

Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16, 1863.

CHANGE OF TERMS, &c.

We find it necessary to modify our terms, and, after much thought, and some consultation with our brethren, ministers and others, we propose the following:

- 1. The price of the Banner, on and after January 1st, 1864, will be two dollars a year, in advance.
2. A ministry or other person, sending us ten names and twenty dollars, will be entitled to an additional paper. And also one additional for the next ten; &c.
N. B.—Ministers of small means, and having no charge, can have their paper still for \$1.50.
*—Theological Students can have the Banner still at the dollar.
Ministers who have been subscribers, but have become unable to pay, will have their paper continued gratuitously.
3. Commendations of Schools, Books, &c., Notices of "Surprises," &c., "Cards," and all other matters which are mainly of personal interest, will be charged for, at 10 cents a line.

Though we have put the Banner, by the above, more on a business footing than formerly, we still adhere to the co-operative principle. Our desire is, in conjunction with Pastors and Elders, to train the young for honor and usefulness, and to help all onward in the way to a glorious immortality. We hence labor assiduously, and use money freely, to give the Banner the very best practicable adaptations. Our Foreign Correspondence, our Summary of Eastern News, and our War Articles are highly commended. Our Editorials discuss matters of living interest. Our General News is comprehensive. Our Book Notices are honest. Our Selections are varied and instructive. Our Correspondents write well. Families which grow up, being habitual readers of the Banner, will be intelligent, enterprising, liberal, and virtuous; as well as sound in the faith.

We hence ask Ministers and Elders, whose duty it is to nurture the people, to make the Banner their co-adjutor. Have it, if possible, in every family. We also ask all our readers, including ladies and children, to aid us in extending our circulation. Get us one subscriber, get another, and still another. Get enough to have your own paper free. Or get enough to have a paper free for some poor family. Do good.

THE TIME TO SUBSCRIBE.

It is always a good time to subscribe for a good newspaper; and those who have not done so should do it immediately, on the occurrence of the thought. But if there is any preference as to seasons, about the close of one year and the beginning of another, may put in its claim. A subscription needs to be renewed, and the new year will bring the matter to remembrance. At that season, too, accounts are settled and plans arranged. Let the religious newspaper be one of the things never to be neglected.

Sixteen days from date will be January 1st, 1864.

WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

At a late meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Western Theological Seminary, the following resolution was adopted, and the undersigned appointed a committee to have it published in the Presbyterian Banner, calling the attention of the churches to the necessity of this application:

Resolved, That the churches within the bounds of the Synods of Pittsburgh, Ohio, Wheeling, and Allegheny be requested to take up an annual collection to defray the contingent expenses of the Seminary.

The gratifying fact of the completion of the Endowment of the Fourth Professorship, has already been announced; and we have the pleasure to state that the other permanent funds are in a healthy condition, being all safely invested. For all the contingent expenses of the Institution—such as the wages of janitor, fuel, light, and repairs—we are dependent upon the small sum assessed upon the students, and such contributions as are made voluntarily for this purpose. Up to this time these resources have been nearly sufficient, but the Board find themselves getting gradually into debt for this purpose. We feel assured that the various churches will feel it a privilege to unite annually in sustaining this one of their own institutions, erected and endowed by themselves. Ordinarily, it will require but a very small sum from each church (if all contribute.) This year the authorities of the city of Allegheny have directed the grading and paving of the streets on which both the Seminary and Beauty Hall are located, and as their municipal laws require the property abutting on the streets to be taxed for this purpose, our contingent expenses will be larger than usual. A valued friend of this "School of the Prophets" has suggested that for the sake of uniformity, the last week of February would be a suitable time for this effort, being the week of prayer for Seminaries, &c.

Respectfully, F. G. BAILEY, Pres't., JOHN T. LOGAN, Sec'y. P. S.—All moneys to be sent to T. H. NEVIN, Treasurer.

A Debt Paid.—The Central Church, Allegheny, under the pastoral care of Rev. THOMAS X. ORR, has, we learn, paid off its entire debt. The congregation is flourishing, and the pastor has bright prospects.

CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY.

Every man needs a home. For our physical, social, and Christian well-being, we need a home. We need a home to propagate and train the human race. For all these, and for all other good purposes, we need a safe, happy, and peaceful home. And such a home we can have only in a country where there are good laws faithfully executed. A country where there is good government; where there is law and order; is one of the first essentials of social life. Hence every man, woman, and child, is interested in the condition of the country. Hence patriotism is a virtue; and a wise and pure love of country is embraced in the Christian graces. And hence the religious journal should not only keep its readers informed of the condition of public affairs, but should, guided by the precepts, principles, and spirit of Divine revelation, put forth an influence tending to correct social evils, and to make all things just and right. The religious journal is the paper which should fearlessly and assiduously labor to purify, elevate, and guide public sentiment.

Now is the time peculiarly favorable to ascertain the condition of national affairs. Now the annual reports, from the President and the Executive Departments, are submitted to the National Councils, and published for the information of the people.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE is a document ever looked for with interest. We this year, as usual, give the Message, without abridgement, to our readers. It should be read by every one who would vote, or talk, or think as a citizen. The topic which elicits most attention, is the views presented in relation to reconstruction. The President seems not to favor that radical theory which would destroy the States of this Union. He rather speaks of these as being in a condition of suspended animation; and he would resuscitate them. If even one-tenth the number, in any seceded State, of the voters of 1860, will attest their loyalty by a solemn oath, they are authorized to again put the State government into action, as a component part of the Union. The only restriction imposed is, that no action shall be taken against the Emancipation Proclamation. And to all, except a few whose guilt is most aggravated, he tenders an exemption from the confiscation of their property, and from the other penalties of treason. The matter of emancipation he thus protects, so far as his action is concerned. Its final condition he leaves, very appropriately, to the Supreme Court.

This offer is generous and kind, or it is defective, according to the standpoint from which we view it. Men why, by their treason have forfeited their claim to property and life, may well embrace it. And the loyal people of the seceded States may also rejoice in it, seeing it offers them a restoration of their political status, with their personal claims unimpaired, before the courts of their country. How the plan may be viewed by those most interested, and how it may take with Congress and the Northern public, are things yet to be tested. There is this about it, as the President well remarks, that it is a proposition directed to the people's choice; and that it need not prevent any other plan by which Providence may lead to the healing of our national difficulties.

For ourselves we still cling to the Scriptural rule which we advocated at the first. God has bidden "the power" to be "a terror to evil doers," and, "not to bear the sword in vain." The Chief Magistrate may well hold out the hope of pardon to those who will lay down their arms and return to peaceful homes, and "cease to do evil," and "learn to do well." And he may be magnanimous in his offers. But we would rather that he would not complicate matters—not resort to indirect, or to side expedients. We believe most firmly, that a thorough suppression of the rebellion, by the military power, and a rigid execution of the law upon its leaders, will be the most effective means of peace; of a righteous, tranquil, honorable, and lasting peace. It will be the best restoration, the most perfect re-construction, the most easy, quiet, and entire extinguisher of the hateful evil of slavery.

THE FINANCES OF THE COUNTRY, as presented in the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, a large part of which we publish, seem to be in a healthy state. The debt is becoming enormous; though it is not quite so large as had been estimated. The management by Mr. CHASE is certainly very skillful. The purpose not to increase the issue of Treasury notes ("green backs") is judicious. Taxation must be increased as a necessity. Of the imposts suggested on distilled spirits and tobacco, we expect to pay but very little; and the increased rates on tea and coffee we will pay most cheerfully, as long as we are able.

Reports of the other Secretaries we cannot give for want of space. We will state a few of the facts:

THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES, so large, created so suddenly, so heroic, firm, and pertentious in battle, is a wonder to the world. The report of Secretary STANTON is pretty much a narrative of the doings of the army during the last twelve months. The armies of Gen. MEADE and LEE, he finds on nearly the same ground on which they were a year ago. Our troops have now a firm footing in every rebel State. The late draft furnished fifty thousand men to the army, and over ten millions of dollars of commutation money. There are fifty thousand negro soldiers enlisted, and this work progresses.

The report gives some interesting particulars about the operations of the telegraph, and the production of arms and munitions of war. But it does not tell us the number of our patriotic people who have joined the army; nor the number of killed, wounded,

deed by sickness, and discharged for cause; nor are we informed of the present strength of our military arm. There has been, and still is, a reticence in this department of the public service, which is exceedingly unsatisfactory.

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY is much more full in his report. Mr. WELLES has done a great amount of work, since March, 1861. The growth of the Navy is astonishing. We have now built and on the way, five hundred and eighty-eight vessels of war, adapted to carry and use four thousand five hundred and forty-three guns. Seventy-five of these vessels are iron-clad steamers. Some of these are powerful ships for coast and harbor defense; but only a few of them are adapted to a foreign service.

The blockade is a great work. A coast of three thousand five hundred and forty-nine miles, having one hundred and eighty-nine openings for ingress, has been guarded; and rivers measuring three thousand six hundred and fifteen miles have been watched.

In one thing the Secretary has been exceedingly defective—he has built no fast steamers, to catch the swift-sailing pirates. It is a blot upon our fame, that three Confederate vessels should prey upon our commerce for over two years, and we have produced nothing which could catch them. We hope soon to be able to tell something different, as the engines of our steamers, builders are at work. The Secretary asks an appropriation of \$142,000,000.

THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT flourishes. The mail service is good, and the Department is nearly self-sustaining. While it had the South to serve, it fell millions in debt. Secretary BEAVER has shown ability.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, conducted by Secretary USHER, has an important work. The matter of the Public Lands, Internal Improvements, Patents, Agriculture, &c., belong to the nation's happiness and glory. The arts of war are painfully useful; while those of peace are a country's blissful necessity.

SUSTAIN THE CHRISTIAN PRESS.

Christians should be exceedingly assiduous in the use of the press. It is a power second only to the pulpit. And to keep out the evil you must introduce the good. Let there be no destitution; no vacancy where injurious reading may come in like a flood. Have every house supplied; every family furnished with the desired news, through a religious channel.

A contemporary says: "Finally, it is necessary to keep in mind that the religious paper is vital to the Church both for the religious news which it makes a specialty, and for the safe and right direction which it gives to passing events. It must stem the tide of error, passion, and worldliness. It must not be carried away with the fickle and changeable multitude. It must guide public sentiment; keep religious subjects uppermost, even in times of war, political and other excitements, for they are never more needed than then. Ministers, instead of being seduced, they should use all right influences to secure such a conductor in every family. For, in these days, how is it possible for church members to be intelligent, growing, benevolent, hopeful and helpful Christians without a thoroughly religious paper! The influence for good which such a journal exerts from week to week in a family and church cannot be measured in the world."

PROVIDE FOR THE DESTITUTE.

Calls, just now, for benevolence, are unusually large and numerous. It is estimated that, at present, there are more than one hundred thousand of the freedmen, slaves made free by the operations of the war, who are suffering great privations. They are, mostly, the aged, the feeble, the women, and the children. The husbands, fathers, and sons had not been in the habit of providing for these. That duty had devolved on their masters. Now, they have no masters; and the able bodied, to a very great extent, have enlisted; some forty thousand of them as soldiers, and one hundred thousand as teamsters, laborers, &c., with the army. Hence the classes above noted have no natural helpers. We are to help them. We have driven off their masters, or have asked them to leave. The account given of their sufferings, on the Tennessee, Mississippi, and elsewhere, for the want of food, raiment, and shelter, are most distressing.

A Society has been organized, having its centre in Cleveland, Ohio, to seek their relief. Other agencies are at work. Means are needed, and these must come from the liberal. Mostly, thus far, it is voluntary Associations which are in this field. The need, in many forms, and especially in the way of instruction, is likely to last for years; and also to increase greatly. Should our Church take hold of the matter? Should we have a specific department charged with this benevolence?

Princeton Theological Seminary.—The Annual Catalogue of 1863-4, gives the names of one hundred and eighty-one students; viz: Resident Graduates, 5; Senior Class, 63; Middle Class, 63; Junior Class, 60. Of these, 40 are graduates of Nassau Hall College, 18 of Union, 14 of Jefferson, and 12 of Lafayette. From the State of New York there are 44; Pennsylvania, 36; New Jersey, 22; Ohio 11. Thirty-seven Colleges and twenty-seven States and Countries are represented by the students.

New Churches.—We see it stated that the congregation of Dr. BRISLEY (United Presbyterian), are about to erect a new and handsome church edifice, in Allegheny City. The people of the Trinity Episcopal church contemplate performing for themselves a similar service, in Pittsburgh. The Methodist Episcopal brethren in Allegheny have a new foundation laid for a church. The Roman Catholics of Pittsburgh have also commenced a new church structure.

Our Exchanges with religious journals will all be continued; and also with secular journals where we have a special arrangement. Secular papers whose editors wish the Banner for family use, can have an exchange by sending us one dollar.

Ministers who wish to enrich their library with a few most valuable books, are requested to look at the advertisement of Smith, English & Co.

Remember the Seminary.—Our children are very frequent, they are even very important, sometimes, in their demands upon our purse. But when they so conduct themselves as to be an honor to us, the demands are met cheerfully. Now, the churches in this region have a child, located in Allegheny City. This child has many wants; but then, it is our honor, it is our glory. And more yet, it is preeminently useful. It accomplishes one of the greatest of works.

The Seminary now calls for aid. Read the request of the Trustees, and be prompt and liberal. Several costly contributions have been sent from England to the Boston Sanitary Fair, soon to be held. Among the contributors is Mrs. Addington, a sister of General Estour. A steam fire-engine, valued at \$4,000, will be sent to the fair, as a gift, from Concord, New-Hampshire.

THE NEW-BEDFORD (Mass.) Standard says: "A Representative has been elected from a district in Essex county, in this State, who had been aided as a pauper the last year. He was voted for in order to save the town from the expense of his support."

THE DEATH OF Robert Babcock, of Wardsboro', Vt., at the advanced age of 104 years and six months, took place recently. Mr. Babcock was one of the forty picked men who, under Lieut. Col. Barton, captured the British General—Sir William Prescott, on the night of July 10, 1777, and thus obtained an officer's commission in rank to exchange for Gen. Lee, who had been captured by the British.

NEW-YORK.

A COURSE OF Sabbath evening sermons by ministers of the leading Evangelical denominations has been commenced in this city. No subjects are to be discussed which are matters of controversy among Evangelical Christians.

WE LEARN from the Observer that a surprisingly large number of churches are in process of erection or are about being commenced in New-York City. It states that it was recently informed by an architect that he himself had forty churches in hand to build, the drawings of which he was preparing, or the erection of which he was superintending. The main reason for this somewhat singular condition of things at a time when labor and lumber are, exceedingly high, seems to be that money is plenty and people are easily induced to contribute of their abounding means to religious and philanthropic purposes.

EASTERN SUMMARY.

NEW-ENGLAND. A WRITER in the Congregationalist complains, that in Boston there is no "central power" in the form of a Congregational House, in which should be installed the societies of the denomination, and which should be provided with a library and suitable rooms for missionary, ministerial and committee-meetings. He thinks that a thorough union of Boston pastors and churches is necessary, in order in some measure to supply with moral bonds the lack of those outward links by which most other denominations are united.

A NEW-HAMPSHIRE paper contains the following interesting item in regard to aged ministers: "Rev. Peter Clark, of Upper Gilman-town, aged 82, has been in the ministry about 53 years. Rev. Enoch Place, of Stafford, aged 77 years, been in the ministry 50 years. Rev. Nathaniel Berry, of New-Durham, aged 74 years, been in the ministry 47 years. Rev. Thomas Perkins, of New-Hampton, aged 80 years, been in the ministry 47 years. Rev. Joseph Boody, of New-Durham, aged 90 years, been in the ministry 66 years."

REV. DR. EDDY, of the First Church, Northampton, has received a call to the pastorate of the Pearl Street church, Hartford, Ct., with a salary of \$3,500.

THE TRUSTEES of Dartmouth College have transferred Prof. Peckard from the chair of Modern Languages to that of the Greek Language and Literature, recently made vacant by the death of Professor Putnam. They also resolved to make an effort to raise one hundred thousand dollars for the general purposes of the College, particularly to fill up the endowment of professorships, to furnish a suitable room for Geological and Mineralogical Cabinets, and to establish scholarships of one thousand dollars each for the education of worthy indigent students.

ACCORDING to the recently published catalogue of Yale College, there are at present 632 students in attendance at that Institution. The Professors number forty-nine. The following Library statistics are given: The College Library, (not counting pamphlets,) 42,000; Linonian, 12,000; Brothers in Unity, 12,000; Professional Schools, 5,000—a grand total of 71,000 books.

We are pleased to learn that at a class meeting lately held in the President's lecture room, a Temperance Society was started in the Freshman Class of this College, and that the names of about sixty—nearly one-half the class—were immediately affixed to its pledge, with a good prospect of future growth.

A GRANITE MONUMENT, with inscriptions commemorative of his worth as a Christian citizen, has been placed over the grave of Hon. George N. Briggs, in the beautiful cemetery of Fitchfield, Mass. The Berkshire Eagle says: "The concept is massive, finely wrought, and in fine proportions. Upon this rests a finely wrought cross of Vermont statuary marble, extending the whole length of the sarcophagus, and supported at the head by a marble Bible."

IT IS DOUBTFUL whether the citizens of Massachusetts will altogether relish the compliment contained in the following paragraph from an exchange: "In illustration of the statement that insanity increases with the progress of civilization, refinement, and intellectual activity, Dr. Ray, in his lately published work on mental disorders, mentions the fact that the proportion of insane persons in Massachusetts is greater than in any other State in the Union."

THE Tract Journal says that a colored servant lately called at the Tract House in Boston, and said to the clerk that she was looking for a Dream Book for her mistress. He handed her a copy of "Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress," which she took, after expressing a little fear that it "wasn't exactly what her mistress wanted." The following day she again appeared, saying she thought she "would step in and say that the lady liked the book very much." The Pilgrim's Progress is the Prince of Dream Books.

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"The Sixty-fifth and Vine Street Hospital is devoted entirely to the reception of soldiers who have lost their limbs in battle, or who are suffering from deformities of joints produced by gunshot wounds. It has been open since the 2d of November, 1862, and has had four hundred and twenty-two inmates, one hundred and fifty of whom still remain, and only two have died. Eighty-three of those now there have one leg, and twenty one but one arm; but the Government has made arrangements to supply lost limbs with artificial ones. Sixty-five thousand dollars have been appropriated in all by Congress toward this commendable and charitable object, and it is presumed the sum will be increased from time to time as the demand requires."

THE prize steamship Jupiter, captured while trying to run the blockade into Wilmington, was sold on Wednesday last at Philadelphia. The vessel is 134 feet in length; 18 feet breadth of beam, 8 feet hold, and has a carrying capacity of 1,500 tons. She was built in Glasgow, and is related with iron. She was sold for twenty-nine thousand dollars.

AT A MEETING of the Friends, lately held in Philadelphia, a worthy Quaker arose, and after lamenting the fact that many of their young men had joined the army, moved the appointment of a committee to investigate the matter, which was agreed to. The President undertook to announce the names, but the first, after a painful silence, arose and said to have a son in the army; the next had two sons there; and the next, a venerable patriarch had sent his own son, two grandsons, and three nephews! The resolution was then rescinded. It is estimated that there are between two and three thousand Quakers in the army.

THE local preachers within the bounds of the Philadelphia Annual Conference, Methodist, number three hundred and thirty.

Your Dunning Machine.

Proprietors of the Congregationalist. I am beat. I scarcely know what to think. I say. To be dunned by machinery, would have dreamed of it? It is not enough to be dunned by machinery, but through the Post Office; but to have a curious machine, at an expense of several hundred dollars, to perform this unpleasant business, it is an instance of Yankee perseverance surprisingly annoying. What comes next? A machine, no doubt, will take the money right out of the subscriber's purse, in spite of him. A great time this, for the printer's devil. All that comes next, is to have the printer's devil, and about paying the printer is at an end. Printers must be paid. These little harmless editorials that exhort subscribers, from time to time, to pay their bills, have been played out. They have proved like blank cartridges fired into a copperhead mob. Nobody cared for them. But now that you propose to get your pay by machinery, the tables are turned. Just look at it.

Your paper came, as usual, on last Friday evening. The first thing that met my eye was your humble servant's name in a new type, and against it these mysterious characters, "1 April '63." "What does this mean?" said I. I looked again and again, and the characters grew more mysterious. "A printing of the Knight of the Golden Circle?" I inquired silently within. Still, mystery was more mysterious. So I fell to reading the first page, usual, thinking all the while, "What are these characters mean?" You may well judge of my surprise when, on opening the sheet to read the editorials, I learned that they revealed "A printing of the Knight of the Golden Circle?" I inquired silently within. Still, mystery was more mysterious. So I fell to reading the first page, usual, thinking all the while, "What are these characters mean?" You may well judge of my surprise when, on opening the sheet to read the editorials, I learned that they revealed "A printing of the Knight of the Golden Circle?" 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