Banner Presbyterian

PITTSBURGH, WEDNESDAY; MAY 11, 1864.

RETALIATION.

President LINCOLN closed his address a the great Maryland Fair, in Baltimore, on Monday, April 18th, with the following words:

"We are having the Fort Pillow affair thoroughly investigated. If there has been the massacre of three hundred there, or even the tenth part of three hundred, will be conclusively proven; and being so proven, the retribution shall as surely come It will be matter of grave consideration in what exact course to apply the retribution; but in the supposed case, it must come." A general order, issued some time ago

contained this provision:

"It is therefore ordered, that for every soldier of the United States killed in vio lation of the laws of war, a rebel soldier shall be executed.'

That the President finds the position in which he has been placed by the Fort Pillow atrocity, not only a painful but a perplexing one, may be inferred from another passage in his Baltimore address, as fol-

"Would it be right to take the life of prisoners in Washington, in Fort Delaware, or elsewhere, in retaliation for acts in which they had not shared? Would it be right to take the prisoners captured, say at Vicksburg, and shoot them for acts of which they were not guilty?"

Mr. LINCOLN has here, with characteristic precision, stated a difficulty which inevitably accompanies the subject. To what lengths may a civilized and Christian pcople go, in endeavoring to protect their soldiers from violations of the acknowledged laws of war? And to what lengths is it not only their right, but their duty to go?

In reply to this inquiry it may be well to refer to a standard authority upon the Law of Nations. We quote from VATTEL, Book 3, Chap. 8, Sects. 141, 142:

"There is, however, one case where life may be denied an enemy who surrenders, and also capitulation refused to a place. This is when the enemy has been guilty of some enormous breach of the law of nations, and particularly if it be at the same time a violation of the laws of war. This denial of quarter is no natural consequence of war, but the punishment of his crime; a punishment which the injured party has a right to inflict; but for this penalty to be just it must fall on the guilty. When the war is with a savage nation. which observes no rules and never gives quarter, it may be chastised in the persons of any seized or taken-they are among the guilty—that by this rigor they may be brought to conform to the laws of humanity. But wherever severity is not absolutely necessary, clemency is to be used.

"If a general of the enemy has, without any just reason, caused some prisoners to be hanged, a like number of his men, and of the same rank, will be hung up, signifying to him that this retaliation will be continued for obliging him to observe the laws of war. It is a sad extremity thus to put a prisoner to death for his general's fault; and if this prisoner before was promised his life, reprisals cannot be made on him with any color of justice. Yet as a prince or his general has a right of sacrificing the life of his enemies to his (own) safety, and that of his men, if he is engaged with an inhuman enemy, who frequently commits such enormities, he appears to have a right of refusing life to some of the prisoners he may take, and of treating

them as his were treated. According to the principles here enunciated, it would be a violation of the rules of war to detail three hundred prisoners from Camp Douglas, men who surrendered under promise of safety, and execute them as a retaliation for the three hundred Federals murdered at Fort Pillow. But in some future assault or battle, three hundred captured enemies might be thus executed. Especially might this course with justice be adopted toward the parties immediately guilty, if the perpetrators of the Fort Pillow massacre should come into our

· It would appear, however, if we inquire historically into the antecedents of our Government upon this very question, that the distinction made above has not always been observed. In the last war with Great Britain, twenty-three British-born subjects, who had become American citizens by naturalization, having been taken prisoners of war in Canada, the commander of that Province sent them to England to be tried for treason, and possibly to be executed. A like number of British prisoners of war were placed in confinement by the American Government, with a notification to the British authorities that whatever violence might be committed on the American prisoners would be retaliated upon these hostages. Whereupon forty-six American officers were immediately placed in close confinement by the British Government, to experience in their turn the same treatment which might await the British prisoners. Here was a trying case for our Government, and the manner in which our fathers met the responsibility may be learned from the following extract from the message of President Madison to Con-

gress, Dec. 7th, 1813: "That no doubt might be left with the enemy of our adherence to the retaliatory resort imposed upon us, a corresponding number (forty-six) of British officers, prisoners of war in our hands, were immediately put into close confinement, to abide the fate of those confined by the enemy; and the British Government has been apprised of the determination of this Government to retaliate any other proceedings against us contrary to the legitimate modes of warfare. It is as fortunate for the United States that they have it in their power to meet the enemy in this deplorable contest, as it is honorable to them that they do not join in it but under the most imperious obligations, and with the humane purpose of effectuating a return to the esablished usages of war.'

A law had been enacted, March 3, 1813. empowering the President, during the existing war, when any violation of the laws of war should be committed by British authority, "to cause full and ample retaliae made, according to the laws an usages of war among civilized nations."

It is also worthy of note that the Legislature of Pennsylvania adopted a resolution, Jan. 18, 1814, which was communicated to Congress, approving the "spirit and firmness which the National authorities have manifested." and promising to "support our Government in every measure of just retaliation, to which it may be driven by the violence of the enemy."

ous correspondence between the American | swell the list of candidates for settlement; | our hospitals, and many thousands more in the American State Papers, vol. 3, pp. 630 to 684. The fact is not only historically interesting, but extremely pertinent at the present time, that the result of these retaliatory measures adopted and persevered in by the American Government, was the ultimate release of the prisoners who were threatened with trial for treason.

A similar result attended a like measure of retaliation on the part of the Continental Congress, in the war of the Revolution, when they confined six Hessian officers as hostages for Gen LEE, who was threatened with trial for treason. The British Government receded from its position, and treated Gen. LEE as a prisoner of war. A resolution passed Congress, April 29, 1782, "unanimously approving the firm and judicious conduct of the Commander-in-chief, and assuring him of their firmest support in his fixed purpose of exemplary retaliation."

It would seem from the foregoing that the Law of Nations recognizes the right of retaliation, under such circumstances as the Fort Pillow massacre, and that our Government has heretofore sanctioned the policy by the highest legislative and executive authority. A cotemporary, (N. Y. World, April 20,) in its discussion of this subject, quotes from Gen. HALLECK's work upon International Law, as follows:

"Suppose an enemy should massacre all prisoners of war, this would not afford sufficient justification for the opposing belligerent to do the same."

The same journal adds that to execute man for man would shock the civilized world, and cause Europe to resound with a cry of horror. It proposes to execute, instead of three hundred, a single rebel-

But if it be barbarous to execute three hundred innocent prisoners, it is difficult to see how it can be right to execute one; whilst the probability of arresting these atrocities is entirely destroyed. Moreover, it it not proposed to adopt the system of indiscriminate and universal massacre, even if the rebels should inaugurate that savage policy; but to confine reprisals within the narrowest limits that afford a hope of doing away with such horrors altogether.

Much might be written upon a subject of such grave importance. Our limits, however, permit but a few reflections.

And first, we are unwilling to believe that the Christian people of the South can possibly sanction the wholesale murder at Fort Pillow. That soul-sickening brutality cannot possibly commend itself to any heart in which the spirit of the Gospel reigns. We may hope that the Christian community of the South will array itself

In the next place, we may dismiss any fear that this massacre will not be avenged, Unless we greatly mistake, many have been the instances of retribution that have never come under official cognizance. This unlicensed redress can best be prevented by legitimate retaliation; and if not thus prevented, a fearful atonement will be exacted by our soldiers for the butchery at

Fort Pillow. Moreover the right of retaliation has its limits. We would not be justified in scalping, or burning alive our prisoners, upon the plea that the enemy does the same. Hence, though our hearts have sickened at the revolting details of the cruelties practised upon our soldiers in Southern prisons, and of the savage ferocity with which those, who once plumed themselves on their the battle-field, or mutilated the bodies of party stooped so low as to suggest retaliation in kind. The Lex Talionis in the Mosaic law-the eye for an. eye and tooth for a tooth-was punitive: retaliation in the Law of Nations, is preventive.

Also, a thirst for revenge ought not to be the principle that governs us. Look at the thousands of patriot graves-remember end? In strict justice, every voluntary traitor in this wicked rebellion deserves to die. Yet who, amidst the thousands of our stricken ones, calls for this universal pen-

Further, whatever difference of opinion there may have been as to the original enlistment of black troops, all must agree that every man who interposes his breast between us and our enemies, is entitled to all the protection our Government can bestow. Upon this duty to protect our soldiers-"absolutely a duty," in the language of WASHINGTON-an "imperious obligation," in the words of MADISON-we base the right of retaliation.

From the foregoing we infer that the demands of justice would best be met, if the penalty could be made to fall upon the liberal hand. perpetrators of the crime; and therefore upon Forrest's officers and men, whenever captured, should the punishment be visited, until the number be complete. For the future, if the Confederate Government disclaim the Fort Pillow policy, the difficulty is ended. If they persist in this babarous been wounded, and needed the immediate course, then, for every Federal soldier hereafter murdered, let a rebel prisoner, of those hereafter taken, be put to death, commence ing with the officers of highest rank. Let it be stated that this mode of warfare is abhorrent to our feelings, is adopted only under an imperious necessity, and will be discontinued so soon as that necessity shall

And lastly, all can unite in the prayer that the President may be directed by wisdom from above, in shaping the policy of our Government amidst the painful and embarrassing circumstances in which it has

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

The term of this oldest of the Theological Seminaries of our Church, closed on the 26th ult., after a careful examination of the classes extending over five days. Forty young gentlemen received certificates of having completed the full course of engaged in definite fields of labor. Two at people an opportunity of making contribu- eral HAYS was born in Franklin, Pa.; grad-

Western field, to which they feel in duty bound to return. This feeling is cherished at Princeton. Instead of watching and scrambling for vacancies in the best places of the East, its Professors and students alike seem to watch for the regions, at home and abroad, where the Macedonian cry is loudest: 'Come over and help us.'

"Nine members of the class are sons of thirteen different States were represented. And the destination of this noble class would seem already to be signal and diver-Princeton."

And from the Presbyterian we learn that it is expected the laying of the cornerstone of Brown Hall, the new building to be erected for the use of the Theological Seminary at Princeton, New Jersey, will take place on Saturday, the 21st of May. This will afford an opportunity to any of the members of the General Assembly. which will then be in session at Newark, New Jersey, to visit Princeton. CHANCEL-LOR GREEN, President of the Board of Trustees; Rev. Dr. PHILLIPS, President of the Board of Directors: Rev. Dr. Hodge, and others, are expected to take part in the ceremonies and exercises of the occasion. This Hall will be built from a bequest of the late GEORGE BROWN, Baltimore.

THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION IN PITTS

The Pittsburgh Branch of the United States Christian Commission held its first Anniversary, last Sabbath evening, in the First Presbyterian church of this city. The church was filled to overflowing, and and spirits. the exercises were of the most interesting character. The Rev. HERRICK JOHNSTON, President of this Branch, opened the services with the reading of the Scriptures. Prayer was then offered by the Rev. S. J. WILSON, D.D. This was followed by singing the hymn beginning "God moves in a mysterious way."

After this, Mr. JOHNSTON made a brief but comprehensive statement of the operations of the Pittsburgh Branch for the last year, which has already appeared in our columns. The Rev. JAMES PRESTLY, D.D., then delivered an earnest and effec- eral Assembly, to meet next week in Newtive address. This prepared the way for ark, New-Jersey. Upon information de-GEORGE H. STUART, Esq., President of the | rived from the proper source, we can now United States Christian Commission, who say, the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chispoke with all his usual fervor and enthu- cago Railroad will make no reduction. siasm. Among other things, he said the idea of a National subscription of \$500,000 | matter, the General Ticket Agent of to aid the Commission in doing its work for this year had originated in this city. A meeting in the church of the Epiphany, in Philadelphia, had given \$50,000, and the speaker expected at least \$20,000 from that assembled in Pittsburgh, in the First Presbyterian church. Those who subscribed to this fund would receive interest throughout all time. Laborers are ready to go to the field; every facility is afforded them by the officers of the army to reach the sick and dying soldiers in hospitals and upon the battle fields; the soldiers themselves are always glad to see them, and they always receive a hearty welcome when they go among the soldiers, and a heartfelt Godbless-you when they depart. In a circumference of twenty miles, fifty-four log chapels had been erected in the Army of chivalry, have murdered our wounded on the Potomac, and this was what the speaker called church extension upon a large and the dead-yet has no Northern press or rapid scale. These buildings were open every day in the week, and three or four States. times on the Sabbath. During the time the Army of the Potomac lay in Winter quarters, before it received its late baptism in blood, ten thousand eight hundred sermons were preached to large, attentive audiences, and it was the privilege of the speaker to say that great good had been done the mourning households of the land; and | bv these meetings. The speaker closed if vengeance be the rule, where would we by an earnest and eloquent appeal to those enable the Commission to get through the present year. A battle had been foughteight thousand men had been wounded-

then let a thank-offering be given to-night that would cheer their hearts. Here a dispatch from the army of Gen. FRANT was read, which conveyed the cheering intelligence of LEE's defeat, and, notwithstanding the time and the place, the glorious news was received with great aplause. A fervent prayer was offered up by the Rev. Dr. PAXTON, in which he invoked the blessings of heaven upon all the nembers of the Christian Commission, and prayed that God would open the hearts of all present, that they might give with a

At this point, a gentleman who had previously subscribed \$1,000, arose and said that he wished to withdraw that subscription and replace it with one for \$5,000. since he had learned that between six and eight thousand brave Union soldiers had attention of the Commission. A Committee then waited on the audience, and received in a few minutes subscriptions to the amount of \$21,145. This has since been increased to \$25.518.

Altogether, this was the most successful neeting ever held in this city for the promotion of any Christian and benevolent object. Everything seemed to be in favor of the result attained. The people had been intensely excited throughout the day by the reports from the field of awful conflict; the evening was fine; there was a delightful cooperating union among all the Protestant denominations; and all these were crowned with the high, humane and

Commission will need all that can be nossibly placed at its disposal. Let the example set in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and

and British authorities, upon this subject, and some of these are among the best will, in all probability soon be added to preachers of this gifted class, who decline these. The Christian Commission cares offers at the East in preference for the for both the bodies and the souls; let us give it our prayers, and fill its treasury, that it may be able to meet the great and constant demands.

CHRISTIAN COMMISSION IN LAWRENCE

Rev. J. S. GRIMES, of Newcastle, a re

turned delegate, in a letter to JOSEPH AL BREE, Treasurer of Christian Commission, ministers. Nineteen different Colleges and Pittsburgh, enclosing \$1,209, thus writes: "When I think of a tithe the Christian Commission has done—the wounds it has dressed-the burning, swollen lips it has moistened—the thirst it has slaked—the sified, as have been the characteristics and hunger it has satisfied—the words of cheer endowments which make it eminent among it has breathed, and the souls it has savedthe many large classes that have gone into my heart is filled and fired with zeal. all the world from the consecrated halls of Above and beyond the mere pleasure of doing one's duty toward the defenders of our country, altars, homes and household goods, there will be an inexpressible joy in every heart engaged in this cause, wher Christ shall have delivered up his kingdom in spotless glory upon the Lamb's Book of Life; for then and there, amidst the count less multitudes of redeemed ones, singing songs of deliverance to God and the Lamb will be found thousands who have been plucked as brands from the burning' by the Christian Commission, telling with thankfulness how God found them in camp, or hospital, or on the bloody field of bat tle. From the bottom of my soul, I can't but say, God bless every man who loves the Christian Commission. The Lord fill and

> Christ to the dying soldier. "Through you I desire to express my thanks to the citizens of Newcastle for the manner in which they have responded to my appeal in behalf of the Christian Comnission. Lawrence County has always done her duty when called to work. For the \$1,209 received at their hands, I thank them with all my soul, and in the name of the Christian Commission, in the name of the countless soldiers it has blessed, I pray God's richest blessing on their souls, bedies

> fire the heart of every delegate with the Holy Ghost, who goes out to hold up Jesus

"To the firm of PHILLIPS & BRO'S, who gave \$1,000, I express my sincere thanks, and can say truly, that God has lavished temporal gifts on men who know how to use them for his glory. There is a mantle of blessing in reserve for such noble-minded, generous men."

FARE TO MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL AS-SEMBLY.

Frequent inquiries have been made as to the published of a reduction of fare on the Chicago. Fort Wayne, and Pennsylvania Railroads to members of the Gen-

In reply to our inquiries concerning this Pennsylvania Railroad replies:

PHILADELPHIA, May 7, 1864. EDS. BANNER-Dear Sirs:-Yours of 5th inst. received. The arrangement made on all such occasions for this year is, to return delegates free upon certificate o the proper officer (the Stated Clerk, should judge,) of the General Assembly stating that Mr. — was in regular business attendance, and has paid full local fare over the Pennsylvania Railroad from - to Philadelphia in going. Those en titled to such a free return, must go vio Philadelphia, and return via same.

Blank certificates will be furnished to proper parties upon their application (personal) at this office, when necessary in structions with respect to their issue will LEWIS L. HOUPT,

Yours truly. Gen'l Ticket Agent. This is in accordance with the libera policy which has always characterized this road, and which has made it the most popular and successful Railroad in the United

Complimentary Resolutions. - In most churches it is usual upon the resignation of a pastor, to pass a series of complimentary resolutions, and ask their publication in one or more religious newspapers. All the papers of our Church, and also all the leading religious newspapers in the country invariably and properly, charge for the present to raise at least \$20,000 as a part insertion of all such matter. Therefore if of the national capital of \$500,000 to any resolutions, or acknowledgments of donations to pastors, sent us have not been published, the cause is evident.

A Religious Newspaper in Every Family -An esteemed minister of our Church, in the Northwest, in sending us a list of nev subscribers, writes: "Now every family in my pastoral charge is supplied with a re ligious newspaper." How many pastor can say as much? If the pastor would have his people ready to cooperate with him in every good work of benevolence or Christian activity, he must have them supplied with a live and reliable religious

Allegheny Bible Society .- Mr. F. G. REIN-EMAN has been elected Agent of the Alle gheny Bible Society, in place of ROBERT DAVIS, resigned. His Post Office is Allegheny City. Mr. REINEMAN will at once enter upon the active duties of his important office, in making collections and receiving subscriptions for said Society, and in exploring the destitutions of the district North of the Allegheny and Ohio

The Presbyterian.—This paper came to us last week, enlarged and in the double-sheet form, and printed from type somewhat larger than that formerly used. The Pres-Byterian has in past years distinguished itself as the staunch advocate and defender of Westminster theology. And we congratulate its proprietors and editors on this indication of continued prosperity.

Family Treasure.—The 2d number of this new monthly has been issued. Its contents are of the diversified and suitable Christian aims of this noble Commission. kind proposed by the editors for the in-Just now, and for months to come, the struction and edification of Christian fami-

General Alexander Hays.—Among the he-Newcastle, be imitated in all our cities, roes who fell in the late terrific battles of villages, and congregations. We would the Army of the Potomac, but few will be three years' study. The New-York Observer | take the liberty of asking the pastors and | more deeply regretted than Gen. ALEXANsays: "Half of this large class are already Sessions of all our churches to give the DER HAYS of Pittsburgh. Brigadier Genleast, probably three, go the foreign field; tions without delay. God is blessing our uated at West Point; won distinction in three go to the Pacific, Oregon and Cali- arms and giving us victory. But victory the Mexican war; then retired from the fornia; some pursue their preparation an- has been secured at immense cost. In ad- army, and pursued the business of a civil

lion he was among the first to offer his ser- | that the conduct of Church members under | thing into the worship of God that vices to his country. In almost all the great battles of the army of the Potomac, he was present, and always displayed the highest skill and valor. He was a brave soldier, and a true patriot. His wife, a daughter of John B. McFadden, of Pittsburgh, and seven children, receive the sympathies and prayers of the entire com-

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES AND MINISTERS. PRESBYTERIAN.

nary at Princeton, has been called to the pastorate of the Presbyterian church in Rev. W. C. Cattell, now President of La-\$1,500 per annum.

The church of Sewickley, Presbytery of Allegheny City, has given a call to the Rev. Mr. Bittenger, formerly pastor of the Third Presbyterian church (New School), Acts, after which the 237th Hymn, begin- also remember that it is a small matter Cleveland, Ohio.

Delegates to the General Assembly from Presbytery of Allegheny City-Rev. Dr. Elliott and Rev. M. L. Wortman; elders, John D. Stokes and J. M. Burchfield. Rev. F. H. L. Laird, having removed

from Moro to Upper Alton, requests his correspondents to take due notice and govern themselves accordingly. The Post Office address of Rev. Wm.

Catheart is changed from La Grange, Ind., to Lima, Ind. Correspondents will please address him accordingly. A correspondent of the Standard says:

"At Downingtown we were struck with the tasteful appearance of the new church which is being erected in that place, and which, it is expected, will be completed in July. We learned from the pastor, Rev. Mr. Newkirk, whom we met in the car on his way to assist the beloved and efficient pastor of Upper Octorara in services preparatory to the communion, that the church will cost \$6,000, and will accommodate about four hundred persons. Mr. N.'s la-

At a meeting of the Presbytery of Cincinnati on the 3d inst., the pastoral relation existing between Rev. J. E. Annan and the First Presbyterian church of Cincinnati was, by request of Mr. Annan, dissolved, and the following resolution was adopted by the Presbytery:

Resolved. That in accepting the resignation of brother Annan as pastor of the First Presbyterian church, we desire to bear testimony to the faithfulness and zeal with which he has discharged his duties as pastor amid many discouragements, and to extend to him our best wishes for his usefulness and happiness in whatever field he reafter to labor

Last week we published an account of the action of the Presbytery of Louisville with respect to the application of the Board of Domestic Missions to the War Department, that our missionaries to the South might be permitted to occupy temporarily the abandoned Presbyterian churches, and also receive the protection of the Government. We learn from a private source, that Dr. W. L. Breckinridge, a delegate from that Presbytery to the General Assembly, does not consider himself bound by the instructions of the Presbytery, and that the resolutions passed by that Presbytery were the work of an accidental majority.

The Presbytery of Philadelphia, at its late meeting, struck the name of the Rev. John Leyburn, D.D., from its roll, satisfactory evidence having been received that Dr. Leyburn had connected himself with one of the Presbyteries belonging to the Southern General Assembly.

The Potomac Presbytery has organized a new church near the Capitol, under the title of the Capitol Hill Presbyterian church, Washington City; it consists of thirty-five members, and will be under the pastoral care of Rev. John Chester, the son of Wm. Chester, D.D., Corresponding Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Education. Mr. Chester was pastor of the Presbyterian church in Burlington, N. J., where he was quite successful, and several members of his former charge in Burlington are interested in this new movement They have obtained a site for an edifice, and it is earnestly desired that efforts shall be made to erect a manse for the comfortable accommodation of the pastor, at the

same fime they build a house of worship. New School.—Our readers have not forgotton Rev. F. A. Ross, D.D., of Huntsville, Ala., who formerly took a leading part in many discussions of the New School General Assembly, but who, along with others, seceded from that body and formed a separate Synod in the South, after the meeting of the Assembly in Cleveland. A correspondent of the Evangelist writes concerning him:

"Yesterday I met a young gentleman who has been in the army nearly three years. For several months his brigade was at Huntsville. There he frequently met and heard our old friend Dr. Frederick Ross. He says the soldiers are very fond of attending the Doctor's preaching. He prays for the country, but in such a way as nay mean our country or the Confederacy. He preaches the Gospel with great earnestness and power. On one communion day, he gave a very handsome invitation to any strangers present, members of other denominations, to commune with them. My informant says the Doctor and his church were not a little amazed to find half a single regiment accepting the invitation, including many officers. When the next communion day came, scarcely any soldiers communed. When the Doctor afterwards learned that some of his female members had openly insulted the soldiers, who for that reason did not commune, he gave these women a most characteristic lesson on good them.

United.—A United Presbyterian church was organized in Sewicklevville, according to order of Presbytery, by the Rev. John T. Pressly, D.D. Twenty persons united upon certificate. Their new house of worship is nearly completed, and almost paid

parties prevails to a deplorable extent in some of our congregations, if not all, by members of our own Church, adopts the following resolutions: "Resolved, That Presbytery regards the practice of dancing as immoral in its ten-dency, inimical to the purity and sobriety

their care be orderly in regard to this mat- trary to his revealed will, or which ter, and to discipline all persons engaging in dancing, and those countenancing such practices by their presence or advice."

METHODIST. The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church met in the Union

The General Conference of 1860 contained 221 members; that of 1864 contains 244. Of the whole number, 86 are presiding elders, 10 editors, 8 are presidents of colleges, 5 professors, 4 principals of seminaries, and one an agent for a uni-Old School.-Mr. S. S. Mitchell, of the versity-making 18 connected with literalate Senior class in the Theological Semi- ry institutions. There are four book agents, two missionary secretaries, and two agents of the American Bible Society.

At 9 o'clock Bishop Janes called the Harrisburg, Pa., formerly filled by the Conference to order, and the senior Bishop proceeded to open the proceedings by read fayette College. The salary was fixed at ing the 84th Psalm. The Hymn 219th was then announced and sung, beginning: "Jesus, the name high over all,"

after which the Bishop offered prayer. Bishop Janes continued the religious bisnop sames continued the religious cause of offence to any man; but let the services by reading the 20th chapter of cause of offence to any man; but let the

"I love thy kingdom, Lord,"

was sung. Prayers were then offered by Rev. Dr. Peck, of Wyoming Conference, and Rev. Dr. Elliot, of Missouri Conference. two of the oldest members of the body.

The General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church met in the that connivance at his acts, or any degree same city on the same day. This body is of encouragement shown to him in composed of all the traveling preachers evil course, is a very heinous sin: and the who have traveled six full years in its con- it is our duty to express our fidelity nection, and one regularly licensed local preacher or minister of four years' stand- all times, especially in this its time of ing for every eight hundred members re- trial. turned at the previous Annual Conference. There were 139 delegates present at the close of the second day's session.

For the Presbyterian Banner Letter from New-York.

NEW-YORK, May 3, 1864. My Dear Banner:—The Anniversary Week opened with the discourse before the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions in the First church, Fifth Avenue. The Rev. Archibald Alexander Hodge, D.D., pastor of the Presbyterian church at bors have been greatly blessed in this, his Wilkesbarre, Pa., gave an elaborate and first pastoral charge.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., gave an elaborate and able exposition of the prophecy, "And to him [Shiloh] shall the gathering of the

people be." He traced the course of history and the progress of the Church from the period of the dispersion of the people at Babel, all along to the predicted gathering of the people to Christ, now going on with increased rapidity toward the consummation. The breadth of view and freshness of thought and expression, together with the rich instruction and solid piety of the discourse, made it a true fes-The habit of the preacher being extem-

poraneous, he was evidently trammelled by his notes. Seldom can those who are wont to preach without manuscript, succeed well a member from the Presbytery of Erie, as in delivery when, on rare occasions, they Rev. John A. Brown from the Prestyte resort to the notes. Dr. Hodge began his ministerial course as a missionary to India. He returned on account of the failure of his wife's health, and has ever since, for some fourteen years or more, been an active and successful pastor. The last year about seventy have been added to his church as the fruit of a revival. He is also the author of "Outlines of Theology," a very valuable synopsis of Didactic Theology, and republished lately, with high commendation, in Scotland. He is about fortyone years of age. He states in his preface that he preached the whole series to his people extemporaneously. And a Theology that can be preached and popularized, is what is wanted in our day. He has several times been spoken of for a Professor. And he has all the elements for a Theological Professor which his father had at his age, besides having the pastoral experience which is justly deemed of so much importance for such a chair in our Seminaries, especially where, as at Allegheny, it is the chair of "Didactic and Pastoral Theology" -a very wise and suggestive arrangement

For the Presbyterian Banner. To the Stated Clerks of the Presbyteries. The Stated Clerk of the General Assembly calls attention to the following resolu-tion of the Assembly Minutes 1829, p. 385:

Digest, p. 855, viz.: "Resolved, That the Presbyteries be required to direct the Sessions of the churches within their bounds, to make out in each year the Sessional Report to the Presbytery up to the first day of April, and transmit the same to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery; and that each Presbytery be also required to direct their Stated Clerk, on or before the first day of May, in each year, to transmit by mail to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, a Presbyterial Report, bearing the date of April first, prepared from the Sessional Reports." In consequence of the almost universal disregard of this rule, the Minutes of the General Assembly are so long delayed in their publication, that murmurs come from

every quarter. Many Presbyterial reports come as late as July, and even August. Notice is now given, that the Resolution above will be rigidly enforced, hereafter, unless repealed by the General Assembly and that no report, later than 1st of June in reaching the office of the Stated Clerk, can be expected to appear in the statistical

For the sake of greater convenience, let the reports, if they are not delivered at the General Assembly, be sent to the care of Winthrop Sargent, Esq. 821 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, (by whom the tables are annually calculated,) instead of being addressed to Princeton, directly.

Brethren mailing the reports should be careful to pay the postage in full. Otherwise, according to a late revision of postage law, the office of the Assembly's Clerk will be required to pay double of the whole amount. When the weight is more, for example, than what is charged six cents, and no more than this sum is prepaid twelve cents must be charged by the Post Office, on delivery of the document. Several reports have already come to hand with this burden; and in the low condition of the Contingent Fund, it will be necessary to decline taking from the Post Office, alto- in September, J. W. Scott; Fourth gether, packages so neglected in mailing ALEXANDER T. McGILL.

For the Presbyterian Ranner. ction of the Presbytery of Redstone on the State of the Country.

Being met together as the official repreentatives of a portion of the Church of God, and believing as we do, that all Christians, and especially ministers of the Gosmeeting, took the following action:

"Presbytery having learned that the practice of attending balls and dancing artises prayily to administer the Lord's Supper and the convergement."

"Presbytery having learned that the practice of attending balls and dancing artises provide to a dark and dancing and the convergement."

"perilous times," we deem it our duty to bear testimony frequently and plainly, by ond Sabbath August, W. S. Dool; ond Sabbath September, S. Mahaffy, at a dark and the convergement. pel, have an important part to act in these

We exhort all to special forbearance with others who may differ from one another in matters not involving principle, and par- R. Campbell. First Sabbath June, ticularly to resist the prevailing tendency drew Greenlee. Third Sabbath June

to schism among the professed followers of Christ.

We also carnestly exhort all, and especially those who lead in social and public worship, to order well their words and ford. inculcated in the Gospel, and contrary to the profession and faith of the Church. e pursue their preparation an- has been secured at immense cost. In ad- army, and pursued the business of a civil "Resolved, That the Sessions under the thoughts, so as not needlessly to irritate care of this Presbytery are directed to see sensitive minds; nor to introduce any- Vincent; Fifth Sabbath May, S.

suitable to spiritual and profitable wor. We also exhort that the cause of

beloved country be unceasingly boing fore God in united as well as indiprayer; that no outery of party prein or any such thing, hinder any one pleading with God to protect the pr church, Philadelphia, on Monday the 3d ment and union of these States-to abundantly those regularly in auth with wisdom and strength, and needed qualification for the arduous of suppressing the treasonable rebell our land, and of maintaining rightful and order throughout all our bond That God would also mercifully break voke and let the oppressed in our land free, and prepare them for, and bless t with, civil and religious liberty. The would be pleased to deliver every par our nation from the sin of African sla together with whatever else provokes wrath

We exhort all pastors and teachers nember the supreme authority of Divine Master, and his requirement to clare his whole counsel, being water meanwhile, to blend meekness and wish with unfaltering firmness, that they give be judged of man's judgment, but of reimportance to approve themselves fairle witnesses for God.

We esteem it our duty, and the duty all men, so long as there is a rebel in ann against this Government, to consider him hurtful enemy to a good and rightful 6. ernment, and as sinning against God. and our sympathy with, our Government

And finally, we express our great sol tude that, in the midst of our loyal sympa thies and efforts, and our high hopes a expectations of our officers and men wonderful agencies, we should more fa realize and acknowledge our entire pendence on God, through Jesus Chris our all-sufficient helper and Saviour.

For the Presbyterian P The Presbytery of Washington

Met in West Alexander on the 26th April, and was constituted with prayer the Moderator, Dr. J. Alexander. Rev. S. Pomeroy was chosen Moderator, an Revs. James Sloan, D. D., and Samuel W Henderson, Clerks.

Messrs. J. D. Kerr, W. M. White, E. Campbell, W. S. Van Cleve, and J Ramsay, (all of the graduating class at the Western Theological Seminary,) were censed to preach the Gospel. Revs. William H. Lester and Alexander

M'Carrell, and Messrs. William Merce and James Rankin, Ruling Elders, w chosen as Commissioners to the next if eral Assembly.

Rev. Wm. M. Robinson was dismiss the Presbytery of Erie.

Rev. James H. Spelman was received By request of Presbytery, the Rev. !

P. Caldwell, a delegate of the U.S. Chri tian Commission, made some very interes ing remarks in regard to this great enter prise, as conducted in the Army of the S. His address was heard with mark attention, and made a very happy imp sion on the very large audience assemb the occasion. After this address, the lowing resolutions were unanimously a

Resolved, That this Presbytery take deep and lively interest in the progre this noble enterprise, the U.S. Chr

Resolved, That this Presbytery, pressed with a sense of responsibil eference to this great cause, will endea to keep a permanent delegate in the vice and under the direction of the

Christian Commission. Resolved, That Presbyterv earnestly mmend to Christians and patriots to tribute liberally of their means, for support of this great cause.

In compliance with the second tion, the Rev. R. S. Morton, of Hooksto Pa., was appointed a delegate from Presbytery to that part of the U.S. to which he may be sent by the U.S. tian Commission.

Drs. Eagleson, Brownson, and Mr M. Reed, of Washington, Pa., were pointed a committee to superintend sending out of our delegates, and to m arrangements for the supply of their pi during their absence. Dr. Brownson presented a paper,

was unanimously adopted, urging, st the claims of the Board of Domestic sions upon the benevolence of all tians, and patriots, in this important in the history of our Church and nation The thanks of Presbytery were mously tendered to the citizens of Alexander, and vicinity, for their her ity in entertaining the members: The entire meeting was pleasant

harmonious, and characterized by a of kindness and good will among the ALEXANDER M'CARRELL

Appointed by the Presbytery of W ton, at its late meeting in West

West Alexander-Fourth Sabba May, Mr. D. W. Fisher; Fifth Sabba Iay, Mr. W. J. Brugh. Claysville-Fourth Sabbath in May, Eagleson; Fifth Sabbath in May,

S. Pomeroy; Fourt Sabbath in May, D. Laverty; First Sabbath of June, Dr.

Mill Creek-Third Sabbath in Ma P. Caldwell; Fifth Sabbath of May,

East Buffalo, Second Sabbath in N. B. Lyons; Fourth Sabbath in William Hanna; Second Sabbath in Alexander M'Carrell; Fourth Sabba July, Dr. Stockton; Second Sabbath August, Dr. Eagleson; Fourth Sabba August, J. T. Fredericks; Second Sa bath in September, W. J. Alexander.

Waynesburg, Cove, Mt. Prospect Church, Washington; West Liberty Unity, have leave to procure their supplies until next stated meeting of ALEX. M'CARRELL,

For the Presbyterian B Supplies by the Presbytery of St. Clair Fairview-Second Sabbath May, collection for Foreign Missions; Sabbath July, D. R. Campbell.

Morristown-Fourth Sabbath M

Cadiz-Fourth Sabbath May