

Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17, 1864.

THE LATE REV. G. W. THOMPSON, D. D.

The death of this widely-known and eminently useful minister of the Gospel, is mourned with great lamentation. We knew him, and loved him. Many hours of delightful intercourse have we had with him. And with great interest have we listened to the gracious words which so often fell from his lips. He fell asleep in Jesus on the 25th of Jan., 1864.

As many of our readers are anxious to know the particulars connected with his sickness and death, we give the following account from a correspondent who was often with him in his closing hours:

"Services preparatory to a communion season were commenced on the first of January. During the "Week of Prayer" it became evident that the Spirit of God was in our midst, and before the close of the week, the number of the inquirers had reached nearly one hundred. Rev. J. J. HAMILTON preached morning and evening, and Dr. THOMPSON followed with words of exhortation and warning. The communion (Jan. 10th) was unusually solemn. Mr. HAMILTON preached during the following week, until his strength was exhausted. During all this time, Dr. THOMPSON, in addition to his labors at the church, conversed with inquirers during the day at his own house--one day with nearly forty.

The following week Rev. W. P. COCHRAN assisted him. Dr. THOMPSON had an attack of jaundice, but attended church, and labored there and at home as usual. He appeared to recover of jaundice in a few days, and when Mr. COCHRAN was obliged to return to his own charge, Dr. THOMPSON preached several nights. His last sermon was the "Pharisee Sermon," preached Friday night, Jan. 22d.

"During all the meetings he seemed especially burdened about unconverted church members. Nearly all his remarks were directed to them. Night after night he urged and entreated even with tears, that those who have a name to live and are dead," would not continue to live "as the enemies of the cross of Christ." Sometimes he seemed almost in agony for their souls. On Saturday morning, Jan. 23d, he rode to Perryville with the writer of this article. On the way home he spoke of feeling very unwell. In the evening he was unable to preach. On Sabbath morning his symptoms were so much worse, that we began to fear for his life. Two physicians were in almost constant attendance. We hoped and prayed that the Lord would be pleased to spare his life, but on Thursday forenoon it became evident that he could not recover. The physician told him gently and kindly, that he could not live much longer. He listened calmly, almost with a smile, till the physician ceased speaking, and then with perfect composure replied: "The Lord's will be done." Turning to his wife, he tenderly asked: "Mother, (he always called her mother) can you say that?" Having arranged some business matters, he gave his family an affectionate farewell. In the midst of tears we tried to commend him and his family to God.

"About half an hour before he died, he said: 'And what shall I say to my dear people? Put this inscription on my coffin: "Remember the words which I spoke unto you while I was yet with you." Some moments after, his wife asked him: "Is your trust in Christ firm?" He replied: "Oh, yes! and in Christ it is only a poor sinner's hope." He lay quiet a little while, and then asked us to sing the 90th hymn: "There is a fountain filled with blood."

During the singing of the hymn, a heavenly smile lit up his countenance, and thus he passed away, calmly, peacefully, to join in the song of Moses and the Lamb. His mind was clear to the last, his faith firm. Truly, he fell asleep in Jesus. His work is done, his battle fought, his victory won. What he did during his life, and how he did it, will be told, I trust, hereafter. The palm and the crown are his. May they be hours, too?"

REFLECTIONS ON RELIGIOUS JOURNALISM.

The following is by a new contributor, from whom we expect frequent valuable favors of the kind now presented to our readers. He has an original way of "putting" things, which cannot fail to please and instruct.

"Messrs. Editors:—There is a sort of intrinsic charm faintly accredited in the popular mind to print, in an indirect or oblique manner, which would exert little or no attention stated in manuscript or told orally, assumes some value the very moment it is enshrined in printed characters. Our country people, those especially of a speculative age, treat printed matter with extraordinary reverence. This popular homage led me a few days ago into a train of reflections upon the responsibilities, sacred, civil and social, connected with the successful publication of a religious newspaper like the Banner, whose weekly editions penetrate in this Presbyterian region to the farthest solitary retreat in the country. It would not be courteous, however, to offer any speculative counsel or criticisms at so early a period of your editorial career. I shall content myself now with some general reflections upon the province of religious journalism."

It is wonderful how many men of pressing concerns are ready to point to some newspaper as a source of information and instruction. A good newspaper has become indispensable to such men—as necessary in fact as a breakfast of beefsteak and coffee, to qualify them for achieving a clever, well-earned day. Without their preside in the community, would soon suffer an eclipse. A good old gentleman of my acquaintance plumes himself upon a factitious reputation he has gained for profound oracular wisdom. He walks with a cane, and discourses at the stores and post office upon orthodoxy and the Constitution as it is, employing an authoritative style of assertion which brooks no controversy. By a mere accident, in connection with the temporary interruption of the mails, I discovered that he was wholly indebted to a transcendent religious journal for his sentiments. His mind is in truth nothing but an old mirror—a mirror that reflects for him with singular fidelity among admiring neighbors, the pseudo-conservatism of his favorite paper. So it often happens that men who are destitute of original powers of reflection may yet, by means of a newspaper, wield an extensive influence in their social communities. How important, then, for the interests of society, that a sound and loyal religious paper should supply the simulated originality of these would-be mouliders of public sentiment."

Mr. Allison has, for many years, been pastor of the Presbyterian church at Sewickley, 'one of the most delightful churches in the whole land,' and assumes the responsible and laborious position of editor of a most successful paper. He is an accomplished scholar, a clear and vigorous writer, and possesses a cultivated taste."

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Our predecessor, sometime ago, raised the price of the Banner to \$2.00 per annum. To do this was necessary on account of the increased rates of paper, labor, and all the et ceteras of a newspaper establishment. But a week or two afterwards, he stated in a card that, owing to the fact that a little expense in mailing could be saved by sending packages to one address, he would give five papers to one address for \$3.00. But owing to the difficulties connected with this, the offer was not continued; yet many persons noticed the card, and with a single exception it has been misconstrued. That it was withdrawn with good reason will be evident upon the slightest consideration."

All the five papers were to be directed to one man. They must all begin and end at the same time. The person receiving the five papers must pay the postage on all, distribute four of the papers to others, and then collect the amount of postage due from each. This was a trouble that no one would be likely to take unless having a great deal of leisure, and taking a great delight in making small change. This will make it evident to all that such an arrangement would be complicated and annoying to all concerned."

A FIRST CLASS BOOK-STORE.

An establishment of this kind is a credit to any community, and a means of enjoyment and usefulness which cannot be easily over-estimated. We are pleased to be able to remind our readers of the superiority so long maintained by the book-store of Mr. R. S. DAVIS, on Wood Street. Mr. Davis has lately associated with him in his increasing business, Messrs. SAMUEL A. CLARKE and W. W. WATERS. Both of these gentlemen are men of experience, tact, and energy in the book-trade. Mr. CLARKE was for many years known as the active member of the old firm of C. M. REED & Co., Washington, Pa. And Mr. WATERS has already been connected with this house for several years, and has such a high reputation among its patrons, that additional recommendation is unnecessary.

There are some features of this Establishment to which we wish to call the special attention of our readers. Here can always be found a full supply of the Standard and popular works, such as are needed by scholars and divines, readers of rare books, and the people in general. And we can assure our readers that if they cannot come to the city themselves, they can order their books by mail, and obtain them at the same rates as if personally present."

This firm possesses great facilities for obtaining any publication issued in any part of the world, in the shortest possible time."

Allegheny Theological Seminary.—Rev. Dr. BEATTY, in addition to his valuable Lectures in Practical Theology, has presented to each of the students of the Seminary, a copy of Dr. SAMUEL MILLER'S "Volume, entitled 'Clerical Manners and Habits,' a book admirably suited to be a *Vade Mecum* for all the rising ministry. We notice that, within a few weeks, Allegheny has furnished three pastors to churches of Philadelphia: Rev. DAVID A. CUMMINGHAM, Rev. JOHN EWING, and Rev. ROBT. TAYLOR—and this in addition to Rev. N. W. CONKLING, of the Arch Street church."

Notices of the City Press.—We hereby tender our thanks for the kind and cordial greeting the present editors and proprietors have received from the secular press of this city. The Gazette thus introduces us to its readers, after noticing the retirement of Rev. Dr. McKINNEY:

"He is succeeded by the Rev. JAMES ALLISON, who, that he may assume this more far-reaching position of influence in the Church, is about to dissolve his pastoral relation with the Presbyterian congregation of Sewickley, in which he and his people have lived for many years in mutual love and confidence. As we know him well—as we do also his associate, Prof. ROBERT E. THOMPSON—we cordially welcome them both to their new and responsible field of labor."

"Mr. ALLISON entered upon his new field of labor this week, and it is with pleasure we transfer to our columns an extract from his opening address to his readers. We forgot to mention that Mr. ALLISON was formerly one of the editors of the Banner. His position, therefore, is not to him a novel one; and after giving what we have just quoted, no assurance is needed of his eminent qualifications."

"The Chronicle says: 'We feel sure that, under the management of such young, energetic, and in every way competent men, the Banner will flourish as it never has done before. It will be the aim of the present proprietors to make the Banner a first-class religious weekly, as good as any published in the east. That they can do this with proper tact, push, and liberality, we have not the slightest doubt. This is the centre of Presbyterianism; and the great West needs, and will liberally support a real good religious weekly, containing news of all the Churches, and free from bigotry, and a too-contracted sectarianism. Christians of all denominations, but more especially of the various branches of the great Presbyterian Church, will be glad to give such a journal a hearty welcome to their homes.' The Pittsburgh Post says: 'The Banner has always been a high-spirited journal, a zealous advocate of the religious tenets of the denomination of which

it is the organ, and liberal to its contemporaries who may honestly differ with it. Success attend the Banner.'"

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