Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1863.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America will hold its next meeting in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Peoria, Illinois, at eleven o'clock A. M. on Thursday, the 21st of May, and will be opened with a sermon by the Rev. Charles C. Beatty, D.D., Moderator of the last Assembly.

☞ The Committee of Commissions will meet in the Lecture-room of the church on the Wednesday evening preceding, at eight o'clock, to receive commissions, and on Thursday morning, the day of the meeting, at nine o'clock, for the same purpose.

ALEXANDER T. MCGILL, *Stated Clerk.*
WILLIAM E. SCHENCK, *Permanent Clerk.*

The Art of Preaching.—For some excellent thoughts on this noblest of all arts, see the letter of our European correspondent.

A Name Wanted.—We have a letter from Illinois, enclosing two dollars for the *Banner*. It has neither name nor Post Office address, and the Postmaster's stamp is illegible.

Prof. Green on the Pentateuch.—We give, on our first page, a notice of this excellent work. It is from the pen of an esteemed correspondent. Ordinarily our book notices are from our own pen.

A Gentleman preparing for the ministry, and who has a family to support, desires employment in or near Pittsburgh or Allegheny City. He has had experience in teaching, writing, and other labor. Address "R. T.," box 486, Allegheny Post Office.

The Next General Assembly.—Stated Clerks of Presbyteries, and of other bodies sending delegates to the Assembly, are requested to send in the names of delegates immediately on their appointment, with the Post Office address of each one. By so doing you will assist and oblige us. Address J. BOYD HEADLEY,
GEO. H. MCILVAINE,
for Committee of Arrangements.
Peoria, April 4th, 1863.

The Fast and the Presbyteries.—Several of the Presbyteries have their meetings appointed for the week in which the Fast day will occur. A venerable brother suggests that the day should not, on this account, be changed. In some cases, though the pastor may necessarily be absent, another minister may be obtained, to conduct the worship, and when a minister cannot be had, the elders may lead the exercises of the sanctuary. Let the day, and the same day, be observed throughout the land, by all the people.

The Christian Commission.—The Pittsburgh Branch of the U. S. Christian Commission held a meeting of much interest on the evening of the 16th inst., in the Penn Street Methodist church. Addresses were delivered by Rev. GEORGE A. MINQUIS, a Delegate from the Parent Society; by Rev. S. J. WILSON, D.D., of the Western Theological Seminary; by Rev. W. A. PASSAVANT, D.D., of the Lutheran Church; and by the President, Rev. H. JOHNSON.

The interest taken by our citizens in the welfare of the soldiers, both as to their temporal and spiritual welfare, indicates the happy influence of the Gospel in Pittsburgh.

A New Church.—On Tuesday evening, the 14th inst., a new church was organized in Allegheny City, embracing forty communicating members and three ruling elders. The people had belonged, mostly, to the Central church. For some months the enterprise had been contemplated, and worship had been conducted in the Seminary Hall. A very fine lot for the site of an edifice has been obtained by the generosity of that valuable citizen, Gen. WM. ROBINSON. The name of the organization is The North Church. The prospect is fair for a large congregation, and great usefulness

A CHURCH FOR ONE DAY.

That regiment of veterans, the 10th Pennsylvania Reserves, supposing themselves to be stationed, for a time, near Washington, had got diligently to work to prepare a place for worship. The chaplain, in a private letter, thus speaks of the result:

* * * "Our church was finished on yesterday, and occupied to-day and this evening. The men worked at it yesterday and put it in nice order. It will seat about ninety, and was well filled in three minutes after the church call was beat. A more attentive audience cannot be found anywhere. I preached very plainly. They appeared delighted to have such a nice place to meet in; and I assure you I felt the emotions and uttered the words of gratitude to God last night and this morning, for this favor. I took a walk in the woods this pleasant morning and had happy thoughts of the future in our log-cabin church, having had so much to encourage me in my personal intercourse with the men lately. Probably you can conceive of my feelings when, on my return to my tent, one of our active men called to return a book to the library, and said, 'We have orders to be ready to move to-morrow morning!' I was terribly cut down by this news; but it is so. And it is but a sample of soldier life. God's ways are not our ways in the army any more than elsewhere. We have been waiting and working to get this house, and now before we had once worshipped his holy name in it, we are ordered to leave it. But he has permitted us to have one good day's use of it, and as I said to the men, if when we meet together again, as we shall at the judgment-seat of Christ, it shall be found that this day's service has brought one poor, lost sinner to Christ, or induced one to seek salvation, it will be seen not to have been labor and money spent in vain. One of the men said this evening: 'I don't regret a thing we have done. I am glad it was finished and used even for one day.' * * * Quite a number of the men are seriously seeking salvation."

HUMILIATION, FASTING, PRAYER.

The President of the United States has set apart the last Thursday of April (30th inst.) as a day of Humiliation, Fasting, and Prayer. The Proclamation was issued at the request of the Senate, which is the representative of the States in their organized capacity. It may hence be considered as a distinct National recognition of the being and providence of God, of his justice and placability. The sentiments of the Proclamation are excellent, and we trust it will be read in all the churches, on the day appointed. In its language it comes not quite up to the Christian standard. It clearly recognizes the Divine origin of the "Holy Scriptures;" but it mentions not the name of Jesus Christ, nor does it direct the mind to his mediation. The people are to approach God, each congregation in accordance with their own faith. Christians will pray, having faith in Him who is "the way, the truth, and the life." The Proclamation was published in the *Banner* of April 8th.

Christian ministers will have a very important duty to perform, in directing the sentiments and leading the devotions of the assembled people, on the day appointed; Christian editors have their service to render, in preparing the public for the occasion. *We* attempted a commencement of this service when we published the call, and would now further prosecute our task.

In speaking of public humiliation, a difficulty meets us at the very outset. How shall we attain to the thing enjoined? It is not a "voluntary humility," that is, a mere volition, a form, a ritual, a ceremony. There must be a sense of sin, a deep contrition, a confession, a justifying of God, a deprecation of the Divine anger. How shall a people reach this depth of emotion, this sense of ill-desert, this intense desire for mercy? Not by the demand of a ruler, nor yet alone by the contemplation of distress and danger. The preparation of heart to approach God, is one of God's gifts; a gift of grace. How helpless poor sinners are! They need grace to ask for grace. May God bestow the needed grace upon his needy people!

It is a deep shame, an indelible disgrace to this nation, that we have a *civil* war, that is, a war among ourselves. Enemies from without might attack us in their own wickedness, either from a desire to plunder, or because they hated our virtues. But in a civil war, the wickedness is within—the hatred, the provocation, the spirit of revenge, the desire for plunder, the mutual slaughter. We boast that we have the best government on earth; but how can it be the best, both theoretically and practically, when under it, such a war has sprung up? Is the family well governed, where there are bickerings, and reproaches, and provocations, till one-third thereof rises in rebellion; and the remaining two-thirds denounce, reproach, and vilify each other as reptiles, and demons, and a loathing; and so cherish dissentions as that the head is able neither to command peace, nor stay the destroyer's hand? And what is to become of that family?

Now, we have thought, and still think, that our government is, theoretically, the best on earth. Under it, God long blessed this nation beyond all other nations. Why then has he given us up to one of the deepest of calamities? Why does blood shed by the hand of brothers, flow in rivers, year after year. Why this wasting of property? Why this accumulation of debt? Why the home divisions, the reproaches and revilings of each other, and the ill success of our arms? Has God given us over to an invincible folly, leading to destruction? We hope yet to discover that he has not forsaken the land. We trust still in his mercy. Let us look at our sins, in all their numbers and aggravation, and confess with true sorrow; and let us contemplate the justness of God's displeasure, and the imminence of the danger, and the fearfulness of his wrath, that we may pray with true desire.

Of the duty of fasting we have several times spoken. Fasting should be real, that we may feel our feebleness and dependence, but not carried to such an extreme as to disqualify us for duties which God requires.

May the Lord give to his ministers words of reproof and instruction, and bring us all to a true and deep humiliation, that in earnestness of soul ministers and people may confess sin, and plead for pardon, and obtain the blessing of national peace, to the Divine glory through Christ Jesus.

THE WILBERFORCES.

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, of England, the philanthropist, was an Evangelical Christian, and one of the most eminently good men of his day. But, in one thing he failed greatly—that is, in the religious education of his sons. Alas, how often do pious parents come short of securing the covenant blessing to their offspring! God is faithful, but they are faithless. They omit the seal; or, they affix the seal but neglect to keep their vow. The medium of blessing they omit, and hence do not reap the promised benefits; the due use of the means being a part of the contract. If a child is really *trained in the way in which he should go*, there is no reason to doubt but that he will abide therein. God is good.

A correspondent to the New-York *Methodist*, writing from Paris, says:

"By the way, I told you a few weeks ago, that the *Times*, in its notice of the Exeter Hall demonstration, asked, 'Where are the WILBERFORCES?' The ingenious and ingenuous journalist meant thereby to insinuate that the WILBERFORCES are really representatives of their honored father's opinions, and that if the American Government were really engaged in putting down slavery, they would be among the foremost to praise and support it. But alas! for the honored name. The WILBERFORCES of the present day are no more like the man who has made that name immortal, in anti-slavery sentiment, than in religious opinions. WILLIAM WILBERFORCE was an Evangelical Christian—a Methodist, in fact, in the language of his day, which called every earnest and practical Christian a Methodist. Of his four sons, SAMUEL, Bishop of Oxford, (commonly known as Slippery Sam,) is the only one that remains in the Church of England; and he, as you are well aware, has gone just as close to Rome as he could without sacrificing his high position. Another son, formerly Archdeacon in the Church of England, joined the Papists, and died at Rome five years ago, while preparing for orders. Another gave up a benefice in the Church of England, but being a man of family, he could not become a Romish priest, and is now editor of the *Weekly Register*, a Romanist journal. The eldest son has just now followed his brothers in apostasy from Protestantism; his perversion was yesterday announced in the *Monde*, a Romanist journal of Paris. The question of the *Times*, 'Where are the WILBERFORCES?' is answered."

The answer is a sorry one. It reveals an awful defection. We put it on record as a warning to parents.

THE BATTLE AT THE ENTRANCE OF CHARLESTON HARBOR.

This contest, of April 7th, is variously criticised. One newspaper correspondent speaks of the failure as due entirely to the timidity or fearfulness of Admiral DUPONT. He writes to the Baltimore *American*, and is extensively copied. He says:

"On the morning of the 8th, after the fight, the seven Monitors were all examined, and found in as good condition for service as they were upon going into action on the 7th. Half-past one o'clock was the hour fixed upon for a renewal of the bombardment, and the officers of the different vessels were all in readiness and most of them anxious for a renewal of the conflict. The order for the movement was momentarily waited for, but the order never came. At 3 o'clock it was ascertained throughout the fleet that the Admiral had decided that 'Charleston is impregnable, that Sumpter cannot be taken with the vessels and appliances placed at his disposal by the Government.'

"The reason why Charleston has not been destroyed by the iron-clad fleet, even if Sumpter had not been taken, is the dreadful fear that overshadowed the fleet authorities, of rebel torpedoes."

Two days after the battle, he writes:

"Last evening I visited the iron-clads on the steam-tug *Dandelion*, and a more broken-hearted set of men I never had the misfortune to encounter. Each man appeared to regard himself as personally disgraced by the act of his superiors, and aboard the *Ironsides* the state of feeling among the younger officers and crew was that of supreme disgust."

A correspondent of the Boston *Journal* takes a view of the case very similar to the above.

The correspondent of the *N. Y. Times*, on the contrary, so describes the battle, that the editor says of it:

"It added to the glory of our navy, and involved no serious loss either of life or material. In the annals of naval warfare, no instance can be found of a serious attack upon a place a hundredth part so formidable. Considering the tremendous calibre and scientific construction of the guns, and the fact that three hundred of them simultaneously belched their concentric fire upon the little fleet at the distance of only a few hundred yards, and considering, too, the infernal agents of destruction that lay beneath the water, as well as the curbs and the snares and the traps, all former attempts of the kind now seem but mere child's play. Such a Titanic job was never before undertaken on the planet. It is almost a miracle that it was carried so far with so little harm. And we have greater reason to rejoice over the escape than to grieve over the failure."

This is, doubtless, somewhat extravagant; but still it is most manifest that the task entrusted to Admiral DUPONT was utterly beyond the power of the force with which he was furnished. He had, all told, but thirty-two guns, while the enemy had over three hundred which could bear upon him. Then, the enemy's protection in forts and casemated batteries was so complete that all our firing, for two hours, killed but one of his men and wounded a few others. Also the channel by which our vessels advanced was so narrow and tortuous that they could not be manœuvered, and some of them could not be got into position; and their way was blocked up by piles, cribs, chain cables, and rafts, so that they were checked right under the guns of the principal forts. The Admiral did well in bringing off his vessels, losing only one of them.

It is stated that the rebels fired over three thousand five hundred rounds of ponderous shot at our iron-clads, and that ours threw one hundred and fifty balls at the rebel works. Much damage is said to have been done to Fort Sumpter, but there was no approximation toward its destruction; and then it was only one of a number. And if our vessels had got within the harbor, they would then have met with still greater obstacles than what were found at its entrance.

The *Ironsides* suffered the loss of one of her port-doors, and had a few shots in her forward part where she was not plated.

The *Keokuk* was a less substantial vessel than the others. She drew less water and ran closer to the enemy. She was struck ninety times, and was completely riddled, the shot from rifled guns piercing her turrets, and also her hull both above and below the water surface. She retired from the fight, and sunk the next morning.

The *Nahant* received thirty wounds, some of them bad fractures of the deck and sides, below and above the water line. The pilot house was struck, and a bolt started which wounded the Captain and two men, one of them fatally.

The *Passaic* received about the same number of wounds. One was made by a large ten-inch rifled projectile, which struck the top of the turret, scooping out a huge portion of the iron, breaking all of the eleven plates of an inch thickness, and spending its force on the pilot house (which is placed on top of the turret,) in which it made a crater three inches deep, and producing such a shock on the pilot house as to start its top and raise it up three inches. Another shot hit the turret, forcing the plate inwards, and producing a big swell on the interior. The same shock disabled the carriage of the eleven-inch gun, while portions of the interior iron casing fell down, and lodging in the groove of the turret, stopped its revolution.

The *Nantucket*, besides receiving a number of wounds, had her turret so jarred that the cover of the port could not be opened, and consequently the fifteen-inch gun could not be used.

The English have, latterly, been experimenting largely with projectiles, and have boasted that they could penetrate any iron casing which a vessel could carry. Some of their best improvements had reached Charleston, and this battle shows that their boast was not vain. Five of our nine iron-clads were badly damaged; one being sunk, one rendered useless by the injury to the turret, one endangered by the injury to the pilot house, one exposed by the loss of a port-shutter, and one crippled by damage to its eleven-inch gun. We have not yet attained to invulnerability in building vessels of war. It is true that against the old style of cannon, our Monitors would be a perfect defence; but science has done as much for attack as for defence, and hence the repulse of our noble little fleet.

We had heard much of the formidable army which was to unite in the attack upon Charleston; but we now learn that Gen. HUNTER had moved but seven thousand men, a force utterly inadequate for any attempt against the fifty thousand which protected that city. Secretary STANTON and Gen. HALLECK must do better, if they wish to maintain our country's cause and honor. Why was there not a *combined* attack?

The Sabbath in Pittsburgh.—Efforts are now made, by the proper officers, to enforce the State laws against the selling of liquor on the Sabbath. Their success is cheering, and it indicates that if the people will choose upright and energetic men for their municipal magistracy, we may have a quiet and orderly city. The *Chronicle*, of the 20th inst., says: "Yesterday was one of the quietest Sabbaths ever passed in Pittsburgh. There was not a single drinking house opened in the city, and there was consequently none of that drunkenness or disorder, which in times past have so often disgraced the Lord's day. This is a most satisfactory state of affairs, and we trust it may continue. There is no excuse whatever for liquor-selling on Sunday, and we hope never again to see it tolerated in Pittsburgh."

This is well for the present; but still there may be a motive not quite as high as a love of sobriety and reverence for law. Now is the time for the renewal of tavern and grog-shop licenses. Respectable names are wanting as signers to petitions. The Courts are to be prevailed upon. It is not the first time that quiet Sabbaths have been enjoyed in April. Perhaps we have given our municipal officers more credit than they deserve. Well, the fact stands demonstrated, that it is possible for the liquor dealers to close their doors on the Lord's day; and hence the law should be enforced.

EASTERN SUMMARY.

NEW-ENGLAND.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Congregationalist*, after giving a detailed historical account of Presbyterianism in New-Hampshire, makes the following, among other summary remarks, in conclusion:

"The above sketch presents a list of *twenty-eight* Presbyterian churches that have been organized in New-Hampshire, only seven of which are now in being. Of these, *five* are among the strongest and best Calvinistic churches of the State. The other two are small and feeble. The whole number of Presbyterian ministers that have been and still are pastors of the above-named churches is sixty-seven. As a general fact the decline and extinction of so many Presbyterian churches in this State is no evidence of the decline of religion and morals in the towns where they existed. In most instances Presbyterianism was absorbed by Congregationalism, which has maintained and propagated the same system of religious doctrine and order on the same fields. In no case has a Presbyterian church changed its polity, or become extinct as such, because the policy it erected in its place had a greater claim for its favor and support, but because it was more in accordance with the early habits, training and sympathies of the people generally. Had not the noble Scotch-Irish element been introduced into the original population of many towns of Rockingham and Hillsboro' counties, it is doubtful whether there would ever have been a Presbyterian church established in the State; and it is equally doubtful whether Congregationalism would have flourished to any considerable extent had Presbyterianism been the form of church government embraced by our Puritan fathers."

REV. CONVERS FRANCIS, D.D., Professor of Pulpit Eloquence and Pastoral Care in the Divinity School at Cambridge, Mass., died at his residence in that city, on the 7th inst., aged sixty-eight years. He was the brother of Mrs. Lydia Maria Child.

PROF. EGBERT C. SMITH, of Bowdoin College, has been elected to fill the place of Professor Shedd in the chair of Ecclesiastical History at Andover Theological Seminary.

REV. HENRY JACKSON, D.D., a Baptist minister of Newport, recently deceased, left $8,000 to Brown University for scholarships; $4,000, after the death of his wife, to the Rhode Island Baptist State Convention; and his library to Newton Theological Institution.

THE FIRST CHURCH in Hartford, Dr. Hawes and Rev. Wolcott Calkins, pastors, was the first Congregational church organized in Connecticut, and the eighth in New-England. It has had ten pastors. None were dismissed, and nine of them lie in the graveyard with their people.

THE Providence Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in session at Warren, adopted lately an outspoken report upon the state of the country, embracing resolutions expressing confidence in, and approving of the course of the administration, thanking the Congress of the United States for including the clergy in the conscription act, and sending words of greeting to the ministers and members now in the army.

THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH from an address recently delivered in Boston by Hon. Edward Everett, breathes forth the purest patriotism, and suggests truths of the most momentous importance respecting our country's future:

"And now the great question which we have to settle is, Shall this mighty aggregate of prosperity perish, or shall it endure? Shall this imperial heritage of blessings descend unimpaired to our posterity, or shall it be ignominiously, profligately thrown away? Shall the territory of the Union, late so happy under the control and adjustment of the National and State Governments, be broken up into miserable fragments, sure to be engaged in constantly recurring border wars, and all lying at the mercy of foreign powers; or shall it preserve its noble integrity under the ægis of the National Government? Admit the right of the seceding States to break up the Union at pleasure, nay, of each and every State to do so, and allow them to enforce that right by a successful war—deny the authority of the Central Government to control its members, and how long will it be before the new Confederacies created by the first disruption shall be resolved into still smaller fragments, and the continent become a vast theatre of civil war, military license, anarchy, and despotism? *Better, at whatever cost, by whatever sacrifice, settle the question at once, and settle it forever.*"

THE Boston *Transcript* notices the death of Mrs. Lydia Nickerson, at the advanced age of ninety-nine years and six months. She attended the School Street Parish from its foundation in 1817, but was not received into communion with the church until her ninetieth year.

NEW-YORK.

WE LEARN from the *Examiner* that, at a late Conference Meeting of Baptist ministers in this city, an interesting communication was received from the so-called "Strict Baptists" of England, asking for counsel and sympathy in the trying position in which the latter seem to be placed. The *Examiner* mentions the following facts as having been brought to light by the reading of the communication and the discussion which ensued in the Conference:

"The Strict Baptists, as they are called, in distinction from the Open-Communion Baptists, are in danger of being lost and swallowed up in the Open-Communion element. This party, led by Rev. Mr. Spurgeon, Rev. Baptist Noel, and men of that stamp, are ready to complete the coalition proposed among the Independents, Congregationalists, and other dissenting bodies, and so form one denomination. Mr. Spurgeon admits members from Pedobaptist churches, on certificate, without baptism, and he has hundreds of members who have not been baptized. Baptist Noel does the same thing, and one of his leading deacons has not been baptized, and has been and is now an Episcopalian. Churches built by Baptists, who put in the deed that the church was to be used only by 'Particular Baptists,' or 'Strict Baptists,' have been taken by Open-Communion Baptists, and held under a decision of the Courts, that Open-Communion and Strict Baptists mean the same thing."

A letter in reply was unanimously adopted by the Conference, taking the ground "that all the regular Baptist churches in the country are strict-communionists; that the other element has no place or footing in the churches; and from numerous and unanswerable statistics proving that in the practice of strict-communion vigor, prosperity and expansion were found."

AT A RECENT Fulton Street Prayer-Meeting, allusion having been made to the revival at Hamilton College, a speaker remarked that he had witnessed many revivals in college, and he had always found that the sons of praying mothers were sure to be among the earliest subjects of a work of grace. Let mothers be importunate in prayer.

THE FINANCIAL year of the American Bible Society closed on the 31st of March. The receipts of the year were $422,588. The whole issues of the year, including Bibles, Testaments, and parts of the Bible, were 1,257,249. The friends of the Bible have reason to rejoice at the prosperity and extensive usefulness of the Society.

THE FOLLOWING from the *Examiner* is interesting, as bearing on the agency system:

"Our [Baptist] Missionary Societies have just closed a year of unexpected prosperity—the Missionary Union having received about $15,000 more than in the year preceding, and the Home Mission Society about $2,000 in advance of its previous year's receipts. This is very good, in any view of the case, and especially good when it is remembered that the year now closed is the first of making collections without collecting agents. Such results ought to do something toward giving many of our friends a little more faith in the churches, and considerably less faith in a worn-out agency system."

THE *N. Y. Evening Post* contains a glowing report of a ceremony recently performed in one of the Roman Catholic churches of the city. Is is headed, "*An inspiring religious ceremony. Reception of young ladies into the order of the solidity of the blessed Virgin.*" The following is an extract:

"At three o'clock the procession entered the church. The young ladies, president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, bearing a gorgeous banner of the blessed Virgin, wreathed in gold and blue streamers, surmounted by a cross. They wore dresses of sky blue, white velvet scarfs, richly trimmed with gold, long white crape veils, worn *à la* Madonna-like, but fastened on the shoulders with a blue rosette, and a cornet of roses and lillies, with long streamers, ornamented the head. The members of the order followed in the same costume, some of them bearing boquets, others, lighted wax torches wreathed with flowers. The juvenile Protestants about to be received into the order, excited particular attention. They were dressed like little brides, in pure white, wreaths of roses and pearl, and veils reaching to near the feet. Many of these young ladies are the daughters of most respectable traders and gentlemen of the city of New-York, and are pupils of St. Joseph's school, where over five hundred children of various ages receive a moral, religious, and useful education, under the superintendence of the Sisters of Charity belonging to St. Vincent's Hospital, West Eleventh Street."

The Boston *Watchman*, in commenting on the report, asks: "Are there *Protestant* parents in this country so blind as this statement argues? If so, they may open their eyes too late, when their children forsake them and call them heretics; and when they find this, too, to be the least of the evil results of their confidence in the 'Sisters of Charity.'"

DR. WILLARD PARKER, Professor of Surgery in the New-York College of Physicians and Surgeons, lately delivered to the students of the Union Theological Seminary, at their own request, two lectures, on topics connected with the general subject of mental and physical hygiene. The *Independent* says:

"His purpose was to discuss the brain as a motive power and the body as a machine, and to show how to keep them in order.

"In his first lecture, the Professor dwelt upon the benefits of pure air, and the poisonous influences of crowded and ill-ventilated rooms. And if some of those young ministers do not have airy churches and wide-awake audiences, it will be because these lessons are forgotten.

"The second lecture was in a great part directed against evil habits; and the use of tobacco received a full share of denunciation. The fact adduced that New-York city spends Sixteen Thousand Dollars a day for tobacco and only Twelve Thousand for bread, significant as it is, was not made the most important; but the highest medical authorities were quoted to show the evil effects of tobacco on the brain and nerves, its operation to produce physical and mental deterioration in the user and in his descendants too."

MAJOR-GENERAL GEO. B. M'CLELLAN made a public profession of religion in New-York, on the first Sabbath of the present month, by uniting with the Presbyterian church under the pastoral care of Dr. William Adams. Mrs. M'Clellan, and her mother and sister, were admitted at the same time by letter.

THE chief events in financial circles are the active demand for Government securities by conversions into U. S. five-twenty bonds, averaging about a million dollars daily, and the varied movement in the price of gold. The receipts of money by Government from loans, conversions, and customs and taxation, are estimated, semi-officially, to equal in amount the daily expenditure for the war.

Money is abundant and easy to first-class borrowers at 5 to 6 per cent., and prime commercial paper is scarce and in demand at 5 to 7 per cent., according to the dates of maturity.

On Saturday, April 11th, sales of gold were made at 150½ to 152¾, on Monday at 157 to 157¼, and on Tuesday at 155¼ to 155¾. The foreign exchange market changes with the prices of gold, and on Monday and Tuesday bankers' 60-days sterling bills were quoted at 170 to 173.

PHILADELPHIA.

WE LEARN from the *Methodist* that, the Philadelplia Annual Conference having taken high ground in regard to the examination of ministerial candidates, an unusually large number were obliged, in consequence of their inability to come up to the required standard, to review the "course of study" for the past year. The *Methodist* remarks: "This was a severe, but doubtless a necessary and salutary measure. Like a bitter pill, it may work a radical and permanent cure."

At the same Conference, according to the *Advocate and Journal*, "the case of Rev. Sylvanus Townsend, who refused to vote when his name was called on the resolution reäffirming the loyalty of the Conference, was disposed of by a resolution expressing the 'strong disapprobation' of the Conference at his conduct, and refusing to elect him to elder's orders. The first clause of the resolution was carried by 160 votes to 8, and the last was adopted unanimously."

THE ANNUAL REPORT of the Society for the Employment of the Poor in Philadelphia, shows that during the year ending the 13th inst., "several thousand prescriptions were given to persons in and outside of the building, and that large numbers sought medical advice of this institution, and obtained relief, who otherwise would have suffered, and probably have died, if this institution had not been in operation."

GIRARD COLLEGE has within its walls, at the present time, about five hundred pupils.

THERE ARE TEN United States vessels of war at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. They are either in the course of construction or repair.

For the Presbyterian Banner.

Supplies Appointed by Allegheny Presbytery.

Butler—Fourth Sabbath of May, Mr. Harrison. Fifth Sabbath in May, Mr. Hall. First Sabbath in June, Mr. J. S. Boyd.

Rich Hill—Third Sabbath of June, Mr. Walker; to administer the Lord's Supper. Also, leave to obtain supplies till next Fall meeting.

Plains—Leave to obtain supplies till Fall meeting.

North Butler—James Coulter, Stated Supply for one year.

Mt. Nebo and Portersville—Leave to obtain supplies till next meeting.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

MR. GILBERT M. POTTER, of the Western Theological Seminary, has been called to the Presbyterian church of Pine Creek, in Allegheny Presbytery.

MR. WILLIAM W. ANNAN, of Allegheny City, has been licenced as a Probationer for the Gospel ministry.

MR. THOMAS X. ORR, of the Western Theological Seminary, has been called to the Central Presbyterian church, Allegheny City.

REV. A. B. CLARK, of Altoona, Pa., has resigned his pastoral charge, on account of long-continued ill health.

REV. SAMUEL T. LOWRIE, of Alexandria Pa., has been released from his charge. Mr. Lowrie intends making a visit to Germany.

MR. JOHN C. BLISS has been invited to take the pastoral charge of the congregation in Carlisle, Pa., where he is now laboring very successfully.

For the Presbyterian Banner.

Meeting of the Presbytery of Allegheny City.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—The recent meeting of the Presbytery of Allegheny City was one of unusual interest, and one, we trust, whose fruits will be seen and acknowledged by future generations. I allude to the promising movement made at that meeting in the department of church extension.

About a year ago, as many of your readers are aware, a division occurred in the Central church of Allegheny City, of which Dr. Plumer was pastor. The origin and consequences of that unhappy controversy, are generally known and need not now be revived. But one of the good results which in Divine Providence has flowed from that troubled source, was realized in the organization by the Presbytery of a new church in the North-western part of the city, to be called "The North Presbyterian Church of the City of Allegheny."

Ever since the withdrawal from the Central church, of those who were dissatisfied with the ministrations of its late pastor, this organization has been kept steadily in view, though at times under a dark cloud of disheartening circumstances. Public worship was regularly maintained on the Sabbath, and prayer-meeting during the week; but the attendance was not encouraging, and the extremely high price at which property was held, rendered it almost impossible to obtain a lot suitable for the erection of a house of worship. Under these circumstances, the Society did not feel disposed to apply for a church-organization; and at one time they had almost concluded to abandon the project. Just at this crisis in their affairs, God put it into the heart of one of our benevolent citizens to offer them a very valuable piece of ground on the North Common, west of the United Presbyterian Seminary, for their church edifice. This put new life into the project, and the people felt encouraged to go forward. Accordingly at the meeting of the Presbytery of Allegheny City, on the 14th of this month, the organization took place in the chapel of the Western Theological Seminary, upwards of fifty members uniting to form the church; and at the same time three Ruling Elders were installed over the congregation. By appointment of Presbytery, an appropriate sermon was delivered by the Rev. James Allison, the constitutional questions after a brief narrative, were put by Dr. Elliott, and a charge to the elders and people was delivered by Rev. Dr. Williams. The subsequent election of a Board of five Trustees completed the temporal, as the installation of the eldership did the spiritual organization. A Sabbath School will immediately go into operation; and with the blessing of God, everything promises a bright future for this infant congregation.

I might dwell in this connexion upon the vast importance in our great cities, of the principle of *colonization* from the large and wealthy congregations. Is it too much to suggest, that the dissentions and heart-burnings which God occasionally permits to arise in old and long-established churches, are probably intended as a sort of *penalty* inflicted for hiding their light under a bushel? He thus, as in the present instance, makes manifest how much, by a distribution of their forces, even a moderately large church *can* do when they have the will; and of course what they *ought* to do, toward the extension of Gospel influences, and thus carrying the cup of salvation to the perishing thousands of their fellow-men. It was Cain the murderer who said, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

A PRESBYTERIAN.

Commissioners to the General Assembly of 1863.

PRESBYTERIES.	MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
Philadelphia,	Dr. Blackwood,	George Junkin.
	Mr. Sproul,	James Dunlap.
Phila. Central,	Dr. A. Nevin,	M. Newkirk,
	W. R. Work,	Robert Graham.
Sangamon,	T. M. Ovitt,	S. G. Malone.
Huntingdon,	George Elliott,	Mr. Patterson,
	S. M. Moore,	Mr. Christie.
Lewes,	J. L. Foik,	G. A. Parker.
California,	Alexander Scott,	John Bevans.
Allegheny City,	Louis L. Conrad,	T. H. Nevin.
Blairsville,	Dr. S. McParren,	John Barnett.
Allegheny,	Dr. L. Young,	John Boyd.

Affairs in Tennessee.

LOUISVILLE, April 20.—Col. Graham, on Saturday, attacked the rebels near Celina, Tenn., killing seven, and destroying their camp.

On Sunday, they crossed the Cumberland, attacked the rebels there, killing 30, routing the remainder, and are now in hot pursuit. The Federal loss is one killed.

Col. Riley attacked the rebels yesterday, at Creelsboro', in Cumberland, killing one, capturing sixteen, and are now chasing the remainder. No further casualties.

Affairs in Mexico—Bombardment of Puebla—The French Repulsed.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 19.—The steamer *Sonora*, from Acapulco, brings dates from the City of Mexico to 1st of April.

The French bombarded Puebla for ten days, and were repulsed thrice.

The fortifications of St. Jarvier were rendered untenable by shells from rifled guns. The Mexicans withdrew, and the French occupied them on the 31st of March, taking 150 prisoners.

The French hold the outside fortifications all round the city.

The bombardment continued at the latest dates, but the principal fortifications hold out.

General Forey's headquarters were at the Church of Santiago, inside the Garita.

Comonfort was at Saint Martin, with 10,000 troops.

Ortega is in Puebla with 25,000 troops.

The French have cut the communications between Ortega and Comonfort.

The French strength is 20,000, with 5,000 Mexicans under Meigney.

Reinforcements daily arrive from Vera Cruz.

There are 30,000 Mexican troops in the City of Mexico.

The Susquehanna Railroad.

A bill has passed both branches of the New-York State Legislature, and been signed by the Governor, which extends aid to the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad, and insures its being constructed forthwith. This work, as we have already stated, runs from Albany to Binghamton in a direct line. At Albany it connects with the New-England railways leading to Boston, Portland, and other cities. At Binghamton it connects with the New-York and Erie Railroad, and thus reaches the West without going through New-York city. It is a much shorter cut than is afforded by the New-York Central, and when finished and brought into use will operate as a cut-off, materially reducing the travel through New-York city between New-England and the West. At Elmira this route connects with the Southern line of railways traversing the Susquehanna valley to Baltimore, and proceeding thence to the national capital, affords a complete and available route of travel between New-England and Washington, avoiding New-York city, with all its detentions and delays. At Williamsport this route also connects with the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad, and thus affords an avenue by which New-England may communicate with the whole network of railways now building in Northwestern Pennsylvania. At Lockhaven this route connects with the Bald Eagle Valley Railroad to Tyrone, where it joins the Pennsylvania Railroad to Pittsburgh; so that all the business and travel between New-England and the West, via the Pennsylvania Railroad, may avoid New-York city by this short and simple channel. The importance of the work can scarcely be overrated. It must increase to a very large extent the travel over the Northern Central road, since all who would save time will take this route in travelling to and from Washington and the North.