

Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1863.

A Meeting of the U. S. Christian Commission was held on Monday evening, in the Second Presbyterian church of this city. The attendance was large. Much enthusiasm was manifested. Interesting addresses were delivered by Rev. Dr. HOWARD, Rev. A. G. MAULEY, Mr. GEORGE H. STUART, and others.

The Board of Directors of the Western Theological Seminary will meet in the Seminary Hall on Wednesday, April 22d, at 2 o'clock P. M. Full attendance is especially requested.

The Examination of the students will commence on Monday, April 20th, at 10 o'clock A. M.

The Examining Committee are the Rev. J. D. SMITH, D.D., A. O. PATTERSON, D.D., and C. DICKSON, D.D., and Elders JAMES CAROTHERS, M. D., and ALEX. CAMERON, W. B. McILVAINE, Sec'y.

Death of Rev. Dr. Baird.—The announcement of the death of this distinguished Christian minister and philanthropist, will be received with heart-felt sorrow by thousands in distant lands as well as our own. He died at his residence at Yonkers, on the Hudson river, on the 15th inst., in the sixty-sixth year of his age. Owing to the intimacy of the relations which have existed for forty years between the deceased and the Senior Editor, we leave to the latter, on his return from a distant journey, the pleasing duty of furnishing to the readers of the Banner, an appropriate biographical sketch.

ARE MORE MINISTERS NEEDED? This question has been mooted in several Churches. Certainly there is work for yet more. The main objection to an increase is, that they cannot be supported; neither in the foreign field nor the domestic. The law of demand and supply may be supposed to rule here as in other matters; but here, as in other matters, the demand may be increased; and a proper view of the subject may lead to efforts in that direction.

The New-York Evangelist, in discussing the question, in relation to the New School Presbyterian Church, says:

"We have about 1400 churches and 1560 ministers. At first sight this statement would seem to contradict our position; but bare figures are often very deceptive. Of this 1560, about 300 are marked as being without charge. These are the aged; the impaired in health; the secularized, who have lost the disposition to preach; those who on actual trial have proved that they and the Presbyteries were mistaken in supposing that they possessed the Scriptural qualification of being able to teach; and a small number, who, though they were engaged again. Deducting these 1260 are left. Of this remainder, 55 are Foreign Missionaries, 22 are City Missionaries and Colporteurs, 41 are Chaplains, mostly in the army, 25 are Pastors of Congregational Churches, 45 are Secretaries and Agents, 82 are engaged in the business of Education, 10 are Editors; and the employments of some others are not designated—making in all about 850. This part of our ministry is doing good service generally, and should not be removed to the field at large, and it is to be presumed that these have found that part where they are most useful. Deducting these 850 remain for the service of 1400 churches in the pastoral work, or one minister to one church and a half. The number of non-undergoes an annual age, failing health, and other causes; and the annual additions from our Theological Seminaries but little more than supply this waste."

It is probable that an examination into the statistics of the Old School Presbyterian Church would show pretty nearly similar proportions; and wherein we differ from our sister Church, it would show that we still more than she, need an increase of ministers. Let there be the right kind of workmen, and they will find fields in which to labor. PETER, and JAMES, and JOHN, and PAUL, did not wait for calls from organized churches; they went out and founded churches.

More ministers are needed; men well educated, vigorous, prudent, evangelical, and possessed of such a propensity to work, that they cannot but serve Christ in the Gospel.

For the Presbyterian Banner. DECADE OF REV. JAMES K. MARQUIS.

Messrs. EDITORS:—We are again called upon to mourn the loss of another beloved and faithful ministerial brother. Rev. Jas. K. Marquis, pastor of the churches of Elmwood, Salem and Brunswick, Peoria Presbytery, after an illness of three weeks with typhoid fever, was called to his rest on the 22d of February, in the 47th year of his age, and 19th of his ministry. His end was joyous and peaceful, and at his intervals even rising to ecstasy. He leaves a wife, six little children, a large circle of relatives, and three feeble, vacant churches in Ohio and Illinois. As a pastor, a missionary, a husband and father, he was every faithful in all his trusts. He is called away in the prime of life and usefulness, as a warning to us to be as ready.

Yours, truly, R. C. REVIVAL.

Messrs. EDITORS:—It will no doubt be gratifying to many who have some knowledge of the "Revival of the Revival," and the trials through which it has been called to pass of late years, that God has recently visited his Spirit with a gracious outpouring of his Holy Spirit. The work commenced last Autumn, in a quiet way, but was made more manifest during a series of meetings through the Winter. As a result, at a recent communion, some twenty-three were added to the church on examination. The Rev. J. W. Johnston has been laboring as a stated supply here for two years past, under whose ministrations the church has greatly prospered. JOSEPH HANNA.

REVISED BOOK OF DISCIPLINE. PROFESSIONAL COUNSEL.

In our issue of last week, we spoke of the Status of Baptized Persons, their rights and duties, and the duty of the Church toward them, as presented in the Revised Book of Discipline. We now allude to another subject—The Employment of Professional Counsel. Both reports propose a change in the rule.

The present Book says: "No professional counsel shall be permitted to appear and plead in cases of process in any of our ecclesiastical courts. But if any accused person feel unable to represent and plead his own cause to advantage, he may request any minister or elder belonging to the judicatory before which he appears, to prepare and exhibit his cause as he may judge proper."—Chap. IV., 21.

The proposed substitute reads thus: "No professional counsel shall be permitted to appear and plead in cases of process in any of our ecclesiastical courts; but an accused person may, if he desires it, be represented by any communicating member of the church, subject to the jurisdiction of the court before which he appears."—Chap. IV., 11.

This modification is important. We would not very seriously oppose it; and yet we would rather it had not been introduced. It proposes to exclude professional counsel, and yet it admits such counsel, providing the lawyer be a communicating member of the individual church, if the trial is before the Session; or of any church within the Presbytery, if the trial is in that court; or within the Synod, when the trial is there; or within the General Assembly, when the case is carried thither; for such superior court has "jurisdiction" over the court, or courts below it, and hence, through those courts, over the members of the churches. This makes every communicating lawyer in the Presbyterian Church a qualified advocate on the floor of the General Assembly.

Here is certainly a liberal latitude granted to the "accused." The accused is not named; but a regard to the custom of the Church and to the maintenance of righteousness, and to impartial justice, (for if the accused fails to make out his case, he is liable to censure,) would give him the same privilege. Thus we might see in our Assembly, a contest conducted by the most acute, tortuous, loquacious, and long-winded "professional counsel" in the Church.

It is true that, by a very strict construction of the qualifying words, "subject to the jurisdiction of the court before which he appears," they might be made to mean only the Session; because the Session, alone, has original jurisdiction over a private member, or even an elder. But if the committee mean this strictness, why use the general term, "court"? Why not say, Session? The natural interpretation is, that before a church Session, any communicating member of the Presbytery, any such member of any church within the Presbytery; and so of a Synod; and so of the Assembly; and as the Assembly embraces all the churches, any lawyer in our communion is a qualified counselor, if so invited by a person accused; and as before noted.

If the ends of justice would be subserved by throwing open the doors thus wide, we would be disposed to submit to the attending inconveniences. But we could not hope for this. It is not questions of property, nor of fines and imprisonments, which we discuss; nor have we piles of law-books to investigate. It is religion and morals which come before our Church courts; and our Bible and Confession of Faith, are the only Standards we admit. Hence the men we want in our judicatories, are the good, honest ministers and elders, each a member of the court, and all faithful students of God's Word.

Where scores of volumes are to be searched, for statutes, precedents, and decisions, running back for generations, it is well to have, not a lawyer, but lawyers; and then a Judge, equally well-read, is needed to give a discriminating charge. But such things belong not to Ecclesiastical Councils. Their law is the Book of God, his doctrines and moral principles; with which the members are all familiar from their childhood. What we need is deep piety, a love for truth and righteousness, and good common sense. They shall be able to judge between our brethren, with correct judgment, to approve wickedness; and to discover and thrust out heresy.

The Book as it is, on this point, is greatly preferable to the Book with the suggested amendment.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

LECOMPTON, Kansas, March 10, 1863. This distinction it enjoyed for but a short time, the capital honor having been transferred to Topeka, distant twenty miles. Lecompton is, already, a faded city. The glory has departed. The visitor is shown symptoms of what it was, and what it aimed to be. There is the Rowena Hotel, a massive stone structure, but a hotel no longer. The Old State House is there. It is a large frame building; but no Senators assemble. The New State House is a foundation and half of one story, of heavy stone, where \$100,000 of public funds were expended, and the incipient temple then left to be fanned by the winds and wasted by the rains. The residences of Governors are there—of REEDER, and GEARY, and WALKER, and STANTON, and SHANNON; but no Governor comes from the portals. The streets—once vivacious with a busy throng, are now quiet as those of a busy country town. The far-famed and pug-nacious slavery propagators have almost departed, but three being left as the residuum of the multitude.

Lecompton is fallen. She was once notorious. Her name resounding from North to South, and East to West; but it was a mala fama. It had the stigma of slavery,

and hence became a reproach. Lawrence, twelve miles East, was made the county seat, and Topeka was made the capital; and now even the stage route is altered so that travellers go by without even a passing sight of the late far-famed city. It never had one thousand inhabitants, and now it has not half that number.

But shall Lecompton be forgotten? No; that cannot be. Shall she then be held up to lasting odium? No; we trust not. That should not be. If pro-slavery men settled there, so also did freedom's sons; and the latter hold the soil. There, and close by, were freedom's battles fought, and won. There did REEDER, and GEARY, and WALKER, and STANTON, men sent to pervert the freedom of Territory, and create a State for slavery, nobly assert man's rights, and yield their places rather than favor the consummation of so great an outrage. And the freemen of Lecompton not only hold the soil, but sustain the present General Government, and send their sons now to fight freedom's battles in distant places. Let Lecompton henceforward be had in honor.

Kansas, as a State, deserves, I am inclined to think, all her renown. The land from Leavenworth to Lecompton is excellent; and, I am told, it is a fair specimen of the State. It is mostly prairie, is very rich, and more dry than the prairie lands of Illinois and Missouri. Illinois is very flat, and extensively covered with water, and difficult of drainage. Missouri is generally rolling, but the elevations are very small and the rise and depression of the surface very gradual, seldom, perhaps, being more than two or three degrees. I speak of the large portion of the State where it is crossed by the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad. In Kansas the surface is far more uneven; the rises and depressions ranging, often, from five to ten degrees. But the hills are such that a wagon loaded with grain may be driven almost anywhere, up, down, or horizontally. It is a delightful country for farming.

There is also, in Kansas, a considerable quantity of timber. Streams of water seem to be more numerous, and their margins to be more extensively wooded. Limestone also abounds. It lies some feet below the surface, but is easily reached, where there are ravines, and it crops out in spots near the higher parts, so often, that there is scarcely a quarter section but which affords a quarry adequate to all building purposes, including fences.

There are some good springs in Kansas, but water for household purposes is mostly obtained from wells. These afford excellent water, somewhat impregnated with lime. It is obtained at a depth, usually, of about thirty feet. In digging you have first, a few feet of soil, then a few feet of limestone, and then a soft, white sand. The soil is adapted to corn, wheat, sorghum, hemp, tobacco, cotton. Tobacco and cotton have, as yet, been raised in but small quantities. Clover and timothy do well. The roads are very good for ten to eleven months of the year, and need scarcely any labor. The climate is dry and healthful. The Winters are mild. Peaches, apples, plums, grapes, &c., do well. The principal drawback is, that the Summers are inclined to drought, by which, in some seasons, the crops suffer. This will be overcome, in a great measure, by deep plowing and early planting. Spring opens pretty fairly in March, and wheat harvest is in operation by the 15th of June.

Religious and educational privileges in Kansas, offer no inducements to immigrants; though, for her age, and considering the social turmoil caused by the slavery propagandists, she is not much behind other States. More settlers, increased capital, more Christian enterprise, will make her one of the most excellent of the sister-territoires.

In Lecompton there are two churches, a Presbyterian and a Methodist. The former is under the care of Rev. WILLIAM WILSON, late of Erie County, Pa. Both the churches are small. An Episcopal church was commenced, a few years ago, but the organization failed, and the edifice rose but a little above the foundation.

It is to be regretted that very few of our young Presbyterian ministers have sufficient love, zeal, and enterprise, to cast in their lot with emigrants to our frontiers, and endure hardships in planting and nourishing the Gospel. Many of them were raised to toil in the common pursuits of life. Some of them were well acquainted with husbandry, and could readily direct small farming enterprises; leading a helping hand for exercise sake; and thus, with only a little aid from a book, or from the Missionary Board, could well provide for themselves and their own household. Why do they hesitate? Would PAUL have declined such a call? We want more ministers—many more—men who feel that they must preach, and that the poor must not be neglected, even though their own hands supply their bread, and that they cannot and will not build upon other men's foundations. Have we already some such men, young or middle aged? Kansas is the place, for them. The people say, "Come over and help us." D. MCK.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE FIRST OF JANUARY.

The fulfury of the President's Proclamation has been, and still is, a favorite topic with the opponents of the measure. That it would accomplish everything, that was desired by some, and feared by others, we never supposed. That it has not been more fruitful of beneficial results, is clearly the fault of the North. But that it has been wholly inoperative, and that, therefore, cannot, we think, be successfully maintained. The following on this subject from the Christian Intelligencer, is worthy of consideration: "It is claimed by the friends of this

measure, and so far as we can see, with entire justice, that whatever ulterior effects it may produce, it has already accomplished two things of very great importance. One of these is the fatal gloom it has put upon the description in the rebel States. While there have been no organized insurrections, yet there has been an incessant in the slave population which has compelled the Southern oligarchy to forbear their white of enrolling every able-bodied youth. Their armies, accordingly, remain almost stationary. They cannot increase them largely, and it is as much as they can do to man the good the loss by sickness, desertion, and casualties. The 'but' has certainly frightened the 'comet.' Whether the slaves are peaceable or not, the masters have become afraid of a rising, and this has in some degree paralyzed the military arm.

The other influence is the one wrought in England. It is very clear that the new real, Christian, conscientious, anti-slavery feeling of Britain is aroused on our side—that feeling which years ago, in the face of the most formidable obstacles, abolished the slave trade, and afterwards colonial slavery; and which in the end is sure to dominate the policy of Great Britain, and against which the throne, the nobility, and even commercial interests, if all combined, can do nothing. It is the proclamation which has called forth this loud, clear, distinct, and determined voice of approval along the great Christian constituency of the Empire. And in the face of this, it is idle to talk of the recognition of the Confederacy. The last chance of English intervention has gone. And the same may be said of the French. For even the audacious Louis would hardly intervene alone; and if he did, we should have European allies. 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