

Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1863.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America will hold its next meeting at 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 Collections on Fast Day.—The suggestions of the Christian Commission, of collections on the Fast Day, to aid in their benevolent work, came too late for our last issue. Something, however, may yet be done.

The Allegheny Valley Railroad offers the same terms as those of the Connellsville road. We expect, by next week, to make similar announcements for other roads.

Western Theological Seminary.—The undesignated, a committee of the Board of Trustees of the Western Theological Seminary, beg leave respectfully to present the following brief statement of the delinquent churches within the bounds of the four Synods which have engaged to endow the Fourth Professing in that Institution.

Female Medical College of Pennsylvania.—The Eleventh annual Commencement of this institution occurred in Philadelphia, March 14, 1863. Three young ladies graduated on the occasion.

Closing the Liquor Houses on the Sabbath.—The Evening Chronicle thinks we gave our municipal authorities credit beyond their deserts for the cessation of the liquor traffic in Pittsburgh, on the Sabbath.

The worthy District Attorney and the Judges have our thanks for the efficient discharge of their official duties; and we trust that the citizens will embrace the first opportunity which shall occur, to install a Mayor, and Aldermen, and city police who will heartily cooperate in the enforcing of the laws.

ALLEGHENY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY—CLOSING EXERCISES.

The examinations of the respective classes in this Institution of the Church took place before a Committee of the Board of Directors, and were reported upon as fully equal to any examination they have ever attended.

The speakers were: JOHN J. BEAUM, ANDREW A. DINSMORE, JAMES H. DONALDSON, HENRY MARTIN HERVEY, W. WALL MOOREHEAD, JAMES WALLACE WRIGHTMAN, W. SWIFT WRIGHT.

The whole number of Graduates in this class is twenty-five, as follows: MATTHEW L. ANDERSON, JOHN J. BEAUM, J. McCUSKEY BLAYNEY, WM. LOGAN BOYD, FRENCH BROWN, ALBERT DILLWORTH, ANDREW A. DINSMORE, JAMES H. DONALDSON, WM. S. EAGLESON, N. H. GILBERT, ERIC CALVIN C. GOULD, SAMUEL M. HENDERSON, HENRY MARTIN HERVEY, ROBERT W. HILL, DAVID P. LOWARY, A. S. MITCHELL, GEORGE M. MILLER, W. WALL MOOREHEAD, THOMAS K. ORR, JOHN B. REED, MARTIN L. TODD, JAMES WALLACE WRIGHTMAN, JOHN WILSON, THOMAS M. WILSON, W. SWIFT WRIGHT.

He introduced his address by saying, that this act of presentation was symbolical of what the Faculty had all along aimed to do—to give them the Scriptures—and if they had not already done so in fact, as they here did it in form, they had failed of what they chiefly proposed in the curriculum of the Seminary, leading them through the gateway of the original languages, and by the courses of History and Doctrine, to the Tree of Life in the midst.

An insurrection may become, to a country, one of the greatest calamities. It is civil war of the worst kind, where the insurgents are numerous, Northerners, in estimating the comparative strength of the two sections of our country, calculated largely on the rising of the slaves against their masters, or at least that the fear of an insurrection, would keep large numbers of the white men at home.

Whether it would be morally right, under the laws and usages of modern warfare, to adopt means to produce an insurrection in the country of the enemy, has received some little attention. But the public mind at the North is so shocked with the bare thought of the cruelties likely to be perpetrated upon women, children, and aged persons, that such an event is contemplated with horror, and the thing finds but few advocates.

EASTERN SUMMARY. NEW-ENGLAND.

A CORRESPONDENT OF THE N. Y. ECONOMIZER, writing from Boston, communicates the following:

“To one who knew Boston well, the change that ten years has made is marked. One of the Boston notions is to abandon the old land, and build palaces on the soil redeemed from the marshes. The Maine Railroad Depot stands on the spot where the old mill-pond once stood, in which many a time I have been in swimming. The staid and sober part of old Boston have abandoned to trade, to pleasure, or foreign travel, the soil and streets in which they have lived; and gone South for residences. The Back Bay hotels, the aristocracy and elegant houses are streaming on to the city line south.”

“A struggle is going on for the social centre—all are drifting just now—many parties claim to be the ‘Hub’ that there were cities to claim ‘Homer dead.’ The old Unitarian element still remains in power. But it is a divided and waning power. The Transcendental Section claim the life and intellect of the Liberal party, while the old line, under the lead of Gannett, do not yield to the new demand.”

“We venture to pronounce a rule of honor, as at least worthy of consideration; that as a general rule the opening discourse before a deliberative Christian assembly should aim at immediate impression; should be designed not for leisurely perusal after an interval of months, but for direct effect upon those who have come together to do it. It should be a fit prelude for what is to follow, generating thought, enkindling feeling, provoking to utterance and activity; and we pronounce the sermon all the better, if it is so phrased that it cannot be repeated elsewhere, and under other circumstances, as the present Dr. Hutton will continue to let it be such that no one in the audience can doubt that it was prepared for that assembly, or fancy for a moment in any part of it that he is listening to beautiful extracts from thanksgiving a patriotic sermons of previous years. Let it be born for that occasion, and let the occasion give inspiration to the address.”

The Continental Monthly.—The contents of No. XVII invite the inquiring mind to its perusal. The Great Prairie State; The Union; The Value of the Union; The Causes and Results of the War; and The Destiny of the African Race in the United States, are among the valuable papers. The one last named discusses a subject of vast importance, but which has been exceedingly neglected. We all wish well to the African, and we aim at advancing his happiness. But do we duly consider his nature, habits, wants, capabilities? Will he be really benefited by the freedom which we offer him? Do we provide for him, as in duty bound?

The following contributions to the Board of Colportage have been received during the month of March and April: Chertseyville Cong. Sabbath Sch. Pky. for soldiers, \$12.80; A Friend to the Soldier, 40; Rev. John A. Brown, of Frederickburg, Ohio, for soldiers, 8.00; Congregational Cong. for soldiers, 3.24; Fairfield Cong. Erie Pky., 2.00; Bridgewater German Cong., 2.00; First Presbyterian Cong., Kittanning, 10.00; Temperance Cong., Ohio Pky., 10.45; Rev. A. O. Patterson, D.D., 1.00; Bowling Springs, 4.00; First Presbyterian Cong., Allegheny, additional, 4.50; Contribution for soldiers from Mt. Washington Cong., Ohio Pky., 13.20; Bethel and Jacksonville Cong., Saltsburg, 10.00; Girard Cong., Saltsburg Pky., 5.00; Mount Pleasant Cong., Saltsburg Pky., 4.00; Marion Cong., 2.00; First Ch., Pittsburgh, 1.00; Richmond Cong., Clarion Pky., 2.50; Clintonville Cong., Allegheny Pky., 2.70; Shrewsbury, 2.00; Salem, 2.00; Butler, 15.00; \$184.05; F. G. Baker, Treasurer; John Colburn, Librarian.

PHILADELPHIA.

THE EPISCOPAL RECORDS, of this city, so deservedly esteemed for its zealous defence of evangelical truth, has an excellent article on the subject of substituting the chanting of the psalter in place of the singing of the metrical version contained in the Episcopal Prayer Book.

“There are two serious objections to the use of our present version. In the first place, we are singing, unconsciously to ourselves, the ‘Epistle and Gospels,’ for, in truth, the very neologism, ‘epistle,’ which Mr. Williams was condemned for heresy for defending, is sung by us as if it were the meaning of the Bible itself. We have drawn from the most solemn Messianic Psalms their Messianic meaning, and using them as if man were to be saviour for a word of the world, imbed only with that theology which passed current at a time when the Church had fallen in a fatal torpor.

“A little boy, bright and intelligent, was converted, who was only ten years old. His parents were entirely careless of the subject of religion, and had not probably been inside a church for years. The child at once became very anxious on his account, and when his father came in he would run to him, and putting his arms about his neck, ‘I want to go to church,’ and ‘I want to be a Christian, and go to heaven with me. I want you to love Jesus right off.’ The boy would not be diverted, and at length the father and mother, yielding to his importunities, found themselves in the prayer-meeting. Never had they been there before. But the meeting had only well begun when the father, on his own motion, went forward and turned around and addressed his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Friends, if you think Jesus can have mercy on such a sinner as I am, I want you to pray for me.’ His face beamed with deep gladness, and the little boy was on his feet, running around looking for his mother; and when he had found her he begged her to come and kneel beside his father. With some reluctance she went, and the son knelt between his parents. The minister called on some one to give the benediction, and broke down. The minister tried, and he failed; and the whole congregation were melted into tears before the Lord.”

THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE says of Rev. Dr. Hutton's church, Reformed Dutch: “A few years ago it was a ‘long way up town,’ now it seems to be too far down town for many of its members, and the congregation are constantly removing to the upper part of the city. To meet the wishes of the families residing in that vicinity, services will be held in Rutgers chapel for the present. Dr. Hutton will continue pastor of both congregations, with his son, Rev. M. H. Hutton, as assistant.”

SIXTY NEW-YORK gentlemen of the highest respectability, and having an aggregate wealth of probably not less than two hundred millions of dollars, united, says the Economist, in giving the Hon. S. P. Chase an invitation to a dinner on his next visit to this city. Mr. Chase declined the invitation on account of the pressure of his official duties. But such an endorsement of his financial ability and assurance of personal respect, must be a lasting source of pleasure to him.

THE LATE Mrs. Blandina Dudley, of Albany, bequeathed \$30,000 to the Dudley Observatory (of which she was the founder) for the establishment of a professorship. Among her other bequests was \$500 to the Albany Orphan Asylum; \$4000 to the North Dutch Church; \$1000 to the Children's Friend Society of Albany; \$500 to the Second Street Mission church; and \$500 to the African Baptist church.

and dedicated to God in baptism.

“When they come to years of discretion, if they are free from scandal,” &c. Thus, while the phrase ‘all baptized persons’ is general, and embraces all who are baptized, adults as well as infants, the latter clause refers exclusively to infants. The two sorts, adult and infant baptism, are jumbled together indiscriminately, so that no power of intellect can detect them into each other, or produce harmony where there is inextinguishable confusion.

THE DAILY NEWS, in noticing the present annual meeting of the Orthodox Friends in Philadelphia, says: “This year the robes of the colors they wear has been revised their appearance exceptional. The color they most affect chances to be the very same of the present fashion.”

THE PHILADELPHIA Ledger states that the authorities of the Polytechnic College, Philadelphia, have decided to open their laboratory for instruction in practical chemistry in the afternoon. There are many persons, not regular students of the college, whose engagements do not permit them to devote the whole day to study, and who yet need to be familiar with the best methods of performing chemical experiments in order to improve themselves in the line of their daily business. Not only the young physician, the apothecary and the mechanical dentist; but the photographer, the dyer, the electrotyper and others, depend upon chemistry for many of the improvements in their several vocations.

THE SUBSCRIPTIONS of the Philadelphia Corn Exchange to relieve the suffering Irish amount to \$6,181. Five hundred barrels of flour and \$1,400 in cash have already been forwarded.

THE SYNOD OF ALLEGHENY, at its last meeting, appointed a committee to take into consideration the propriety of changing the names of the Synod and one of the two Presbyteries of Allegheny and Allegheny City, or the names of the said two Presbyteries of Synod. The reasons for this action of Synod are two, viz.: the confusion and mistakes to result from the repetition of the name Allegheny; and the unseemly appearance of poverty of resources in regard to appropriate names, as shown in the use of the same name as applied to two of the four Presbyteries which compose the Synod, and to the Synod itself—three times in five.

THE REVISED BOOK OF DISCIPLINE. MESSRS. EDITORS.—As this new and revised Discipline must come before the General Assembly, and if approved and sent down to the Presbyteries, will have to be voted upon, as a whole, yea or nay, without the possibility of amendment, it becomes important to examine it closely, in order to ascertain the validity of its pretensions to supersede the old and established form. With your strictures in general, I content myself to direct the attention of the delegates to the next Assembly, to Section IV. of the first chapter, on ‘baptized persons’ in their relation to discipline, reads as follows: ‘All baptized persons, as members of the Church, are under its care and subject to its government and discipline; and when they have arrived at the years of discretion they are bound to perform all the duties of Church members.’ It is the office of the church, therefore, to use the proper means, in dependence on Divine aid, for bringing them to repentance and faith, that they may rightly perform their duty.”

Commissioners to the General Assembly of 1863. Names of various commissioners and their churches from different regions.