THE DUTY OF THE HOUR.

As the Spring wears slowly away, all eyes are directed in eager expectation to the fields, already rendered memorable by fierce conflicts, where hostile armies have been for months preparing to renew the struggle. The speculator, making or losing a fortune with each ebb or flow of the tide of battle, listens for the first whispered rumor of defeat or victory that may affect the price of cotton and of gold. The statesman, with scarcely less of interest, lays down his dispatches "from the front" to calculate the effect they will produce upon the popular mind, almost as sensitive in its fluctuations as the medium of exchange. Each heart, swayed by its ruling passion, turns to the scene of approaching conflict. and whatever the peculiar interest may be throbs with anxiety for the result.

Has this hour of stillness, that precede the storm, no interest for the Christian A war which has been growing in magnitude and bitterness, through three long years of strife and blood, is about to cul minate in a campaign for which the resources in men and means, on both sides, have been taxed as never heretofore. In a few brief days, or weeks, battles must occur which, in all human probability, will decide the destiny of the Republic. And apart from the tremendous issues thus to be determined, affecting the entire nation and its whole future history, not less solemn is the fearful truth that, in addition to the throngs of sick and wounded who will languish in our hospitals, thousands upon thousands of hearts, now beating strong with life and hope, will soon be forever still-multitudes of deathless spirits will soon be ushered into the eternal world. Is not this, then, an hour of painful inter-

est to the Christian? Nor do these limits, wide though they are, embrace the whole field of sorrow After each new conflict, sad messages will speed with electric swiftness to all parts of the land, bearing anguish unutterable to many a grief-stricken parent, to many a weeping wife, and to many a little flock who have long watched for a father's step that will be heard no more. Such is the brief epitome of a new campaign: other homes to be desolate-other hearts to ache. The contemplation of this wide-spread sorrow, so soon to envelop our land, cannot fail deeply to affect a Christian heart.

What, then, are the claims of the present hour? They deserve, assuredly, more than

One duty undoubtedly is, to encourage our brave soldiers in the field, by showing that we love them and care for them and for their families. We can do this in various ways in the present, without waiting for the contingencies of the future. We can write to them; we can send them tokens of our grateful remembrance; and and give them the counsel and comfort they so much need.

Another duty is, to repress in our own hearts a vindictive feeling, so ready to arise when we think of the guilty authors of all this misery which has come upon our once happy land. It may be difficult to restrain a revengeful desire, when we hear the tidings of such revolting brutality as the recent massacre at Fort Pillow. At such times it may be hard indeed to heed the Divine injunction, "Love your enemies;" yet it is not the less our duty to remember who it is that hath said, "Vengeance is mine."

Another lesson, already often taught, is that we make not man our trust. Too prone to rest with overweening confidence upon the skill of a favorite General, or upon the results of a favorite measure, we have been slow to learn how unreliable are all such sources of hope. Connected with this should be the caution, that we have no right to look for uninterrupted successes. Such is not the usual history of war. We should be prepared, therefore, for reverses: so that, even in the midst of disasters, we may preserve unshaken the determination that, come what may, we will, God helping us, continue the struggle until he shall give us the victory.

But, last of all, and most important duty of the hour, let all Christians, with humble, carnest, unceasing and united prayer, besiege the throne of grace, that He from whom alone our help can come would, in this extremity of our nation's peril, have mercy upon us; that he would give to our rulers the wisdom, and to our armies the strength, which are his gift; that he would prepare such as may be called to lay down their lives, for the solemnities of the dying hour: that he would lead our enemies and ourselves to see and to forsake the sins. which have brought such fearful, yet deserved, punishment on them and us; that we, as one nation, may fear his name; and that the summary of our future history may be-" Happy is that people whose God is the Lord."

THE BUTCHERY AT FORT PILLOW. There are some crimes so atrocious that

we feel altogether unable to form a proper conception of their horrid character. In such cases, words are wanting to give a sufficient expression of our reprobation and detestation. An instance of this kind is found in the late butchery at Fort Pillow. Many have been the occasions since the the attack on Fort Sumpter, on the 13th of April, 1861, when rebel soldiers have covered themselves with an infamy from which nothing can ever deliver them. But nothing they have ever done in outrage and cruelty approaches the inhumanity and brutality committed last week on the banks

The people have not yet forgotten the horrors of that night on which QUANTRELL and his execrated horde entered Lawrence But QUANTRELL and his companions were avowed pillagers, robbers, and murderers, and made no pretensions to the character of soldiers engaged in regular war. No such alleviation, miserable as it may be. can be discovered in this recent enormity. Six thousand men, under command of a General of high standing in the rebel service, attack a place defended by only six

of the Mississippi.

would have won the admiration of generous | Smithfield Street.

Yet the noble defence against such vastly superior numbers, was made the occasion had been vile curs. Negroes whose valor lives. had won them lasting renown, were compelled to dig graves, in which they were money, would be as vain as to endeavor to bor under most encouraging circumstances than ever before.

and Barbarism." in which he set forth the possible by paying as we go. stronger determination than ever before, treasury.

THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

The Second Annual Report of the United States Christian Commission is on our table, and we regret that it cannot be read by every Christian and philanthropic man, woman and child in the United States. We are free to say that no other association has done so much, with as small expense, as this, for the souls and bodies tle field and in every hospital, ministering to both the physical and spiritual wants of the suffering; they have preached the Gospel in every division of our armies; and in thousands of tents have they pointed great multitudes to the Lamb of God. And all these labors have been entirely voluntary, without fee or reward of a pecuniary kind. All the money contributed is expended in procuring hospital supplies of clothing, food, and delicacies such as are needed by the sick, and in providing religious newspapers and other religious reading at the lowest rates. The delegates. and all the stores, reading matter, etc., of the Commission, are carried over the railreaders may know the absolute economy they were given.

The entire operations for the year 1863, in money received, stores donated, Scriptures contributed, and religious newspapers and books, etc., amount to \$916,837.05. The following is a general summary of the

Christian Ministers and Laymen commissioned to minister to men on battle-fields and in camps, hospi-

tals and ships, during year. Copies of Scriptures distributed ...... Hymn and Psalm Books distributed ... Library Books distributed ... Magazines and Pamphlets distributed... Silent Comforters, &c., distributed ....

stores with their own hands, thus pro- high ground he and his co-laborers have Dickey is an elder of the second church of viding against waste or an improper appli- taken in our great struggle, within the last Nashville, which was set over to this Prescation. In view of the great need of the few months. stores and labors of this Commission which will soon be experienced on many THEOLOGICAL REVIEW, for April, has for fields, its treasury should be replenished at it contents: I. The Messiah's Second

The Pittsburgh Branch has been one of Commission has been blessed. Its contri-sity of Pennsylvania. IV. Bulgarian Lit-Rev. James M'Gready, in 1816. butions of money and stores have been very large; and its delegates have not been known as the Army Committee of Western Pennsylvania, and was organized April 6th, is briefly summed as follows: 

 Cash contributions.
 \$21,348.81

 Value of stores donated.
 45,708.79

 Value of stores sent to armies.
 54,079.01

Value of reading matter..... 4,635.29 The Pittsburgh Branch has sent seventytwo delegates to the armies: earnest, faithful men, who have devoted their time and mission has depended, in a measure, on ment. Presbyteries, Conferences, and other Church Councils, to appoint delegates to represent

philanthropist, and entreat that there may treatment of criminals, and the incentives Concert collections. Mr. M'Cullough, the

hundred brave men; and after resorting to | be no falling off in the receipts of money and | to reformation, are worthy the careful atvarious acts of duplicity, through flags of stores, but that there may be a large in- tention of all interested in the public weltruce and otherwise, this rebel force at crease. Money can be sent to JOSEPH fare. This annual publication may be length overcomes the few hundred men Albree, Treasurer, 71 Wood Street, Pitts- made productive of vast benefit to humanwhose heroism against such fearful odds burgh, and stores to W. P. WEYMAN, 79 ity and religion. The Report before us

### THE SINEWS OF WAR.

The secular press has, with great unafor an indiscriminate butchery of white nimity, urged the Government to provide and black, sick and wounded, women and promptly, by a judicious and well-balanced children, scarcely paralleled in the atrocities system of taxation, for the vast expendiof the most savage tribes. Nor can it be ture which the prosecution of the war ineven plead that this was done in the mo- volves. The religious press, we conceive, ment of fierce excitement; for some of the | may well add its voice and influence, since greatest brutalities were delayed until the the support of the Government by cheersecond day. Men helpless from sickness fully submitting to the necessary calls it water, Presbytery of Allegheny City, on and wounds, were shot or bayoneted. makes upon our means, is as much the part last Friday. The Rev. James Allison pre Women and children, crying for mercy, of Christian loyalty and true patriotism, as sided and preached the sermon; charge to were slaughtered remorselessly, as if they to aid it, if need be, by the hazard of our the pastor by the Rev. Mr. Lowray; charge

buried alive. And dead bodies were col- prosecute it without men. To recruit our lected and burned, that the demoniacal ap- armies, the energies of the country are meeting, dissolved the pastoral relation be petite might be satiated. The whole scene even now being put forth; and with the tween Rev. O. H. Miller and the churches has been so bloody, so revolting, so dis- replenishing of our ranks, multitudes will of Armagh and Centre. graceful to civilized man, that if there be think that our whole duty has been accomaught of humanity, to say nothing of any plished. Far from it. To support and following additional Commissioners to the higher principle, in any Southern bosoms, render effective these masses of men, mil- General Assembly: from the Presbytery of their faces must blush with a deeper shame lions of money must be expended. To Blairsville, Rev. James E. Carson and Mr. raise these means, a variety of measures Robert Fulton; alternates, Rev. S. H. Shep-In view of this and other acts of kin- has been resorted to, suggested by the fer- ley and Dr. Sheridan ... Presbytery of Phildred nature, the question will press itself tile invention of the Secretary of the Treas- adelphia, Rev. Dr. Schenck and Rev. J. on thoughtful and Christian men of all par- ury. But the issuing of legal tenders, of W. Dale. Chilicothe, Rev. E. Grand Gi ties, Are not these the natural and ripened five-twenties, of ten-forties, of certificates rard and Mr. William Pinkerton. Presby fruits of the twin crimes of rebellion and of indebtedness, and the various other in- tery of Cincinnati, Rev. N. C. Burt, D.D. slavery? Could such vile passions have genious methods of disguising the one and Judge Stanley Matthews. sprung up and been nurtured to such awful stubborn fact, that we are carrying on this maturity under the culture of any other than war by borrowing money, cannot avail forthese influences? Mr. SUMNER once de- ever. A war, expensive beyond all precelivered a speech which will not soon be for- dent, is upon us. Its vast outlay must be gotten, on the "Relations between Slavery met, not by borrowing alone, but as far as

idea that slavery was necessarily barbarism. The present Congress has long been in-Now he would not be considered far out of cubating over a tax bill, designed to inthe way if he should undertake to demon-crease the revenue by direct taxation. With strate that slavery and fiendishness are in- Americans this has always been an unpopseparably connected. The butchery at Fort ular measure. But, once convinced that it are providentially thrown upon our hands. Pillow will do more than all the books ever is a necessity, this great people will resowritten, and all the speeches ever made, to lutely accept the fact and shoulder the burconvince the American people of the ne- den. We confess to a feeling of disapcessity of freeing themselves at once and pointment that whisky on hand will proba- have generously arranged to give him a six less victims has not been shed in vain. We a favor should be shown to whisky venders. greatly mistake the spirit of the people of On the contrary, a very cogent argument this country, if this appalling outrage does might be made, to prove that this class of not unite all parties again, as did the as- our fellow-citizens should be permitted to sault on Sumpter, and fire them with a contribute a few millions to the national

for the speedy and complete suppression of In connection with this increase of taxa- of Dr. W. L. Breckenridge and Rev. W. this unreasonable, wicked, and cruel re- tion, a rigid and unsparing economy, both J. McKnight. From fifty to sixty persons public and private, is loudly demanded are among the inquirers, and many of them private economy, if for no other reason, be- are students of the College." wasteful luxury, millions of dollars at home, ville, Ky., has been unanimously called to whilst our sons and brothers are enduring the pastorate of the First Presbyterian hardships in the field—public economy, be- church, Boston, Massachusetts. The meetcause the millions, uselessly squandered, ing of the congregation was unusually large, must all be made up by imposts upon the toil of a much-enduring people, who have a right to require that the men and means

And yet, when we have done the utmost the Lord, that he may have mercy upon us. and that the ground of our confidence may be-The Lord of Hosts is with us: the God of Jacob is our refuge.

# RELIGIOUS REVIEWS.

DANVILLE REVIEW .- The number for March has the following articles: I. The byterian church of Philadelphia, then of a Nature and Extent of Church Authority, church in Cincinnati, afterwards of a church by Rev. R. L. STANTON, D.D. II. The in Brooklyn, and for several years he has Nation's Success and Gratitude, by Rev. ably and acceptably discharged the duties roads free of charge. Even their dispatches R. J. Breckinkinge, D.D. III. Baptist of a Professor in the North-western Theoare sent by the telegraph lines without Revision of the Bible, by Rev. ED. P. logical Seminary. In the Assembly of cost. We mention these things that our Humphrey, D.D. IV. The Loyalty De- 1861, Dr. Lord took high ground in favor manded by the Present Crisis, by Rev. of the "Spring Resolutions," in a speech practised, and that their contributions are JACOB COOPER. V. Disloyalty in the of great power, the effect of which was only used for the direct object to which Church, by Rev. GEORGE MORRISON. VI. most marked. A Biographical Sketch of the Rev. Jno. C. Young, D.D., late President of Centre College, by J. A. JACOBS. VII. New Testament Doctrine of the Holy Spirit, by Rev. JOEL K. LYLE.

The first four articles deal with matters of living and present interest, in a very able manner. Dr. HUMPHREYS' article on the Baptist Revision of the Bible is timely and effective, showing most conclusively its reckless and unreliable character. The article by Mr. Cooper has the true ring. Let this Review be sustained, for it has a great work to do for the Church and the Coun-Pages of Tracts distributed............11,976,722 try in that region. Dr. BRECKINRIDGE made a mistake when he attacked the Pres 12,648 ident's Emancipation Proclamation, in its The delegates distribute the hospital pa es; but he has gotten over all that, in

THE AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN AND D., Professor in Yale College. VI. Paul's Allegorical Use of the Mosaic Narrative. 1863. The result of its operations for the by Howard Crossy, D.D., of New York nine months ending December 31st, 1863, City. VII. Theories of the Inspiration of the Scriptures. VIII. Criticisms; on

This Review is published by: J. M. SHERWOOD, No. 5 Beekman Street, New-York. As a Quarterly we have always iked it, though not agreeing with all its teachings. It is always lively, learned,

was prepared by the Rev. Dr. E. C. WINES, formerly a professor in Washington College, Pa., and like everything from his pen, is elaborate and thorough.

## NEWS OF THE CHURCHES AND MINISTERS. PRESBYTERIAN.

Old School.-Rev. James M. Shields was installed pastor of the church of Bridgeto the people by the Rev. J. M. Smith. To attempt to carry on war without M. Shields enters upon a large field of la

The Prosbytery of Blairsville at its late

This week we are able to announce the

At the late meeting of the Presbytery of Chilicothe, the following paper was adopted:

Whereas, The National Government has promised protection to our missionaries within our military lines in the Southern States; therefore, Resolved, That we earnestly recommend the Board of Domestic Missions to send as many missionaries as practicable to this field, giving special attention to the wants of the freedmen who

Rev. F. G. Clark, pastor of the West Twenty-third Street Presbyterian church. New York, preached his twelfth anniversary sermon last Sabbath week. His people forever from the stain and wickedness of bly be exempted; nor can we see any rea- months' rest, having engaged Prof. McIl human slavery. The blood of those help- sons, constitutional or otherwise, why such vaine of Princeton, to supply his pulpit besides giving him a purse for his traveling expenses. He expects to sail for Europe in May.

The Presbyter says:

"We hear that a very extended revival is in progress in Danville, Ky., in the First and Second churches, which are in charge

The Rev. E. P. Humphrey, D.D. fessor in the Theological Seminary at Danand entirely harmonious and cordial. The Rev. Randolph A. De. Lancey was appointee a commissioner to prosecute the call be fore the respective Presbyteries. Dr. Humthey have so nobly furnished shall be used obten is a notive of New Horleyd, and a son College, Massachusetts. He is the first choice

we can do, let us never forget that our which he has peculiar qualifications, as well trust should not be in the superiority of as eminent abilities. The Rev. Mr. De numbers and resources. As a people we Lancey, who consented to take charge temhave sinned; as a people let us turn unto porarily of the Boston church, and has remained longer than he intended, we understand, earnestly desires Dr. Humphrey's acceptance.

The North Presbyterian church, Chicago, of which Rev. Dr. Rice war formerly pastor, has given a call to the Rev. Willis Lord, D.D., to become its pastor. Dr. L. was at one time pastor of the Seventh Pres-

The Rev. Robert Taylor, pastor elect of the North Presbyterian church of Philadelphia, died at his residence in Germantown. on the morning of Friday, the 15th inst. Mr. Taylor was at one time a successful lawyer in Mercer, Pa. After his conversion he studied Theology in the Western Theological Seminary. His first pastoral charge was at Warren, Pa. Afterwards he became pastor of the Second Presbyterian church in Germantown; and last Fall was called to the North church of Philadelphia. He was an earnest and popular preacher.

Rev. Messrs. Lapsley and Cleland, and Messrs. Sampson and Dickey, have been elected delegates to the General Assembly, by the Presbytery of Transylvania. Mr. bytery by the last Assembly.

The new Presbyterian church in Sharor congregation, twelve miles west of Carmi, White County, Illinois, was dedicated once, and large additions of hospital cloth- Coming, by E. F. HATFIELD, D.D. II. preached by the Rev. B. C. Swan, of Shaw. March 27th. The dedication sermon was ing, food, and stimulants, be made to its The Political Principles of the Old Testa- neetown, from 2. Chron. vii:15, 16, and ment Prophets, by Dr. HERMANN HUP. the dedicatory prayer by the present stated FELD. III. The Antiquity of Man, by D. supply of the church, after reading 2 the very best branches with which the R. GOODWIN, D.D., Provost of the Univer- the church since its organization by the erature, by ELIAS RIGGS, D.D., Missionary | building is a neat frame structure, well fin to Constantinople. V. The Principles of ished and furnished. It is with pleasure surpassed in zeal and usefulness. It is Morell's Philesophy, by NOAH PORTER, D. | we record the gratifying fact that it was dedicated free from debt.

New School. - The Third Presbyterian church of Pittsburgh was destroyed by fire about six months ago, but this did not check its prosperity or diminish its liberality Though occupying a hall in the third story of a building, all regular and special religious services have been remarkably well sustained; and some thirty additions have been since made to the church. Meanwhile a large centrally located lot has been talents to the relief of the suffering, at and various. By the way, a little more purchased and paid for, and a subscription great personal inconvenience. The Com- care in proof-reading would be an improve- of sixty thousand dollars has also been made toward the construction of a new church edifice. And as if in the full belief New-York Prison Association.—We have that God would bless them in their efforts them in this department of Christian labor. before us the Nineteenth Annual Report of to be a blessing, they have nobly responded Many of these religious bodies have adopted this praise worthy, benevolent Association. to the calls of the Church at large, and measures by which they keep one or two Its labors have already done much toward taken no mean place in the published recrepresentatives constantly in the field, and reforming abuses in the prisons of the ords of Christian benevolence. Thirteen their example is commended as worthy of Empire State, and in the way of directing hundred dollars have been contributed proper attention to the sources and provo- since the fire to the cause of Home Mis-We commend this interest again to every cations to crime. The suggestions made sions, and a thousand dollars to the Amer pastor and church, and to every Christian and in the Report before us with regard to the lican Board, exclusively of the Monthly

efficient agent of the American Sabbath ance with my convictions of any, so that agent of the American Sabbath ance with my convictions of any 1862, was worth \$822,190—that no leads of my time have already passed, and than 8.280.000 neurols of any time have already passed, and School Union, has taken away four hundred ded dollars; while Mr. Potter has secured I am still in Nashville. I do not expect to I am still in Nashville. I do not expect to I am still in Nashville. I do not expect to I am still in Nashville. I do not expect to I am still in Nashville. I do not expect to I am still in Nashville. over two hundred dollars for the American be sent forward, and I cheerfully submit. Tract Society. In addition to all the There is much work demanded here. above, with generous thoughtfulness, this There are five classes of persons in and the salary of their pastor, dating from the first of January!

with the 51st, at Annapolis, Md.

on Tuesday evening of last week. In this are supported with the consolations of reliservice the Rev. J. T. Pressly, D.D., pre- gion.
The Contrabands are also a suffering and sided and delivered the charge to the pas pitiable class. They live in tents. They Mr. Steele, and the charge was given to the one in twenty of them can read. Yester-people by Rev. J. B. Clark. Mr. Kerr is day I labored among the prisoners. Did ciate Reformed church, and a grandson of the first Professor in the Theological Sem- feature of the delegate's work. inary of that Church, now located in Allegheny City.

### CONGREGATIONAL.

has shared in former years so much of reblessed with the outpouring of the Spirit. from one of our exchanges:

"The revival in Mount Holyoke Female Seminary continues with unabated interest. Miss Fiske writes. Feb. 20: Yesterday was a day of profit to us, and of delightful communings with God. The number of the names of the disciples of our house is about three hundred and twenty five, and these all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, all the day. There were over two hundred written requests for prayer sent in to our meetings."

## BAPTIST.

The following synopsis gives some facts of general interest concerning Baptist col: leges and schools, newspapers, and clergymen in the South:

Richmond College is suspended, and its building used as a hospital. The President, Rev. Dr. Ryland, continues his labors as pastor of the African Baptist church, and is also chaplain to the hospitals. Wake Forest College, North Carolina; the Furman Institute, South Carolina; and Mercer Collegia, Georgia, are all suspended. The Female College at Richmond is closed. The Professors of the Theological Seminary at Greenville, S. C., are engaged in preaching, though they have a few pulpits. Other schools generally continue their work. The Baptist papers, such as the Religious Herald, at Richmond, the Biblical Recorder, at Raleigh, N. C., and the Southern Baptist, at Charleston, S. C., are still published, though, owing to the scarcity of paper, on a half-sheet.

Rev. A. J. Huntington, formerly of Chelsea, Mass, and Rev. Mr. Cuthbert, late of Philadelphia, are pastors at Augusta, Georgia. Rev. W. T. Brantly, D.D., late of the Tabernacle church. Philadelrevivals. Rev. Dr. Jeter has lately bap-

its last biennial session at Augusta, Ga., in mainly dependent upon Maryland and Ken- about it. tucky. By permission of our Post Office and War Department, the correspondence and remittances of the Convention pass through Northern channels.

# METHODIST.

The returns of the numbers in society of the West Virginia Conference, sum up 12,866 members, and 2,813 probationers, making a total of 15,049, which is an advance of of 1,050 over last year. The missionary collection amounted to \$3,565, which is an advance of \$1,328. The Sunday School department shows an increase of 21 schools, 307 officers and teachers, and 1,667 scholars.

# EPISCOPAL.

A new Society has recently been founded in the Protestant Episcopal Church, called the Christian Unity Society, and having for structions on the subject. Be this as it its objects the restoration of the visible may, silence was not imposed this time, and union and communion of all believers. This movement, in which leading men of both schools of the Protestant Episcopal will pardon me for telling on them, I shall Church take part, is understood to have the close; thanking them for their many acts approval of the presiding Bishop, the Bish- of kindness, and breathing an earnest ops of New-York, Pennsylvania, Maine, Rhode Island, and the Assistant Bishops of Connecticut and Pennsylvania, several of whom have given aid and counsel in drawing up the proposed constitution. The principal efforts of the new Society will be undoubtedly directed toward establishing a kind of intercommunion between the Anglican and other Episcopal Churches, with a view to their complete union; for, though the main object of the Society-the promotion of a visible union and communion of all believers—is expressed in sufficiently broad terms to enable Low Churchmen to join in the Society, the leaders of the High Church party, according to their oft-expressed views, will never recognize other denominations as branches of the Christian Church, unless they have an apostolic succession of bishops. With them, all union must result from coming to them: they will not advance one step toward any other de-

## For the Presbyterian Banner. Importance of the Christian Commission.

NASHVILLE, April 7, 1864. MR. JOSEPH ALBREE, Treasurer of Christian Commission:

DEAR BROTHER: -I suppose you have by Christ Jesus." a right to expect me to give an account of myself. I will try to do so. I find myself in Nashville yet. When I left home I had visions in my brain that have proved "baseless fabrics." I was anxious to go to the "front." I calculated upon hard work, hard beds, and "hard tack." When I left When I left the boat at Louisville, I bade farewell to good dinners, and spring-matrasses, and easy times. I found quarters at Louisville better than I had anticipated, got introduced to the work, and spent the day (Sabbath) pleasantly, but without doing much in the way of work, owing to the fact that the hospital to which I was assigned was quite empty when I arrived. In the afternoon I had a good opportunity at Exchange Barracks, but felt so out of place and out of head amidst the noise, that I spent the time in private conversation with the men which the Christian Commission are author- well in his cellar. ized by the War Department to occupy. It affords a pleasant resort for the weary laborer in barracks, camps, and hospitals.

Field Agent; and though I had a strong desire to go to the front, I have, in accord-

efficient agent of the American Sabbath ance with my convictions of duty, been en-

above, with generous thoughtfulness, this people have added five hundred dollars to tention. They are the Refugees, or white one-half which is imported and tention. They are the Refugees, or white persons who have come here, mostly from dred and fifty tons of cast steel, much, which is procured from the most, much, Rev. D. G. Mallery, formerly chaplain of tute of every comfort; many of them not the 51st Regiment P. V., but having some months ago resigned, has just been re elected to the same position, and is now on duty families and orphan children, and aged people, all thrown together in close and un-United.—Mr. Joseph R. Kerr was or- pleasant quarters, and only very stintedly United.—Mr. Joseph R. Kerr was ordained and installed pastor of the Third dained and installed pastor of the Third United Presbyterian church of Allegheny, happy to say that a goodly number of them the utmost historical and religious interest

tor. The sermon was preached by Rev. appreciate preaching and teaching. Not a son of the Rev. Joseph R. Kerr, deceased, formerly pastor of the Sixth Street Assogood may be done by private conversation. and I believe this is the most important Lastly, but not least, are the soldiers.

in the barracks and camps, and soldiers in the hospitals. They are both in a condi-Mount Holyoke Female Seminary, which tion urgently calling for help. This harvest is ripe. There cannot be too many der Rear Admiral Porter; Special War laborers. I like the work very much. At India, under Acting Rear Admiral Lardner vival influence, has again been greatly first it was quite trying, but a few efforts. Pacific, under Acting Rear Admiral Bell overcame all difficulty. Soldiers are ean- East India and Mediterranean, and Pate The following notice of this revival we clip did and free, and universally respectful in mac Flotilla. Seven vessels of the Narr conversation. They are quite eager to ob- detached from squadrons, are assigned reading matter, and give good attention to special service. the preaching of the Word. Many give no attention, but those who do, form an inno attention, but those who do, form an in-teresting audience. I have found that after Kew, 683; Regent's, 478; Kensington preaching, immediately, pay time comes. Groups of men will gather around, eager to extend their greetings-"I am glad to see you;" "Thank you for coming;" "It seems like God's country, to get a little preaching;" "God bless you," &c., &c.. I tell you, this currency of the soldier is the best kind of pay.

The poor sick and wounded always wel-

come our visits. A little attention to their bodily wants, such as the provision of some delicacy for the palate, a kerchief provided or some little want supplied, a letter written, a paper or tract given if able to read, a passage read if not, forms a good introduction and gives a hold upon the heart that enhances one's usefulness greatly. I feel amply repaid already, and if well, have no fears that I will continue to enjoy the

Stir up the Christian people at home, so that they shall see the importance of the work and open their hands and hearts to sustain this noble institution—the Christian Commission. Soldiers respect the delegate. He needs no further recomendation than that his badge gives him, and he needs no countersign or pass-paper but his Yours truly, D. W. Townsend.

# Congregational Surprise.

MESSRS. EDITORS :- During the past Winter a number of notices appeared in your excellent paper, under the caption, for Japan; 96 for the Island of St. There Ministerial Surprise," "Donation Visit," phia, is pastor at Atlanta, Ga. Several of &c. It would seem as though many of our the churches in Richmond are refreshed by ministerial brethren were quite "scared," at the unexpected freaks of the good people of their charges; but I suppose we might appry we the "adage," worse scared than hurt." I do not remember ever no-May, 1863. For the means to support its ticing an article under the above caption; missionaries in China and in Africa it is and with your permission I will tell you

The good people of Bethany congregation have always been kind to those who minister to them in spiritual things. Indeed, Messrs Editors, it would be difficult to find a better people. During the nine years of my ministry in their midst, they have manifested their kindness, to the pastor and his family, by repeated donations of money and articles of value; but always accompanying their gifts with the modest request, "Do not say any thing about this publicly." At the close of our last communion season, on Monday, the pastor re- Case, Jennie B. Greene, Emma S. Sleenz turned home; but was scarcely seated un- and Mr. E. E. Dart. til a member of his Session entered and placed in his hand a large roll of bank bills, bringing his salary well up to a specie

Perhaps the good elder was guilty of a sin of omission; or perhaps he had no inso the secret "slips out," and produces a "congregational surprise." Hoping they prayer for their spiritual and temporal wel-

#### For the Presbyterian Banner. Donation.

The pastor of Ebenezer congregation and family have been favored with another of when the lecturer called upon a President those visits which so much gladden the of the United States, and was received by hearts of the ministers of Christ.

The first Sabbath in April was our com- found him warming his naked feet on a munion, and on Monday, after preaching, fender before an open fire. Presently be the congregation might be seen wending drew on his stockings and boots, and pretheir way to the parsonage. Soon the house from parlor to kitchen was filled with young and old. From the bazs, bundles, and packages brought with them, one unacquainted with the object of the visit might have thought they were preparing for a siege, and intended to convert the parsonage into a commissiary department. After a few moments spent in kind greet-

ngs and social conversation, a hymn was sung and a portion of Scripture read; after which, prayer was offered by brother Wm. . Morgan. The company then dispersed, having left

provisions, clothing, groceries, and money, amounting to \$161.45. For such kindness "may God supply all their need, according to his riches in glory

#### For the Presbyterian Banner, Acknowledgment.

D. J. IRWIN.

I desire, in this way, to acknowledge, having recently received from my people a The house in Letitia Street was built by er purse of one hundred and seventy dollars. for William Penn, but the slate-roof house, This handsome gift, coming after so many other acts of kindness and liberality, Samuel Carpenter, who was then the weather the state of is very gratefully appreciated, and I trust, thiest settler in Penn's province. It is a quickens in no small degree, the desire I curious relic, and it is to be hoped that it have to be instrumental in conveying to may be preserved. those among whom I labor, those spiritual blessings which enrich for both this life and that which is to come.

W. F. HAMILTON. Uniontown, Pa., April 12, 1864.

# Varieties.

At Parkersburg, Va., oil wells have been attempt to preach. When I came to Nash- thousand barrrels per day. The excite- father of nineteen children; Mr. Stevens wille, I found myself immediately in the ment is very great in consequence, and ev- of Pennsylvania, the oldest, seventy-two palatial residence of some Southern Nabob, ery man in the place thinks he has an oil years; Gen. Garfield, of Ohio, the young-

laborer in barracks, camps, and hospitals.

Under the superintendence of Mrs. Smith, it is a complete home.

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one-half which is imported, and two her which is procured from the works at Fitch burg. Its forges consume eighteen has dred tons of coal a year.

Among the coins in the collection sent the New-York Fair by Rev. Mr. Buthe from Rome, is a First Rrass of Titus, With the celebrated reverse Judea Capta, with

The oldest building on Washington Street Boston, on the corner of Water Street, has been demolished. It has stood for a certury and a half, and was the place of page lication of the fifth newspaper in Boston the Weekly Rehearsal, started in [75] The Boston Evening Post, started in 17 was also published in this building; it dis in 1775.

The present naval force of the Unit. States, is divided into nine squadrons, viz North Atlantic, under Acting Rear Adn. Of these there are two classes, viz., soldiers ral Lee; South Atlantic, under Rear Atlantic miral Dahlgren; East Gulf, under Activ. Rear Admiral Bailey; West Gulf, und. der Rear Admiral Porter; Special Was

Windsor Park covers 3,800 acres Rich 362; Hyde, 289; Victoria, 249; Green and S. Wich, 135; Battersea, 175; Green and S. James, 50 each; Phænix Park, Dublic 1.752: Central, New-York, 850; Bois de Boulogne, France, 2,095; Tzarsko-Selo Russia, 350; Thiergarten, Prussia, 216 In Southern Europe the most noted place of public resort is the Villa Real, in Na. nles. The Bois de Boulogne has a cariage drive thirty-five miles in length, and the Central Park, New-York, has a drive nine miles long.

Part IV. of the census of Ireland, while has just been published, gives the felling figures respecting the religious profes. sions of that country, the population which, in 1861, was 5,798,967:-Essa lished Church, males 339,314, Jenus 354.043: Roman Catholics, males 2 267 053. females 2,300,212; Presbyteriar. males 254,734, famales 268,557; Meth dist, males 21,290, females 24,109; Ind. pendents, males 2,112, females, 2,420; s. ciety of Friends or Quakers, males 168 females 1,680; Baptists, male, 2,141 fe males 2,096; all other persuasions, male 10,846, females 7,952; Jews, males 29 females 193.

American Bible Society .- The stated mean ing of the Board of Managers was held the Bible House, Astor Place, on Thurs day, 7th inst. Several interesting commitnications were received. The total number of books granted is 74,535, of which 52 " were to the Christian Commission: 1.2 as: 315 for Uruguay: 385 for Hayai; we eral grants for Freedmen; 34 volumes in raised letters for the blind. Besides these \$264.99 worth were granted, not incluis. in the above number; \$500 were apprent ated for printing the Syriac Testament :: Oroomiah; and it was resolved to make plates for the Hawaiian Family Bible and for the Ancient Armenian Psalms, at the Bible House. James Lenox, Esq., of New York, was unanimously elected President of the Society, in place of the late Hon Lather Bradish.

# Personal.

The National Freedman's Relief Associa tion have sent as teachers to the Freed men, per steamer Northern Light, to Port Royal, S. C., Miss Emma M. Fogg, and sent to Vicksburg, Miss., Misses Elin

Mr. Wm. D. Ticknor, of the publishing house of Ticknor & Fields, Boston, de suddenly on Sunday morning last, at its Continental Hotel, Philadelphia. Mr. Tiesnor had been for many years the Treasure of the Baptist Missionary Convention & Massachusetts, and of the Rowe Street Bap tist church, of which he was a highly a teemed member. His fine taste and has ness skill did much to give his publishing house the eminenc which it has attained

Mr. D'Arcy M'Gee, M.P.P., in a recent leeture in Canada, said : " When Washington opened the first Congress in Philadelphia. ne drove in a stage-coach with six outriders in buff and blue, the popular colors He invariably opened Congress in person. He never shook hands when introduced; never returned visits. Ten years age him in his chamber, where the visiter

There are two Penn habitations in Phila-

delphia. Penn Cottage, in Letitia Street (Market, between Second and Front,) i supposed to have been one of the first, if not the first, brick building erected in Phila delphia. Watson believed that it was baile by Col. Markham, Penn's Lieut. Governer. before Penn landed here, "and that some of the finer work was imported for it with the first vessels." Penn certainly occupied it, at times, during his first visit, in 16 83. During William Penn's second visit in 1700, he resided in what was called "The Slate-Roof House," corner of South Second Street and Norris' Alley-the build ing for the preservation and removal which an effort is now to be made. John Penn, the Governor's son, was born in that house, and it was the temporary residence. in times nearer our own, yet now becoming remote, of John Hancock, John Adams,

A Washington letter writer gives some curious facts about the present Congressmen. He says: "Mr. Ames, of Massachusetts, 15 the richest, worth over two million; Mr. Baldwin, of the same State, the largest; Mr. Clay, of Kentucky, the tallest; Mr. Cox. of Ohio, the smallest; Mr. M'Clurg, et their spiritual welfare, and did not struck yielding from six hundred to one of Indiana, the most productive, being the weil in his cellar.

A company at Willimantic, Conn., are about erecting an immense building for the manufacture of linen thread. It will be I came here knowing that it would be 000 spindles. It is said that when commy duty to submit to the directions of the pleted this will be the largest thread-mill in ters; Mr. Clay, of Kentucky, the largest thread a 275 slaves. The Ohio Commissioner of Statistics re- farmer, having 6,500 acres of land, 275 slaves, 2,000 sheep, and 150 blooded cattle; while