interests of truth and righteousness, seems to demand this answer.

had already made arrangements to leave for the East that evening. This request was also granted. And now the Presbytery supposed the trouble in the Central Presbyterian church at an end. Much time and attention had been employed for the restoration of peace and the removal of the offence. It was our earnest hope that hereafter there would be no cause for Presbyterial interference, except in the way of encouragement, and to advance directly the Redeemer's kingdom. But the publication of the Remonstrance presented to Presbytery, and which rightly belonged only to Presbytery, allows the character of Presbytery.

In the Remonstrance, as published, complaint is made that Presbytery declined to place this Remonstrance on its permanent Records. The reasons for this action were these; and we feel assured they will meet the approbation of all unprejudiced and right-thinking minds: The Remonstrance was very lengthy, and had inserted in it a great deal of matter which occupied much time. But the Paper itself contained hints, threw out suspicions, and made charges calculated to do injustice, and injury to the reputation of this Presbytery. Hence if the Paper had been entered, a reply showing the incorrectness of statements therein contained, and the inconclusiveness of reasoning there given, must also have been inserted. So that Presbytery was willing to submit to the hearty approval of that Paper and the place it on file with other papers of Presbytery, rather than do any thing which could by possibility injure Christian brethren who had placed their signatures to that Paper without a full knowledge of all the facts, in all their bearings. Surely we cannot be blamed for this generosity and forbearance.

It is declared that the course of Presbytery has been adapted to injure the good name of the Central church. We cannot understand how this can be. Dissolution was never charged by Presbytery, or in Presbytery, against that church; it was not even intimated. On the contrary, the loyalty of that people was freely admitted and highly commended. It is no discredit to a regiment to have a colonel who is so loyal to his country as to have made himself on this account acceptable to a large part of his command, though the other part may be strongly attached to him on personal grounds.

It is said that notwithstanding the serious loss occasioned by the departure of the minority, the church was still numerically strong and cordially united. Without controverting the assertion as to this point, it is necessary to consider them in the order in which they appear in this public manner, however reluctant we may be to do so, and however gladly we would pass it over, if the demands of truth and righteousness would permit.

This Presbytery is charged with treating the majority of the members of the Central Presbyterian church in a prejudiced and harsh manner. We do not hesitate to say that this charge has not the least foundation. The Presbytery could have no motive for doing so. The prosperity and well-being of the church in this congregation could only injure the prosperity and growth of the Presbytery. But on the contrary, every facility was afforded that church, or the majority of that church, for presenting its case with the utmost fullness and clearness. Time was given; conference was held; and the majority of the church were heard in a single specification; and in support of the general assertion; and we venture to say that not one unwell-founded specification of the kind alluded to can be brought forward.

It is asserted that documents suited to present the Central church and its pastor in a true light, have not been entered upon the Records of the Presbytery or given to the public. To this we reply that no paper whatever, for which we are liable to the Records, was refused, except this long Remonstrance, which was declined for the good and substantial reasons already given. Nor has this Presbytery published anything concerning this church, or its late pastor, with the intention of placing either in a false position. These are facts to which we fearlessly appeal.

It is declared that contracts involving considerable sums of money, and permanent relations, are not regarded by the Presbytery as unkind, and uncharitable, but that the Presbytery could have had no other object than the highest good and the greatest usefulness of the entire Central church, including both the majority and the minority. And when it became apparent to Presbytery that the pecuniary arrangement assented to in July was not working well for either party, or for the entire Presbyterian Church, because of the failure of Dr. Plumer to meet, it was certainly competent for the Presbytery to retrace its steps. The resolution recommending the minority to return to the church, and to restore the money received from the majority, was merely advisory, and to take effect only upon the agreement of both parties. In this way, injury would be done neither party, and the church would be again united.

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