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Our paper is supplied to Home Missionaries at \$1 per annum; to Ministers and Theological students at \$1.50 per annum, strictly in advance. In the city, 50 cents additional is charged.

**POEM WANTED.**

We suggest, as a suitable topic to our lyrical contributors, the touching incident of the death of Sergeant Hummiston on the field of Gettysburg, with the portraits of his children in his hand, afterwards identified by the notice published in the AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN. We presume they are familiar with the facts, as already presented in our columns. A suitable price will be paid for the accepted poem, which must be in hand by the 15th of January.

**THE ALBERT BARNES PROFESSORSHIP.**

Amid the many objects urged at this time upon the regards of our benevolent men, they will not, we trust, lose sight of this important object, but will reserve for it a place far up on the list. The institution of this professorship in Hamilton College, will contribute to the endowment of a most excellent institution of learning under the best of Christian influences; and will confer merited honor upon Mr. Barnes, casting a pleasant light upon the later years of his life. We are not surprised to learn from Dr. Coertner that the project meets with universal favor.

**BEAUTIFUL HOLIDAY GIFT.**—Among the most rare in conception and delicate in execution of the handsomer class of gift books lately issued, is "SNOW FLAKES," from the American Tract Society Boston. The elegance and

**SERGEANT HUMMISTON AND HIS FAMILY.**  
LETTER FROM REV. ISAAC G. OGDEN.

DEAR EDITOR:—In reply to your letter of inquiry about Sergeant Hummiston, let me say that he was a resident of Portville, for a number of years, and was by trade a harness-maker. In early life he was a sailor and made several whaling voyages to the Southern Pacific. He was a man of noble, generous impulses, a quiet citizen, a kind neighbor and devotedly attached to his family. His sailor-like generosity will account largely for the fact that he never accumulated property.

When the rebellion first took the form of open war upon the country, he was anxious to enlist; but his duty to his family seemed then to be paramount to his duty to his country. But after the disastrous Peninsular campaign, when there was a call for 800,000 more volunteers, and when he received assurance from responsible citizens that his family should be cared for during his absence, then without the prospect of a large bounty he enlisted as a private in Co. C. 154th Reg. N. Y. S. V., under Capt. L. D. Warner, now Major of the 154th; was with the Regiment in the battle of Chancellorville, and laid down his life for his country at Gettysburg.

An incident that occurred while enlisting was going on in our town, so well illustrates his character, that I will relate it. There was a young man here who was considering the question of enlisting, but who doubted his ability to endure the long fatiguing marches of the army. "Come on," said Hummiston, "I will carry your musket for you." His Captain testified to his good qualities as a soldier. He was always cheerful, prompt to do duty, free from vicious habits, and always thought much of his absent family.

His wages were promptly remitted; though one draft of \$80 which he sent, never reached them. Mr. H. made a profession of religion some eight or ten years ago; but like many others, did not walk as a Christian should. He said to his wife as he was leaving, that he wished he was a better man, and hoped he might be. May we not hope that while life was slowly ebbing away on that bloody battle-field, while his thoughts were evidently on his distant home, as is evidenced by the ambrotype of his children found in his hands when dead, that his thoughts and prayers also went up to Him who said to one of old, praying, "Lord remember me!" "This day thou shalt be with me in Paradise!"

His children are bright, active and intelligent; they are left with their mother entirely dependant upon their own exertions, and the assistance of others. The family have been kindly cared for by our citizens in the absence of Mr. H. Mrs. H. recently made a public profession of her faith in Christ, and united with the Presbyterian Church of this place. The coming of her children's photograph, kindly sent by Dr. Bourne of your city, relieved her dread suspense relative to her husband's fate, and she bows with Christian submission to the Providence which makes her a widow, and her children fatherless.

It was certainly a remarkable Providence which made his attachment to his family the means of his recognition; and also the means of awakening so lively an interest in his bereaved family. May God abundantly bless all who, though at a distance, are thus practically, "visiting the widow and the fatherless in their affliction."

ISAAC G. OGDEN.

### THE DEAD SOLDIER IDENTIFIED.

The intimation in our last week's issue in regard to the identification through the AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN of the soldier found dead on the Gettysburg field, with the ambrotype of the three children in his hands, has been fully confirmed. The facts of the case are these. A Miss Shriver, daughter of the Postmaster at Gettysburg, came upon the dead soldier soon after the battle, lying with his hands folded on his breast, and the ambrotype just fallen from his grasp. He had thrown away most of his accoutrements and could in no way be identified. She took the picture to her father. Dr. J. F. Bourns of this city, who had been acting as a volunteer surgeon, became acquainted with Postmaster Shriver, and thus obtained possession of the relic. With praiseworthy energy he has persevered in his efforts to discover some clue to the fallen soldier, who had thus passed away in tender contemplation of the image of his dear children. Meanwhile, he induced the friends in Gettysburg to mark the grave in some permanent manner. His care has been amply rewarded.

One of the copies of the AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN sent to Portville, Cattaraugus Co., near Olean, N. Y., containing Dr. Bourns' notice, reached the eye of a soldier's wife in that place, who had sent to her husband just such a picture as described; nothing had been heard of the husband since Gettysburg. Correspondence was opened with Dr. Bourns; a photograph copy of the picture was sent to Portville by express, and an answer was in due season returned; *it was the identical picture!* The dread certainly of widowhood and orphanage flashed upon the group with this discovery; yet the severity of the blow was tempered by the dying affection of the father, by the tender romance of mystery which enveloped the facts and by the wide-spread interest the case had awakened in patriotic minds. The name of the soldier was A. Humerton. His regimental position we have not yet learned.

Dr. Bourns proposes to visit Portville and return the ambrotype with his own hands. He is promised an enthusiastic reception by the people who take a lively interest in the family. It is hoped that a sufficient sum of money will be raised by the sale of the photograph or otherwise to give each of the children a good education. Indeed, the idea has suggested itself to some large minds among us, that the interest occasioned by this beautiful event might be turned to the account of soldiers' orphans generally; and that an effort might at this time be successfully made to found and endow in this city a Soldiers' Orphans' Asylum on a large scale. We trust such may be the result.