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MORNING STAR.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1864.

TERMS OF THE STAR. For one year, \$2.50; or, if paid strictly in advance, \$3.00. Subscribers in Canada and other British Provinces 20 cents additional, to prepay the postage to the line.

The Law of Newspapers. All subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary, are considered as wishing to continue their subscription. If subscribers order the discontinuance of their papers the publishers may continue to send until arrears are paid.

Subscribers will observe the date on the labels with which their papers are addressed. This date is the time to which the subscription is paid. When a new payment is made this date will be immediately altered in FULL for the time which the subscriber has paid.

THE RELIGIOUS FRUITS OF THE WAR.

There is a most important sense in which war and Christianity are antagonisms. In a world where Christianity ruled supremely and absolutely, war would be impossible. Christ's triumphs plant peace. When he rules absolute and is recognized Lord of the nations, they shall learn war no more.

And there can be no doubt that military life has, in fact, generally fostered iniquity and developed the animal, at the expense of the spiritual, in the soldier and in the state. The camp has been the hot-bed of the vices, and the battle the carnival of the passions.

Grant that these maxims are over-statements, as in the nobler struggles of history they certainly are, yet they too accurately represent the moral plane of life to which war depresses those who carry it on.

And yet the careful student of history is forced to the acknowledgment that the progress of the human race has been very largely a march over battlefields. The creation of each little civil state has followed upon the chaos of strife.

These are sad realities. It avails nothing to doubt their existence or distrust their prevalence. Such phases of life abound even where discipline is most rigid, and moral and religious agencies are most active.

And yet the aspects of our armies are not all sad, even when viewed from a Christian stand-point, and judged by a Christian standard. Never before were moral and religious agencies multiplied so liberally, or applied so skillfully, or welcomed so cordially, or shown to be so operative and effectual in an army, as in ours to-day.

And they do not work in vain. There are not a few men in the army who entered it from the highest Christian motives, and their religious faith, grown stronger by years of effort at home, is a solace, a joy and a power, which their comrades cannot but recognize.

the truths which they hold impart their saving power to the soul. The seed sown long ago in the coolness of a peaceful life now springs into blossom and fruit, in the heat yielded by war.

Many whose previous experiences had only nurtured frivolity and presumption—as they now confront the great solemnities of life and death, where the ranks grow thinner at every discharge, or when the battered frame trembles for weeks in the hospital on the verge of eternity—feel the need of a Mighty Helper, and so learn to welcome gratefully the message that gives an omnipotent God to their longing.

There may have been too great a readiness in some cases, to count up conversions where conviction only was reached, and to put down men as Christians who had only resolved to cast away their outward vices, and who used prayer only to break the cord of a bad habit, or to soothe a conscience that cried out from its wound—yet, after making all proper allowances of every kind, there can be no doubt that the true spirit of religion has wrought in the army with freedom and a power such as would wake every Christian heart to gladness and hope in any New England parish.

And the general type of religious life appearing among the soldiers is one of peculiar interest and promise. It is simple, direct, earnest, positive, practical. It is something more than an accepted creed, or a gush of tender sentiment, or a routine of religious forms, or a passive and negative piety in disposition and conduct, or a merely partisan zeal.

It means God with him for the sake of his moral guardianship; Christ in him as the perpetual inspiration of courage and patience and hope; the Spirit helping his infirmities and creating him daily in the love of goodness and of useful service; a night in his struggles and a victory in his death, whether it come speedily by the bullet, or slow and painfully in the hospital, or quietly in the home he loves lying beyond the field of battle.

And when these young men whose Christian life has grown up in such a sphere, and under such a training, shall come back to us and make parts of our churches and church forces, breathing into us the breath of their lofty patriotism, and stimulating us by the vigor of their thoroughly masculine faith, may we not hope for the development of a more significant religion to crown our nobler nationality?

MORALITY AND RELIGION.

What is the relation which they sustain to each other? This is a question of no small importance, as false notions respecting it have been the occasion of numerous errors in practice.

Morality is not religion. The true coin and its counterfeit sometimes bear such a close resemblance to each other that it is almost impossible to distinguish between them. To call a man's morality religion, is to call a counterfeit coin the real thing.

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urguing the importance of regeneration, and of trusting in Christ alone for salvation, are far too sweeping in their assertions, and denounce the moralist and the abandoned in terms alike severe. A proper discrimination in regard to this subject will save many false impressions and prevent the doing of much injury.

CALLS TO LABOR.

That is a beautiful and suggestive parable in which Jesus represents the gospel work under the figure of a householder engaging laborers for his vineyard. He first made a general contract with them at the usual price, for labor commencing with the day, or about sunrise.

The design of the illustration is not to show that the regards of all will be precisely alike, but that they shall be liberal and sufficient. The work is abundant for all, no age or condition is excluded, and each faithful laborer shall receive an exceeding great and precious reward.

Mr. Speed, the new Attorney General, has been but little known hitherto, and while we do not doubt that he is eminently qualified for the office, we rejoice to learn that he is a progressive man; and although hailing from Kentucky, is all right upon the slavery question.

No intelligence has been received from Sherman except through rebel sources. There seems to be no new developments respecting his progress, other than that the two columns in which the army set out from Atlanta, have now united. The rebels do not claim to have offered any very formidable resistance to his progress, and according to the latest accounts he was approaching the coast.

ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

Our people and the English are one race, speak the same language, have the same religion, and possess numerous interests in common. This being the case, many have been puzzled to know why the mother country has expressed no more sympathy for us in our present national struggle.

RECEIVE AND GIVE.

To consume always, and produce nothing, is the course of a mere parasite, a burden, a leech, and human disgrace. Miserable specimens of the race are those who receive much and do nothing; are objects of care, effort, generosity, from others, and yet impart no blessings to the needy. Wherefore do such men live? They are unworthy of the good that is done them.

With such truths before us, how stands our record? We have received much; the Lord has flooded us with favors; the gift is ours, with all its exuberance of fruit; life and salvation are ours, and we have felt their power and excellence filling our souls with experiences rich and glorious.

It should be the highest aim of the ministers of the gospel and of Christian effort generally to induce men to be Christians; but if this cannot be done at once, an effort should be put forth to make them good moralists, and in this way the heart may be prepared for the reception of all the truth of the gospel.

Our ministers and churches should remember that we have established a Bible and Tract Department in connection with our Foreign Mission Society. All moneys received are faithfully appropriated to the purpose for which they are contributed, without any discount for agencies.

PASSING EVENTS.

The President's message, which we publish in full, appearing at this juncture of our national affairs, is a document of far more than ordinary interest. While the whole of it will richly repay a careful perusal, the few closing paragraphs, which relate more ultimately to those topics that now agitate the public mind, are worthy of special attention.

The appointment of Mr. Chase to the Chief Justiceship was quite universally desired, and it has consequently given universal satisfaction. While this has been one of the most important acts of the President, we do not doubt that posterity will regard it as one of his wisest and best.

The new horse railroad, chartered during the last session of Congress, is in process of construction, and is considerably advanced. Private enterprise has been in a healthy state of activity, and the stock is manifest in the addition of new hotels, stores, and dwelling-houses.

The second session of the 38th Congress assembled at 12 o'clock, M., yesterday. In the Senate 37 members were present at the opening, and in the House 225 members.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

It was all imagination, or it was true, that free Maryland was a more cheerful aspect as we passed through her borders, than State Maryland had ever been wont to wear? It certainly seemed so. The day on which we passed through was a bright, mild, and every way pleasant day, and may have had somewhat of its influence to the landscape, but new atmosphere seemed to be breathing upon the old state, and the beginnings of the thrift and enterprise and spirit of improvement which follow free institutions seemed to be perceptible.

On returning to the Capital after an absence, the first impulse is to look about and see what changes and improvements have been effected during the interval. Nothing very striking in this line has been accomplished the past few months, though progress is everywhere visible.

Poland, Dec. 10, 1864. We have recently been holding a series of evening meetings with the manifested desire of the Christians, and we are now enjoying a glorious revival of religion. Quite a number have been converted.

Farewell Missionary Meeting. The missionaries are expected to sail from Boston, Wednesday, Dec. 14. A farewell meeting will be held on Tuesday evening at 7-1/2 o'clock, at the North Bennet Street Church.

Death of Rev. Benjamin Thorn. REV. BENJAMIN THORN, of Lewiston, Me., died last Sabbath eve, the 4th inst., after a few days' illness of kidney complaint, aged nearly 80 years—the oldest inhabitant of the town. His funeral was largely attended to-day. Sermon from 2 Tim. 4: 7, 8, by Rev. J. S. Burgess of Bangor. An obituary will appear in a few weeks.

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NOTICES, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Bro. P. C. Tolford, Mrs. S. F. Johnston, Miss Sarah E. Gillespie and Mrs. Ellen A. Leavitt have been commissioned, and are waiting for orders from New York to go to their work.

According to the arrangements made with the American Missionary Association, we have only paid the salaries, the outfit and traveling expenses to New York City, of the missionaries and teachers whom we have commissioned to Freedmen. This arrangement enables us to send a larger number than we otherwise could.

The expense for the twenty-five missionaries and teachers which we have commissioned the past year, at very low salaries, with the necessary incidental expenses, will exceed \$5000. Add to this the appropriations and current expenses of our Home department, in which we have twenty-three missionaries and teachers, and we have the sum of at least \$8000, for which the Society is responsible the ensuing year, without any enlargement of our work.

But shall we be satisfied to stop where we are, without enlarging our operations, when the whitening faces are stretching before us, and the increasing thousands of freedmen, just emerging from the horrors and darkness of slavery, are looking to us for help and light, that they may be released of their physical sufferings—and for the knowledge and the love of God? Can we be guiltless if we do not furnish means to greatly enlarge the number of gospel laborers for the poor freedmen?

Many applications for commissions from our board, from pious and energetic young men and women, whose souls are burning with love to do something for the elevation of the freedmen, are now lying upon our table for the want of suitable funds in our treasury from which we can give them encouragement that they can be appointed.

Shall we not say that our contributions for this cause the ensuing year shall be at least \$10,000? Can we as a people do less than be and be justified before our Maker? In view of this present emergency, when the last of the year is fast closing, and the poor are falling from the lines of the poor slaves, and they are becoming men, let us each nobly resolve that we will do our part of raising \$10,000 during the present year for our Home Mission cause.

If it is desired, we must find the Treasurer's report in the Star averaging \$133.00 per week. Should we let it fall below that sum, let us renew our efforts to raise it up.

SILAS CURTIS, Cor. Sec.

Concord, N. H., Dec. 6, 1864.

For the Morning Star.

JOHNSTOWN, Wis., Nov. 29, 1864.

To the brethren, sisters and friends of the Wisconsin Y. M. C.

We, your committee, appointed at the last session of the Y. M. C. to act as a Missionary Board to raise funds and send missionaries to the freedmen in the southwest, have, in keeping with such appointment, employed Rev. A. H. Hill as our agent, and he has been in the field, and has found an effectual door open to us in Cairo, and we have this day employed our well-beloved brother, Rev. R. C. Cooley of Warren, to go for us to this white field, and labor for one year. He starts immediately, and long before this reaches you will be mingling with the freed slaves for whose release we have so long prayed, pointing them upward to read God's Word by night, and teaching them to read God's Word by day.

This is a self-sacrificing and arduous work, attended with many trials and heavy expense, but a work that must be done and done now, or the blessing of liberty will prove a curse. And to whom does this work belong, if not to us who have, for thirty years, prayed and labored for their release? And whilst we bid adieu to us in this great and noble cause, we bid good-bye to the brethren of this Y. M. C. that this is their work, and those agents of the several Y. M. C. who were appointed by their own consent, that they are pledged to us in this great and noble cause. If you turn your funds over to us already, you rob your own treasury, which is already overdrawn, and drive us at once to relinquish the work so hopefully begun.

We again thank those who have sent us aid, thus enabling us to begin this good work, and we now turn our eyes with confidence to those agents that have not yet responded. O let us arise and go forward, and show our worth to the world in which we live. By order of the Board.

R. M. CARY, President.

Treasurer's Report.

Received at Johnston, Oct. 20, 1864, on the part of Rev. S. Cummings on subscription, 25.50

Received at a collection in Montpelier, Nov. 29, 17.00

of freed church funds, 2.00

\$44.50

R. M. CARY, Treasurer.

For the Morning Star.

Bowdoin, N. J., Dec. 5, 1864.

Bro. Burr.—We have about eight hundred sick and wounded men connected with the U. S. General Hospital in this place. The moral aspect of things is highly interesting. We are now enjoying a glorious revival of religion. Quite a number have been converted.

Meetings are held nearly every evening and the prospect is good for a general display of Divine power.

It is truly encouraging to see those who have volunteered in the cause of their country, in this hour of peril, now enlisting under the blood-stained banner of WYTHAM.

L. H. PRITCHARD.

Poland, Me., Nov. 30, 1864.

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C. O. LIBBY, Cor. Sec. F. M. Soc.

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Lewiston, Dec. 7, '64.

COM.

The Reunion Presbyterian is to be commenced in Cincinnati, Jan. 1st. It will be published monthly, and advocate the reunion of the Old and New School branches of the Presbyterian Church. Dr. M. L. P. Thompson is to be the leading editor. Its publication is guaranteed for one year, even though its receipts fail to meet the expense.

The Episcopalians have ten churches in the District of Columbia, with about fifteen hundred members, including the time-honored "parishes" which George Washington aided in establishing. Fourteen Methodist Episcopal meeting-houses, and two Methodist Protestant, show the number of that denomination. The Baptists have five places of worship, the Presbyterians have nine, the German Lutherans three, the Friends two, the Swedenborgians one, the Hebrews one, and the Unitarians one. There are also numerous mission places of worship and mission schools.

The Kingdom of God continues to advance in Poland. Five were recently baptized. Persecution has arisen, but the Lord puts the enemies of his people to shame. The gospel also makes progress in Wallachia, and baptisms have occurred.

OPENS OF SOUTHERN PORTS.

The ports of Norfolk, Ferdinandia and Pensacola have been opened by the government. It is hoped that foreign merchants will consider whether it is not safer and more profitable to themselves, as well as just to the United States, to resort to these and other open ports, than it is to pursue through many hazards and at vast cost a contraband trade with the ports which were closed, if not by actual occupation, at least by a moral and effectual blockade.

HARBORING FOREIGN SLAVE TRADERS.

For myself I have no doubt of the power and duty of the executive, under the law of nations to exclude enemies of the human race from an asylum in the United States. If Congress should think that proceedings in such cases lack the authority of law, and would not concede the privileges of a court, that provision be made for effectually preventing foreign slave traders from acquiring dominion and facilities for their criminal operations in our country.

INSTIGATING FOREIGN INTRIGUERS.

It is possible, if it were a new and open question, that maritime powers with the light they now enjoy would not concede the privileges of a court, that provision be made for effectually preventing foreign slave traders from acquiring dominion and facilities for their criminal operations in our country.

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