

### The Methodist Movement.

The New York *Christian Advocate and Journal* publishes the proceedings of a Convention of Methodist laymen, opposed to the recent movement for lay representation. It was held in Philadelphia on the 15th ult., in St. George's church. The body numbered 290 members. None but those opposed to lay representation were invited. An address to the Church at large was adopted, in which the subject of the late Convention is discussed, and the brethren of the Church are invited to send delegates to the Convention to be held in St. George's church, in the city of Philadelphia, to take such action as shall attest their devotion to the Church as it is.

The Meeting whose influence the above was intended to counteract it will be remembered by our readers was held in Philadelphia, a month since, and President Allen, a layman, of Girard College, [was called to preside. Its proceedings were marked by a christian spirit as will be inferred from the following abstract which we have not found space before to lay before our readers. The honest confession of this respectable Convention, it will be seen, is what has been charged as the malignant slander of enemies when others have alluded to this anomaly among Protestant Churches.

In his opening speech, President Allen said: "We are not here to disturb the harmony of the Church, we are not here to produce irritation in its members; but, nevertheless, we must expect controversy, we must expect opposition, and yet meet it with calmness and Christian forbearance. We must not suppose that all the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church will think as we do on this important subject. We must appeal to the judgment of such persons.

"The object of this Convention is to change the organic law of the Church. It is not for me to say what these changes will be. They must be made by the votes of the Convention. The main object of the present meeting is to petition the General Conference to devise some measures, by which the Laity can have a representation in the Annual Conferences. We have been told that the only way to adopt this measure, is by starving out the preachers and their families. Who would be so degraded as to indulge such a thought? who would be so silly as to express such a sentiment? None of my Methodist brethren, I am sure."

Mr. Whiteman, on behalf of the Committee on Memorials, reported the following preamble and resolutions, which they had framed—

Whereas, This Convention is deeply impressed with the responsibility it has assumed, but is nevertheless confidently assured, as the result of its observation and information from various posts of the extended work of Methodism, that the time has fully come when the expediency of change in our Church Polity is clearly indicated by the Providence which it was always the glory of our Church, in its early history, to watch and follow; and whereas, we, as members of that Church feel that our happiness and our hopes are identified with the prosperity and effectiveness thereof in carrying out the great object of its mission, to spread scriptural holiness through all lands.

And whereas, we believe that the feature in our Constitution which invests the Clergy of our Church exclusively with legislative and governmental powers and prerogatives, is by no means essential to its prosperity, but contrariwise very detrimental, furnishing a prolific cause of murmurings, contentions and disaffection to our own members, and a bar to the increase which, under other circumstances, would accrue to our Church, the thoughtful and considerate in very many instances declining to place their religious interests where they can exert no controlling influence; to say nothing of the want of resemblance to all other Protestant Churches, which, without an exception, recognize the right of the Laity to participate in making and modifying the laws by which they are governed; leaving the Methodist Episcopal, the only Protestant Church in the United States which refuses the co-operation of the Laity in its legislative councils.

And whereas, we verily believe, that not only greater effectiveness will be secured by the change sought, a fruitful source of contention and just cause of complaint removed, and the fair proportions and arrangements of our Zion in comparison with other Protestant Churches, stand out in a prominent and advantageous position; but all the financial, benevolent and charitable enterprises growing out of our economy, vastly promoted and a fair and full remuneration to our churches, preach-

ers and their families, rendered certain as it ought to be. Therefore.

Resolved, That this Convention do hereby declare that in their deliberate judgment the Constitution of the Methodist Episcopal Church ought to be so amended as to admit the introduction of lay delegates into the General and Annual Conferences, under such restrictions as shall not conflict with the rights of the clergy, in their appropriate ministerial and pastoral duties and privileges, yet so as to secure effectually the voice and influence of the laity in the legislating or rule-making department of the Church.

RELIGION IN JAMAICA.—Letters from English Baptist missionaries represent the state of religion on the island as highly encouraging. Many have been added to the churches, and a spirit of religious inquiry is widely diffused. Rev. Mr. Richardson, of the American Missionary Association, writes that within four or five months twenty-three persons had united with the church at Brainerd under his care, and that a large class of inquirers demanded his care. Much caution was needed, as the colored people attach a superstitious value to membership in the church, as an almost certain means of salvation. The congregations on the Lord's day are full and solemn, and the Sunday school and Bible class are very interesting.

FATHER MATTHEW'S COMPLIMENT TO THE UNITED STATES.—Father Matthew, in reply to an address sent to him a few days ago, said:—After a residence of thirty years in Cork, I did not believe that I could any where find more harrowing illustrations of the ruin and calamity which drunkenness produced, until I had visited America!!

THE ART UNION INJUNCTION DISSOLVED.—Judge Duer delivered his opinion on Saturday in the case of Bennett vs. the American Art Union, in favor of the defendant. In giving his reasons for his decision, the judge said it is plain that the plaintiff has no title, and it is equally plain, according to his own showing, that the society themselves have no title; that the paintings and property have been forfeited, and instead of being vested in the Association or the subscribers, are vested by statute in the people of the State. The temporary injunction must be dissolved, and the motion for a permanent injunction denied, with \$10 costs.

FREE TOLERATION IN SIAM.—The King has allowed not only full toleration to all religions, but has permitted free access by the missionaries to every part of the empire, whose labors are unrestricted. On this subject the official proclamation says:—"The English and Americans who reside in the kingdom of Siam, are allowed to enjoy greater privileges than formerly. They are allowed to travel to and fro in the kingdom, wherever they please. They are permitted to follow the dictates of their own consciences in religious observances; to erect chapels and cemeteries, according to their wishes; and in all respects they are allowed unreserved freedom, so long as they do not infringe upon the customs and laws of the country."

The following curious ceremony lately took place in Hamburg:—

At noon, on the 10th of March, just as the Exchange at Hamburg, crowded with merchants, presented its busiest aspect, two drummers in the civic uniform came up and rolled their drums for the space of ten minutes, causing a great commotion both within and out of the Bourse. While this was going on, workmen were seen over the principal gateway of the building elevating a black board, on which was painted in white letters the name of a merchant of the city who had lately suspended payment and absconded with all his assets. When the name had been fairly set up, a bell called the "schand glocke," or shame bell, only rung on such occasions, was sounded for two hours from a tower of the Bourse. This penalty of disgrace, called the "execution of a fraudulent bankrupt," is ordained by a law which can be traced to the fourteenth century, when the Hanseatic league was at the height of its greatness. At that period the bankrupt's patent of citizenship and his certificate as a merchant, were also burnt by the hangman.

FROM CHINA.—A letter published by the New York Commercial Advertiser, dated Canton, January 26, says:—

The foreign trade is fast leaving Canton and

concentrating at Shanghai. The latter port is near to the heart of the country, and the great producing and consuming districts of China. Full three fourths of all the American trade will be transacted there next year.

The Chinese are going over in large numbers to California, but nearly all of them with the intention of returning as soon as they have obtained a moderate competency. They do not like the idea of being buried in a strange land. They must not be considered as emigrants, who intend to settle and become citizens of the new world, but merely as hired laborers and adventurers.

The trade between China and California is becoming quite valuable.

### ENGLISH NEWS.

The steamship *Baltic*, at New-York, with English dates to the 24th ult., and the *Africa*, at same port, with dates to the 27th, arrived during the past week.

Between nine and ten thousand engineers have signed the employers' declaration and returned to their work.

On the evening of the 23d, the defeat of Rosas and the accomplished independence of the Oriental Republic, were the topics of an important conversation. Lord Beaumont, having given a sketch of the history of the various republics watered by the River Plate, from their origin down to the recent expulsion of Rosas, concluded by urging on the Government to lose no time in entering into negotiations for establishing a free navigation along the Plate, Paraná and Paraguay Rivers.

Lord Malmesbury replied that as soon as he had heard of the expulsion of Rosas, he put himself into communication with the government for the sake of receiving such negotiations with the States along the River Plate, as would contribute to the peace of those states and the commercial interests of both nations.

The Earl of Aberdeen having had some experience in these negotiations, was anxious to testify that nothing could exceed the good faith with which France, both as a monarchy and republic, had acted towards England in the affairs of the River Plate.

In the House of Commons, on the same evening, inquiries were made respecting the correspondence of the government with foreign powers, relating to political refugees. The House was informed that it would be presented within a day or two.

The *Dublin Freeman's Journal* announces that orders will soon be issued from the Colonial office for the release of the Irish exiles, on condition they do not return to the British Islands.

In consequence of the hungry stomachs of Germany, the Zollverein of that country has lowered its tariff against foreign breadstuffs for 6 months from the 1st of March. The import duty, thus temporarily set aside, was 7 cents a bushel on grain, and \$2.50 on the barrel of flour.

The Grand Dukes Nicholas and Michael of Russia are staying at Vienna. To please them the Emperor wears the Russian uniform.

FRANCE.—The new Legislature of France, made up of the creatures of Louis Napoleon, was to assemble on the 29th ult., and the opening would be celebrated with imposing ceremonies. The regular sessions of the Senate are to be held in the Palace of the Luxembourg, while the other branch of the Legislature will meet in the *Palais Bourbon*. Nearly all the members of the corps have already chosen their seats upon the principle of "first come, first served." The old divisions of right, left, centre, mountain, &c., will not be permitted; and the little handful of members constituting the opposition, will be scattered about the house like stray sheep.

The programme of the deliberations of the Legislature is thus laid down by the *Bulletin de Paris*, and it will be seen that the members are to be mere puppets, managed by the President:

"There will be nothing in the debates of the Corps Legislatif to inflame party spirit. This is evident from the simple fact that, during this session at least, no political law of any importance will be submitted to its deliberation. The deputies of the Corps Legislatif will have to occupy themselves only with laws affecting material interests and plans for increasing the general prosperity. We repeat, that in such matters there will be no motive for retrospective agitation; and if, in the absence of real motives, any one, under vain pretences, seeks to produce such disorders as can disturb the public sentiment outside, that will be a scandal which the wisdom and firmness of the Assembly will not allow to be renewed. Let the old parliamentary habits, then, be abandoned, and let all the deputies, without exception, be penetrated with this truth, that, in the spirit of the present Constitution, their only mission is to concur with the Executive power, loyally and pacifically, in all measures which can give to the country, for the present and the future, calm and security."

PARIS, March 23.—The *Moniteur* announces that the dispute with Morocco is amicably terminated, and diplomatic relations are renewed with that country.

A decree is promulgated regulating the relations of the chambers with the President. Each senator may propose to present to the President the basis of a bill of great national interest. Any proposals of modifications of the constitution must be signed by ten senators.

The corps legislative cannot reject a bill without discussing all the articles separately. The severest penalty applied to a deputy is 15 days exclusion.

Letters from Paris state that in the Budget for 1853, which will shortly be laid before the Legislative corps, a reduction of the army will be proposed to the extent of from 50 to 55,000 men, but that an increase in the Gendarmiers will probably be made to the extent of 20,000.

General Cavaignac previous to refusing his seat in the chamber, wished to consult Generals Lamoriciere and Bédan on the subject, and applied for a passport to Belgium where they reside. The General was informed he could have his passport, but he would find the frontier closed against him on his return. He therefore declined to accept on those terms.

### ARRIVAL OF THE AMERICA.

#### SEVEN DAYS LATER.

The Steamer *America*, from Liverpool, with dates to 3rd inst., arrived at Halifax at half-past three o'clock Yesterday morning.

Cotton in Liverpool had declined about 1-8th penny—sales of the week 30,750 bales.

The market for Breadstuffs was again much depressed.

Freights are rather higher, and passengers pay extreme rates, in some cases as high as £5 in the steerage.

ENGLAND.—In the Commons Mr. Secretary Walpole had introduced the new Militia Bill; its provisions aim at raising a force 80,000 strong—50,000 the first year by voluntary enlistment—term of service five years—bounty £4 to £5 either in one payment, or by monthly instalments—time of warning and discipline 21 days each year, but power given in case of emergency to increase it to 7 weeks or reduce it to three days—estimated yearly expense £250,000.

Lord Palmerston supported the measure.

Lord John Russell did not oppose, but found fault with some of its provisions.

In the House of Lords on 2d, Lord Derby intimated that it was not intended to interfere with the Maynooth grant.

At the same time Mr. D'Israeli in the Commons in answer to Lord John Russell, stated that Parliament would be dissolved as soon as the necessary measures for the safety and service of the Country were passed, and that the sense of the new Parliament would be taken upon the policy of the present Government, during the current year.

FRANCE.—The French Chambers were opened on the 29th ult. by the President in person. He was attended by a brilliant Staff, General Officers, Colonels of Regiments, Councillors of State, &c. His reception was of the warmest kind.

INDIA AND CHINA.—Bombay advices of March 3d, had reached Liverpool. Negotiations with the Burmese and their insults being continued, a force of 6000 men in equal proportions from Calcutta, and Madras, was to set out for Burmah on 12th March—a squadron of war steamers had left Bombay for Rangoon and would call at Madras to transport troops. Hostilities seemed inevitable, the force under Sir Colin Campbell had reached Peshawar.

SHIP NEWS.—Arrived from St. John, March 27, *Montague* at Liverpool; Dec. 6th, *Helena*, *Bustin*, at Adelaide, South Australia. Sailed for St. John, 29th, *Elizabeth*, *Holderness* from Hull; April 1st, *Cambria*; 2d, *Samuel* from Liverpool; arrived from New Orleans, April 2d, *Auridas* at Liverpool, Lord Ashburton; at do. *Spoken*, lat. 12, South, long. 102 East, Consul, of St. John, N. B.

### NEWS BY THE ADMIRAL.

The steamer *Admiral* arrived last evening, and we are indebted to the indefatigable Col. Favor of the Express for late papers.

We chronicle with great satisfaction that the Liquor Law has passed the Legislature of Massachusetts by an overwhelming majority. A few amendments not at all affecting its essential provisions are now reported back to the Senate, where the Bill first passed by a large majority, so that no fears are now entertained but that it will be adopted, and be signed by the Governor. The time for its going into operation is sixty days from the time of its adoption.

The final vote in the House of Representatives on its adoption, was Yeas 219—Nays 134. Majority for the Bill 85.

NEW YORK.—The effort to establish the law in New York has failed. The vote at its rejection was Ayes 45—Nays 69.

The Tremont Temple recently destroyed by fire will be immediately rebuilt by the old Trustees. The new edifice will cover more space than the old, and be improved in its architecture and general conveniences.

The number of Immigrants arriving at New York during the month of March was 26,922 from European parts. A very large addition to this number is expected for the month to come. The immigrants are from the following countries:—Ireland, 13,213; England, 3,162; Wales, 87; Spain, 24; Holland, 98; Sweden, 2; Italy, 35; Belgium, 1; Nova Scotia, 6; South America, 2; East Indies, 2; Germany, 3,816; Scotland, 294; France 542; Switzerland, 405; West Indies, 10; Canada, 2; Sicily, 10; Russia, 2; Poland 12.

NEW YORK, April 13.—The passage by the legislature of a general bill, incorporating Ocean Steamers, leaves no impediment to the organization of the New York and Galway Steamship Co. and it is their intention to proceed immediately in placing the arrangements