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A Religious and Family Newspaper, Constitutional Presbyterian Church.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

BROOKLYN, SATURDAY, May 27. The character of the General Assembly as representing our Churches, has been further illustrated by the action unanimously loyed pleasure. The weather was delighttaken against the admission of disloyal ful, the water smooth, the brethren in the ministers to our judicatories without ample | best of spirits, and in that hearty sociable proof of repentance and reformation. This action recognizes treason as a crime, as much so as any in the catalogue, and as such, disqualifying those guilty of it for doxy, and purity of motive can feel or manany position in the church, no less than in ifest. Happy Assembly! Far distant be the State. The large audience gathered the day when small jealousies, rankling enin the church, in anticipation of a discussion on this subject, were disappointed. The talking talent of the Assembly had not been developed as yet, and besides, there was really entire unanimity in the body, and the lack of any call for argument or persuasion to be addressed to any member. We are all agreed that our church shall Church. be no resting place for disloyal traitors flying from the tumbling ruins of "Confederate" churches, no ark for such birds of night to find rest for the soles of their feet. They have made their bed, let them lie in it. The Minute was adopted with the most hearty unanimity.

The policy of universal suffrage was also recommended by the Assembly, in two papers with almost as decisive -- attimity. Two or three work speeches were made by brethren little known in the church, in deprecation of immediate action, but the final vote, promptly taken, was without a dissenting voice. The Assembly which cognized so freely the right of colored men to an equal position in its chief council. could not consistently hesitate to take a firm stand for the bestowment upon them and their race of a lower and less responsible privilege. If, by prompt action, as a church, on this great question, we can contribute to an 'early solution, and help to save the country from a long and painful agitation, we may not withhold our voice and influence, and thus repeat one of the very worst errors of the past.

On Wednesday, on the presentation of the Report on Home Missions, we had a sudden development of the great amount of speaking talent, with which the Moderator declared the Lord had seen fit to endow the Assembly. The greatness of the subject, the wide, unparalleled, truly marvellous field opened for the church on the Pacific slope, in the territories, the gold and silver fields, among the conquered population of the South, the Freedmen and the Germans, was indeed worthy of the broadest and most solemn deliberation. Much of the speaking turned upon the great and pressing, and immediate need of men. Systems of training, modes of preaching, the unemployed talent in the church, underwent thorough review, especially at the hands of Rev. Joseph Patch, from Indiana, who treated these topics in a most original, racy, and instructive manner, as will be seen from the sketch of his remarks. Many speeches were made. Some dissatisfaction was manifested that the freedmen were not made the objects of more specific attention by the Committee. Messrs. Reeve and Thompson, our colored delegates, made two of the best speeches that had yet been heard on the floor; their aim vas to show the importance and feasibility of the efforts for Presbyterianizing their ace, especially by our own branch of the hurch. We confess to our fears that the ction of the Assembly thus far, will be bund below the demands of this part of e field. But the action of a Special Comittee on the subject is yet, at the time of is writing, to be heard.

SPECIAL MEETINGS.

During the evenings, voluntary meetings the members have been held, some of em of great interest. The ruling elders ld two meetings for consultation and ayer, which were of a general character d seemed to have done more to create



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they did good and were enjoyed by the laymen attending them. A meeting in behalf of the American Board was held on Monday evening, one in behalf of the American and Foreign Christian Union on Wednesday evening, addressed by Henry Martyn Scudder, D.D., pastor-elect of Howard St. Church, San Francisco; the Assembly's Communion was celebrated Thursday evening, and was an occasion of tender inte rest and refreshing; Friday evening a temperance meeting was held and addressed by Dr. Chickering, at which, unfortunately, a difference of sentiment as to the moral bearings of the use of intoxicating liquors was developed, though we are not sure that real or great diversities of opinion existed.

On Thursday, as we have mentioned in mother place, the Assembly accepted the kind invitation of a Committee of Arrange ments of Rev. C. S. Robinson's church, in Brooklyn, of which Mr. R. was chairman, to take an excursion around the city and down the bay. The trip was one of unalmood, which only a body of men so thoroughly agreed, so bent on great objects, and so free from suspicion of each others piety; orthovy and ecclesiastical ambition shall separate thy well-marshalled hosts into rival sections. break up the genial flow of Christian sym-

THE MODERATOR.

pathy and rive the delicate but powerful

tie of confidence which now conveys the

electric consciousness of brotherhood from

heart to heart throughout the whole

There is but one opinion about our presiding officer; he is universally reckoned among the best we have ever had. He has distinguished himself, not for a stern and pompous gravity, but for graceful ease courtesy, geniality, promptness in the dispatch of business and for diffusing a cheerful atmosphere over the Assembly, without detracting c to dignity. His responses to delegates have been uniformly brief and happy. His term of office will long be remembered as one peculiarly combining the agreeable with the efficient.

CONCLUSION OF PROCEEDINGS.

On Friday afternoon, Dr. Harper, first | nity of human corruption," he says:representative of the United Presbyterian Church to our Assembly, was heard with much interest. The Church Erection Fund was further debated and the subject intrusted to a Special Committee, to report on Monday morning. A report on the Religious Weekly Press was adopted.

On Saturday morning, a full and ably written document was brought in by the Committee on the State of the Country, Dr. Fisher, Chairman; also a report recommending the extension of the right of extensively become the patrons and promosuffrage to people of color, by the Committee on Bills and Overtures. Both of which were unanimously adopted. A report on trial and suspension for contumacy was debated. Adjourned.

MONDAY.—The report of the Special Committee on Church Erection requiring an examination by legal gentlemen of the precise limitations of the charter, was adopted. Later in the day, the Permanent Committee was instructed to take immediate measures for raising a supplementary fund for gratuitous distribution to needy churches. The report on trial for contumacy was referred to a committee to report next As-

The Narrative was read and adopted. This is a very full paper and shows a most gratifying and extraordinary degree of temporal and spiritual prosperity during the

On Monday afternoon, after appropriate resolutions and addresses, in which both the New York and Philadelphia doctors Adams and the Moderator participated, the Assembly was solemnly dissolved.

CHURCH DEDICATION.—The edifice rerecently erected for the use of our congregation in Vineland, N. J., will be dedicated for its sacred use on Tuesday next, (6th inst.,) at $11\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock, A. M. Rev. Dr. E. E. Adams will preach the sermon. The church is a pleasant edifice, situated in the midst of an interesting comunity, and there is promise that it will be a point of much importance to the interests of our denomination in Lower New Jersey. Vineland is a new town on the Cape May Railroad, about two hours' ride below this city. Friends attending from Philadelphia can leave at 9 o'clock, A. M., and return, leaving Vineland at 6 o'clock, P. M. We are

to accomplish any definite object. As such friends from above-of what quality may be judged when it is remembered that

SERMONS AND ADDRESSES ON THE DEATH OF MR. LINCOLN.

The following summary of views expressed in the pulpit, will be found appropriate to the day as designated by the Chief Executive for humiliation and prayer upon our great national calamity.]

We have received and are continuing to receive printed copies of sermons and addresses upon the death of Mr. Lincoln. many of which are deeply impressive and written with decided ability; all of them are interesting as memorials of an event unprecedented in our national history. We early published from the manuscript the discourse of Rev. Mr. Fowler, of Auburn which we then regarded as remarkably comprehensive, analytical and thorough, and as exhibiting some of the very highest qualities demanded by the occasion. After he ever had any heart for suffering human-examing a dozen other productions, we see ity seems to have lost it assessment as the seems to have lost it as seems to have lost it no occasion to change our opinion of Mr. Fowler's discourse.

A venerable lady wno bears names linked imperishably with the literature, the theology, and the practical piety of the land, writes of this discourse as follows:-God bless you for the sermon, which have just read in the AMERICAN PRESBY-TERIAN. I have been so sad since the death of our beloved Lincoln, whose memo ry lingers in my lonely old heart, like the perfume of sweet faded flowers, and it really 'refused to be comforted.' Every-' thing I had read did not come up to my mark of my respect and love for our beloved Father Abraham. . . . The text/I like, and as I read on, every tendril of my heart vibrated in unison with the words, and I said with satisfaction, Eureka! I have found it."

Among the sermons since then sent to our office, we would reckon that of Dr. Duffield's, of Detroit, as the most intense, as revealing a noble soul stirred to its very depths, and given to see in the mark truths illustrated by the dreadtul event. Dr. Duffield lives in a State which has tried, and we believe is yet trying, the experiment of doing without capital punishment. Speaking of the duty of a good government to restrain and punish "the horrible malig." If slavery be not wrong, "a declaration strikingly in harmony with that of Thomas Jefferson, that to restrain and punish "the horrible malig-

Law has lost its sacredness. Fanaticism has been substituted for religion. In the North, a spurious self-righteous humanita-rianism, claiming to be wiser and more bene volent than the God of the Bible, has sympathized with the perpetrators of evil, in the indulgence of a mawkish and murderous charity, so-called, denouncing capital punishment, destroying the sanctions of law, and undermining the authority of government, until the idea of liberty has become identical with that of licentiousness. Property and life are sacrificed with impunity; and a low estimate is made of human virtue and perters of crime; and the functions of authority are sought to be discharged by the veriest traitors to the peace and welfare of society. In the South, the monster iniquity of slavery, with all crimes and abominations, interwoven this into codes of law, had blinded the popular mind, and besotted the popular conscience, until, with fanatical madness, its advocates and abettors had claimed the sanction of religion, and believed themselves to be the possessors of a purer Christianity, and much more consistent and devoted asserters of the inspiration and authority of the sacred Scrip-

After enumerating the astounding crimes committed by the leaders of the rebellion, he says :-

During the four years of the rebellion, facts have accumulated, showing that there was no deed of desperate, malignant crime, that could be perpetrated, which found not its instruments, and was not stimulated by the promise of reward from men in high place and influence, connected with the supporters of the Confederate Government. And the young men of the South have extensively been trained, and incited, to deeds of enthusiastic desperation, as though it were glorious and martyr-like to sacrifice themselves by deeds of infamous daring and crimi-The assassination of the President was but the culmination of this system of diabolical enterprise, steadily, persistently, and Satanically pursued, notwithstanding frequent failures. Seldom, if ever, have such developments of corruption been made in the history of any people, as have been, in the rise and progress of the rebellion, that has caused the sacrifice of nearly half a million lives of our brave and noble citizen soldiers. Away with all apologists for the chivalry, and honor, and Christianity of the Southern conspirators, and their religion, who have not hesitated, but gloried, in the use of such methods of revenge for warfare!

Perhaps just this, and nothing short of it, was needed to bring the public mind to a just and proper estimate of human life, and demand the restoration of the death penalty to the place a God of justice and mercy has assigned it in the administration of government.

In conclusion, he says:-

How jealous has God been for us! He has overturned every human idol, one after another, which we have set up among our Geneinformed by the pastor, Rev. S. Loomis, that the people of Vineland will have in d nourish Christian sympathy, and stim- that the people of Vineland will have in us men of valor, wisdom, humility and patri-

or our success to whom it is due. In the death of President Lincoln, He has pursued we are in the midst of the strawberry the same plan of His gracious providence the same plan of His gracious providence toward us. We might have put him in the place of God, and forgotten whose right hand hath gotten us the victory. In an instant He removed him from us, without one opportunity of uttering a final adieu. We look to his life for the proofs of his acceptance with God, and cherish gratefully his own story of the consecration of himself to God. Would that he had fallen elsewhere than at the very gate of hell—in the theatre, to

which through persuasion, he so reluctantly went. But, thus a stain has been put upon that so falsely called school of virtue. How awful and severe the rebuke, which God has administered to the nation, for pampering such demoralizing places of resort. The blood of Abraham Lincoln can never be effaced from the stage. God grant that it may prove the brand of infamy consigning the theatre, which even Solon and the old moral Greeks abhorred, to the disgrace it merits, and the abhorrence of this nation.

In contrast with this flaming utterance of prophet-like indignation, from a heart as fresh as if it was but one-third of the age of its venerable possessor, we place the feeble and vapid utterances of one who, if ity, seems to have lost it, as-soon as practical measures for limiting the power of the slave masters of the South had been adopted by the people. We have nothing so weak, so lacking in any specific adaptedness to the broad, simple necessities of the hour, on all the pile of addresses and sermons on our table, as the discourse published for Dr. Rice by some injudicious friends. The only points on which he seems in any wise aroused are the "conservatism" of Mr. Lincoln, ("He would, if he could, have accomnlished what some of us have long labored to accomplish for the country and the slaves -gradual emancipation and colonization,") and Mr. Lincoln s saying with regard to Dr. McPheeter's case in St. Louis, "The State must not undertake to run the churches." Men in these times are quite as well understood by what they do not say as by what they do.

Both a discourse and an address come from the true-hearted pastor of the Constitutional church, Baltimore, Rev. H. Dunning. The "address" delivered on the 19th, dwells upon the noble traits of the martyr President's character. We quote a few senten-

Born and reared in a slave State, yet his clear moral perceptions and convictions brought him to that memorable conclusion the Almiahtu has no attribi the side of the slaveholder."

Closely allied with his conscientiousness and growing out of it, was his unshaken trust in God. I shall never forget the solemn and tearful earnestness with which he responded to the Synod of Pennsylvania when in its session in Washington, in the autumn of 1863, he said in answer to an address which had been made to him, Gentlemen, if God be with us we shall maintain this Government, is not we shall fail:" and this was uttered with that deep solemnity and peculiarity of manner which produced the conviction that he firmly believed that God was with the nation and would bring it through all its great trials.

The "discourse" refers more especially to the awful deed itself, and its very title reveals the animus of the speaker: "The Nameless Crime." A few sentences from

Now, the intense malignity and enormity of the crime revers itself in the fact that its perpetrator was living at the time only on the forbearance and leniency of the President. He openly professed to be, he was publicly known to be, an enemy of the government whose protection he enjoyed, whose protection he was baselenough to continue to enjoy and abuse for its attempted destruction! Yet. though thus known as a declared enemy, he was spared and protected from judgment by the misplaced forbearance of that government against which he lifted his assassin hand, and which he aired this deadly blow! His reedom and lift as a declared enemy of goernment, in the hour of its great struggle r continued kistence and authority, had been forfeited. He was permitted the enjoyment of both by too great leniency of the President. The leniency he outraged by the murder of him hat showed it! If anything can show the bleous enormity of this crime, and its desert if a double damnation, this act reveals it.

And have you not observed, my friends, how God in his providence is here presenting a test of character to this whole nation? "As a man thinket! in his heart, SO IS HE." He who approves his deed, who "in his heart" rejoices in it, of palliates or excuses it; he who does not fid his whole nature abhor and revolt at it, is imself, shall I add herself, an assassin. He r she only needs the opportunity, the withdawal of restraints by God, the proper stimulation and hardihood, to strike again to the hert of our present President. If you hear a man palliate or excuse that deed, never trist yourself alone or in a dark-night with him. Neither your reputation, nor your chareter, nor your life would be

Dr. Darlings discourse "Grief and Duty" s very calm, ind very sorrowful for a loss. which he thinks we may feel for a long time. Mr. Lincoln services as a pacifier, he thinks, will e greatly missed; and we must say that the opinion set forth by some with a great eal of confidence, that a good cause is neve seriously injured by the sudden and violet removal of its representative man, does no strike us as self-evident.

The cause of liberty and Union was not to-day!

ulate to action the piety of the brethren, than good readiness an entertainment for their otic zeal, to exalt their country's honor above indeed ruined in Holland when William selfish ambition and fame, and give the glory Prince of Orange fell by the assassin's pistol; but according to Motley, it received such a check, that the limits of the Union were never so extended as would have probably been the case, had that wise prince been spared a few years longer. And the fall of Gustavus Adolphus was, we think, in the estimate of good judges, an almost irreparable disaster to Protestantism on the continent of Europe.

In this case, however, we are inclined to differ from Dr. Darling; for we regard Mr. Lincoln as having, in all probability, fully accomplished his work, while the new and sterner processes required in settling with the vanquished leaders of the rebellion, and in impressing on our people and on the animating soul, Slavery; of whose cruel and world the great lessons of justice suggested by the hour, have been handed over to more decided men. We quote two

*Among all the men educated under the influence, and in the midst of northern society, I do not believe that you could find an individual who would deliberately, and day by day plan, and finally execute, so fiendish an act as that of Mr. Lincoln's assassination. Depravity does indeed ripen, even with us, fear-fully, but to attain so gigantic a growth as this, it must have its roots in a more congenial soil. The most terrible, and as it seems to me, wicked event of centuries, nothing but long familiarity and close contact with the whole system of oppression, as it has existed at the south for years, and with the spirit and the sufferings of our prisoners who fell that it, engenders, could ever have made it into their hands. Can you read the testimony

In Rev. F. L. Robbins' sermon we like the following, among other discriminating remarks upon Mr. Lincoln's standing in the affections and estimate of the people:-

It is remarkable to notice how personal is the feeling we have, and how greviously the the feeling we have, and how greviously the late President is mourned, as if indeed he were the real father of all the people. Never was a man carried to his grave amid such universal and profound grief. Why is this so?

The people loved him because he was a man of blameless life; of an elevance. ted, transparent, firm character, and of an affectionate, benign disposition.

Mr. Lincoln was not highly prominent for intellectual abilities. He had not the grand imperial mind of a Webster, nor the subtle, metaphysical, intense intellect of a Calhoun, nor the splendid and ready powers and elo-quence of a Fox or a Chatham; and yet his intellectual abilities were adequate to every occasion: indeed, they were such as seem to have admirably fitted him for the work which he has so ably accomplished.

Where others with higher range and more profound faculties might have failed, doubt-less would have failed, he has succeeded, guided by his matchless sagacity, and pru-dence, and common sense, and native shrewd-

His thoughts were his own; they were fresh and original, and were clothed with a quaintness, a directness, a simplicity of style peculiar to himself.

We are thankful to him for preserving the record of the declaration made by Mr. York," upon issuing the Emancipation Proc-Protestant preacher had better have omitted the wish, (we might almost call it prayer,) for "the eternal repose" of the "illuminated spirit" of Mr. Lincoln, "above

Rev. M. C. Sutphen, of the Spring Garden (O. S.) Church, among other points, enlarges upon the evidences of the piety of Mr. Lincoln, though pronouncing no decisive judgment on this trait in the President. Mr. S. puts the best possible construction on his unfortunate presence at the theatre, saving:-

While my heart bleeds most at the thought that he should have received the fatal blow within the walls of a theatre, yet when I remember that he was drawn thither reluctantly, and from his characteristic kindly desire to mitigate the disappointment of the crowd collected in promise of the presence of the absent Lieutenant General, I find it not impossible to think of him among the blood-bought throng of martyrs—himself a martyr in one of the holiest causes that ever de-manded the sacrifice of human life.

Mr. Sutphen asks a number of significant questions like the following:-

Is it not possible that the overflowing love of our late President would have made concessions to rebels, calculated to imperil the peace and safety of the nation, and to tarnish the fair fame with which he will now descend to posterity?

Rev. Wm. Sterling of Williamsport, Pa., speaks throughout of the man, the principles at stake, and the spirit of the crime. after our own heart. We can follow him after our own heart. We can follow him goes upon the campagna or stands on some paragraph by paragraph, with a hearty distant hill, and high over all the puny works amen! How to make extracts, where we would like to copy the whole, we scarcely know. Take the following:-

And this is the man that has fallen from his high place by a murderer's hand! A praying President—a President who daily held intercourse with heaven—a President who sought guidance and grace for himself and blessing on the land at the foot of the throne; -a President who loved Jesus, who was kind and considerate to the poorest and lowest that came into his presence, or sought his aid; -a President who was so full of mercy and forgiveness towards his enemies, so pure a patriot, so worthy of the place to which God in his providence had elevated him; -this is the man that the bullet of the assassin has reached, and over whose untimely and violent end the Nation mourns

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two months...... threesix

The crime which has been committed in the murder of such a man, occupying such a position, is one of unparalleled atrocity. I know nothing that surpasses it, save only the murder of the Son of God. It is to stand out before the universe while time shall last as the blackest deed which man ever comnitted against his fellow-man.

It is a deep disgrace that such a deed could be perpetrated in our land. France has had her Infernal Machine, and her frequent attempts at the lives of her sovereigns, and her Reign of Terror; and we have felt that these deeds were to be accounted for by the infi-delity that prevails. But in this land of the pious Pilgrims, the land of Washington;—in this land of Bibles and of the Sabbath and the Sanctuary,—this land of Christian civilization, it was thought that such an event could not take place. That such a murder should blacken the annals of our country fills us with shame, as well as with grief and horror. But this infamy belongs not to our barbarous spirit this act of murder is one of the natural fruits.

And now, my hearers, how are we to look upon the leaders in such a work as this? Are we to regard with indulgent lenity the men who, through four years of bloody war, have striven to rend in pieces the bond of our Union, pull down the Temple of Liberty, and convulse the country in ruin? No, no, no! Their crime is like that which cast the angels out of heaven. No words of man can express. its enormity. No punishment which man

can inflict is commensurate with the crime.

And superadded to this, look at the perjury of men in office at the beginning of the war, holding places of honor, and trust, and emolument under the Government; look at the robbery, the treason they have committed, the blood they have shed on the battle-field of these prisoners; can you look upon these shattered wrecks of men with their sunken eyes, and hard and shriveled and ashy skins, and wasted forms; can you behold these starved and fleshless, yet living skeletons; can you hear them tell the pitiful story of their fearful wrongs and sufferings, and not feel your blood grow hot like fire in your veins? Can you read or hear their tale of woe, and not feel every nerve in your body quiver with agony and indignation? If you can, your temperament is cooler than mine. And shall the authors of these miseries go unpunished? Forbid it justice! Forbid it, every right, and true, and patriotic, and Christian principle!

Who can withold assent from such wholesome sentiments, so nobly and forcibly

We present, as worthy of consideration, he followng suggestion from Rev. Mr. Aikman's discourse :---

I look at it and am not able to say why it was. Is it suggested that it is for punishment—because we have not acknowledged God? I do not think it. I believe that my country is to-day the most God-fearing na-tion on this earth. Four years of sorrow and trouble have taught and chastened the national heart so that God is seen everywhere and His hand is acknowledged in every passng event: men once may have de minute Providence; they see it now. In all our recent success the victory has not been ascribed to men or armaments but to God so that on the bells of the horses, on the doorposts of the places of amusement, has been Lincoln, "to an eminent clergyman of New written "Glory to God above." It is said that this bereavement comes upon us because lamation: "I did not think the people had we were did, but we were scourged out of that we were trusting too much in man. Once been educated up to it, yet I thought it was right, and I did it." But we think a speaker believed that the nation had been been been educated up to it, yet I thought it as a people were looking up to God. The speaker believed that the nation had been been educated up to it, yet I thought it was speaker believed that the nation had been educated up to it, yet I thought it was speaker believed that the nation had been educated up to it, yet I thought it was speaker believed that the nation had been educated up to it, yet I thought it was right, and I did it." struggling toward the right. No, he could find nothing here which could adequately explain this bereavement.

> Rev. Oliver Crane, of Carbondale, Rev. T. B. McFalls, of Washington, and Rev. Wm. C. Wisner, D.D., of Lockport, also delivered earnest and patriotic addresses, which we would be pleased to notice more fully. But space forbids us to pursue turther the pleasant employment. We cannot, however, forbear referring to the sermon of our friend and recent co-presbyter, Rev. Isaac Riley, now of Pottsville. Pa. It strikes us as one of the most finished, able, searching, and eloquent of all we have examined. It bears fewer of the marks of haste than almost any. There is a chaste and classic beauty in its language and structure, while it breaths the lofty fervor of true patriotism and indignant hatred of wrong. A single paragraph from this address will fitly close these selections and remarks:-

The traveler who wanders through the streets of Rome, comes up to the church of St. Peter, and looks and scarce believes his eyes, when he recalls all the magnificence which des-cription and expectation had clothed it with; for he sees the dome he had conceived so grand scarce rising above the pediment, which does not at all impress him with loftiness and grandeur. But he draws near. He changes is place. He learns to measure the height. He enters, and gazes, the dome rises and swells more and more magnificent, and his faith is awakened. But it is only when he of lesser men sees the grand dome rising lord of the city, that he gains true views and some conception of its vastness and sublime beauty, that he really knows what he has seen. Such is our experience. They who have drawn nearest and looked up most steadily to the height of the pure grand character of him who is gone have learned best what he was. But it is he who looking over the valley of time from the elevation of years to come, or from the level plain of a calm judgment which can be reached only in a distance,only he can tell us the greatness of him who in the loftiness of a pure nobility shall stand forever side by side with that other grand and precious name of our history.

A COLORED ELDER of the Ref. Pres. Church in Alexandria, was in attendance as a member of the late General Synod.