

ST. LOUIS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

D. R. McANALLY, Editor.
H. V. PHILPOTT, Corresponding Editor.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Quite an amount of legislative work was done in Congress last week in the way of introducing bills and resolutions for immediate or future action. Two of the general appropriation bills were passed, and other matters of minor importance attended to. On Wednesday, Mr. Blaine's resolution to appoint a committee to inquire into the alleged frauds committed in the South at the late elections, was under discussion. Senator Blaine made an elaborate speech in favor of the resolution. Senator Thurman, of Ohio, offered an amendment to the effect that the committee should also inquire whether any persons had been dismissed from office or employment because of their vote, or of their intention to vote at the late elections, or had in any other way been interfered with for that reason. And, further, whether any assessments had been made on any federal office-holders to raise money for election purposes; and, if so, how much was raised; by what means, and how used; and whether such proceedings were in accordance with law, etc.

In favor of this amendment, Mr. Thurman addressed the Senate, and was followed by others. In the end, the resolution and the amendment were laid aside, Mr. Blaine giving notice that he would call them up at the earliest opportunity.

From the indications already given, it is fair to conclude that in all probability the policy of the Republican party will be to place their main dependence for success on the questions connected with Southern affairs, while the Democrats will place theirs on the financial question. From the resolutions already introduced, it is plain that the majority in the House of Representatives will not sanction the restriction of silver coinage nor the withdrawal of greenback currency below a fixed amount. It is likely bills will be passed by that House requiring the increase of silver coinage, and the receipt of such coin for all public dues—dollar for dollar with gold, thus making the bi-metallic standard of equal value. It is also likely they will require the coinage of silver to be at the rate of three or four millions a month until a certain amount has been reached, then allow of free coinage—that is, any person owning silver bullion may send it to the mint and have it coined for his own benefit, or paying the expense of the coinage. Resolutions looking to that end have already been prepared.

The questions of improving the Western rivers and constructing the Southern Pacific Railroad, seem to be regarded with considerable favor by the majority in the House. What the Senate will do in these matters is yet to be learned. It is very clear, however, that the questions of finance and currency are those in which the people generally feel the deepest interest, and they will hold their Representatives in Congress to a strict accountability in regard to the matter; and, from present indications, the Democratic majority in the House are awakening to a sense of their responsibility and beginning fully to realize what the country will demand at their hands. It is well it is so. If they will take a proper medium between the extremes of other parties—the exclusive gold party on the one hand, and the exclusive paper-money party on the other—and provide a safe and sufficient currency for the commercial wants of the country, they, as a party, will be safe, and the country will be safe, so far, at least, as that question is concerned. Let the people study their own true interests, regardless of party affiliations, and instruct their Representatives in Congress accordingly, and then, according to old-time doctrine, those Representatives must obey or resign.

We have not space in which to copy the speeches delivered in the Senate by Messrs. Blaine, Thurman and others, on Wednesday of last week, but a careful reader will not be at a loss to perceive the policy foreshadowed by the parties respectively. There will be quite an animated discussion of the questions involved in those resolutions, before the matter is disposed of, and the key-notes of both parties for the campaign of 1880 will likely be clearly sounded.

Last week there were rain-storms in the Middle and Eastern States that did a vast amount of injury. Water-courses were swollen to an unusual height, and quite a number of mills, factories of various kinds, with many dwelling and out-houses were swept away. Railroads, also, were greatly injured. The greatest damage was done in Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts. The washes, land-slides, and destruction of bridges will involve railroad companies in very heavy expenses. The loss to corporations and individuals has also been very great. We do not learn that many lives were lost.

There has been of late some manifestation of increased attention to that vagabondism by which the whole country is threatened to be overrun; and certainly it is a matter that deserves very serious attention. Society at large will be compelled to act for its own protection and defense. If idleness and vagabondism were all, the case would be bad

enough to demand very serious and prompt attention and actions on the part of the legislative and executive branches of civil government; but when added to these we consider the annoyance and loss sustained by the better portion of society, and the constant, petty thieving—to say nothing of the coarser and more brutal crimes committed by idlers, tramps, and vagrants, the case becomes intolerable. These idlers live like beasts of prey. They live on the common stock without contributing their share. They consume and destroy, but will add nothing to the general wealth and prosperity. In this way they act contrary to every sound principle of civil society. The obligation to contribute their share toward the support and well-being of good society rests as heavily on them as on any others, and if they can do something, and will not, then there is no alternative but to make them suffer the consequences of their own perversity. Sooner or later, legislative bodies will be compelled to realize this fact and act accordingly. Better then recognize it and take action before the difficulty becomes greater.

Another matter is attracting some attention. It is being daily ascertained that in the boasted advancement of our civilization, we are likely to overstep the bounds of safety, if we have not done so already. We have persuaded ourselves that the criminal laws of other days, with the penalties imposed by them, were barbarous, or, at least, semi-barbarous, and that some "more refined methods" should be adopted "in this enlightened age." We have tried these "more refined methods," and found the result to be a vast increase of petty crimes, and a quadrupling of expense to the tax-paying community. Our places for these "refined methods" of punishment are crowded, and in some cases they are really sought after, as places of refuge. Still few of them, if any, clear their own expenses, while the majority have to be sustained in whole or in part from the public funds. So our "more refined methods" work very favorably to the thieving, the drunken, the vulgar, the licentious, the abusers of their families and the like; but very unfavorably to such as happen to be free from such vices, and at the same time own a little property that may be taxed.

The State of Delaware has never abandoned the old methods, hence has got along pretty well. A wholesome fear of the rod has a wondrously restraining influence on vagrants, thieves, and the like. Virginia is trying the old methods again, and finds them to work well. California is preparing to introduce them, and will likely realize similar results. The self-constituted head and center of our civilization—the New England and Middle States—are still shocked at the idea of such "barbarity," notwithstanding about nine-tenths of the vagrants and tramps that roam over the country claim some one or other of those States as the place where they were "born and brought up;" and even here in Missouri, when you lay before the people a proposition as just as just can be—a proposition that simply involves the undeniable principle "that every man who enjoys the benefits of good government should contribute to its support"—and ask them to agree that the payment of a poll-tax shall be a condition precedent to the exercise of the elective franchise, they refuse by a vote of five or ten to one! At the present rate, how long will it be before trampism is in the ascendant? If the people do not awake and attend to their interests of their own accord, it will not be long ere they are awakened in thunder tones, by a storm they may not be able to control.

Near the close of the last week the western part of this State (Missouri) was visited by one of the severest snow-storms experienced for many years. The reported depth, as it lay on a level, was from twelve to twenty-four or thirty inches. In this part of the State there was rain and sleet, but scarcely any snow.

FOREIGN.—The news from abroad varies but little in its general character from that heretofore reported. The policy of Lord Beaconsfield is in the main being agreed to by the British Parliament, and, both at home and abroad, that policy is likely to be carried out. The Premier has proven himself to be one of the first diplomats of the world—one of the most shrewd and far-seeing of all. The war against the Afghans is still carried on as vigorously as the face of the country and the season will permit, and in favor of the English in almost every instance. Last week there was a rumor to the effect that the Ameer had proposed terms of adjustment and peace, but the report has not been confirmed. No interference as yet by other powers. The commercial depression in England continues, manufactories suspended or working on half time, and the poor is represented as being very severe. On the 14th inst., Princess Alice, second daughter of Queen Victoria, died. She was born in 1843, and at the age of nineteen was married to Prince Louis Frederick William of Hesse. This is the first great grief experienced by the royal family since the death of Prince Albert.

There have been varied rumors of conspiracies in Constantinople looking to the

overthrow of the present rulers and the installation of others, but nothing serious has as yet been developed.

In the General Governments of the continent of Europe there have been no changes of late, nor any occurrences in which the readers of this paper would feel particularly interested. Perhaps the most pleasant intelligence to them will be that of the prosperous condition of Protestant missions abroad—and for their information it may be stated that never before in all the past have there been as many Protestant missions in heathen lands, nor as many missionaries, nor as many copies of the Bible, nor as great success in missionary operations, as there are at present. In this respect, we have good news from India, from China, from Japan, from South America, from Mexico, and from the isles of the sea. It is cheering to the heart and encouraging to the hopes of the Christian world, and is a powerful incentive to increased missionary effort.

Letters lately received from the points named speak most encouragingly of the present and the prospects in the future.

Personals.

—Bishop Pierce is again suffering from disease of the throat.

—Dean Stanley consents to the placing in Westminster Abbey a memorial window to Dr. Livingstone.

—Rev. Dr. Cumming, of London, proposes to celebrate the jubilee of his ministry at an early day.

—Mr. Henry Wells, President of the American Express Company, died last week in Glasgow, Scotland.

—Hon. E. Lawrence, of Louisiana, died last week. He had been an extensive planter and a politician of note.

—Gen. J. B. Hood has returned with his family, which includes three pairs of twins, to New Orleans, with a view of remaining permanently.

—A colored man and "a brother," whose name we can not at the moment call up, edits a Democratic newspaper in Montgomery, Ala.

—Rev. James Challen, of the Christian (Campbellite) Church, and editor of the *Christian Annual*, at Cincinnati, died on Monday of last week.

—Dr. L. M. Vernon, Superintendent of the Methodist Missions in Italy, reports considerable success, with encouraging prospects for the future.

—Rev. John L. Burchard, once a member of the St. Louis Annual Conference, is still laboring as a minister in connection with the M. E. Church, in California.

—Rev. W. S. Woodard, of the Southwest Missouri Conference, is a candidate for the Chaplaincy of the Missouri State Senate. So say some of the papers.

—Rev. W. V. Tudor, Presiding Elder of St. Louis District, is getting well at his work, and his services at the several quarterly meetings are highly commended.

—Rev. Dr. Fry, of the *Central Christian Advocate*, in this city, laments the "lack of harmony and good feeling manifest in the department of Methodist journalism."

—Rev. J. G. Wilson, of St. John's M. E. Church, South, St. Louis, lectured one night last week at the Young Men's Christian Association rooms; subject: "Merciful Character of the Mosaic Economy."

—Rev. G. G. Brooke, one of the oldest members of the Baltimore Conference, died at his house in Berryville, Va., on the 8th inst. He entered the Conference in 1829, and was efficient until his last illness.

—Gov. Hampton, of South Carolina, was compelled one day last week to have one of his legs amputated below the knee, and on the same day was elected to the United States Senate by every vote in the House but two.

—Z. B. Vance, Governor of North Carolina, has recently joined the Presbyterian Church in Raleigh. His older brother, Gen. Robert Vance, has for many years been an earnest and influential member of the M. E. Church, South.

—Rev. W. P. Strickland, once a Methodist preacher in Ohio, and author or editor of several biographies, more recently pastor of a Presbyterian church in Long Island, has lately resigned that position. What he proposes to do next has not been published.

—Rev. Dr. Wise, author of a number of popular Sunday-school books, writes to the editor of the *Methodist Advocate*, at Atlanta, encouraging said editor in his opposition to the course of the Southern people generally, and to the late elections particularly. From what we had heretofore read from the pen of Dr. Wise, we should never have suspected him for writing such a letter as that which appears under his name in the *Methodist Advocate* of December 11.

Miscellaneous.

—Cornell College has 119 Freshmen this year.

—Michigan University conferred 383 degrees during the past year.

The College of Music of Cincinnati is said to have opened brilliantly.

—The American Government has expended for Freedmen's schools, \$3,711,225 47.

LITERARY NOTICES.

"Discussions in Church Polity: From the Contributions to the 'Princeton Review.' By Charles Hodge, D. D. Selected and Arranged by the Rev. William Durant, with a Preface by Archibald Alexander Hodge, D. D. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 743, 745 Broadway. For sale by Hitchcock & Walden, North Sixth Street, St. Louis. Price, \$3 50."

A large volume of 532 pages, put up in that excellent style for which the work of the Scribner's is noted. Mechanical work all of good quality. In Dr. A. A. Hodge's introduction, we are informed that the matter of the book, for the greater part, was written by his venerable father, and published in the "Princeton Review," in successive years, from 1847 to 1857; and, after the publication of the "Systematic Theology" his father often expressed the desire that he might be permitted to complete the work by the addition of a volume on ecclesiology, but was prevented by the infirmities of age. After his death, Rev. William Durant undertook the work of compilation and arrangement, which Dr. Hodge, Jr., says has been well done, and gives a fair expression of his father's views on all the subjects noted in the table of contents.

These subjects are various, and take a wide range in the field of ecclesiasticism. The book is divided into two parts. In the first, are discussed "the idea, the theories, the visibility, the perpetuity of a Church; the principles of Church union, the province of a Church, relation of the Church and State; Presbyterianism, the Church of England, and Presbyterian orders and Presbyterian liturgies." These occupy ten chapters.

The second part—by far the most voluminous, consisting of six chapters—is devoted to an application of these principles to the Church general, and the Presbyterian Church in particular. This part will, of course, be more valuable to Presbyterians than to others. The first part is interesting to all. As was to have been expected, the discussion throughout is from a Presbyterian stand-point, and characterized by those evidences of research and learning, for which the writer was so highly distinguished. It is a valuable work, and this we say freely and candidly, although not able to view some points discussed in the same light with the author, nor able to accept all his teachings, either as they regard theology or ecclesiasticism.

"A Commentary on the Holy Scriptures: Critical, Doctrinal and Homiletical, with Special Reference to Ministers and Students. By John Peter Lange, D. D. Translated from the German, and Edited, with Additions, Original and Selected, by Philip Schaff, D. D. In Connection with American Scholars of Various Evangelical Denominations. Vol. XI. of the Old Testament; Containing the Prophet Isaiah. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. For Sale by Hitchcock & Walden, North Sixth Street, St. Louis. Price, \$5."

Allusion to this Commentary has frequently been made in this paper. Scribner's Sons send out the different volumes in good style, their work well done.

The matter of the work is suited only to scholars and critical students. For such it was prepared, and to such it is well adapted. The "common people" will have but little use for it; nor will they read it as they once listened to the Great Master, when they "heard him gladly." The Bible is for the common people, and, by an attentive, prayerful study of it, they may become wise unto salvation. But many of the Commentaries now extant—and this among the rest—are such as were Thomas Scott's notes on Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* to a common man, to whom he presented a copy. The man could understand the text very well, and thought that, "after a while, he might be able to understand the notes also."

Few, or none, of the contributors to this work view things from an Arminian stand-point. On the contrary, so far as we have observed, they are decidedly on the other side. Still, it is a learned and valuable work; and, as such, may safely be commended. There are, in all, twenty-four volumes. Price per volume, in half-cloth binding, \$7 50; in sheep, \$6 50; in cloth, \$5.

"Gates: Into the Psalm Country. By Marvin R. Vincent, D. D., Pastor of the 'Church of the Covenant.' New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. For sale by Hitchcock & Walden, St. Louis. Price, \$1 50."

A handsomely-printed crown 8vo. of 350 pages. In the preface, the author tells us the "volume is not intended as a critical treatise. It is for the closet rather than for the study; for the average Bible-reader, rather than for the scholar. The several chapters are, as the title imports, merely 'gate openings' here and there, into this wonderful Psalm-region, and leading to outlooks from which, it is hoped, readers may catch glimpses of the ineffable beauty and richness of this land of sacred song." A very readable, entertaining and refreshing book, allowing always for differences of opinion as to the correctness of this or that particular exposition or application of a text; also, as to the soundness of some points of doctrine taught either directly or indirectly.

"Sermons and Lectures: By William Elbert Munsey, D. D., Late of the Holston Conference, M. E. Church, South. Macon, Ga.: J. W. Burke & Co. 1878. For sale by the Advocate Publishing House, 417 North Sixth Street, St. Louis. Price, \$2."

A 12mo. of 481 pages, exclusive of some forty pages of introductory matter. In addition to this introductory matter, which refers mainly to the life and death of Dr. Munsey, the book contains twenty-seven sermons and five lectures. The subjects of the lectures are: "1. Elijah; 2. Man; 3. Music; 4. Intemperance; 5. The Bible." All these, together with the sermons, are in the author's own style and after his own modes of thought, both of which were somewhat peculiar to himself.

Having received a copy only a short time before this number of the paper was sent to press, no opportunity has been afforded to do more than hastily run over a few pages, and it would be unbecoming in us to speak of the general character of the book without further examination. It was never our privilege to hear Dr. Munsey preach or lecture. He connected himself with the Holston Conference after we left there, and we never met him but once, and that for a short time only. His widespread fame and popularity as a student and an orator, will induce many to read these sermons, while their character will excite deepest interest.

Send for copies.

"Epochs of Modern History: The Normans in Europe. By the Rev. A. H. Johnson, M. A. New York: Scribner's Sons. For sale by Hitchcock & Walden, St. Louis. Price, \$1."

A 16mo. of 273 pages, handsomely printed and bound. An interesting, instructive and useful book—one that may well be put into the hands of all young persons, and all others who may not have the means to purchase, nor the time to read, more voluminous and extended works.

"Art Life and Other Poems: By Benjamin Hathaway. Second Thousand Re issued. S. G. Griggs & Co., Chicago. Price \$1."

Some months ago it was our pleasure to receive and favorably notice, as it richly deserved, a copy of this work. Since then a second edition has been issued, to which is added a beautiful poem entitled, "To a Water Lily," which, ere long, we may do our readers the favor of copying into this paper.

Southwest Missouri Conference.

Up to date, but \$35 have been reported for foreign missions—collected from Wellington Circuit by Bro. Preston Phillips, preacher in charge. Can it be that this is the only collection taken? Will brethren wait until the last quarter, and then undertake every thing at once? Too much delay brings disaster in the end. If you get the amount assessed, you must commence now. Remember, that the assessment is the minimum—the maximum reaches higher. "As the Lord has prospered," is the measure of our obligation.

Last year, Arrow Rock, Longwood, Jefferson City, Waverly and Warrensburg contributed more than was assessed, both for domestic and for foreign missions. Faithful circuits and faithful preachers. The number ought to be multiplied this year. How many circuits will enter the list? How many preachers will undertake the task?

Are the Sunday-schools doing anything? Our children ought to be taught to give to missions. Every school ought to have a missionary society, and a missionary day. I know one school that holds a missionary anniversary every Christmas day. Good day for the work. Last year that school raised more money than all the balance of the circuit together. It is in one of the strongest circuits in Southwest Missouri.

Allow me to suggest that every school in the Conference, that has no society and no day, organize at once, and appoint Sunday, December 29, as the first missionary day.

Have music, short and pointed addresses, full of missionary intelligence and spirit; take a collection and do something worthy of the cause. Don't stop there; keep the society up, have missionary days, and hold anniversary meetings. If we would meet the demands upon us, we must have more enthusiasm, and make more persistent and faithful efforts. Let us make a forward movement all along the line. Send on collections for foreign missions at once, the society is much in need of funds. Don't put off the collections for domestic missions. Remember, we must have \$400 to pay the drafts for the fourth quarter of the present year. Suffer a word of exhortation.

THOS. M. COBB, Treas.,
B. of M., S. W. Mo. Conference.

Healthy Religion.

Physiology teaches us that, in order to have good health, we must have a free and perfect circulation of the blood. It must not be allowed to stagnate or become clogged by impurities. So, Christianity teaches us that, in order to have good spiritual health, it is necessary to have a free circulation of grateful and benevolent thoughts coursing through the mind.

Pure blood is produced by wholesome and nutritious food, and holiness is produced by mental or spiritual food. There is abundance of food for the soul in the Bible, and every one who has a hope to enjoy happiness, ought to feed his soul from that source. How foolish people are, who, because of the multiplicity of books and papers, neglect the reading of the Bible. And yet how common it is to see even prominent members of the Church reading the newspapers on Sunday. This is wrong. Christians ought not to encourage the selling or reading of newspapers on Sunday. The common excuse is, that there is some good reading in the paper, and; because of the little good, which gives it a sort of moral flavoring, people will indulge in the luxury of the whole bill of fare.

Drunkards often spoil their appetite for food by drinking too much liquor. So it is possible for a Christian to lose his appetite for the knowledge of God, by becoming intoxicated with worldliness. Reader, how is it with thee? Hast thou a hungering and thirsting desire for righteousness, a yearning for godliness? Or, art thou content to feed thy soul with worldly husks, and, like the Israelites, who sighed for the flesh-pots of Egypt? Thy soul needs proper nourishment; do not deprive it of that which is so free and abundant.

As food must be properly digested before it can be utilized for the building up of the system; so, it is necessary to meditate on what we read; that the soul may be nourished and built up. Read, mark well, and inwardly digest the Scriptures, so shalt thou become wise unto salvation, and stronger in divine life.

JAMES STOLBERT.

My Church Vows.

A vow is a solemn promise to God. All admit that solemn promises between men ought to be conscientiously kept, and the one who breaks them is an infidel. If we are members of the Church, and, notwithstanding, have broken our vows, are we not infidels? Yes; we have been unfaithful. We have promised God before men and angels as witnesses, that we do forsake the world, the flesh and the devil. We have sworn ourselves to support the cause of Christ in every possible manner. If we turn back we lie before God and men—we are infidels—unfaithful men. Thus we find it a fearful thing to violate our Church vows. We ruin our own souls, weaken the faith of the weak, and bring disgrace to the Church. It will not do to plead that it is a hard struggle—too hard to bear. It is true that the world, the flesh and the devil—a hellish trinity, as Mr. Spurgeon calls them, but our God is stronger than these combined. He is able to keep us. When the world allures, when the flesh calls loudly for the gratification of its desires and lusts, when the devil assails us with his malicious wiles, human strength is too weak, but there is a stronghold—the Rock of Ages—to which we can go for refuge. He is a happy man who thus takes refuge in Christ; and he who does not avail himself of the proffered aid must sink amid the storm. May my Church vows ever be sacred. We trust that this is the desire of every reader of these lines, and, if they have been violated in the past, they will be kept sacred in time, and perpetuated in eternity, where we shall be crowned heirs of eternal life, if faithful to God and his Christ. G.

MR. EDITOR: I sent you for publication on yesterday an obituary of Sister Susan Eliza Lilly, and neglected to say: Her funeral was attended by many weeping friends, and a discourse was delivered on the occasion by Rev. C. Babcock, on Tuesday, October 8, 1878, at 3 o'clock, at Faubion Chapel, where she had always held her membership. Please insert, or append to the obituary, and much obliged.

Yours, fraternally,
G. TANQUARY.

Received too late to append, hence published here.—[Ed. Adv.]