

Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 1864.

RASCALITIES IN TIMES OF WAR.

The outcry against the rapacity and villainy which have characterized a large number of contractors and some Government officials, during the present war, has been general and loud. It has been charged that such self-seeking and such selfishness have never been witnessed in the history of a Christian nation. And too much condemnation cannot be expressed, or too much contempt felt, for men who will seize upon the blood and agonies of their country for the purpose of enriching themselves or friends, or securing their own personal advancement. That grievous wrongs—actions which startle us by their very heartlessness—have been committed, in these particulars, no one will deny. Fortunes have been amassed by means most disreputable. These things grieve and sadden the heart of the patriot and Christian, and the report of them discourages our brave soldiers in the field, who have left the quiet and endearments of home, and the rewards of industry, to risk their lives and lay them down, if necessary, for their country.

And to make matters worse, the present is contrasted with the past—the feelings and conduct of the men engaged in such reprehensible practices, with the feelings and conduct of the men of our revolutionary period, of which we are so proud. So that many people suppose the reason to be all at the present juncture, and that in the Revolution there was no private ambition, no petty jealousies, no extortions, and no complicity with the enemies of their country. They now see things to be very different, and therefore conclude that we have sunk to a baseness unparalleled in former times. Croakers fill the air with their complainings and vindictions of evil. While the sympathisers with the rebellion rejoice in them as indications of complete national overthrow.

But rascalities in times of war are no new things; nor are we worse in these particulars than the men of former times in similar circumstances. The prevalent comparison is unjust to ourselves and untrue to history. The sum of our national virtue, notwithstanding all that has been said to the contrary, is as great now as it ever was in this land, or in any other land. This will be evident from a consideration of facts in our own history and in the history of other nations, in times of war.

In the new edition of his "American Loyalties," Mr. LORENZO SABINE, known as an exact and scrupulous author, has inserted an historical essay, which reads very much like a series of pungent observations on contemporary events, and which shows the common opinion entertained to be very erroneous. Mr. SABINE says that the prominent man of the Revolution—seen just as elsewhere in the annals of our race." He says: "Avarice and rapacity were as common then as now. The stock jobbing, the extortion, the forestalling, the low arts and devices to amass wealth that were practised during the struggle are almost incredible. WASHINGTON mourned the want of virtue as early as 1775, and averred that he trembled at the prospect. Soldiers were stripped of their miserable pittance, and contractors for the army might become rich in a single campaign. Many of the sellers of merchandise monopolized articles of the first necessity, and would not part with them to their suffering country and to the wives and children of those who were absent in the field, unless at enormous profits. The traffic carried on by the royal troops was immense. Men of all descriptions finally engaged in it, and those who at the beginning of the war would have shuddered at the idea of any connection with the enemy, pursued it with avidity.

This is not an unsupported statement. WASHINGTON bears testimony to its correctness in a private letter, in which he says: "From what I have seen, heard, and in part know, I should, in one word, say that idleness, dissipation and extravagance seem to have laid fast hold of most; that speculation, peculation, and an insatiable thirst for riches seem to have got the better of every other consideration, and almost every order of men, and that party disputes and personal quarrels are the great business of the day."

There was much greater difficulty in raising troops, even in those patriotic times, than now. Some States never furnished their proportion of men. Deserters and bounty-jumpers were abundant. WASHINGTON complained that some of the States sent him officers unfit to be school-boys. Mr. SABINE says that eighteen generals retired during the struggle; one for drunkenness; one for receiving double pay; some from declining health; others from the weight of advanced years; others to accept civil employments; but several from private resentments, and real or imaginary wrongs inflicted by Congress or associates in the service.

Conclusive proofs can be given to show that individuals of all ranks entered the army from interested motives, and abandoned it for similar reasons. JOHN ADAMS, wrote in 1777: "I am wearied to death with the wrangles between military officers, high and low. They quarrel like cats and dogs. They worry one another like unsexed hounds, scrambling for rank and pay like pigs for nuts." WASHINGTON, who was more guarded in his letters to Congress, wrote almost in a similar strain to private correspondents.

It may be added that similar charges and imputations, arising from similar causes, circulated in England during all her long continental wars; in Prussia, where FREDERICK conducted his campaigns; in Germany, Sweden, Russia, and in every country disturbed by war. WASHINGTON'S dispatches from Portugal and Belgium, are largely filled with inveighing against public and private villainy and speculation. He even went so far as to hang contractors where their dishonest practices were proved, and he frequently forced them into the ranks; while NAPOLION

LEON not unfrequently shot men for similar offences. Therefore, we must not suppose that we, of this age and in this great struggle for the life of the nation, are afflicted with an amount surpassing that of former times, of dishonesty and villainy in the prosecution of war. Nor must we permit half-hearted Union men, or constitutional croakers, to make us despair of the Republic. A blessing is still in it, and God will preserve it, even in the midst of the fires. Let each one of us listen to the wise man who says: "Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better—than these? for thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this."

THE DAY OF PRAYER.

The General Assembly, on the last day of its session, at Newark, adopted a resolution recommending Thursday, the first day of September, to be observed as a day of humiliation and prayer, (unless the President of the United States should appoint some other day,) because of sins as individuals, as churches, and as a nation.

Since the adjournment of the General Assembly, the President, in accordance with the united request of both Houses of Congress, has set apart the first Thursday, being the fourth day of August, as a day of national humiliation and prayer. We have already given in our issue of the 18th inst., the joint resolution of Congress, in some respects a remarkable paper, and the President's proclamation thereupon.

We now call attention anew to the action of the Assembly and the appointment of the President, because the present is the last issue of our paper which will reach a large portion of our subscribers before the designated day of prayer. We feel assured that our readers will not forget the duty to which they have been thus doubly and solemnly invited, and that pastors and Sessions, or united churches, will make provision for the suitable observance of the day.

It becomes us to be humbled. Many dark days have passed over us, disappointments have befallen us, men in whom we have confided have not justified our trust, millions of treasure have been squandered, precious lives have been lost, untold sufferings have been endured, and the end is not yet. But while these things should rebuke our pride and self-reliance, they are not the chief reasons why we should be humbled. We have sinned—as individuals, as churches, as a nation, we have sinned. Our transgressions have called down upon us the wrath of an offended God; and for our sins, more than for the penalty they have entailed, should we be grieved and humbled.

It becomes us to pray for our rulers that they may direct our affairs in the fear of God and with the Divine approval; for our soldiers and sailors, that God would be their shield in the hour of danger, would support them in sickness and suffering, would prepare them both for life and for death, as he in wisdom shall appoint; and for the bereaved, the afflicted, the distressed, that God would comfort and sustain and bless; for our enemies, that their hearts may be turned to lay down the weapons of their rebellion and submit to the rightful authority of the Constitution and the laws; for ourselves that strength may be given us to contend and to endure for a just and righteous cause; and for our common country, that speedily, if God so will, peace and prosperity and fraternal love may return to our distressed land—for all this it becomes us fervently, submissively, to pray.

Nor let us forget, in view of the approach of this day of prayer, to make preparation for it by rigid searchings of heart, confessions of sins, and earnest looking unto God, that his anger may be turned away from us, and that he would cause his face once more to shine upon us.

Do we seek encouragement to pray? From the many instances of answered prayer, recorded in God's word, let us recur to that remarkable example contained in Dan. ix: 23—28, where, in circumstances of the deepest national humiliation, the results of humble penitence and importunate supplication, are so touchingly described; and may the same merciful God that caused his wretched messenger to fly swiftly in answer to his prophet's prayer, incline his ear also unto the united petitions that ascend to him from the crushed and smitten hearts of this great people.

A COLLEGE FOR THE NORTH-WEST. The circular which we print in another column, addressed to the friends of education in connection with the Presbyterian Church in the North-west, deserves the earnest, immediate, and prayerful consideration of those who desire the welfare of the Church and the country. Many who have been prominent in initiating and prosecuting various educational enterprises in the West, are now willing to merge these diverse interests into one great institution, which shall, by God's blessing, deserve and receive the confidence, affections, and bounty of the churches, to a degree that has not yet been the happiness of any—even the most successful—College of the West.

The subject is a momentous one. Considerations analogous to those which have prompted the desire for the union of our Colleges in Western Pennsylvania, and the upbuilding upon their union of a first-class institution, would recommend the measure suggested in this circular. If anywhere, surely in the great heart of our imperial Republic, in that vast section whose political pulsations will hereafter determine the character of the Government, it is important that our Church should be represented by an institution that shall be at least equal to any in the land.

Let it not be said that this consideration involves an undue influence of the Church upon the State. If to educate our sons at home, with all the advantages which they would derive from the improved appliances and the increased facilities of the best Eastern Colleges, and yet surrounded with all the Christian influences which the home and the Church can unitedly command, be to exert a controlling power upon the State—and we are not prepared to dispute the proposition—happy is the State thus controlled—blessings upon such a union of Church and State.

But whilst these indirect results of the possession of a really great College in the West are deserving of regard, the chief consideration which should commend this enterprise is the hope and prospect that it would be instrumental in building up the Church and in promoting the glory of its Head. That we should be enabled to give our sons near home that education which will best fit them, whether as ministers or as laymen, for the great conflict between truth and error, and which will render science and literature, even in their highest developments, the handmaids of sound, evangelical religion, would be the crowning glory of this enterprise.

How then can these great ends be best attained—by the support (?) as heretofore of numerous Colleges in perpetual mendicancy, (to our own shame, not theirs, be it spoken,) or by the establishment upon a broad, firm basis of a first-class institution—a really great College for so great a country? This, we conceive, is the main question to be answered in the proposed meeting at Chicago, where, we trust, all who can and who feel an interest in this measure, will be present.

SHALL IT FAIL?

A brief but important communication will be found in another column, upon the union of the Colleges. We have forbore to express editorially any opinion upon the various plans and suggestions which have been submitted to the public through our columns, having this great end in view; and we have no projects of our own to propose. But it is with pain we notice that, after months of consideration, the desired end seems no nearer of accomplishment than before, whilst the time during which the proffered donation may be secured, is rapidly passing away.

On one point all can agree: that it would be better, far better, for the cause of education that there should be, in Western Pennsylvania, one enlarged and endowed College, with a corps of instructors and a pious foundation bearing some resemblance to the equipments of the best institutions in the Atlantic States, than two Colleges, impoverished and struggling, as Jefferson and Washington have always been. And this we say without the least disposition to detract from the just reputation which those institutions have earned by a long career of self-sacrificing labors and abundant usefulness.

If it were supposed that the endowment of the united Colleges would cease with the addition of the offered fifty or one hundred thousand dollars to their present funds, the union would, in our judgment, scarce be worth effecting. But we desire its consummation because we believe that this amount would be but the beginning of a better day, and that in the lifetime of some now living, the fund would grow by gradual accretions, as in the case of Harvard, and Yale, and Union, till it would embrace from half a million to a million. We believe that the benefactions upon a vigorous College, already well endowed, than upon a sickly, starving one. And there can be no reason why the same results may not be attained here in the West, that have been so often witnessed in the East.

It has been the desire of our heart, since our own College days, that there should exist in Western Pennsylvania a College commensurate with the requirements and the just expectations of our churches and of the large section of country from which it would derive its support—a College that, attaining the proportions of an University, and possessing facilities and advantages not excelled in any other institution in the country, would yet retain the spirit of the founders of our earliest schools, who built their humble log-cabin Academies in faith and prayer—a College that, resting upon the foundations laid by those pioneers, would be at once a blessing to the present generation, and a noble and enduring monument to the piety and wisdom of our fathers. There are many who cherish this hope. Shall it fail?

A SKEPPER LOST. The late naval combat between the *Kearsarge* and the *Alabama* derives its chief significance from the circumstance that these two vessels are justly regarded as representatives, respectively, of the American and British navies. That the *Alabama* floated the rebel flag, in this view of the case, to be a matter of moment. It is indeed a subject of congratulation that the destroyer of our commerce should be itself destroyed, and its practical course be terminated forever. But the importance of the victory by no means ends with this.

The *Alabama*, built in a British port by the contributions of two hundred and ninety British merchants, constructed with all the improvements and appliances of British skill in naval architecture, equipped with the best of British guns, manned by British seamen, fought by British trained artillerymen, and in its piratical career supported by the undisguised sympathies of the British people, was, to all intents and purposes, a British vessel. Not only so, but in sailing and fighting qualities it might be regarded as fairly representing the British navy, if not, indeed, above the average of British men of war.

The *Kearsarge*, hastily built and equipped, but armed, manned, and engineered by American skill, was regarded as at best but a second-rate American vessel of war; yet in construction and armament fitted out according to American ideas, which had been rejected by French and British theorists, may be taken as a representative of the American navy, so rapidly increasing in the number of its vessels and the power of its guns.

It is not strange, therefore, that the result of this contest should create a profound sensation throughout Europe; for that result established the superiority of American naval architecture and of American artillery. It is not strange that, but a few hours after the roar of the battle had ceased, an English lord should rise in the British Parliament and indignantly inquire whether the Admiralty would continue to build "ships that could neither fight nor swim."

ly that "Britannia rules the waves." Her dominion, often so tyrannically exercised, is gone; her boasted supremacy upon the seas is broken; and when the pirate captain so dramatically let fall his sword into the waters surging over his shattered vessel, it was the sceptre of British power that sunk with the *Alabama*.

It is not in a boastful or vainglorious spirit that we would regard this feature of the late contest. That boastful spirit has been one of our national sins; and surely the events of the last three years should have taught us how little we are entitled to its indulgence. But when we reflect upon the unprovoked and unjustifiable hostility toward us so clearly evinced by the British people, and upon their disregard of international law in their efforts to cripple our commercial marine, there seems to be something of retributive justice in the blow which has suddenly prostrated the pillar that has so long and so loftily upheld their power and their pride.

And should it be the will of Him whose path is upon the waters, that our own beloved Republic should become prominent in its power upon the sea, God grant that we may never, as England has so often done, use that power for selfish purposes; but, if possible, more scrupulous in respecting the rights of even the weakest nations, than in asserting and defending our own.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL.

Last week, in company with the devoted President of the Pittsburgh Sanitary Commission, we paid a visit to this establishment, which was taken possession of, some time ago, by the United States Government. The hospital is under charge of Dr. BRYAN, an accomplished surgeon and also a Christian gentleman, with a competent and attentive corps of assistants. The position of the buildings and the entire arrangements are most admirable. About eight hundred and fifty sick and wounded soldiers are now under treatment, and arrangements are being made for a considerable increase. A new dining hall will soon be ready for occupancy, which will add much to the comfort and convenience of the inmates.

The patients belong mostly to Western Pennsylvania regiments, who were able to be brought to the vicinity of their friends, where they might breathe the air of their native hills, and receive the visits and sympathies of relatives and acquaintances. From time to time, short leaves of absence are granted those who go about, that their homes may be visited; and in this way much is done to promote speedy recovery. The sight of home and the rush of old associations do much to impart strength to the feeble, and to give hope to the despairing.

Dr. BRYAN is not a mere official, but a man who takes a deep interest in the bodies, minds, and souls of those committed to his care. The chaplain, Rev. Mr. BEAN, of the Methodist Church, is assisting in the religious services.

The Christian and Sanitary Commissions are unwearied in supplying Christian literature and hospital stores. So that, altogether, we must congratulate the soldiers, disabled from wounds or sickness, who are so fortunate as to be placed in this hospital.

We may remark, in conclusion, that just now there is great need of vegetables and apples. Many of our farmers can, without any expense to themselves, contribute the apples now falling from their trees, and confer a great benefit on the soldier. Vegetables and apples left at the rooms of the Sanitary Commission, on Fourth Street, will be thankfully received, and faithfully used for the suffering.

FALSEHOOD IN THE SOUTH.

The falsehoods perpetrated by the rebel newspapers concerning the enormities practised by the Union soldiers and the invincible defeats of the Union army, have long been matters of public notoriety. But we find that ministers of the Gospel in rebellion have become seized, it may be unconsciously to themselves, with the same terrible disease. The last instance of the kind which has been brought to our notice, is a letter from the Rev. JOHN LEBURN, D.D., formerly Stated Clerk of our General Assembly, to the British and Foreign Bible Society, asking a supply of Bibles and Testaments for the Confederate armies, which has been granted. In this letter he says, "The revival in the army still goes on; and much more of the same sort; but if there is no more truth in this than in the other declaration made in the same letter by Dr. LEBURN, of the "uniform successes" of the rebel armies in "repulsing and punishing" the armies of Generals GRANT and SHERMAN, his statement will be received with many grains of allowance.

It will be observed that he makes General LEE a remarkably pious man. In this appeal to the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Dr. says: "The revival in the army still goes on; and ever since the commencement of the active campaign, there have been marked manifestations of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Our hospitals, now filled with the wounded from the late great battles, afford a most encouraging field for religious effort. Every man seems ready to hear, and a Testament would be to them a treasure more valued than riches. The cheerful and uncomplaining manner in which these poor fellows bear their sufferings would almost seem as if all of them were supported by a supernatural power. We have prayer-meetings in the churches every afternoon, with crowded and deeply attentive assemblies. One of the most marked characteristics of this whole revolution is its extraordinary religious aspect. General LEE is a humble, God-fearing, and praying man, and so are a very large number of our officers. The uniform success of our armies, since the opening of this stupendous campaign, in repulsing and punishing the enemy, have greatly encouraged our people in their prayers!"

The Canada Presbyterian Church.—The following is an abstract of the statistics as furnished at the last meeting of the Canada Synod: 40,000 communicants, being an increase of 2,000; 4,500 baptisms, being an increase of 500 in the year; 21,000 Sabbath Scholars, an increase of 1,800; 410 weekly meetings, being 30 less than

last year; 1,250 elders, an increase of 50; 2,200 other office-bearers; 600 preaching stations, being an increase of 50; 73,000 persons attending Divine ordinances, being an increase of 8,000; stipends paid to the Ministers, \$122,000, an increase of \$10,000. Total contributions, \$230,845, being an increase on the preceding year of \$17,809.

The Examiner.—This admirable paper of the Baptist Church, published in New York, on a sheet smaller than that of the *Banner*, has raised its subscription price to \$3, or \$2.50, when paid strictly in advance.

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES AND MINISTERS.

Old School.—The South Presbyterian Church, of Philadelphia, says the *Presbyterian*, of which the Rev. John Moore is pastor, has a good degree of prosperity. At the last communion, nine were admitted into membership. The Sabbath School numbers three hundred, to the library of which quite an addition of books has been made. A literary association has recently been formed, under the auspices of the church, which promises to accomplish much good.

At a special meeting of the Presbytery of Allegheny City, held on the 25th inst., a Committee was appointed to organize a new church in Sewickley, on next Monday evening, at half-past 7 o'clock. The Committee consists of Rev. Messrs. Conrad, Shields, and Lowry, and Messrs. Cameron and Mercer.

The venerable Dr. Spring, of New-York, has resigned the place he so long occupied as Chairman of the Committee on Versions of the American Bible Society. The Rev. Dr. McLeod, of New-York, was appointed to the place, at the last meeting of the Committee.

New School.—The American Presbyterian says: "Dr. Kendall left for California directly after the meeting of the General Assembly. His presence and personal conference with brethren in the State will doubtless facilitate the Home Mission operations in that important field. We are glad to see the enterprise and energy of the Secretary. Under such a leader, the Church will not decline from her present noble position in the Home Missionary work. The prospect before us is one full of grand and inspiring opportunities for labor in the service of the Master. Our part as a Church, is to leave this nation with the saving truths and influences of the Gospel, it is destined apparently to be no trifling one. It is a glorious but a solemn responsibility.

"The friends of Mr. Barnes and of Hamilton College will rejoice to learn that the subscription to the fund for establishing the Albert Barnes Professorship of Natural Science in Hamilton College, is now complete. It has been very nearly so for a considerable time, but we have preferred to withhold any announcement until we could say what we have just said."

Reformed.—The Rev. George Scott, for many years pastor of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Darlington, Pa., has received the degree of D.D. from Monmouth College, Ill.

United.—On Thursday afternoon, June 30th, Mr. Jas. P. Sankey was ordained and installed pastor of the United Presbyterian Church, corner of Court and Stone streets, Rochester, N. Y., by the U. P. Presbytery of Caledonia. The sermon on the occasion was preached by the Rev. E. M. Proctor, of Caylerville, Ky. Dr. McLaren, of Geneva, made the ordaining prayer. Rev. J. L. Robertson, of the same place, gave the charge to the pastor, and Rev. John Van Eaton, formerly pastor of this church, but now of York, gave the charge to the people. The benediction was pronounced by the pastor. The exercises were exceedingly interesting.

Associate.—The *Monthly* of the so-called Associate Church contains in its July number the proceedings of the Synod of Cuylerville, Ky., held at Cuylerville, Ky., May 25th, and continued its sittings eight days. Its statistical tables show that there are four Presbyteries, 15 ministers, 47 congregations, 519 families, 1218 communicants, and that the contributions from all sources were \$675. There are about 48 cents for each member during the year. Among the 47 congregations, 9 ministers have pastoral charges, and of the 15 ministers in that body, 6 are without settlements.

WALDENIAN CHURCH IN ITALY.

The annual meeting of this Synod has just been held at the Grand Alpine Protestantists it is always a time of great fervor and hospitality and kindly greetings. The Synod, which moves from parish to parish, was held this year at Coppiet, the old parish church of La Tour, and is an old and venerable and venerable sanctuary, having been built and dedicated to God's service in the year 1506. It is associated with some of the most stirring events of Waldensian history. It is the only church that was spared by their persecutors during their exile from 1686 to 1689.

The first Synod of the Waldensians after their return was convened in this building, which in 1861 was the scene of a great festival of liberality of Miss Bradshaw, now the wife of General Molyneux Williams. A large number of Christian strangers from various churches and countries was present to cheer the hearts of the brethren. The meeting was one of great interest, and the narrative of the state of religion showed that in all parts of the field the progress of the work of Evangelization had been very cheering and encouraging. The feeling seemed to pervade every heart, the fields are white to the harvest, and that nothing was wanting but the laborers to thrust in the sickle and reap.

Circular.

To the Friends of Education in Connection with the Presbyterian Church in the North-west.

NEWARK, N. J., June 1, 1864. DEAR BRETHREN:—The ministers and elders from the North-western States, in connection with the Rev. Dr. Chester and the Rev. Mr. Cauley, Secretaries of the Board of Education, have held a series of conferences during the sessions of the General Assembly now meeting in this city, for the purpose of consulting as to what measures were practicable in order to advance the cause of Education in that great field. A Committee of five, consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Willis Lord, D.D., William Spear, Joseph Platt, Thomas W. Hynes, and Balfour Etherton, has been appointed to present memorial, and make such arrangements as may be necessary for the ends herein proposed.

We feel the vast importance of the subject. The region of our country which we represent is that which the present Secretary of State of the United States proposes, after many years of thought on the subject, that which he believes to be

"the ultimate central seat for the North American people," and "the last seat of power on this great Continent." We know the responsibility God has laid upon our branch of his earthly Church, in bearing the standard of devotion to liberal, thorough, comprehensive, and unrestricted learning and knowledge, both in the Old World and in the New. Some of us have shared in educational enterprises, which, for various reasons, have not been blessed of God to the measure of our aims, and which now nearly all concerned feel willing to merge in what may prove to be more in accordance with his will, and realize the ends had in view. We are not satisfied with the State institutions alone, which accomplish some important results, and are worthy of sympathy and aid. These must ever be kept unseparated by the oscillations of politics, the meetings of partisans, the influences of science unconsecrated to God, and even hostile to religion and truth, and the prejudices of sects. Much less can we regard with favor those institutions that are founded upon partial or mischievous religious creeds for their propagation. We are anxious to secure the advantages of sound and general education at home, where the people can be relieved from the hindrances and burthens connected with journeys to distant places, and the larger expenses of living there; where the young and inexperienced shall not be so far removed from our supervision and care, and where we shall be closer to them in case of sickness or death. Moreover, we look beyond the present time, and desire to see planted in these growing regions an institution which shall long be a light and a blessing.

Such, in a few brief sentences, are our aspirations. The gracious providence of God seems just now to be opening the way toward their realization. Devoted, intelligent, and liberal friends in the East are encouraging our feeble and oppressed hands. Shall we not, brethren and friends, rise up and accept of the trust laid upon us?

In considering the initiatory steps toward the establishment of the proposed Institution, it has seemed best to the above members of the Association, in conference, to appoint a GENERAL CONVENTION of the ministers of the Presbyterian Church in the North-west, with such elders, intelligent members, and other gentlemen as desire to promote the object, which shall meet in the City of Chicago, on Wednesday, the 24th day of August, at 10 o'clock A. M. Then the leading features of the subject may be fully discussed, and a practicable scheme matured for presentation before the several Synods at their usual Fall meetings.

There are several reasons why such a Convention might have been better held during the Winter. But on the whole, it has been considered wiser that it should be previous to the Synods, and that the time is not far off. It is a season comparatively favorable for the absence from home of brethren and friends both from town and country. Let us now make to you, respected brethren in the ministry and Church, and to all who can feel the great importance of the subject, and can be moved by the weighty measures which we have alluded, a most earnest appeal to be present. WILLIAM McCANDLISH, Chairman. WILLIAM SPEER, Secretary.

For the Presbyterian Banner. The Union of the Colleges. Messrs. EDITORS:—Several communications have appeared in the *Banner* on the subject of a Union of the Colleges. It is certainly very desirable that something on this important matter could be effected—and effected shortly—for a reason, which ought to be stated. The offer to donate fifty thousand dollars on the condition of a Union, was for a limited time, not longer than a year; and that period will soon expire. When the proposition terminates, some other disposal will be made of the means for the time, so that it neither will nor can be renewed. It is, therefore, distinctly and fully understood by such as are desirous of availing themselves of this proposition, that they may accept promptly.

There are, no doubt, serious difficulties in the way of a Union, but not such as are unsurmountable if the magnitude and importance of the object is considered, and a liberal and conciliatory action can be infused into the parties that are to act. The respective Commencements will soon take place, and might be proper seasons to discuss the matter, and see if any thing can be effected. The Alumni might express their views, and submit their plans, and other friends might cooperate in this way; but the final and decisive action can only be effected by the Boards of Trustees. On them devolves the responsibility.

Literary. The next Philadelphia Book Trade Sale will begin on Tuesday, the 27th of September. Booksellers wishing catalogues should send their names to Thomas & Sons, Auctioneers, Fourth Street, Philadelphia.

Remmes, the pirate, is to become an author again, a London firm announcing that he has written a new novel, and the *Sunderland* from the *Private Journals*, &c., of Captain Semmes, C. S. N., and "officers." The surrender and sinking of the *Alabama* will make a fine closing chapter. The Appletons will republish the book in this country.

The great attention paid of late to Hymnology will receive a further impetus in the publication of two works announced by D. Appleton & Co.—"Lyra Anglicana," and "Lyra Americana,"—two volumes of hymns and sacred songs, by Rev. George T. Rider. The same firm announces Miss Yonge's new novel, "The Clever Woman of the Family," and "The Trial," and General Dix's Speeches and Addresses.

Among the books announced by Carleton are Edmund Kirke's new book: "Down in Tennessee," and new novels entitled: "Wylder's Hand," "Recommended to Mercy," "Quest," and "Victoire." The removal of M. Renan from his professorial chair in the College of France will not affect him personally, as he has already gained a large fortune by the sale of his "Life of Jesus." He will also soon publish a "Life of the Virgin Mary." He will be succeeded as professor by M. Munk, a Jew, selected that Renan's removal may not be attributed to the influence of the priests.

Henry Richards' "Life of Joseph Sturge," lately published in London, is a large volume of over six hundred pages, and closes with Whittier's memorial lines of Sturge, beginning "By lone Egbarston's side"—It elicits much criticism both as a literary work and from the eccentricities of the subject—the really amusing mistakes sometimes made by Mr. Sturge, notwithstanding his really eminent philanthropy.

The proprietors of the London *National Review* announce a new series of that periodical, to be begun in November next. Dr. NEWMAN, the eminent Catholic clergyman—a proselyte from Protestantism—has published a pamphlet about himself called "Apologia pro vita sua." In this work he uses many arguments in favor of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, and the liquefaction of St. Januarius' blood. As a specimen of his strong style of writing, we extract the following sentence: "The Catholic Church holds it better for the Sun and Moon to drop from heaven,

for the earth to fall, and for all the many trances agony, as far as temporal affluence goes, than that one soul, I will not say glacial sin, should tell one wild unwhitened excuse."

Florentine, the lately deceased artist, received \$5,200 a year for contributing weekly art *feuilletons* to the *Conservateur*. He also received the same salary for writing for the *Moniteur*. His estate, real and personal, amounted to \$150,000. He left a son, Paris correspondent of the *Figaro*, and a daughter, Miss Cross of the Legion of Honor to M. Alexander, the artist, on his heart.

The Continental Monthly, for August, is a superior number of a Magazine which has already taken high rank in its literature and discussions of national policy. The present number is enriched with an article from Rev. Dr. Philip Schaff, on the First Christian Emperor.

The Eclectic Magazine for August, is embellished with a steel engraving of the capture of Forts Jackson and St. Philip, at New Orleans, April 24, 1862. The leading articles in this number are rather severe reviews of Speke's Journal of Discovery, and Kirk's Charles the Bold. Other articles, well selected, make up the usual treat of valuable matter which the *Eclectic* is sure to possess. Published by W. H. Bixwell, No. 5, Beekman Street, New-York.

For the Presbyterian Banner.

Beaver Female Seminary.

This Institution is situated in the town of Beaver, Pa., and is under the care of Prof. S. B. Mercer, a graduate of Jefferson College and an accomplished scholar and teacher.

The location of the Seminary building is a very desirable one, and the rooms are large, well furnished and well ventilated. The surrounding scenery is very fine indeed, whilst the seminary is easy of access from every direction, being situated on the Ohio river, and near the junction of the Cleveland and Pittsburgh, and Pittsburgh and Fort Wayne and Chicago Railways. In regard to the healthfulness of the place, eminent physicians have given their decided testimony that it is not surpassed by any other location in Western Pennsylvania.

The teachers employed in this Institution are amply sufficient in number to do justice to the classes, and well qualified for their respective duties. The constant aid of the Superintendent and Teachers is, to educate the physical, intellectual and moral nature of those entrusted to their care.

In the schools, daily religious influence is exerted, and near the junction of the Ohio river, affords abundant opportunity for attending religious services in the different churches, according to the preference of the pupils or the direction of their parents and guardians.

The school year closed on the 28th and 29th days of June last. The examinations and closing exercises were witnessed by a large number of the friends and patrons of the school, and were highly creditable both to the teachers and pupils.

Parents wishing to give their daughters a liberal education, cannot do better than to send them to this school. The next term will commence on the 29th day of August, 1864. S. B. Mercer, Superintendent. Rochester, Pa.

Personal.

General Kilpatrick, the dashing cavalry leader, is on his way to his old command in Gen. Sherman's army.

A brother of Gen. Grant, who recently visited the general at his headquarters, asked him, "Ulysses, how many men have you?" "I have a good many," replied the wise man.

The Atlanta (*Gazette*) gives an account of the death of Gen. Bior Polk of the rebel army. He died instantly. Gen. Polk had in his coat-pocket [when killed, his prayer-book and three copies of the Rev. Dr. Quintard's little work, entitled, "Balm for the Weary and Wounded," which were intended as presents for Gen. Johnston, Hardee, and Hood, as their names were inscribed on the fly-leaf; with the compliments of Lieut. General Leonidas Polk, June 12, 1864." They were all stained with the blood which flowed from his wound.

Our Revolutionary Heroes.—Only twelve survivors of the Revolutionary struggle have as yet been found to receive the thanks and the additional pension voted some time since by Congress, viz: Amariah Goodwin, born in 1724, died in 1861, aged 105; John Goodnow, Southbury, Mass., 102; Adam Lisk, Washington county, Pa., 102; Rev. D. Waldo, Windham, Conn., 101; Wm. Hutchinson, York, Me., 103; Jas. Burnham, Southampton county, Va., 99; Benjamin Miller, Springfield, Mass., 107; Alan Pettinling, Windham, Conn., 97; Alan McCrony, Lake George, N. Y., 94; Samuel Downing, no birthplace or age given; Lemuel Cook, no birthplace or age given; James Gates, no birthplace or age given.

Major General James B. McPherson, who was killed in the late battle at Atlanta, Ga., was born in Sandusky County, Ohio, in November, 1828. He graduated at West Point, first in his class, in 1853. Shortly afterward in the same year he was assistant instructor of practical military engineering at West Point, and was engaged on the defenses of New-York harbor, and the improvements of the Hudson river from 1854 to