National Republican.

MONDAY MORNING ..... JANUARY 11, 1869.

LOCAL DEPARTMENT.

MISSIONARY ANNIVERSARIES OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—The Methodist churches of the city and District all celebrated missionary anniversaries yesterday, and their houses of worship were crowded, not only by members of this denomination but also by members of other churches, for it was announced that the leading divines of the denomination would fill the pulpits. The Methodist Church exercises a wide-spread and powerful influence throughout the world. It has more than kept even with the extraordinary progress of the nation, and now numbers within its pale over a million communicants, and missionary operations have risen from the expenditure of a few hundreds to over a million of dollars per annum, and this large sum is raised entirely by voluntary contributions, principally among the membership. The services at all the churches yesterday were particularly interesting, strangers in many cases occupying the pulpits.

At Wesley chapel at 11 a. m., the attendance was so immense that for many there was not even standing room, and consequently not a few were unable to hear the sermon of the occasion.

The exercises were opened with prayer by Rev. Alfred Cookman, who then read a portion of Holy Writ, after which Rev. Mr. Ames, pastor in charge, announced services for the various churches during the week.

Mr. Ames then read the 1003d hymn—"Watchman What of the Night"—which was sung in a most impressive manner.

Rev. Alfred Cookman then preached from the text, "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise and the unwise."—Romans, chap. i, verse 14. He proceeded to show that the debt we owe to these nations, and, in fact, to all who need our aid, sympathy and encouragement, was a personal obligation, and one that we could not liquidate in a day nor in a year. It was a work in which we should labour to the extent of our ability all our lives.

There are now, he continued, 240 missionaries in foreign fields, which, added to the number of home missionaries, made 410 in all, and the missionary society were well aware that many more could be employed to good advantage had they the means at their command with which to sustain them in their good efforts to enlighten the heathen, and even those destitute of the gospel in our own land.

The preacher urged the necessity of contributing freely to this important cause. At the close of his discourse blank cards were circulated among the audience on which to signify the amounts they chose to contribute, and by this means a handsome sum was realized. Rev. Mr. Greecey, of Philadelphia; Rev. Mr. Hall, and Rev. Mr. Hines also occupied the pulpit at this church.

(Our reporter would here suggest the propriety of stationing, on occasions of this kind, some one with authority on the stairways for the purpose of preventing the disorderly proceedings of bad boys, who took an especial pride in squirting tobacco juice on the dresses of ladies who were compelled to take seats on the steps below them, and who kept up a continual noise and wrangling.)

Last evening a very interesting platform meeting was held at this church, Chief Justice Chase presiding. We noticed on the platform with the Chief Justice, Hon. Hiram Price, of Iowa; Bishop Janes, and Rev. Dr. Hamilton, and near the pulpit we observed Senators Wilson and Willey, and General H. D. Washburn, of Indiana.

Chief Justice Chase announced the 1,060th hymn, the singing of which was followed by a very feeling and appropriate prayer by Rev. Dr. Hamilton.

Chief Justice Chase then delivered an address in advocacy of the missionary cause, which was logical, forcible, and highly appreciated by the audience. He asserted that it was the purpose of the missionary society to subjugate every heart to the service of God. In many undertakings compromises were found necessary; but in religion there was no compromise. It has undertaken to convert an unwilling world; and everything combined to indicate that, in due course of time, every heart would know God and serve him. There were, he said, in the world 340,000,000 of persons of the Christian faith, and there are 600,000,000 persons who are opposed to Christianity, of the former there were but few who were combating the mass of ignorant and unbelieving, and reducing them to the faith and service of God.

The speaker considered the present condition of the world indicative of possessing a power that would be equal to the great task of bringing to God all peoples and nations of the earth. Nations were fewer on the face of the earth, and they were larger. Greater numbers were under the same government, and there were consequently fewer languages. The advantages or facilities of communicating with the unenlightened were greater, especially so in the last century; and to illustrate this, he referred to the invention of steamships, railroads, telegraphs, &c.

The time is not far distant, he continued, when we can leave for the West and return from the East in 60 days. These facilities would enable them to reach the heathen with aid and instruction the more readily, and all these preparations were made by the same Divine Providence, and they were all pledged to this great work. So great and manifest was the work of God and our great captain, Jesus Christ, that its final completion could be fully relied on. Every heart would be converted to God. This work, however, could be accomplished only by self-sacrifice, by aid at home, by praying Christians at home and abroad, and by the will of God.

Hon. Hiram Price, of Iowa, was here introduced by the Chief Justice, and stated that it was just five years to the very hour since he last appeared on the platform in this church and addressed an audience upon a similar occasion. Mr. Price made an able argument for the missionary cause, and, at his suggestion, the choir sang the last two verses of the hymn commencing "From Greenland's Icy Mountains."

Bishop Janes then complimented the speakers who preceded him on the able addresses they had made. He, too, advocated the missionary cause in a very touching appeal for aid; after which a handsome collection was carried to the platform.

Samuel Norment, esq., then proposed that Mrs. Tilley, an efficient member of the church, be constituted a life directress of the missionary society by subscription, and stated that he would be one of fifteen to give $10 for that purpose, and the money was quickly raised. Senator Wilson was also made a life director, and others were made life members.

FOUNDRY CHURCH.

This church was crowded at 11 a. m. by one of the most earnest audiences ever assembled. The services were opened by singing the eleventh hymn of the Methodist collection: "From all that dwell below the skies, Let the Creator's praise arise." Rev. Bishop Ames then addressed the Throne of Grace in a fervent prayer, after which he read the seventy-second psalm and a part of the fourth chapter of Corinthians.

Bishop Ames preached an excellent sermon, taking as his text "Bodily exercise profiteth little, but Godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life which now is and the life which is to come." The able divine cited his many hearers to the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, and said that in the pulpit His testimony precedeth all others; that the destination of all was the grave, but faith in Jesus never perisheth here nor beyond the grave. Many, he said, had too great expectations of Heaven, and that he was of the opinion that the Christian would experience but little more happiness there than they do here, which would be granted them by God in degrees compared to their enjoyment in this world.

He endeavored to explain the many advantages the Christian faith had over that of any other, and the advantage derived from leading a Christian life. He was of the opinion that God's law linked together man's duty with his interest, and that Christ began to bestow His blessings upon man at the time of repentance. He was far from believing that none were Christians but those who worshiped in large cathedrals; many were the churches in log cabins. Christ commences his work in the heart, with all nations and tribes. He spoke at length of the duty of Christians in regard to the young; what Christianity had done for society; the good results of the family altar; the effects Christianity has, both over States and nations. Many, he said, thanked Congress for the Constitution and laws of the United States, but he did not, as they were only the echo of Divine teachings, and he felt thankful to Congress for putting them into execution.

There were but three organizations among men, viz: family, State, and divine. This occasion, he remarked, was the fiftieth anniversary of the Missionary organization, and he referred to the fact that an immense amount of money had been expended during the past year. There were 800,000 square miles of this continent not under any State government, in which many new settlements spring up yearly, and must not be forgotten. He spoke in favor of carrying on their home missions, which were planted throughout the entire country, and to keep them going they must have money, for which he made an appeal, which was responded to very liberally. The services were closed with the singing of a doxology and the pronouncing of a benediction.

Last evening a large platform meeting was held, Judge Fisher, of the District Supreme Court, presiding.

The exercises were opened by singing, after which Rev. J. Parker made a very touching prayer.

The choir then sang a beautiful anthem.

Judge Fisher, after being introduced, said: "Go ye into the world and preach the Gospel to every creature, and lo, I am with you." These, he said, were the last words uttered by Christ on earth, after which He was caught up and sat upon the right hand of God. His spirit still lived and spoke to every one of them. They were not all commissioned to preach the Gospel, but were in duty bound to aid those who were by contributing their money. If Paul and his predecessors had suffered by land and by sea, so also does the missionary to-day, and they must have money wherewith to build churches and school houses in heathen lands.

He assured his hearers that what they had in their possession was not their own but God's, and that to Him they would have to render an account. God was their greatest creditor, and they would never be able to repay Him for His many blessings. By giving liberally to this noble cause he thought that they would be no poorer at the end of the coming year, and he quoted several passages of Scripture to substantiate his remarks. He thought that the American and Christian Church should be the two proudest organizations on earth. The one, he said, was the greatest nation of the age, and the other the greatest moral organization of the world.

In every age of this church, men of knowledge and power had gone forth as missionaries, with their lives in their hands, for the sake of saving the heathen. Among them, he said, was one who ever should be the shining star of his memory, who had been borne here from a foreign clime some 50 years as a missionary, and spent some 20 years in this country. Some 23 years since that good man set out again upon the broad ocean for the purpose of visiting his native home, but God, who works in a mysterious manner, saw fit to take him up from the middle of the ocean to dwell with Him in heaven. His name, he remarked, was George O. Cookman, and that his son, on whom the father's holy mantel fell, would now address them.

Rev. A. Cookman, of Wilmington, Del., arose amid tears, and said that it was very unexpected to him that any one should speak of his honored father; nevertheless, what had been said was true. He was the son of a missionary, and thanked God one that he need not be ashamed of. He begged leave to refer to a scene which took place in Alexandria, Va., in 1841, when a father and his five sons sat around the hearthstone, and the father addressed his sons, saying: "My sons, I am about to embark upon the dark sea and may never see you again this side of the grave, but I want you to meet me in Heaven." This request had followed the speaker up to the present time, and he never would forget them, for he was one of those five sons. He said that he proposed to address the meeting concerning the lands in which the Cross had never been planted, and where Christianity is unknown, and where sin, vice and immorality abound.

To win idolators from their wooden gods he believed that they must present something new and more attractive to them. Christian religion was the most attractive of any on earth, and it was the duty of the ocean's children to make men holy and perfect, and it was calculated not only to bring peace, purity, and love into their hearts, but even the spirit of God. It also furnished to the heart light and joy, and is the panacea of this world's pains. The speaker proceeded at length to show, by illustrations, the influence Christianity had in the family and nation, and reviewed its operations one hundred years back. He concluded them of their duty to both the home and foreign missions.

After the regular basket subscriptions were taken up, $150 was subscribed to make Rev. Mr. Cookman a life director of the missionary society.

Including what was collected during the morning services, the Sunday school anniversary, and last evening, about $1,500 were collected and subscribed in this church for the missionaries.

The services were closed by the singing of a doxology, and Presiding Elder Morgan pronounced a benediction.

HAMLINE CHURCH.

At 11 o'clock the pulpit was occupied by Rev. G. S. Mare, D. D., of New York. The subject chosen by the eloquent divine was "Cross bearing," taking his text from Matthew x, 38, "And he that taketh not his cross and followeth after me is not worthy of me." In his introductory remarks the preacher showed that the missionary cause was Christ's cause, and that the Church had been charged by Christ with the duty of the salvation of the world. The giving of money for Christ's cause was cross bearing—it would be a blessing to the giver.

Cross bearing was a favorite theme with Him who bore His own cross and died on it for a lost world. The mortification of our passions, the crossing of our desires, the breaking up of our self-indulgence, and the subjugation of our will are constantly set forth by Him as requisites to our fitness for His service and kingdom.

They could not be Christians and follow always their natural inclination, and have everything their own way. At the very outset of life, they must stoop to the cross, and all the way through the cross must be borne, or they would not be reckoned worthy to be counted as disciples of Christ. He feared that cross-bearing was becoming to be regarded in the Church with too much indifference. Many seemed to look upon it as something which might have done very well for the past age, but was very poorly adapted to the present age. This age had become so enlighted and the idea of human freedom was so well understood, that it seemed proper that in regard to religion, as well as other subjects, men should have their own will. He remembered when it was considered a cross to bear a part of the exercises of the social meetings, but he was glad now to see the young and new converts speaking for Christ and bearing His cross.

The idea that nobody could bear crosses but those who made great sacrifices or endure great sufferings for Christ is not a true one. The woman who cheerfully and uncomplainingly to the daily burdens of a hard life, maintains the Christian sweetness of her temper, denies herself the indulgence of many a womanly instinct and fashionable desire, gives up her ease and leisure that she may train her children to knowledge and virtue and bless her husband's household, bears her cross as truly and as well approved, I doubt not, in the sight of Heaven as some of her sisters who may have died at the stake. The man who braves the sneers of his acquaintances, sacrifices gain for principles, denies himself of selfish indulgence, gives up his ease and modifies his pride for the sake of Christ and His Church, will find life filled with crosses, which, however humble they may seem, are to be borne for the honor of Jesus.

The young man who consecrates his life to Christ, cuts away from all evil associations and takes his place side by side with those who labor for the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, will find cross every day, if he meets his positions and bear his responsibilities, some crosses which can only be taken up and borne by the help of his Master. And so every life, to be the life of a Christian, must be one of cross-bearing. If there were no crosses there would be no strong virtues, no Christian heroism, no splendid exhibitions of moral force. "As thy days so shall thy strength be." And God sends stormy days that there may be evoked in the hearts of His children a strength equal to any tempest. Where would have been the martyr's courage if it had not been for martyrs' fires? Where the noble boldness and splendid daring of the Apostle Paul but for the persecutions and trials he was called upon to pass through? All are not called to pass through the fires of martyrdom nor the bloody ways of persecution, but we are all called to pass by the way of the cross.

Christ's Church was not designed as a hothouse for rearing tender plants, but it is a broad field of Christian culture. It is found in all climates. The free winds sweep it, the rough tempests beat on it, hail storms come to it, and amid them all the plants of His own right hand's planting grow strong and brave. He who steps softly back from all soul-struggles, who politely bows at all disagreeable crosses out of sight and hearing, and hopes takes his ease in Zion is as unfit to be a follower of the strong Master who had trod all thorny paths with a brave patience as a hot-house plant for a northern garden.

There are some who think they can sacrifice almost anything but professions for Christ. They can give a little, but not in the spirit of cross-bearing, not so as to be compelled to deny themselves one single comfort or pleasure. Yet Christ manifestly intends us to bear the cross in this respect. He has committed his cause to us, and how many give to the Redeemer most grudgingly and meanly. If we are to be like Christ, we must be cross-bearers. A spirit of gratitude and obligation to Christ for all his favors ought to make us willing to bear crosses.

At the close of the sermon, which was listened to with profound attention by the congregation, the missionary collection was taken up. A number were made life members of the missionary society, and about $300 was subscribed.

UNION CHAPEL.

This chapel, on Twentieth street, near Pennsylvania avenue, was crowded in the morning to hear the Rev. M. Chapman, of Boston, who took for his text 11th ch. of Revelations, last clause of verse 15th. In the evening the exercises were also of an interesting character, opening with singing and prayer by the Rev. Mr. Welch, pastor, followed by an eloquent sermon by Rev. Mr. Mitchell, who took for his text the 51st psalm, 13th verse: "Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto Thee," arguing therefrom that the duty of all is to save a soul from death, and that God deemed it a higher consideration to convert a sinner than any other consideration taking place on earth. At the conclusion of his discourse, he invited those who desired to to come forward and be converted, when several advanced to the altar—singing and prayer followed, after which the congregation was dismissed with the benediction.

RYLAND CHAPEL.

At 11 o'clock, the Rev. Mr. Mitchell, of North Carolina, preached a most impressive discourse, and the pastor, Rev. C. W. Baldwin, asked as a collection $125. Eighty dollars of this amount was collected. The Sabbath school was present and sang missionary hymns very sweetly. At 7 p. m., the Rev. Mr. Hare delivered a most eloquent and effective discourse.

The collection of the morning was increased to $150.

Mr. Joseph Stephenson, one of the members of the church, and a highly esteemed citizen of the ward, was made a life member of the Missionary Society with Mr. J. P. Murphy, one of the excellent members of the church and official body.

Mr. Thomas R. Gray, superintendent of the school, was also the recipient of a life membership from the Book no he has served so faithfully.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.—The annual meeting of the stockholders and directors of the Merchants' Steamship Company, (New York, Alexandria and Georgetown line,) was held on Saturday evening, at Clagett and Sweeney's Board of Trade rooms, No. 4 Market space, Mr. John T. Mitchell presiding, and J. L. Gall, secretary *pro tem.*

The first business presented to the meeting was the annual report of the President of the company, Mr. J. W. Thompson, in which he congratulates the stockholders on the success of the company during the past year, and says:

The present annual meeting is under the circumstances, even more auspicious for its stability than at the close of the first year of its existence. It is true that the uncompromising opposition then alluded to has not ceased. No suggestion having in view arrangements mutually advantageous to the competing lines, has met with favor from your competitors. Their aim seems to be the overthrow and annihilation of this company. But their unwearied efforts to accomplish this ungenerous purpose have only had the effect of disclosing their own weakness, whilst developing our increasing strength.

Freights to and from New York have been reduced from time to time by our opponents, until, in many cases, the prices asked by them will not not pay the cost of handling the merchandise transported. They have added to their line an additional ship, borrowed from the Norfolk line, which has enabled them to promise, though not to perform, two trips per week, and have resorted to other contrivances some of them not of the most scrupulous character, to divert affect, injuriously, the business of the company. But our customers, remembering the past, have generally remained firm in giving a preference to our steamers, and so long as they shall thus consult their own interest, we shall have no reason to apprehend that we cannot compete successfully with the formidable rivals who so earnestly seek our destruction. It would be irrational to suppose that sagacious business men, who have heretofore suffered from the high prices and irregular deliveries of a foreign monopoly, can be now inveigled into such a bestowment of their patronage as would insure the restoration of that monopoly, and again subject them to its inordinate exactions.

No community can expect to attain the highest degree of prosperity within its reach unless its people assume the control of their own material interests, and avoid dependence on the caprice or cupidity of others having no personal or neighborhood sympathy with them; and thus we are encouraged to hope that our infant enterprise will be justly appreciated and sustained, despite the vigorous efforts that continue to be made to cripple and crush it. Happily there are but few dealers among us who have been tempted to lend their countenance to this ignoble object, while we are cheered by the magnanimous conduct of the more experienced merchants of Georgetown, who have identified themselves with the success of the undertaking by giving it a liberal support in return for favors at their almost undivided support in the future. Their shipments by our steamers within the year include some sixty thousand barrels of flour, besides large quotations of grain and other valuable produce.

And we are also under new obligations for continued favors from the leading merchants and business men of Washington, who have always conferred upon our ships a large and generous patronage, which promises to increase with the extent of trading between the District cities and New York that is now stimulated by enlarged and more certain facilities of intercommunication. The benefits of the expansion of this trade, in enabling our merchants to purchase supplies from first-hands instead of from commission dealers, inures to agents and second-class dealers, being shared by all classes of our citizens in the proportionately reduced prices at which they obtain many of the comforts and necessaries of life, and which will more manifest the utility, not to say indispensability of this line of steamers to the commercial interests of the national capital, and hence its increasing popularity.

At the moment of writing we have been opportunely furnished with various lists of charges for freight by the opposition line prior to the organization of this company. The rates charged then and now are in striking contrast, as may be seen by the following:

	Former Present
Ale, per barrel	$2 75 $0 30
Apples, per barrel	50 10 to 15
Crackers, per barrel	50 30
Cider, in barrels	1 00 50
Castings, per 100 lbs	60 30 to 40
Potatoes, per bush	40 25 to 30
Flour, per barrel	75 and 50
Furniture in boxes, per foot	12½ 8
Lead, in pigs, per 100 lbs	45 30
Merchandise, 1 ton per foot	12½ 8
Mineral water, per cask	75 50
Molasses, per barrel	60 50
Trunks, per foot	10 5

It will be seen by this table, embracing such bills prior to the commencement of our line, as have been placed in our possession that the difference between the former and present rates of transportation is more than eighty per cent, all of which has been saved to our citizens by their inauguration and support of this line. If we may assume the descriptions of freight above named to be a fair average of the whole amount transported, and apply the same ratio of reduction to the amount carried on our own ships, it will afford a estimate of the quantity conveyed by our opponents, and saving to our citizens for the year just closed will amount to $63,400, and for the past two years to $112,200, which is more than enough to pay the cost of our steamers. In the face of these figures no one can fail to perceive the incentive to the persistent opposition which seeks the annihilation of this company that its adversaries may again be without a rival, and at liberty to adopt such prices as will yield excessive and grinding profits. It remains for the people of the District to determine whether their machinations shall be successful.

Within the year just closed two important arrangements have been made in contemplation of the extending, for the public convenience, the usefulness of the ships of the company by an enlargement of the circuit heretofore assigned for their operations. In one case the utility of the arrangement will depend upon a contingency. If the severity of the weather should, as in the last two or three winters, close the navigation of the Potomac, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company have given us assurance that they will load their cargoes at their wharves in Baltimore, (Locust Point,) whence they will be conveyed in bonded cars to Washington, under the superintendence of our own agent. This accommodation is proffered on fair and liberal terms, such as will doubtless be cheerfully met by our merchants, rather than be subjected to the vexatious delays which are sometimes incident to the closing of our river.

In the other case the new arrangement has been carried into effect. It consists in extending the range of service of our steamers by requiring them to touch at Norfolk on their way to and from New York. By this means of direct and regular communication a trade has been opened between the District cities and Norfolk, which promises to be highly beneficial to the merchants and people of both communities, and by this means also direct intercourse, by safe and regular steamers, has been established between the District cities and Boston, as our ships cannot connect at Norfolk with a popular line of Boston steamers, at whose wharf our freight is landed and thence transported direct to Boston.

This extension of the operations of the company is a great accommodation to many of our citizens, and adds to the commercial importance of the line. It is to be regretted, however, that by this change of route we have unexpectedly and unnecessarily excited the hostility of the "Old Dominion line," running between Norfolk and New York, which has hastened to manifest its hostility by contributing a steamer to the "Clyde line" in aid of its efforts to destroy us. We, in policy being peace, we shall stand on the defensive. We have done nothing to justify this fierce opposition, and shall pursue the "even tenor of our way" in the pursuit of a legitimate business, from which our enemies may be assured we cannot be driven so long as we retain the confidence and support of the communities of the District.

The report then proceeds to give in detail a very satisfactory exposition of the business of the company for the past year, from which it appears that its patronage has so greatly increased as to produce a revenue nearly $20,000 in excess of the revenue of the preceding year, and placing the company in possession of sufficient means to pay a handsome dividend, which, however, the president does not deem advisable, but recommends, in view of the importance of the line to the business interests of the community, that the money be retained in the treasury to meet any emergency that may hereafter arise, as well as to fortify the company in resisting the persevering hostility which threatens its existence.

The report of the president was accepted, after which William Wall, esq., submitted the following resolution, which was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the thanks of the stockholders are due to the president and directors of the line for their excellent management, and urging merchants to continue their shipment by this line, and use especial care in ordering their freight sent to their ships exclusively.

Mr. Shepherd moved that a committee of five from among the stockholders be appointed to solicit subscriptions, so as to increase the capital stock to $150,000, as provided by the charter, and put another steamer on the line, so as to make the trips semi-weekly, and also so as to provide against any accident which might happen to one or more of the steamers. With the increase of the capital stock to the amount as prescribed by the charter, all personal liability of stockholders would cease, and which would relieve them of an objectionable feature under which they were now liable.

Mr. J. W. Thompson spoke of the advantages to be derived from having another steamer on the line. He had taken a great pride in the line, and he believed that they would be supported by the citizens of the District. He would do as much as any one, and he would go as far as any in subscribing to the stock. He related some statistics in connection with the line, showing the profitable undertaking it had become, and the certainty of greater prosperity.

W. G. Metzerott, Col. Wall, and others made remarks, after which the motion of Mr Shepherd was unanimously agreed to, and the following gentlemen appointed as the committee: Messrs. W. B. Todd, J. C. McGuire, Samuel Norment, A. H. Herr, and W. H. Phillips.

It was moved, and agreed to, that Messrs. Metzerott, Shepherd, Bacon and Thompson be continued as directors of the company, and that the secretary notify the stockholders in New York of their action.

Mr. Shepherd moved that the secretary be instructed to prepare a letter to be sent to the four merchants of Georgetown who ship by the Merchants' line, thanking them in behalf of the company for their generous conduct. The motion was agreed to, and the secretary so instructed.

A proposition was then made to commence the subscriptions to the stock required—$44,000—one of the stockholders asserting that Mr. Clyde had boasted that he could buy the stock up and overthrow the present management of the company. Subscriptions to the stock at once commenced, and $28,000 were subscribed.

On motion, the meeting then adjourned. There was much unanimity of feeling among the gentlemen present, and we are pleased to note the energy displayed, which is indicative of prosperity to the company and the District.

AN INTERESTING INTERVIEW.—On Friday afternoon Bishop Janes and Rev. Dr. Hamilton paid a visit to their old and highly-honored co-worker in the cause of Christ, Rev. Alfred Griffith, who is in his 86th year, and who is resting from his labors in the field, with his son-in-law, Mr. Uhler, in Alexandria, Va. The visitors were shown to the room and introduced to the good old man by Mrs. Uhler, her father appearing at the time of their entrance to be meditating on some matter, and his mind seemed to have been abstracted from all else; but he suddenly recovered himself when his visitors were introduced.

Mr. Griffith eagerly grasped the hand of Bishop Janes, and in like manner saluted "Brother Hamilton." Having been seated, and the old veteran having given him his age as indicated above, Bishop Janes inquired of him the time when he first entered the travelling connection, and he replied with evident delight, in 1806, and to the inquiry, "Who ordained you?" he replied: "Bishop Asbury, both as deacon and as an elder."

When asked what circuit he first traveled, with his eyes brightening he replied, "Oh yes! the Wyoming circuit; that beautiful country, at the headwaters of the Susquehanna, upwards of three hundred miles in length, did we travel;" and here he related many interesting reminiscences of his first appointment through the wilderness, as it really was in the year 1806.

To the question, "Did you know Nelson Reed?" he answered, "Oh yes; one of the wisest and best men I ever knew. Bishop Asbury often expressed a desire that he should be made a bishop."

He was then asked if he remembered Christopher Frye, and he replied, "Oh yes, he was my first colleague; one of my best friends on earth."

John Davis was next named, as were also several others, and he replied to all questions, evincing extreme pleasure at the recalling to mind of his old and loved associates.

Father Griffith then added various remarks which often fell from the lips of Bishop Asbury, attesting the piety, efficiency, zeal and usefulness of the men who composed the old Baltimore Annual Conference in spreading the gospel. The Bishop used to say, he remarked, "The Baltimore Conference is my seed-bag" (the preachers) "there I must go for men qualified for any emergency."

It was really surprising to witness the keen memory with which Mr. Griffith dwelt on the reminiscences of the past.

The subject was then changed to personal Christian experience, when Father Griffith, looking up, quoted, with deep feeling, the memorable words of Wesley:

"Not a cloud doth arise
To darken my skies,
Or hide for a moment
My Lord from my eyes."

A brief pause ensued; for it really seemed that the chamber of this good man was filled with heavenly influences.

The time of the visitors, however had expired, and they arose; Bishop Janes again took Father Griffith's hand, and pronounced upon him the apostolic benediction, adding, "Brother Griffith, we shall never meet again on earth; but, my brother, we shall meet in Heaven!" Father Griffith, with tears, said that he had no doubts or fears of that glorious meeting above.

INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC.—To prevent misunderstanding or confusion the public is informed that donations of wood, food, fuel and clothing are much needed by the poor, and will be distributed by the Provident Aid Society among those who are found, after personal visitation, to be destitute and deserving, without regard to nativity, sect, or color.

Contributions are to be made in wood made to collectors in the different departments and wards, duly authorized in writing by William Dixon, vice president and chairman of the Committee on Collections, or to one of the directors of the society, and all donations of fuel, food or clothing to the general agent or to those duly authorized in writing by him.

Applications for aid should first be made to one of the visitors of the ward in which the applicant resides, whose duty it will be to note, on a card, the case to be the nearest district, or, and, if found destitute and deserving, orders will be issued, and the articles needed delivered immediately. No orders will be issued to those who are able and can find employ. The name and residence of the applicant and collectors will be published from time to time. Two soup-houses are opened from 10 to 4 o'clock daily, one at the corner of Seventeenth and I streets, the other on Maryland avenue, near Four-and-a-half street.

For further information apply at the office of the general agent, corner of Louisiana avenue and Sixth street.

HORRIBLE OCCUPATION.—It is well known that in order to a proper study of practical surgery dissections of human bodies occur in our several medical colleges, and few people ever give much thought to the inquiry as to where the bodies come from. Our people are loth to believe that we have in our midst persons so depraved and lost in feeling as to rob the grave of its deposit; but such is, nevertheless, the fact. Yesterday morning, about 3:30 o'clock, Officer Turnburke, of the First precinct, brought to the station house two white men named Thomas Karr and Henry Clark, on the charge of trespassing on the burial grounds of the poor-house, and resurrecting two female bodies (one white) for the purpose of disposing them to the students of a medical college. It appears that the bodies were placed in a hack, driven by James Bourke and Jefferson Faunleroy, for the purposes above named, but Officer Turnburke, observing their suspicious movements, arrested the drivers, and ordered the hack to be driven to the station. Justice Walter was sent for, and after hearing the evidence, fined Karr and Clark $50 each under the trespass law, and fined Bourke, the driver of the hack, $20 and costs for fast driving. Mr. Joseph S. Martin, intendant of the asylum, identified the bodies as having been buried in the grounds of the poor-house, and procuring coffins, had them conveyed back again to be reinterred.

THE CANAL QUESTION.—The question of the Washington canal still affords a prolific theme for city politicians and others. On Saturday evening a party of some half dozen prominent citizens and officials met by agreement at the private residence of a gentleman to discuss the matter and devise the best means of handling the subject, that they might report their views to the adjourned meeting on Thursday evening next. One of the gentlemen thought it would be a source of profit to the corporation should the canal be leased by some enterprising party for the purposes of growing cattails. Another thought the planting of corn the most remunerative, while one gentleman asserted that it might be made a paying concern for the breeding of alligators and snakes, to be disposed of to hurdy-gurdy shows. The most practical plan suggested, however, was to convert the canal into a main sewer for the central portions of the city, and fill the rest of the ditch with earth; but the conclusion of the conference was, that the canal should "be let alone."

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.—Edward Holmes, colored, for indecent exposure, was fined $5 by Justice Kean. The same Justice imposed a fine of $1 on George Johnson, colored, for cruelty to animals.

Chris. Carter, colored, charged with petit larceny, was sent to jail by Justice Drury.

Walter S. Weeden, for obstructing the sidewalks, was fined $2 by Justice Thompson.

John White, colored, for peddling without license, was fined $50 by Justice Clark, but not having the stamps, was sent to the workhouse.

John W. Gates, Wm. Morgan, and Joshua Clarke were each fined $20 by Justice Lynch for selling liquor without license.

PROVIDENT AID SOCIETY.—The applications for relief to this association increase daily, and the managers were at their headquarters, corner of Louisiana avenue and Sixth street, until 6:30 o'clock on Saturday evening, furnishing orders for fuel and groceries. A. K. Browne, esq., as well as other managers, can be found at all times at the headquarters, and they take pleasure in relieving the wants of those of the necessitous that call upon them.

BOYS PETERSHAM AND WHITNEYS, $10—10 off—$9; Boys' Gray School Suits, $7—10 off—$6.30; Children's Plain Overcoats, $8—10 off—$7.20; Boy's Shirts, $1.25—10 off—$1.13; $1.50 ones—10 off—$1.35. A deduction of 10 per cent. on all cash sales for 20 days. One price only, marked in plain figures. A. Saks & Co., 517 Seventh street.

CLAIMS APPROVED.—The committee of the Councils to examine claims against the corporation prior to July 27, 1868, among other accounts have approved the claims of the commissioners of the First, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth wards. These bills will be paid in bonds.

APPOINTMENT DECLINED.—Col. Theodore B. Samo has declined the appointment of surveyor of Georgetown, which was tendered him by the Councils a short time since. His other official duties he says will not permit him to accept the office.

SABBATH SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.—The Sabbath-school connected with Foundry Methodist Episcopal church yesterday, at 3:30 p. m., celebrated its anniversary, Mr. L. C. White, president of the Missionary Society, presiding, and Mr. J. L. Ewing, secretary.

The pulpit had been removed for the occasion, and on the rear of the platform was a handsome arch of evergreens in front of which was a magnificent crown of the same material suspended by a cord, over which was another arch composed of gas-jets, forming the words, "Jesus Reigns," with a brilliant star in the centre.

The exercises were opened by singing, "The Morning Light is Breaking." Rev. J. W. Hoover, of Hamline Methodist Episcopal church, then led in prayer, after which the children sang, "Work for the Night is Coming." The pastor in charge, Rev. B. Peyton Brown, explained the object of the meeting, and as each of the classes were called, the class and teacher responded by quoting the text of Scripture to which their name was used, each class having been given a name applicable to the same. As they answered to their call, they would step forward and hand in their annual donations.

A communication was read by Rev. Mr. Brown from Mrs. V. M. Springer, whose little boy (Robbie) he said he baptised last summer on the camp-ground, and who died in October, aged fifteen months, leaving for the missionary cause $1.05, which had been placed in his little money-box previous to his death by his friends.

The crown was dedicated in memory of him, and a star placed in it to represent him.

Mr. Reese gave $1 in coin for each of his little children, and a jewel was placed in the crown for each of them.

A subscription was then taken up to have two stars placed in the crown to represent Mr. Steinmetz, ex-superintendent, and Rev. Mr. Brown, for which they realized about $100 each.

"All hail the power of Jesus' name" was then sung.

The Secretary, Mr. Jas. E. Ewin, reported that the society had held twelve meetings during the year, at which $555.70 were collected by the classes, whose reports they had just heard, $60.60; on other occasions, $410; besides this amount, the school assumed $60, to be delivered before conference, making a general total of $566.70. "The way, the truth, and the life" class, taught by Mrs. McPhetters, having contributed the largest amount for the year, carries the prize banner to-day. The services were closed by singing the "Good Ship of Zion," and the pronunciation of a benediction by Bishop Ames.

BURGLARIES AND ROBBERIES.—A party of thieves entered the residence of Miss Geneva Reed, school teacher, and her mother, in South Washington, on Thursday night last, by a rear window, and after extinguishing the light in a room in which Miss Geneva and her sister were sleeping, the thieves tied up almost all the clothing and groceries they could find, with a view of carrying them away. One of the young ladies happening to awake, heard a noise in the kitchen. She quietly informed a brother who was visiting here of the fact, and he, with pistol in hand, proceeded down stairs, and fired four shots among the robbers, which had the effect of making them leave by way of the kitchen windows. On making an examination, nothing was missed except a $10 note, which, the young lady said, she left in her muff on the table. This occurred about midnight, and several hours after the burglars made another attempt to enter the house by the same window, but left very suddenly on being fired at by young Miss Reed.

The premises of Mr. Wm. E. Jones, on O, between North Capitol and First streets, was robbed of eighteen valuable white and black Spanish, Crahmas, and game fowls. The watch dog having been enticed away two days previously by a bitch, which he dined and breakfasted by some one acquainted with the family. At the time the robbery was committed Mr. Jones was on duty as a watchman at Ford's old theatre building.

THE INAUGURAL CEREMONIES.—On Saturday evening a joint meeting of committees from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Union, Soldiers' and Sailors' National Executive Committee, and Central Grant and Colfax Club met at No. 340 Pennsylvania avenue to arrange for the opening of the building quarters for the organizations expected here on the 4th of March next to witness the inauguration of Gen. Grant as President. Major Timothy Luby was chosen chairman, and Will A. Short secretary.

After considerable discussion a preamble and resolutions were submitted by Major Doughty, declaring that co-operation and unity are necessary to harmony, good order and a successful and creditable display upon the occasion of the inaugural ceremonies, and resolving that the organizations represented in the meeting do unite for co-operation in the matter of the inaugural ceremonies. It was also resolved that at a future meeting the chairmen of the sub-committees be closen, and the position of each organization should be determined by lot or otherwise.

The meeting then adjourned to meet at the same rooms on next Saturday evening at 7 o'clock, when all duly accredited organizations in the District are invited to be present.

BURGLARY AND SUICIDE OF THE BURGLAR.—For a long time past, Messrs. Cornwell & Sons, proprietors of the American Tea Store, Nos. 320 and 322 Pennsylvania avenue, have had their store relieved of articles kept for sale. Policemen were frequently stationed to watch the store, and at 6 o'clock in the morning they would go off of duty. Before a man could be put in his stead the store would be robbed. On the morning of the day after the store concluded to make a night of it on watch in the vicinity of the store. Between 11 and 12 o'clock on Saturday night, he discovered some one in the store, and going in quickly some one passed immediately made his way out of a hole made by removing a back window from a board partition. The man proved to be none other than Mr. Anson Gale, a carpenter, residing next to the store. It appears he had drawn the nails that held the window in its place and had so contrived a hook that he could draw them without creating a noise in entering the store. Immediately after being caught he took strychnine, and Officer Farley of the Second precinct went for a doctor, but all to no purpose, as the poison took effect that between 12 and 1 o'clock. An inquest, we are informed, will be held at 10 a. m. to-day.

DELIVERED TO MARYLAND AUTHORITIES.—Allen Herris alias Lowe and John Johnson, who were arrested about a week since in this city by Detectives Coomes and Miller, charged with having, on the night of the 24th ult., committed the assault and robbery at the house of Mr. B. F. Perkins, near Surratt's Mills, Maryland, were turned over to Sheriff Dyer, of Prince George's county, Maryland, on Saturday, on a requisition from the Governor of that State.

BASE BALL OFFICERS.—At a late meeting of the National Base Ball Club, of this city, the following officers were chosen for the ensuing year: Col. Frank Jones, president; Col. Wm. G. Moore, first vice president; James Pfau, second vice president; James Patterson, recording secretary; John D. Hyer, corresponding secretary; James E. Waugh, treasurer; Joseph V. Potts, scorer; A. R. Benner, A. P. Gorman, E. F. French, and B. J. Everson, board of directors.

NARROW ESCAPE.—On Friday last while workmen were engaged on a new house on Fifth street near Building gas way, precipitating them twenty feet to the pavement beneath. Luckily none of the men were seriously hurt.