

Presbyterian Banner

PITTSBURGH, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1863.

Sabbath School Convention.—The late Convention in Pittsburgh was large and important. It occurred during the sessions of our General Assembly, and absence prevented our noting it as we should desire.

THE CONTEMPLATED NEW HYMN-BOOK.—Occasionally there is a great flurry made by our poets, poetesses, and critics, about the deficiency of our Hymnology, and the indispensable necessity of improvement.

IMPENDING DISASTER.—"A disaster is imminent over the religious community, in the shape of a new hymn and tune book. Happily, it is the Presbyterians only, or we at least hope so, who are now threatened, and the 'Old School' at that.

Our Church Standards also, are wisely we should say, somewhat indefinite on this subject. When God is not minute, we should be neither exacting nor positive.

POLITICAL PREACHING.—We still hear many complaints made about "political preaching." We find them more especially coming from sources where there is not the most cordial satisfaction of our National Government in its defense of the integrity of the Union.

We allude to the subject now, in order to advise our brother ministers to the use of much caution, both in the selection of texts and the treatment of their subjects of discussion, in the sacred desk.

And we would suggest to hearers the importance of consulting the holy oracles, and of forming their tastes and modifying their criticisms by what they there read.

It is also to be remembered, in our hearing of the Word, that the minister is Christ's ambassador, that he studies his instructions, that he prays for Divine guidance, and that he speaks under solemn responsibilities.

We fear that many times these severe censurers of Christ's ministers are influenced by a very worldly spirit, and do their own selves a very great injury.

WHO MAY VOTE FOR A PASTOR?

Some two years ago the Synod of Kentucky affirmed that all communicating members of the Church, who submitted to discipline regularly administered, and who contributed fully to the expenses of the church, and none but such, had a right to vote when a pastor was to be chosen.

We believe that the Assembly did just right, in the circumstances. Laws may be too minute. The liberty of private judgment may be too much abridged.

It is not those who are to be taught, who are the best qualified judges of the teacher. It is rather, those who are already taught, or those whose the pupils are.

The Scriptures are neither definite in instructions, nor minute in their examples, in relation to the choice and installation of spiritual officers.

Our Church Standards also, are wisely we should say, somewhat indefinite on this subject. When God is not minute, we should be neither exacting nor positive.

In Chap. XIII, sec. 2, we read: "Every congregation shall elect persons to the office of ruling elder, and to the office of deacon, or either of them, in the mode most approved and in use in that congregation."

Here it is to be observed that in the section from which we quote, and in all the chapter, it is not the church but the congregation, which is named.

If we should take the word congregation as a synonym of church, still we cannot justly restrict its membership to those who are actually communicants at the Lord's table.

The "visible Church," says the Confession of Faith, in Chap. XXV, sec. 2, "consists of all those throughout the world, that profess the true religion, together with their children."

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heuce it is that he, when he properly discharges other duties, is the duly qualified elector.

Of this right the head of the family ought not to be deprived by any unscriptural or arbitrary enactments. The man who will refuse to do his part in sustaining a pastor, is justly deprived of a vote.

A question here arises: Does the man who fails to commune at the Lord's table, fail to "profess the true religion," and so deprive himself of a right to vote?

In these remarks we keep in mind that a particular congregation is, in some respects, a voluntary society and as such it may have its special rules.

Dr. HUNTINGTON, of Boston, in a recently published sermon on "The Roman Catholic Principle," remarks that the first question put by about nine New-Englanders out of ten, when they are urged to any particular religious duty, is, not, Has God said this? or, Does Christ enjoin it?

The following is a summary of the Annual Report of the Boston Seaman's Friend Society:

"Hon. Alpheus Hardy, is President. The entire receipts have been \$30,670. The Society owns \$18,000, but the debt has been reduced \$3,000 during the year."

THE BOSTON PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION have during the past year, made 8350 visits, and aided 2810 families, including 8505 persons.

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EASTERN SUMMARY. NEW-ENGLAND.

A WRITER in the Congregationalist furnishes an interesting article on the views and practice of the Congregational Church in regard to the participation by women in the audible exercises of a worshipping assembly.

With regard to the usage of Congregationalism in its later years, he quotes Pundard, in his view of Congregationalism, as saying: "It is utterly inconsistent with established usage for females to take any part in religious transactions, except prayers, and wishes to be expressed privately to their pastor or their brethren."

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sively bound, with silver edgings and clasps, and sometimes gold; and these were hung to the grille by like costly chains for Sunday use.

Unlike the plainly-attired Puritan, the Dutch domities always appeared in their high, circular pulpits, with black silk gowns, and large flowing sleeves.

THE INTELLIGENCER has the following reference to the reception by the New School General Assembly of the Old School Communion:

"The late session of the General Assembly (N. S.) at Philadelphia will be memorable in the history of the great Presbyterian family in this country."

JOHN PEMBERTON, the rebel commander at Vicksburg, is a native of the city of Philadelphia, and by birth connected with the Society of Friends.

THE CHIEF ENGINEER of the Philadelphia Water Department declares that the Delaware river water pumped into the Kensington basin is entirely unfit for domestic purposes, owing to its impurity, and even dangerous to the health and lives of the citizens.

MR. JOHN W. POTTER, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Allegheny City, has received a unanimous call to become the pastor of the Plains church, in the bounds of the Allegheny Presbytery.

THE LAST EVANGELIST contains a somewhat ray letter from a looker-on at the Presbyterian General Assembly recently convened at Peoria.

THE ANNUAL CATALOGUE of the University of the City of New York shows that forty professors and instructors are engaged in its various departments.

THE BROADWAY TABERNACLE CHURCH in New-York has opened a district record book for those of its congregation who are in the service of the country during the war.

THE OBSERVER is giving, through the pen of a contributor, a series of interesting articles on the earliest churches in New-York.

000. He commenced life as a clerk at \$20 per month, and leaves off the largest iron dealer in the country.

EMIGRANTS from Europe continue to pour into this port at an astonishing rate. For weeks past they have averaged a thousand a day.

THE PRICE of Gold Coin experienced a slight advance on Saturday, closing at 143 per cent. Exchange on London did not respond to the advance in Gold.

A PHILADELPHIA CORRESPONDENT of the Christian Intelligencer writes: "There are thousands in this city who suppose the services of the Reformed Dutch churches are conducted in the German language."

On the afternoon of the 9th of the present month, the Presbytery of Allegheny City held a very pleasant meeting at the church of Pine Creek, formerly part of the same charge with Sharpsburg.

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him to obey God's command. Men are sometimes called to the ministry. They are unwilling to enter on the work. They engage in other employments. God often times thwarts their purposes and thus compels them to enter upon his work.

Mr. A. was a member of the Church—a lawyer of good talents, and possessed of a fortune which rendered it unnecessary for him to task himself severely in the labors of his profession.

He had a beautiful and lovely child about eight years of age. That child was smitten with disease, and in a short time was consigned to the tomb.

On Tuesday, the 9th of the present month, the Presbytery of Allegheny City held a very pleasant meeting at the church of Pine Creek, formerly part of the same charge with Sharpsburg.

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