

Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, APRIL 29, 1863.

The War.

Our war tidings the last week, have been a little more cheering than those of the previous. The rebels had, at three points, assumed the offensive, at all of which they have failed. They were obliged to raise the siege of Little Washington, N. C., and retire, leaving our garrison unharmed. On the Black Water and Nansemond, near Suffolk, they were badly beaten and driven back with the loss of five Parrot guns and one hundred and sixty prisoners. At Williamsburg they succeeded in taking the village, but failed at the fort, and their further progress was prevented.

On the 20th of April the President issued his Proclamation, announcing that West Virginia had accepted the condition on which Congress had agreed to receive it as a State. The act is hence to be in force within sixty days after that date. West Virginia embraces forty-eight counties, lying between the Allegheny mountains and the Ohio river. The new State will be entitled to three representatives in Congress. Thirty-four of the Counties voted on the Constitution, and the proposed form of admission (emancipation), was adopted nearly unanimously. We have seen no statement of any voting in the fourteen counties in the Southern part of the State. Those counties were strongly secession in their proclivities. No difficulty, however, is anticipated in making emancipation practical; all born after July 4th being entitled to freedom after a limited apprenticeship.

Negro Labor in Louisiana. The plan of Gen. Banks, of hiring negroes to their former masters, promises to change the system of labor on plantations and to eradicate slavery. Col. Hanks, superintendent of the plan, speaks of it as satisfactory, both to masters and servants. The negroes dwell in families, have ration, and receive a small payment secured upon the crop. The benefit to the slave is thus stated by Col. Hanks: "The planter in entering into the engagement does virtually resign his ancient claim to the black man. He no longer has the power to command him and to compel him to do his work as a slave. As soon as his signature is written he stands in an entirely new relation to his negroes, and instead in an entirely new relation to him. In the first place, he cannot sell him; virtually they are free. In the second place, he must pay them their wages, for they have a legal lien on his crop. In the third place, they have the right to leave him if he does not treat them properly. Where do you find the essence of slavery here?"

This plan of emancipation in districts not embraced in the proclamation of the President, seems to relieve the Government of great difficulties, and promises an easy, peaceful, and real abolition of slavery. The benevolent will rejoice in the prospect.

On the night of the 22d, six more gunboats and twelve barges passed the batteries. The cannonade was terrific; 500 shots being fired upon the boats. None of the barges was injured. All the steamers were struck, but only one was so damaged as to be abandoned. Twelve men were wounded, two of them mortally. Buildings in Vicksburg prepared for the occasion, were set on fire, so as to throw a light over the river and enable the gunners at the batteries to aim as well as if shooting by day.

Gen. Grant telegraphs to the President that he considers their movement in view of its importance, the terrible fire to which the boats were exposed, and the slight loss of property and men, a magnificent success.

Gen. Grant has passed a number of his men by land, and is now with the fleet, at New Carthage, some miles below Vicksburg, on the west side of the river. It is expected that by a new canal, and a bayou, small steamboats can get from above Vicksburg to Carthage, with supplies. In this case, Vicksburg will lose much of its importance, and our forces from above can cooperate with Gen. Banks against Port Hudson; and if that place were taken a way would be opened to the rear of Vicksburg. It being now practicable for Gen. Grant and Banks, and Admirals Farragut and Porter, to act together, we may look for something decisive against the enemy.

Portions of Gen. Rosecrans' army are still active and successful. They have taken McMinnville, and several other small towns, and destroyed much of the enemy's means of support. We anxiously await a movement of the army upon Tullahoma, that is, if it can move with success.

Colored troops are being enlisted in larger numbers than formerly. At Helena, Ark., within an hour after Gen. Thomas' speech, fifteen hundred tendered their services. In other places they are enlisting. The freed blacks should certainly have employment. The Government is under a moral obligation to see that they have an opportunity to live. Then why not employ them in any way in which they may be both useful and earn their bread?

The invasion of Southern Missouri by the rebels, is a movement which we had not expected. Pilot Knob and Cape Girardeau have been assailed by about 8,000 men, under Gen. Marmaduke, but are repulsed. Gen. Price, who formerly gave us so much trouble, is again threatening Springfield.

The rebels are still in Kentucky on the upper Cumberland, not in very large force, but enough to do mischief and cause anxiety. The army of Gen. Hooker has not yet made a general movement. Detachments have possession of Warrenton and the bridge of the Gordonsville railroad over the Rappahannock. It is now seven weeks later in the season than was the movement of this army last year, and we are in daily expectation of important tidings. This army numbered, on the 28th of March, according to the report of the Surgeon General, a little over 150,000 men. As to these we add the forces covering Washington, also the Shenandoah, the Baltimore, the Yorktown, Norfolk, and Suffolk armies, we see a military array in and threatening Northern Virginia from which we may well expect something decisive.

The Army of Gen. Hooker is being weakened by the expiration of the term of service of the "two years men" from New York, and also that of a few regiments of nine months men from Pennsylvania. The precise number that will retire we have not seen stated. Probably some ten or twelve thousand men.

vanced on Morgantown, Va., and captured it. Morgantown is about twenty-five miles from Uniontown, Pa., and to this place the rebels proposed to advance. Last night, by a special train, the specie and books of the Fayette County Bank, with many valuables belonging to citizens, were sent to this city. Today the 15th Reg't Penna. Militia is ordered out, and will probably move to-night.

This is doubtless a raid, like that to Chambersburg, to get clothing, shoes, &c., and to exchange old horses for new ones. Gen. Schoenck has sent forces from East of the mountains, to intercept these marauders. The prospect of catching them, however, is but small. The Wheeling authorities are on the look-out for a visit.

The Army Committee of Western Pennsylvania is the authorized agent of the United States Christian Commission, and will receive money, books, clothing, hospital supplies, &c., &c.

Donations in money to be sent to J. S. Albree, Treasurer, No. 71 Wood Street, corner of Fourth Street. All other articles to be sent to the Rooms of the Committee, to W. D. Weaver, corner of Third and Diamond streets.

Supplies Appointed by the Presbytery of Saltburg at its April Meeting. Pine Run—Mr. Stark, Second Sabbath in May, to administer the Lord's Supper. Mr. Foster, First Sabbath in June. Mr. J. H. Donaldson, Third Sabbath in June. Warren—Mr. McIlwain, First Sabbath in May; to administer the Lord's Supper. Mr. Shirley, Fifth Sabbath in May. Mr. J. H. Donaldson, Second Sabbath in June.

Glade Run—Mr. Kirkpatrick, Fifth Sabbath in May. Carries Run—Mr. Irwin, Fourth Sabbath in April, to declare the pulpit vacant.

General News. The Tax-Payer's Guide. Mr. W. A. Gidenshaw, Pittsburgh, sells a pamphlet of 68 pages entitled "The Tax-Payer's Guide." It is a digest of the Revenue and Tax Laws of the United States, admirably adapted to public use.

New Music. "To Canaan," or "Song of the Six hundred Thousand," is the title of a new piece of music for sale by Charlotte Blaine, 45 Fifth Street, Pittsburgh. We can only notice the song to disapprove of it. It alludes to sacred things we cannot but regard as solemnly irreverent.

Fire. On Sabbath morning, during the time of service, St. James' Episcopal church, Penn Street, was discovered to be on fire. The congregation escaped without injury. The roof was consumed, and the building otherwise much injured.

Flight in Missouri. St. Louis, April 28.—Dispatches from Gen. McNeil, at Cape Girardeau, dated 7 o'clock, Saturday evening, announce that the enemy, about 8,000 strong, under Marmaduke and Burbridge, were within eight miles, approaching on a demand for surrender in half an hour, signed by order of Major General Price, to which a defiant reply was returned. At 11:20 A. M. the rebels attacked in force. After some three hours fighting, rebel agents fled to the north. It was supposed, however, that they would change their position and attack from another point.

From Gen. Banks' Department. On the morning of the 17th, Gen. Banks had reached Vermillionville, after a hard fight at Vermillion Bay. The rebels were driven from their position, with considerable loss on both sides.

Centre Church, Allegheny Presbytery. Acts of kindness deserve acknowledgment. Accordingly, it is with pleasure that we record the numerous friends on the 7th of this month. This was moving day with me. Early in the morning number of persons brought their teams to Mercer, eight miles distant, and gratuitously conveyed my things to the house which I was to occupy. Arriving at about 12 1/2 o'clock, we were greeted with a hearty welcome by a hundred and twenty or more of the people of my pastoral charge. Soon we were invited to a most excellent dinner. The afternoon was then passed in pleasant conversation. Good feeling and joy prevailed. After a brief address and prayer, we separated, thankful that we were permitted to meet under such delightful circumstances. A few remained that evening and the next day, and assisted us in putting things into order. During this time we discovered many valuable presents—just the things which young house-keepers most need.

For the numerous other kind acts of which I have been the recipient, my thanks are now tendered to this people. And my prayer is that God may reward them, and bless them with his choicest temporal and spiritual blessings.

W. W. McKINNEY, London, Pa., April 21, 1863.

A suggestion to the Churches of Western Pennsylvania. The Army Committee of Western Pennsylvania, auxiliary to the United States Christian Commission, would earnestly suggest the propriety of taking up a collection upon the coming National Fast Day, in all the churches, to aid in supplying the soldiers and sailors with religious reading matter.

The delegates of the United States Christian Commission, Christian men who have volunteered for their service without pay, are now at work in all parts of our army lines from the Potomac to Port Royal, and from New Orleans to Baton Rouge and New-Orleans—and they uniformly report an ever-increasing demand upon them, by soldiers and sailors, for religious reading matter.

In all human probability many thousands of our brave defenders at these various points, will be called to their final account before a month. The time is short. What we would do, we must do quickly. Have we given all that it is our duty to give to men who are offering their lives for us? When they ask us for books, and Bibles, and Testaments, and tracts, shall we deny them? Ought we not rather to deny ourselves, that they may have them?

The intelligence from England leads to the belief that the departure of the privateers from the British ports will be barred by the reports of Gen. Grant's success. The reports with reference to disaffection with Admiral Dupont, and that he was likely to be displaced, are wholly unfounded. The privateers that fled from the coast of Virginia, had the chance been at all equal, his success would have been most certain.

Rev. Dr. Hoge, of Richmond, who recently went to England, writes home that he has succeeded entirely in his mission. The London Bible Society has donated 10,000 Bibles, 50,000 Testaments, and 250,000 Gospels and Psalms to the Richmond Bible Society, part of which has already been sent to Nassau.

On Tuesday Assistant Secretary of the Navy Fox visited the Brooklyn Navy Yard. He examined the different ships in progress of construction, and was much pleased with the iron-clad Monitor, which is rapidly approaching completion, and complimented the officer in charge on the successful completion of the vessel.

On Monday, we learn, about 4,000 rebel cavalry, under Gen. Jamison, advanced on Morgantown, Va., and captured it. Morgantown is about twenty-five miles from Uniontown, Pa., and to this place the rebels proposed to advance. Last night, by a special train, the specie and books of the Fayette County Bank, with many valuables belonging to citizens, were sent to this city. Today the 15th Reg't Penna. Militia is ordered out, and will probably move to-night.

inew, which will be launched on Friday. After going on board the iron-clad frigate Raritan, he embarked on board the steam-tug Vanderbilt, in which he proceeded to Greentpoint to inspect the armored vessel building there, particularly the Quinard battery Onondaga.

Eye and Ear. Dr. Jones, of New-York, in his Practitioner at No. 47 Smithfield street, in this city, with his usual good success. His stay is limited to about eight days more, when he is attended with cross-eyes, diseases of the ear, deafness, noise in the head, or any of those difficult diseases which are not successfully treated by family physicians, would do well to call upon Dr. Jones without delay.

A Matter of Record. It is a well established fact, that notwithstanding the many trials that have been made, a perfect book, or book without typographical errors of some kind, has never yet been printed. In this respect the Sewing Machine manufacturers are ahead of the printers. For Wheeler & Wilson turn out machines so perfect in all their details, that the most critical cannot detect a mistake about them, or the most ingenious improve on their construction. To see these machines in operation call at 27 Fifth street, where you will get all particulars as to prices, &c. &c. &c.

Commercial. Pittsburgh Market. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1863. BUTTER—Choice Fresh, from stores, 20c to 22c. B. B. FLOUR—Extra, 20c; Extra Family, 19c to 20c. GRAIN—Wheat, No. 1, 1.25; No. 2, 1.20; Corn, 5c; Oats, 4c; Hay, 1.50; Straw, 1.00. STOCKS—Common, 10c; Preferred, 15c. &c. &c. &c.

Special Notices. SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION.—In pursuance of authority vested in the Philadelphia Presbytery of the State Sabbath School Convention of 1863, the undersigned have appointed a Committee of the members of the SECONDO YEAR SCHOOL CONVENTION OF PENNSYLVANIA, to be held in the FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PITTSBURGH, on THURSDAY, June 25, 1863. The objects are, in brief: To prosecute the good work begun at the last Convention; Collect foreign Stationers; Disseminate Sabbath School information; And by every means in our power, to arouse the Church to a full realization of the incalculable importance of the religious and social system in New England, and in every State of the Union.

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seated lover, TILLIE BELL, youngest child of William E. and Margaret Harrison, being their third child now in heaven, aged 1 year, 8 months, and 10 days.

DIED—In Rural Valley, Pa., April 8th, 1863, Mr. JOHN GALLAGHER, aged 93 years.

DIED—At Camp Meade, near Harper's Ferry, Va., March 30th, 1863, Mr. JOHN A. HENDERSON, of Biddeford, Pa., a member of Co. M, 14th Reg't Penna. Cavalry, aged 24 years, 2 months, and 21 days.

DIED—April 18th, 1863, of scarlet fever, at the residence of Mr. James M'Cook, MORSE EDWARD CALDWELL, aged 9 years, 2 months, and 18 days.

DIED—In New Manchester, Virginia, on the 20th of March, at the residence of her son-in-law, James Hatcher, Mrs. SARAH HANFPER, wife of Rev. Joseph Harper, deceased, in the 83d year of her age.

DIED—April 20th, 1863, at Summer Hill, Cambria County, Pa., of scarlet fever, ANN CLARA, in the 7th year of her age, only daughter of William and Catherine J. Murray.

My soul would I see my heart, or fast I wish should I meet her at last, And there my child I'll see.

DIED—At Carver Hospital, Washington City, D. C., on the 22d of March, JOHN H. REED, of Col. H, 11th Reg't P. V. C., in the 24th year of his age.

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NEW SABBATH SCHOOL BOOKS. PUBLISHED BY The Presbytery Board of Publication, 821 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

JUST ISSUED: MY BROTHER BEN. By the Author of "Mackerel Will," &c. 30 cents, postage 5 cents. LITTLE PEARLS FROM THE OCEAN OF DIVINE TRUTH. Compiled for the Board. 18mo., pp. 216. Colored Frontispiece and two Illustrations. Price 35 and 40 cents; postage 7 cents. THE CHILD'S BUDGET. Compiled for the Board. 18mo., pp. 216. Colored Frontispiece and two Illustrations. Price 35 and 40 cents; postage 7 cents. PRECIOUS OILS FROM THE FIELD OF TRUTH. Compiled for the Board. 18mo., pp. 216. Colored Frontispiece and two Illustrations. Price 35 and 40 cents; postage 7 cents.

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