June 14, 1865.

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THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

THE CONFESSIONAL.

the strong tendency of many of the more which many so called Protestants are zealaristocratical portion of the English Epis- ously endeavoring to corrupt a simple faith copal clergy, to adopt papistical views and in the word of God, by introducing among practices, generating in that church all classes the superstitions and perversions the errors that go under the names of Pu- of the Romish Church, that it cannot be unsevism, Tractarianism, &c., and carrying profitable especially for the more youthful away not a few of the most learned and part of the community, to be put on their zealous of what is termed the High Church guard against one of the most subtle deluparty, from their connection with the Pro- sions of Satan to undermine and poison testant Church of England, into the ranks the pure doctrines of the Church of Christ. of Roman Catholicism. The same spirit Prevention, more especially in matters of has also evinced itself in another form, by christian faith, is far easier and better than Monkish Brotherhoods and Nunneries, pro- directions of God's word, may we consider fessedly retaining their connection with the ourselves safe from the delusions and hereestablished Church, in different parts of sies that are so rife on every side, and no England, but in fact little differing in essen- longer. tials from similar Institutions in Roman Catholic countries. The lax or rather total absence of discipline in the Episcopal Church, notwithstanding the opposition and the grief occasioned to very many of the most pious and orthodox of its members, has hitherto precluded the adoption of any measure to arrest this alarming evil. The question of oral confession has just now been made more prominent through day schools. and day of all a side the revival of public feeling, in reference to a most tragical event which occurred some three years since near Bristol. Many of Smith, D. D., editor of the Christian Times ; time, respecting the murder of a child, a boy of five years old, the son of a Mr. Kent, residing at Roads, near Bristol. The child's throat was cut in his cradle, and his body, with the bloody clothes, concealed in an outhouse, found early in the morning, without the least alarm being given. The only persons who slept near he finds, since making the resolution to do so, him were an elder half-sister, Miss Con- God has prospered him in an enlarged meastance Kent, (we think about 17 years old or upwards), and the nurse. The most to these purposes. searching investigation, however, led to no discovery or even suspicion, except of the most vague and unsatisfactory nature, that given by some other party. He hopes to do lar person had been the perpetrators of ever another is found to join in this effort to this shocking crime. Mr. Kent and his family very soon after left the neighborhood, and the daughter Constance went to a Female Protestant | We have just had it pointed out to us that a Sisterhood or Nunnery at Brighton. From resolution was passed at the last year's session certain influences under which she was there of the Central Association, which was to be placed, or from the natural impulses of a "published in the Messenger three weeks guilty conscience, she has very lately con-previous to the next Association." We should up to justice. Her confession was made to forwarded by any officer of the Association One Hundred Copies to one address ... Fifteen Dollars. Ladics' Mantles. a clergyman, a Rev. Mr. Wagner, who was or we had been reminded of it, we should in some way connected with the Institution, have been pleased to comply with the request, for the purpose of being communicated to but it entirely escaped our memory, and we Sir George Gray, the Secretary for the now place it before our readers with this ex-Home Department, and which was accord-planation and apology,-although we fear it ingly done, and Miss Constance Kent is will be too late to accomplish the desired obnow in custody awaiting her trial. In an iject. It is as follows :- il well bus return l'eled, That the Churches be requested in investigation of the circumstances before a Bench of Magistrates, however, Mr. Wag- their Letters, to send in an account of all monies ner refused to disclose any thing further contributed by them for Benevolent purposes during the year, and that the Clerk be directed that had passed between him and the unto prepare a report for such contributions, for happy girl, on the ground that it was compublication in the Minutes. Advantage and municated under the seal of confession, which is the Ecclesiastical term in such matters. The highest law authorities have pronounced his refusal contrary to the law of the land, but as numbers of his brother clergy assert that he is justified under cer- stated that a formal demand had been made tain rules and canons of the Church of by the Cabinet at Washington on the British

fessor over the person confessed must of been made, but what had passed on the sub-A good deal of discussion has been going necessity destroy all independence of ject of late had been in an entirely amicable subject of Oral Confession, and the conse- them the mere tools and victims of design- doubt that should such a claim be persevered quences resulting from this ancient and ing ecclesiastics, such as we fear may too in, it will be met by the British Ministry cherished practice of the Church of Rome. often be found in any religious community. with a decided refusal. There has been in England, within a few The effect which this unscriptural practice The general state of Europe is quiet, withvears past, since the penal statutes against has produced in breaking up and ruining out any present reason to apprehend the dis-Popery have been repealed, so large an in- the peace of families, is a matter of history turbance of friendly relations now existing becrease of monastic establishments, especial- too patent to be gainsayed by any honest tween the different Powers. ly for females, that not a few of the tenets or candid mind. To our ewn readers we The French Emperor was still at Algiers of Romanism have been brought under are aware that observations on the subject endeavouring to conciliate his African subpublic observation, and created no small of Oral Confession are quite unnecessary, jects, and reconcile them to a Government impressions have been vastly increased by but we all know that the perseverance with aseless to contend. gino Hotices, &c. Present, The President in the chair. Secretary. inducing some of its members, male and cure, and so long as we can maintain an lier, J. F. Kempton, Dr. Cramp, Wm. Burton, and female, to set up a kind of Protestant unwavering trust in the plain and simple the latter place. wallis.

The New Catechism.

The Annual Report of the American Baptist Publication Society refers to the late proposal respecting a New Catechism :---

" Early in the year the Board offered a prefor a single fare. On going, the fare must be paid mium of Three Hundred Dollars for the best usual, and at the Association a Certificate must Catechism suitable for use in tamilies and Sun presented to the Ticket Master at the Railway Station, he will give a free pass. Some thirty MSS. were submitted and are blood todriging add of orred blood data and and being examined by the judges :- Ray. J. A. Colchester County S. School Convention. three years since near Dristor. many of our readers will, no doubt, recollect much that appeared in the public prints at the delphia." The next Quarterly meeting of this Convention, represented. T. B. LAYTON, Secretary. avan nor indr and ann Another Fifty Dollars. Bastist Anniversaries. The CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION will meet A friend who has resolved to devote onewith the 1st Cornwallis (Canard) Church, on Saturtenth of his earnings and profits to religious, day the 17th day of June, at 2 o'clock, P. M. moral, and charitable objects, informs us that The EASTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION will meet with the Amherst Church, on Saturday July 1st, at 2 o'clock, P. M. sure, and he has now quite a sum to devote LETTERS RECEIVED will be acknowledged next week. HISHIDAL & YOL DHATSSFAT ROM He proposes to give \$50 towards another Native Preacher, provided another \$50 is SPECIAL NOTICE. either of them or indeed any other particu- still more, but is prepared to do that, when- THE AMERICAN MESSENGER CHILD'S PAPER, & YOUNG spread the gospel among the heathen. peratures and DREAPER. CONTRIBUTIONS FOR BENEVOLENT PUBPOSES. MONTHLY,-For 1865, or for any part of the Year. JO TEBMS: out one American Messenger.

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NEWS SUMMARY.

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Several recent reports in the press have



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any expense for transportation or postage. MART MARTIN 40 CORNHILL, BOSTON, MASS. May 17. 3 mths.

and natented an improved WROUGHTIRON THIMBLE. be obtained from the Secretary, which on being Suitable for Iron Clews, and all kinds of hooks that are used on board of vessels of all sizes. The advantage of this thimble over the old plan, is that no. serving or leather is required to keep the rope f om chaing. The thimble is made in such a manner that the rope cannot touch the lower parts of the eyes in which it is spliced.

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