

While these remarks apply to our church at large, in those portions of it which are exposed to the evil influences of the war, the goodness of God has been especially conspicuous. To illustrate this we would bring our narrative to a close with brief extracts from the reports of three Presbyteries that have been compelled, by their geographical position to encounter the greatest perils and difficulties springing from the rebellion, and from slavery, its producing cause.

The Presbytery of Wilkes, says:—"Occupying at this crisis the most undesirable portion of the country not actually covered by military operations, it was matter of serious doubt whether we would be able to preserve our churches and maintain our unity. But this Presbytery has not suffered diminution in any of its congregations or in any of its material means by maintaining among its ministers a unanimous and uncompromising loyalty to our Government. And it is our conviction that when our national troubles shall have passed away and the disastrous consequences upon them shall have subsided, our churches will be in a better condition to prosecute their appropriate work than at any former period."

The Presbytery of the District of Columbia, says:—"We live in a whirl of commotion, in the focus where all the troubles of the country converge." Consequently the youth are led away from serious thought. The parades, the tramp of armies and the news of battle all tend to dissipate reflection by their absorbing interest.

who recognize the Catechism among their constitutional formularies. Alike in its historical and ecclesiastical aspects, the occasion was one which your Committee could not but regard with great interest. Your Society occupies a position unique and peculiar, as the only body in the world which may justly claim to be regarded as in any sense representative of the whole body of Churches of the Westminster Confession. It was, therefore, unanimously agreed by the Committee to seize an occasion so rare and interesting, to tender the salutations of Westminster to Heidelberg—to extend the right hand of fellowship from the one great branch of the Reformed Church to the other, and testify our unity in the one faith of the two Catechisms, and in the bonds of that charity which, in the period of their formation, linked the whole body of the Reformed as one Church.

A communication was accordingly prepared by the hands of our Corresponding Secretary, and in person conveyed to the Convention which met in session. The greeting met with the most cordial reception and response, orally and in writing. And the Convention resolved to present to our Library a copy of the Memorial Volume, in which its proceedings are here referred to is herewith respectfully submitted.

It is with no ordinary emotions that we enjoy the privilege of tendering your Convention the fraternal salutations of the Presbyterian Historical Society. Our Society embraces in its constituency all those branches of the Reformed Church in America, which adhere to the standards of the Westminster Assembly. As a Church Historical Society, we could not but regard with the profoundest interest the assembling of your Convention, and recognize the signal and auspicious importance of the events which you celebrate.

American Presbyterian and Genesee Evangelist.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1863.

JOHN W. MEARS, Editor

OUR STATE INVADIED.

Notwithstanding the precautions mentioned in our news columns, against a rebel movement northward, a large force from General Lee's army have entered our State, via Hagerstown, Md. They took possession of Chambersburg on Monday night, June 15th. They were believed to number 15,000 cavalry, alone, at Hagerstown; with infantry and artillery following. Gen. Milroy was also surrounded at Winchester and compelled to cut his way through and retreat to Harper's Ferry, which he did with a loss represented at 2000 men.

Shameful to admit, we are taken in a state of comparative unpreparedness for this movement; and now a volunteer force is to be relied upon instead of taking the more summary method of a draft, for which the public mind has long been prepared. Fifty thousand volunteers are summoned from this State; twenty thousand, including the 7th regiment, are offered by Gov. Seymour, of New York, and Gov. Andrew places at the disposal of the Government, the lately returned volunteer regiments of Massachusetts.

A GREAT SCANDAL REMOVED.

Our readers have not failed to notice two or three occasions and acts of the late assembly in this city which have made that body memorable among the assemblies of our church. We refer (1) to the Debate and Resolutions on the West-fer (2) to the Debate and Resolutions on the State of the country, in which loyalty was so distinctly and emphatically affirmed to be owing to the existing Administration and more particularly to the state of rebellion to the executive branch of it; (2) to the debate and action as to correspondence with the Reformed Dutch Church and (3) the opening of a correspondence with the other assembly of the Presbyterian Church then meeting in Peoria.

This last action is matter of peculiar gratification to all lovers of the honor of Christ's cause and of the good name of the Presbyterian name. It does not indeed remove outward divisions. It is not union; nor yet the pledge of union. We are still two denominations, with peculiar shades of opinion on theological and social matters and with peculiar methods of action. But our unanimous and hearty resolves to recognize and communicate with each other, the tender and hallowed tone, the fervor, the enthusiasm of our first gatherings, the tears and exclamations with which the first members of the olive branch in the several assemblies were received, have wiped away forever the scandal of our long separation.

It may be interesting here to pause and briefly consider the causes which have led to this happy and auspicious result. First, it is to be ascribed to the true, living evangelical piety which belonged to both bodies. It could not be, that where so little just cause of estrangement existed, two bodies so largely charged by the best type of evangelical piety, should persist in maintaining a rival attitude, altogether inconsistent with the plainest principles of that piety.

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case it was no longer possible for us to be ignored. On the other hand, our brethren of the other branch have undergone afflictions and have doubtless learned some lessons in that hard school. They have seen a large part of their body turn from them with all the disdain and rancor of bitter rebels towards loyal men. Their own ministers and elders have shunned them by the overlooking zeal with which they have exposed the wicked cause of the traitor and the slave owner. The most famous and terrible leader in the rebel ranks in the East was an office bearer in their church. For these men they had made many sacrifices. To keep peace with them, they had gone such lengths as to compromise some of the best established principles of the Presbyterian Church.

Some have been reminded also of a certain clique, who were "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." They saw the revival coming. Indeed, its power had already been felt by some of their companions; and they began to fear that their annual ball would be seriously interfered with, if not entirely broken up, so they anticipated the ball by a month, determined to have their pleasure, if not to break up the revival. The ball came off, but tame and spiritless. There was trouble—any, merely—already at work in that camp.

Under date of June 5, 1863, "Genesee" writes of the GREAT REVIVAL. A day of marvels is expected in this place on the next Sabbath; such a day as we have never seen before. It is the ingathering of the harvest; and if you will listen attentively, I don't know, but you may almost hear us shouting the "harvest-home."

ROCHESTER CORRESPONDENCE.

Our correspondent "Genesee," writing of the Revival in Rochester is led to speak of earlier revivals in that city. THE GREAT REVIVAL OF 1830-31. Many things of the present revival have reminded some Christians of Rochester of the thrilling scenes of that former occasion, which, by its blessed influences, reaching down to the present time, had so much to do with making the place what it is today.

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