

TO THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY.

A friend to *Religion*, and one who feels an anxious solicitude for the prosperity of the Presbyterian Church in this place, begs leave to suggest to those whose peculiar duty it is to watch over and promote its best interests, a few thoughts which have a deep impression on his own mind.

It is not the writer's intention to widen the unfortunate breach, which, he regrets to say, is but too apparent in the walls of our little Zion; but to repair it by the use of all proper means within the compass of his feeble power; neither would he be the voluntary instrument of torture to the mind of any one who professes to be a Lamb of the Saviour's fold. But as he conceives the present conjuncture to be pregnant with a deed of the highest importance to the future welfare of the Church, he trusts he may indulge freedom of thought and plainness of expression, in communicating the few ideas which he has to offer; and in so doing, should he necessarily have to allude to any circumstance which is calculated to reflect a pang, or excite one painful reflection, he hopes it will be ascribed to no malevolent or unchristian motive.

It is a truth, which, as it requires no demonstration, may be termed self-evident, that an unfortunate schism exists in the Church. The causes, perhaps, are not so apparent as the fact. Were it pertinent to the writer's purpose, he might arrive at their source, but in doing so, he would have to enter a labyrinth of doctrinal and metaphysical speculation which is entirely foreign to his design. He will mention but two circumstances in which this schism has strikingly manifested itself, and when combined, which they seem to have been from their first appearance, it is believed, present an insurmountable barrier to any thing like general satisfaction, in the settlement of the Rev'd. MR. HAMILTON, in the Pastoral office of the Presbyterian Church in this place.

The first was the sudden and unexpected removal of the venerable man who had so long, so zealously, and at such sacrifice, ministered to the Church in holy things, by a majority, (obtained scarcely any one knows how.) Of this proceeding, it is not known that the Rev'd. Mr. Hamilton was informed; but when it is known that almost as instantaneously after the removal, as the shock follows the electric flash, that gentleman appeared as a candidate for the vacancy, associations are formed, and convictions riveted on the minds of many, which no explanation can obliterate, which no time can obliterate.

It is not the wish of the writer to inculpate Mr. H. but merely to state, for the information of himself, as well as others, that there are such prejudices existing against him, both within the Church and without, as must for a long time, at least, very much limit his sphere of usefulness. Had he some here under more auspicious circumstances, perhaps, his labors might have been acceptable. As things are, they cannot be so generally. It is not doubted but that he might obtain, at the present crisis, a majority of votes, particularly, as it is known he has no competitor; but if duty is at all regarded, the majority will not impose upon a respectable minority, a pastor in whom they cannot place every confidence, and to whom they cannot go as unto a father."

Let the Elders think of these things, and if they really wish to feed the flock which is among them, not by constraint, but willingly, let them look for one as the steward of God who will be an instrument in restoring harmony and fellowship in the Church, and not for one who, whatever may be his real worth, will assuredly prove a stumbling block and rock of offence to many who are anxious to see Zion again put on her beautiful garments."

ORIGEN.

The Niger.—Mr. Dupuis, in his work upon Ashantee, lately published in England, gives the opinion that the great flow of water of the Niger is eastwardly of the Egyptian Nile. The river takes its rise among a cluster of hills and partly inaccessible mountains, 500 miles from Coomassy, the capital of Ashantee.

CONSTITUTION OF MEXICO.

The greater part of the New Mexican Federal Constitution is a transcript of our own; but there are some variations which may deserve to be mentioned. The President cannot be re-elected but after the intermission of 4 years. The President and Vice President are chosen directly by the Legislatures of the several states. They are forbidden to leave the territory of the Republic, without the assent of Congress, during the time that they are in office, and for a year afterwards. The President cannot command the national forces in person, without the previous consent of Congress; and several close restrictions are imposed upon him specially, with regard to the imprisonment or arrest of any individual, and the least intermeddling with private property of any description.

A "Council of Government," composed of half the members of the Senate, one member for each state, is established, to act in the recess of Congress. The Vice President of the Republic is ex-officio, President of this Council, whose functions are, to watch over the constitution and the laws; to advise the President touching the execution of them; to call extraordinary sessions of Congress; to ratify Executive measures; and to decide upon the employment of the federal militia, in particular cases. The Supreme Court is composed of eleven Judges, and an attorney General, or Minister of Justice; the Judges being distributed in three tribunals or chambers. They are chosen by the Legislatures of the states, and hold their office during good behavior.

Each state of the Union must transmit, annually, to each House of Congress, a comprehensive and circumstantial account of the receipts and disbursements of all public monies within its limits; of the condition of the several branches of industry, and the new kinds that may be introduced, with a suggestion as to the means of fostering them; and, also, a census of the population, and the mode of protecting and increasing it. Confiscation of property, ex post facto laws, and torture, of whatever kind, are prohibited.

Nat. Gazette.

The Greeks.—The forty-two pounder, presented to the Greeks last year, is to be transmitted, free of expense, to Leghorn, by Messrs. Bruzsa of New York; together with about 1000 muskets, rifles, pistols, and swords, and several boxes of books and medicines, for the use of the Greeks. The London Morning Chronicle, received yesterday, after mentioning that a tonnage, sent from America, of upwards of eight thousand pounds, had been remitted by Messrs. Baring, & Co. to Greece, remarks, that this is a sum, he it known to the shame of the United Kingdom, almost as large as all the subscriptions which the Greek Committee have been able to obtain in this country, after eighteen months' exertion."

N. Y. Eve. Post.

Loss of the Schooner Harriet.

We learn from our Boston Correspondent that the schooner Harriet, Baker, of and for Baltimore, from Trieste, captured the 30th of August, about 90 miles from the African Coast. The Captain and crew reached the shore about 150 miles from Algiers, in their boats, were seized and made slaves of by the Moors. An American missionary being near the place, made known their situation to the American Consul at Algiers, who immediately took measures for their ransom, which was effected, and they arrived at Gibraltar, in the U. S. sloop of war Ontario, three days previous to the departure of the Oak. Captain Baker informed Captain Pelham, that while they were used and treated more like horses than human beings. He expected to take passage in the Helen, for New York.

From the New Orleans Gazette.

We were called upon to-day to witness one of the most villainous frauds that ever came under our notice. A respectable merchant had his people engaged in repacking some beeswax, recently brought from the upper country, it was necessary to break some of the cakes for the purpose of packing when it was discovered that many of them contained each a large stone in the center, so that a cake of 14 lb of wax contained 10 pound of stone.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

The documents which accompanied the President's Message, relating to the War Department, afford a very gratifying view of the administration of the concerns of that Department of the government. The acts of Congress for enforcing the accountability of public officers, seem to have had a radical effect, as beneficial as decisive, which has been aided, no doubt, by the efficiency with which their provisions have been carried into execution by the Secretary of War.

There are some particulars disclosed, in the documents, which we have not published at large, which may be interesting to our readers—such as the following:

The whole number of men enlisted to recruit the army, for the year ending 30th September, 1823, was 2,553.

The aggregate strength of our little army, by the last return, was 5,777. The aggregate permitted by law, if the ranks were full, is but 6,183.

The Quartermaster General and Commissary General's Departments appear to have been admirably managed, and as to the Paymaster's Department, the head of it says, in his report, that he is confident, that the whole of the troops are now paid to the first of September, and a considerable portion to the first of November, and that the Paymasters will render vouchers before the close of the year, which will fully account for all sums advanced to them within the three first quarters.

The annual expense of medical stores for the army, it appears by the Surgeon General's report, has not been more than \$2 50 per man. The deaths in the army in the two first quarters of the year were but 53, and 13 of them were from consumption.

The expense of the National Armory, in Springfield, Mass. for the year 1822, was \$186,824; that of the Armory at Harper's Ferry, Va. was \$192,368.

In the year 1823, 15,000 stand of arms were distributed amongst the militia of the several states and territories, under the act of 1808, for arming and equipping the whole body of the militia."

The number of Revolutionary Pensioners is 13,054, that of Invalid Pensioners, is 5,736, and that of half pay, in lieu of bounty land, 204. Of the 1st class, there died in the three first quarters of 1824, 341; of the second class, 73; of the 3d class, none. The annual amount of pensions to the first class, is \$1,337,316; to the 2d, \$208,000; to the 3d, 9,876 dollars.

The number of Military Bounty Land Warrants issued, up to the 22d of November, 1824, is 16,761, covering 4,475,832 acres of land.—Nat. Journal.

The following is a very natural description of the impressions of an unprejudiced foreigner, on realizing the simplicity of the habit and the frankness of the demeanor of the Chief Magistrate of our Republic.

Nat. Intel.

"Shortly after my arrival at Washington, as I was one day coming with a friend from visiting the public offices, he pointed out to me a well-dressed gentleman, walking by himself. "That," said he, "is the President of the United States." When this great personage met us, my friend introduced me to him. I took off my hat as a mark of respect; upon which the President did the same, and shook me by the hand saying he was glad to see me. I went soon afterwards to pay my respects to him at his house, in company with the same friend. We were shown into a handsome room, where the President had been writing. When he came in, he shook us by the hand, requested us to sit down, and conversed upon a variety of topics. I may here observe that, whenever, in America, you are introduced to any one, the custom is to shake hands. I like this custom, as it is much more friendly, and puts you more at your ease, than the cold formal bow, with which in England, and indeed in most of Europe, you are greeted at the performance of this ceremony. I was much pleased with the unaffected urbanity and politeness of the President, so entirely different from what I should have met with on being introduced to a person of any thing like the same importance in Europe. When going to pay my respects to a duke of Tuscany, or even to a petty German Prince, whose whole territory was not larger than a county in one of the United States, I have had to dress in a court uniform, and to pass by a whole

file of soldiers, and then by half a dozen pages, officers, and chamberlains, to gold keys at their pockets, &c. In the President of the United States received me in my ordinary morning dress, and though he is Commander-in-Chief of the army and navy, has no sentinels at his door, being sufficiently protected by the love of his fellow citizens.

"I can safely say, that the simplicity of the President impressed me with much more respect than the absurd mimicry of European protocols. Yet, surely, if pride can be created in any man, it must be in him who (like President Monroe) has been placed at the head of the government of his native country, by the universal suffrage of eight millions of his fellow citizens. How much more has he to be proud of than the petty distinction of birth and fortune! And what an immeasurable distance between him and a German Prince! Yet, to judge by their manners and bearing, you would fancy the Prince was the greatest man on earth, and the President merely a private individual; whereas the one is a most unimportant personage, even in his own opinion, and the other is really a great man."

THE BOOK OF REVELATION UNSEALED.

After remaining hidden many centuries the meaning of the apocalypse has been revealed.

I certify, on honor, that I have discovered the meaning of the Apocalypse, which (except that of some passages in the second and third chapters,) has never been approached by any expositor.

ALEXANDER SMYTH.

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The following circumstance recently occurred in a church in this city.

N. Y. Post.

The Rev. Pastor had mentioned from his pulpit, on the preceding Sunday, that a respectable shoemaker of his congregation, had requested him to preach a sermon from the 14th verse of the 12th chapter of Exodus, and that he intended to comply with this request on the next Sunday. This sermon was preached accordingly, on Sunday the 5th inst. in the presence of the son of St. Crispin, who had come to church prepared, it seems, to make good the promise on his part. When the collection plate was handed round, he drew from his pocket a pair of new shoes, suited to the parson's measure, and deposited them in the plate. This well made donation was not unobserved by the worthy divine, who, as he passed the clerk's desk, while the congregation was retiring, very dexterously transferred the shoes from the plate to his pocket, and thus demonstrated to his flock, that he was devoted to the care of souls to the very last; and that a good friend to faith, yet that good words were always acceptable.

ANTIQUITY.

The site of the first fort erected in Maryland, by the colonists brought out by Lord Baltimore, in 1634, has long been worn away and covered by water. Four of the cannon, however, that were mounted on it, have been found beneath the waters imbedded in mud, and taken up. Two of them appear to have been partially burst, probably in self-defence against the Indians. From one a ball was extracted weighing eight pounds, another was loaded with charcoal. The three largest were ten feet long, and the fourth, six feet. On the one which was least surrounded with mud, a bye-stander counted 602 spelter.—Nat. Gaz.

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