

In 1860 no account appears to have been published in the Minutes, but it was voted "That J. W. Barss, S. W. deBlois, S. Fitch, J. Chase and W. Johnson be a committee to take charge of the Fund for Infirm Ministers."

In 1861 J. W. Barss, I find was reported Treasurer of the fund, and that £21 13s 7d was received during that year, but nothing is said of the £56 19s. 8d. reported in 1859.

We ought then, provided nothing has been drawn from the fund, to meet the claims of infirm ministers, to have in hand £78 13s. 3d. together with the interest accumulated on that sum. And the monies which may have been paid in in 1862, and which, too, ought to be bearing interest.

As this is a matter of public interest to the members of the Central Association, you would, Mr. Editor, I have no doubt, confer a favour upon them, by informing them where the money said to be at interest in 1859, was invested? Where the £78 13s. 3d. is now invested, and what are the total assets of the fund? Whether invested or awaiting investment? How the committee manage the fund, as to its distribution? What claims they have had made upon them, and upon what principle they are met? I ought perhaps to apologise for drawing so largely upon you, but you being, Mr. Editor, a public man, whether rightfully or not, somehow your time has come to be considered as the property of the denomination.

Believe me, yours truly, JAMES W. JOHNSTON, JR.

For the Christian Messenger.

Temperance at Billtown.

Mr. Editor,—

We were taken by surprise on the first Sabbath of this year by our much esteemed Minister Rev. Jas. Parker announcing to the Congregation that there would be a Temperance meeting in Lakeville Hall on Saturday evening at which time he, and he hoped other friends of Temperance, would give addresses. Accordingly we met, the Hall was well filled and we listened to an address from the Mr. Parker which proved he had been thinking about and praying over the drinking customs of the day. After several remarks from laymen, a committee was appointed to prepare Rules for a Temperance organization. We then adjourned to meet on Monday evening 19th Inst, to organize a Temperance Society.

Last evening we met agreeable to adjournment. The house was full, rules were adopted, and eighty persons gave their name to the pledge, after which officers were appointed, and the meeting was adjourned to meet again next week.

May God grant to bless these efforts for the good of men, and to his name be the praise.

Yours truly, M. KINSMAN.

Billtown Jan. 20th, 1863.

Religious Intelligence.

THE DEATH OF DR. BEECHER.—Rev. Dr. Lyman Beecher closed his long and useful career on the 10th inst., at the age of eighty-seven. On Sunday 11th, Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, at the end of the sermon, announced his father's death, and with much emotion said:—

After a life of eighty-seven years, my dear and venerable father entered last night, at 5 o'clock, into his rest. He had lived far beyond the average life of man, and lived the whole of his life as simply virtuous, as nobly Christian, as heroically active as any man, I think, of whom we have had any account in history.

For a year and a half his mind had been greatly impaired, and at times entirely obscured. As men prepared for a voyage pack up their things, and being detained, dwell in unfurnished apartments, desolate—so he sat, his rarest and noblest faculties sealed up. It was, therefore, a contrast all the brighter and sweeter when those faculties, unused for so long a time, opened again in the transcendent glory of the heavenly state. His future life is in heaven: his earthly life is in the churches.

FRANCE.—The revived activity of religious thought is among the most characteristic features of the age. The same spirit of criticism, which in this country, questioning traditional doctrines, sometimes disputes also the essential verities of our faith, is actively at work among the churches of France. Thus we learn that in the department of the Gard, where the Protestants are most numerous, there is manifested an increasing boldness of rationalistic assertion. In many districts Sunday-schools are rapidly increasing. The Reformed Church now numbers 339; the Lutheran, 29; the Independents, 59; the Anglicans, 41; the Methodists, 29; the Baptists, 8; and the Calvinistic Methodists, 1: making a total of 536.

We have cheering accounts from Algeria, where the railway and other means of convey-

ance begin to render pastoral visitation possible. A Protestant school-house has been built at Douera; a Sunday-school is re-opened at Algiers; Small places of worship are now occupied in several of the villages. Everywhere meetings multiply; free-schools tend to become communal, and little libraries are being formed in most Protestant families.

ITALY.—"The Vatican," says a correspondent of "Evangelical Christendom," "breathes forth violence. The poor Jews resident in Velletri are ordered to expatriate themselves, owing to supposed sympathy with freedom; while the whole effects of Passaglia are confiscated, and the rental of the abbe's little Roman property is thrown into the treasury of 'Peter's Pence,' as the only reply of the Holy Father to the petition of the 10,000 priests, begging a renunciation, once and for ever, of the temporal power."

RUSSIA.—The Baptist communities in Russia have of encounter many difficulties and much persecution in the public exercises of religion. At Memel, it is forbidden to attend the meetings for edification, and the preachers are unable to visit the members of the congregation. There are few Baptists in the district who have not incurred some penalty, either corporal or pecuniary; women even have been led from town to town loaded with chains, because they have not been afraid to confess their faith; and there is no sign of relaxation in the stringent measures adopted, but rather of increasing rigour. In the south of Russia also, where several congregations have been recently formed, the authorities are doing their utmost to extirpate the sect; and three of the "teachers," leaders of this innovation, are now in prison. In Russian Poland the Lutheran ministers have taken active part against the Baptists, demanding their imprisonment and prosecution. "One pastor ordered his parishioners, if any Baptist came to live among them, to chase him from the village with sticks." In some instances the preachers have been subjected to great indignities; and yet they have found favour with the people.

JAPAN.—It is now little more than three years since Protestant missionaries landed in Japan, yet within that period they have witnessed such changes in the popular demeanour as augur well for future success. Christianity was at first regarded with abhorrence as a political and revolutionary propaganda. Men dreaded to speak of it. Now "remarks are made, and questions asked with the greatest freedom, utterly astounding to one who has read the edicts of former times." A good number of Bibles have been given away, and applications are frequently made for the sacred volume. "That they read the Bible is evident from their ability to give an account of its contents. There is not the slightest doubt that if there were no restrictions to the public preaching, and to the reception of the Gospel, Christianity would have great success amongst the people.

MADAGASCAR.—Our readers are already aware that it is proposed to erect memorial churches in Madagascar on the sites rendered sacred by the martyrdoms of the last twenty-six years. Five spots have been selected, and the ground given by Radama II.—Freeman.

American and Foreign News.

Latest from the States!

[From Telegrams to Morning and Evening papers.]

JAN. 21.—Six deserters from fort Sumter report that the third garrison at that place had mutinied, and all of them were nearly famished, their families being in want of supplies also.—The mutiny was suppressed by other troops. It is represented that great dissatisfaction exists; and is well spread among the Confederate troops in the Charleston department. At a Democratic assemblage, serenading Senator Wall, in Philadelphia, groans were given for President Lincoln and Gen. Butler, and cheers for Gen. McClellan. The small-pox is prevalent in Washington.

Evening.—The Vanderbilt and Sacramento about sailing in pursuit of the Alabama. Commissioner of Internal Revenue estimates receipts to July 1st \$77,000,000, and for the following year \$140,000,000. Amendments agreed to in the House, authorizing borrowing \$300,000,000 for current fiscal year—\$600,000,000 next, and issuing therefor coupons, or registered bonds, payable after twenty years, of denominations not less than fifty dollars, bearing interest not exceeding six per cent., payable semi-annually in coin.

JAN. 22.—Missouri Legislature has memorialised the President, setting forth that a substratum of treasonable sentiment exists in that State and urging caution and continued coercion against its breaking out in open collision. The iron-clad Merrimac at Richmond is reported to be a complete failure.

The main body of the Confederate army is stated to be midway between Fredericksburg and Richmond. The Golden Gate sailed from San Francisco with \$1300,000 for England, and \$350,000 for New York.

JAN. 23.—Senator Wade has been re-elected Senator from Ohio; also, Doolittle from Wisconsin. N. Y. Times' letter from army of Potomac, dated 20th, says the right and left wings were in motion, and would endeavour to cross ten miles above Falmouth, operations below being feints.

JAN. 24.—Advices from the Army of the Potomac of the 23rd was that the tempestuous

character of the weather since Tuesday, and the consequent impassable condition of the roads, has rendered advance beyond the Rappahannock an utter impossibility. The same cause is given for the delay of the transportation of the pontoons and the heavy artillery to points designated. The storm cleared away yesterday.

The New Albany Ledger of the 19th predicts that another battle will take place very soon near Murfreesboro'. Rosecranz is effectively reinforced, and is confident of Mexico that the French are encamped in the vicinity of Puebla, and preparing for an attack.

The New York Tribune's Washington despatch says it may positively be stated, that General Butler will resume the command of the Department of the Gulf, with his headquarters at New Orleans.

Count Mercier, the French Minister at Washington, has repeated the assurances of friendly regards by the Emperor Napoleon towards the United States.

It is reported that dissensions have broken out in the Mexican garrison at Puebla, and that a conspiracy had been discovered in one Brigade, which led to the execution of six Mexican officers.

JAN. 26.—Porter's fleet had ascended the White River three hundred miles, capturing St. Charles, Duval's Bluff, and Desarc. Two columbiads, numerous small arms, and one hundred and fifty prisoners were taken.

It is reported that the Federal gunboat Wyanoma was sunk by Port Hadson battery, and also that Stonewall Jackson, with forty thousand troops, has reinforced Vicksburg.

The Bahama Herald reports that the Commander of the British steamer Galliten (?), probably Galeatea, 26—has orders to capture Admiral Wilkes and convey him to Bermuda!

It is reported that the British ship Vesuvius took a million and a half of dollars from Mobile bound to England.

The steamer Annie Childs and Ferris arrived at Nassau from England, probably to run the blockade of Southern ports.

The steamers Douglas, Thistle, and Antonio, have sailed from Nassau for Charleston.

Evening.—Burnside has resigned. Hooker succeeds him.

Reported Sumner and Franklin relieved of their command; but successors not known.

The World's despatch contains a report that the Army of the Potomac is to be virtually disbanded. The greater portion to go West to co-operate with grand campaign there. Small portion to remain to protect Washington.

Herald's despatch says—Republicans will urge a reconstruction of the Cabinet with such pertinacity that if not accomplished on March 4th, Congress will vote want of Confidence in the present Cabinet.

Tribune's despatch says—The action of the Republican caucus will fully satisfy its most energetic supporters. Its recommendation will be bold and sweeping.

Times despatch says—Essential change in administration policy is determined on.

MISCELLANEOUS.

PROGRESS.—"We saw a smart-looking white boy blacking a negro's boots in Spring Lane, yesterday morning.—American paper.

The return of mackerel from Gloucester for 1862 compared with that of 1861 shows an increase of nearly 26,000 barrels.

The Boston Journal, of 15th inst, is printed on paper manufactured from wood, and presents a very creditable appearance.

The steamer Sumter was sold at auction, in Gibraltar, for \$29,500. Henceforth she will run in the Liverpool and Mediterranean trade.

THE NEW YORK LEGISLATURE has been the scene of some disgraceful rows. They voted seventy eight times for a Speaker before they succeeded in choosing one. Mr. Callicott was eventually chosen.

The Governor of Minnesota says that that State has furnished 300 men over her quota, besides crushing out the greatest Indian uprising ever known in the country. The Governor demands that the Indians shall be removed from the borders of the State.

A curious fact brought out by the report of the New York State Comptroller, is that rumours circulated at the time of the Trent difficulty about a blockade of the port of New York by a timber raft had a foundation in truth.—Timber to the value of \$70,000 or \$80,000 was actually bought for the purpose.—Journal.

The pews in the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher's Church, at Brooklyn, were recently sold by auction. There was a very large attendance of the congregation, and bidding was very spirited. The highest premium offered was \$155; last year it was \$100. The rental of the pews and aisle chairs is \$13,214, and it was estimated that the total amount realized this year would be \$25,000 against \$18,000 last year.

GREENBACKS FOR GUMBACKS.—The N. Y. Examiner says—The redemption of postage stamps in this city (where the greater number have been issued,) has now been going on nearly four weeks, under the order of the Post-Master-General; and considerably more than \$200,000 worth of the old "gumbacks" have been received for which "greenbacks" are given as fast as they can be examined. All old or cancelled stamps—which can be readily detected by the experts at the Post-Office—are refused, as well as all new unused stamps; the object being only to relieve those who have received them in the way of circulation. A great many, however, must have been worn out or lost; and probably the Government will be gainers, in the aggregate, fifty or one hundred thousand dollars.

Miss Lavinia Warren is at present staying at Barnum's. She is different from most dwarfs, because she is a fully developed personality, and merely of a small size. She is pretty, agreeable, and gifted with fair conversational powers: nor is she insensible to the charms of married life, for General Tom Thumb has at last found in her his mate, has made formal application for her heart and hand, and will, it is said, be united to her in the holy bands at Trinity church on the 14th inst.

Not a dozen miles from Boston there lives a farmer whose house is within a few rods of a railroad, which passes through his farm. For a quarter of a century the railroad locomotive has passed within sight and hearing of his domicile, and yet he never stepped his foot upon a railroad car. He don't believe in the "new-fangled thing," and is still a firm believer in the superiority of his horse and wagon for all transportation purposes.

The "leave-New-England-out-in-the-cold" feeling has taken such possession of the minds of the people of the West, that Governor Yates, of Illinois, deemed it proper in his address to the Legislature to take strong ground against it. The Boston Traveller, in hinting at a separation between the West and East, speculates on the future of the New England States as annexed to the British North American Colonies.

THE TABLES TURNED.—The colored people in Detroit have had, as their brethren in N. York and elsewhere, a grand rejoicing over the President's proclamation; and they seem to think that the black slaves are not the only or principal class that ought to be thankful. Among their resolutions was one which is not a little suggestive, in several ways. It declared their "Thankfulness to God for putting it into the heart of Abraham Lincoln to proclaim liberty to the colored race," and added that the proclamation will "work benefit not only to four millions of colored men, but to five millions of white men, called at the South 'poor white trash,' who have no education, and their masters, the slave-owners, are determined they shall have none, and they are, therefore, fit only for filibustering and carrying out the cursed designs of the slavery propagandists at the South, and their vile supporters at the North."

CONGRESS.—The debate in Congress on the resolutions introduced on the 19th concerning the French in Mexico, will doubtless bring forth some strong expressions of feeling towards France and England. The following are the three last.

Resolved further, That it is the duty of this Republic to require of the Government of France that her armed forces should be withdrawn from the territory of Mexico.

Resolved further, That it is the duty and proper office of this Republic now and at all times to lend such aid to the Republic of Mexico, as is or may be required to prevent the forcible interposition of any of the States of Europe in the political affairs of that Republic.

Resolved further, That the President of the United States cause to be communicated to the government of Mexico the views expressed by the two Houses of Congress, and that he be further requested to cause to be negotiated such a treaty or treaties between the two republics as will tend to make these views effective.

They are laid over till Thursday, (tomorrow.)

The Police Commissioners at Washington represent to Congress the prevalence of Small Pox in every neighborhood at Washington, and call for pecuniary means and more hospital accommodation, to check its progress.

GAMBLING.—Major Isaac N. Cook, Paymaster of Gen. Grant's Army, having two and a half million dollars entrusted to him for the purposes of his department, actually gambled away \$253,000 between Washington and Cairo! Proper officers were dispatched in pursuit, and the defaulting paymaster, and nearly all his gambling acquaintances, were finally arrested. Some forty are implicated, whose names Cook has given—among them persons of standing. When he was arrested at Cairo, there was found upon the persons of the parties with whom he was playing, no less than \$72,000. One of the gamblers had already purchased a fine house in Cincinnati, with his share of the plunder. It is stated that the Government has simply given the gamblers the alternative of making up the \$253,000, immediately, or being turned over to Gen. Grant, for justice—which, from the prompt character of that officer, it may be insured would be of a summary sort.—Examiner.

THE SOUTH.

President Jeff. Davis's message to the Confederate Congress has made its appearance in these latitudes, and has undergone various discussion. He appears full of confidence of success, notwithstanding the favor hitherto shewn by the powers of Europe to "the groundless pretensions of the North." He complains that "their neutrality has been rather nominal than real," "conferring signal advantages on our enemy"—the Federals. He speaks of the Confederate Army as being far in advance in every respect to what it has been at any previous period, and shews that their being debarred from intercourse with other nations, has had the effect of developing their internal resources, and fostering their manufactures.—"the noise of the loom and the spinning wheel may be heard throughout the land," and concludes as follows: "With hearts swelling with gratitude, let us, then, join in returning thanks to God, and in beseeching the continuance of His protecting care over our cause, and the restoration of peace with its manifold blessings, to our beloved country."