

MAINE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Principal, Rev. Stephen Bush; alternate, Rev. A. B. Lambert, D.D.

VERMONT GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Principal, Rev. J. H. Noble; alternate, Rev. E. A. Bulkeley.

NEW HAMPSHIRE GENERAL ASSOCIATION.

Principal, Rev. D. H. Allen, D.D.; alternate, E. K. Kirtledge.

GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Principal, Rev. F. S. McCabe; alternate, Rev. Henry M. Field, D.D.

GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT.

Principal, Rev. Conway P. Wing, D.D.; alternate, Rev. T. Balston Smith.

PRESBYTERIAN AND CONGREGATIONAL CONVENTION OF WISCONSIN.

Principal, Rev. Geo. I. King, D.D.; alternate, Rev. E. A. Pierce.

UNION EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF FRANCE.

Rev. A. Eldridge, D.D. Rev. C. H. Taylor, D.D., from Committee on Narrative of the Church, made a report which was adopted.

The Assembly, after the reading and adoption of the report adjourned to 8 o'clock, P. M.

Evening Session.

The Assembly met at 8 o'clock, P. M. The church was crowded with members of the First Church and visitors from other churches who desired to be present at the closing exercises.

After prayer, several resolutions, relating to printing the minutes, &c., were passed. Addresses were then made by Rev. Thos. H. Robinson, Rev. William Hoagland, D.D., Rev. W. E. Knox, D.D., Rev. George F. Wiswell and Rev. Edwin F. Hatfield, D.D.

Dr. Hatfield, the oldest member of the Presbytery of St. Louis, said that three and thirty years ago he first set foot on the shores of St. Louis, when there was but one Presbyterian church in the city, and only 7000 people within the bounds of the corporation, and when one would as soon expect the Millennium to have dawned upon us as to have supposed that within three and thirty years two General Assemblies would be entertained in this great and beautiful city of the West. Here it was that I received my first pastorage; here I buried my first love, and when I sat first in the General Assembly in 1835 it was as a Commissioner from the Presbytery of St. Louis, and I was the only Commissioner from the whole territory included between the Mississippi river and the great Pacific ocean.

In saying farewell to this dear people he would call for their benediction upon the members of the Assembly as they went to their Northern homes, and he felt sure that their benediction would be left upon the people of this city.

The Moderator, in closing the labors of the Assembly and its deliberations, returned thanks to the members for their assistance in maintaining order, facilitating the business, and causing it to be brought to a happy and successful termination.

Rev. H. A. Nelson, D.D., on the part of the people of the Fourteenth Street, North Presbyterian Church, and other churches, and citizens responded to the kind encomiums passed by the first speakers upon the great hospitality of our citizens and the many attentions shown to the members of the Assembly.

He hoped that, while the members had been kindly cared for, a blessing would rest upon the people in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, in answer to the many prayers that had been offered.

The following resolutions were offered by G. F. Wiswell, and passed unanimously:

Resolved, That this General Assembly take peculiar pleasure in here publicly recording their warmest gratitude for the large and generous provision made for their comfort and enjoyment by the people of St. Louis, in circumstances of great difficulty, owing to the unexpected presence of so many delegates from other religious bodies as their guests. That we specially tender sincere thanks to the Committee of Arrangements, the honored pastor of the First Presbyterian Church and his excellent people for their thoughtful regard and provident arrangements for all our sessions, and their kind and persistent efforts to make their homes our own during our stay.

Also to the President of the Iron Mountain Railroad Company, for the pleasant excursion to Pilot Knob, and his personal attentions on that occasion; to the Mercantile Library Association; to the President of the Public School Library Society; to the President of the City University; to the Directors of the Girls' Industrial School, for invitations to visit these respective institutions; to the Superintendent of Public Schools for copies of the last report, to the St. Louis Transfer Co. for the generous offer of their omnibuses; to the four Boat Companies, who have furnished dinners from day to day to many of our members from a distance; to the several railroad companies who have granted commissioners a reduced fare over their roads; to the press of St. Louis, and especially the Missouri Daily Democrat, for faithful reports, and full reports of our proceedings in pamphlet; and to our beloved and excellent Moderator for the promptness with which he has so cheerfully, ably, and impartially presided over our deliberations; and as we say farewell to the people with whom it has been our delightful privilege to mingle in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Resolved, That it is in all our hearts to pray constantly that grace, mercy, and peace from our common Lord may ever remain with them.

The Moderator concluded the exercises by saying that it devolved upon him to declare this Assembly dissolved, and to require another Assembly, chosen in the same manner to meet in the Brick Church, in the city of Rochester, on the Thursday in May, 1867.

The Assembly and the congregation present rose and joined with the choir and the great organ in singing, in grand chorus:

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

After which the Moderator pronounced the benediction, and this Assembly, which was one of the most harmonious sessions held for a long time, and one which will ever be memorable in the history of the Presbyterian Church was dissolved.

THE NATIONAL HOMESTEAD FOR THE ORPHANS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

has purchased a site adjoining the historic field of Gettysburg, and is about preparing the building temporarily for the uses of the institution. Sabbath-schools are the main contributors to its funds, and the work may well and easily be done by the children of our rescued country. It will be seen by the list of contributions we publish in another part of the paper, that very many schools have lately sent in their gifts. The institution is in excellent hands, and deserves the liberal patronage of all who would join in one of the best testimonials possible to be given to the memory of our departed heroes.

REV. HENRY S. OSBORN, LL.D., late pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Belvidere, New Jersey, and some years ago, Professor in Roanoke College, Virginia, has entered upon his duties as Professor of Mining and Metallurgy in the Pardee scientific course in Lafayette College, Easton, Pa. He is meeting with great success in making collections, illustrative of his chair. His works on the Holy Land have been widely circulated, as also the elaborate descriptive map of Palestine, the fruit of the joint efforts and travels of himself and Professor Lyman Coleman.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S EXCURSION.

LETTER FROM OUR ROCHESTER CORRESPONDENT.

The citizens of St. Louis have done their best to make the stay of the two General Assemblies pleasant among them. Among other things, they planned for us an excursion to Pilot Knob, the famous iron mountains, eighty-six miles south of St. Louis. A train of six elegant cars, on the Iron Mountain Railroad, was yesterday put at the disposal of our Assembly, and at 6-30 A.M. about two hundred delegates, accompanied by a goodly number of citizens of St. Louis, started for that destination. At 10-30 we reached the spot. Dr. Nelson was appointed President of the day; Stephen D. Barlow, the President of the road, Vice-President; and James Richardson, Marshal.

The road terminates at a little village, where there is a large smelting furnace. Once on the top of the mountain, the company were called to order by the President. We sang America. Rev. Frederick Starr, Jr., pastor of North Church in St. Louis, gave us an address of welcome, to which the Moderator gracefully replied in behalf of the Assembly, and then Dr. Nelson "told us where we were." The mountain is five hundred and eighty-one feet high. The base covers three hundred and sixty acres. It is a mountain of solid iron ore, yielding on analysis about 70 per cent. of pure iron. It is estimated that one hundred and forty feet of the top of this mountain will yield thirty-one billions of pounds of pure iron, and that there are in the whole mountain fourteen millions of tons.

Shepherd Mountain is near by, is larger, covers eight hundred acres, and yields 68 per cent. pure iron. This ore is magnetic. Iron Mountain, so called, is still another vast deposit of the same mineral, six miles nearer St. Louis, and is estimated to contain 230,000,000 tons of iron. Enough in these three mountains to supply the world, one would think, almost to the end of time.

Just below the height upon which we stood, Dr. Nelson pointed out an earthwork which was the scene of one of the terrible fights of the late bloody war. There, all day, Brigadier-General Ewing, with 800 men, withstood the repeated and desperate assaults of Sterling Price with 10,000 men. It is said that he lost four times as many men as Ewing had.

After Dr. Nelson's admirable address, Dr. McCosh, of Scotland, being called upon, offered prayer. We also sung the doxology with a hearty good will, and then descended the mountain, and returned safely to the city. The day was fine, and all passed off very pleasantly. It was an excursion never to be forgotten.

THE OLD SCHOOL ASSEMBLY.

The meeting of this body this year has been one of peculiar interest, and plainly indicates that the old ruling spirits in that branch of the Church have lost their power; it has passed into new hands. Loyalty and patriotism have triumphed over an effete conservatism. It is no longer considered the highest glory of that Church that it may conserve the dark system of American slavery, and the Church at last is free.

This was plainly indicated in the election of the Moderator. He was known as one of the most radical of its leaders. How much impulse in that direction he received by his early residence in Western New York, we know not; but it is no dishonor, that he was a printer in one of the newspaper offices in Rochester in 1830, and was converted in the great revival of that year in that city. He was afterwards a pastor in New Orleans, once also President of a College in Mississippi, and when the Assembly met was a Professor in Danville Theological Seminary. During the present session of this Assembly, however, he expects to resign his Professorship, as he is not inclined to spend his time any longer in educating rebels for the ministry.

It must greatly gratify the friends of liberty, to see how firmly, in all its doings, this Assembly has held fast to its patriotic utterances of the past five years. Those of Southern proclivities intended that these should be repealed and repudiated. For this they have labored incessantly for some time past. They had made some impression upon those who were trying to occupy a middle ground, partly for the country and partly not. Many feared for the result; but truth and justice have triumphed. Treason is thoroughly rebuked and traitors are left to go to their own place.

It may interest some of our readers to know that Rev. Dr. Wilson, one of the Commissioners from the Louisville Presbytery, is the son of that Dr. Wilson who persecuted old Dr. Beecher in 1834, and had him tried for heresy. In 1860 this son was pastor of that same church in Cincinnati where the father was settled in 1834; and in that same pulpit in the fall of 1860, he preached one of the first and most obnoxious secession sermons, we are credibly informed, ever preached by any traitorous minister. He is manifestly a fit companion for the notorious Stuart Robinson.

St. Louis, May 25, 1866.

THE CORNER-STONE OF THE NEW EDIFICE FOR THE THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PITTSBURGH, WAS LAID, WITH APPROPRIATE CEREMONIES, JUNE 1ST. THE LECTURE-ROOM IS ALREADY COMPLETED, AND IN USE. FURTHER PARTICULARS IN OUR NEXT.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

LONDON, May, 1866.

My DEAR SIR: "The May Meetings" are drawing to a close. This year they have been more than usually successful. All the great societies, such as the Bible and Tract Societies, the Church of England Missions, the Sunday-school Union, and the like, have filled the large room of Exeter Hall, which holds nearly 4000 people, to suffocation. The speaking has been marked with great fervor, great breadth of view, and great catholicity. Our own Synod may have been said to commence the proceedings. It began its sittings in Regent Square Church, Dr. Hamilton's, on Monday, 16th April, and closed there on Thursday of the same week. Regent Square Church is the church of Edward Irving; but, since his day, it has been remodelled and almost reconstructed. Still it possesses all the features which distinguished it in his time. It is a noble structure, and well worthy of the meeting of any Presbyterian Synod. The Rev. Thomas Alexander, M. A., of Chelsea, was, on motion of the retiring Moderator, unanimously chosen to occupy the chair. In his opening address, Mr. Alexander treated the subject of creeds, their relation to a church, and the relation of a church to them; their relation to the Bible, and their nature and necessity. He also adverted to the recent controversies in Scotland concerning the Sabbath—treating it fundamentally, as the relation of the law, the moral law, as summarily comprehended in the Decalogue—to the Gospel.

SYNOD OF THE E. P. CHURCH.

The Synod transacted all its ordinary business with great facility and business power. The report of the various committees was one unbroken record of progress. We seem to have taken a fresh start in these last years. The fund of £25,000 which we raised a few years ago for Church Building and Debt Extinction, has worked very admirably. It has not only largely aided the work of Church Extension, by assisting the building of new churches here and there, but it has very nearly extinguished all the debt on all our existing churches. This it has done in so judicious a way that, notwithstanding large grants—free grants—by a skilful management of interest, and in other ways, while the debt of the churches is gone, the fund is as yet very far from exhausted.

A CHEERING RETROSPECT—HYMNOLOGY.

In the School work, in the Home Mission work, in the College, and in the Foreign Missions, the reports were all equally favorable. There is a balance on the right side of the account in all our schemes, with only one exception. That exception is our Foreign Missions, in which the balance is on the wrong side. But this, so far from being an evidence of flagging, or lack of zeal, is the very reverse. For, in fact, our very success has been our burden. God has blessed our missionaries. They have gone in at all open doors, and thus our sail has, in some sort, exceeded our ballast: we have more leafeage than root-hold. But this we hope soon to rectify.

Some years ago, our Synod introduced a Hymn Book. The great majority of our people hold and cling to the Psalms; the old hymn book never was popular; and though it was introduced into a few of our congregations, it was there received with so little favor that it may be said to have fallen out of sight and out of mind. At this last Synod, another and a larger book was introduced, and hastily sanctioned. And this vexed subject may be said to be the only subject which marred the harmony of an otherwise most harmonious Synod.

We had for deputations many of the good, wise, and noble of all churches—among whom we may mention the Earl of Dalhousie, and the Earl of Kintore from the Free Church; Dr. Marshall and Dr. King from the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland. On many of the evenings of the meetings of the Synod the large Church in which we met was quite full.

ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND IN LONDON.

Your readers know that the Established Church of Scotland has "a remnant" of ministers and congregations here in England. They have a Presbytery of London which meets, or is supposed to meet, quarterly. They have a meeting, too, of Synod, annually. They met this year in London, in the school-room attached to Dr. Cumming's church. They soon finished their business and departed. The matter of chief importance before them was the case of a Dr. MacBeth. This reverend gentleman had for many years a congregation in connection with the Established Synod in the West End of London, near one of the largest and most fashionable squares, Belgrave Square, and in the very heart of the fashionable quarter. Falling into bad health, he got also into debt and was, it is said, pressed for money. The lease of the church was somehow, legally, his own property. And so after service, one Sabbath, he announced to his congregation that they were to meet there for worship no more, and accordingly he locked the door in their face. It was also reported and believed that he had offered to sell his church to the Papists, and certainly he did negotiate with the Puseyites for a sale of it to them. The news of this created quite a sensation both in England and in Scotland—especially among the Presbyterians here and there.

Finally it turned out that one of our congregations in that quarter of London,

the lease of whose church was just expiring, bought Dr. MacBeth's church from the mortgagee to whom he had by this time sold it. Our congregation, under the pastorate of our Moderator, the Rev. T. Alexander, took possession of the church, and now it is filled to the very door with one of the choicest congregations in the West End. This, of course, is a sore point in the eyes of the Established Synod; and Dr. MacBeth having, after he had shut up his church, demitted his charge to the Presbytery, the case came before their Synod. After a long speech, and a bitter, from Dr. Cumming, and a longer, and still more bitter one from Dr. MacBeth, and after a whole sederunt's wrangling, they deprived Dr. MacBeth—by the vote of a large majority—of his ministerial status, and declared him no longer a minister of their Church. Dr. MacBeth appealed to the General Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland; and so, for the present, the matter takes end—only to be resumed, however, in the Assembly, if they agree to take up the case, which they must legally do.

ANOMALOUS POSITION OF DR. CUMMING.

The Synod of the so-called Established Church of Scotland, in England, have no missions. They have no college: no united action as a Church. Their Synod has, in fact, only an appellate jurisdiction, and besides that it does nothing. The strength of the whole Church is Dr. Cumming's name. I say his name, for he does little for Presbyterianism any way, least of all perhaps for his own body in England. Among his Episcopalian friends he passes himself off as a minister of the Church of Scotland, which he no more is than I am. He was ordained here in London. He was never in his life under the jurisdiction of a Scottish Presbytery, and likely never will be now. He has a splendid congregation; large, wealthy; but it is not what it was, for Mr. Spurgeon is the popular and fashionable notoriety of the day. Nobody but Dr. Cumming could keep together his present congregation, the church in which he preaches is so very awkwardly situated. So soon as he leaves, or in any way gives it up, the doom of "the Established Church of Scotland" in this country is sealed and settled. There are very few congregations of any importance beside his own—excepting a few in the North of England—and I have no doubt the others would speedily be absorbed by us; and then, if there came union with the United Presbyterians in this country, we should be a compact Church by that time from two to three hundred strong. The Lord hasten it in his time.

THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION—THE BREAKFAST.

The Congregational Union has also been holding its sittings last week in the Weigh House Chapel, Mr. Binney's, under the Presidency of Mr. Newman Hall. I am sure I need not tell your readers who Mr. Hall is. I believe he is one of the most popular of the Congregational ministers on your side of the water. He followed Mr. James Sherman as the minister of Surrey Chapel, where the famous Rowland Hill ministered, lived, and died; for the parsonage is part of the pile of buildings. At the close of the sittings, a breakfast was given to several ministers of the Congregational Union—to the number of about two hundred—as many as could be packed into the school-room attached to the chapel. But the feature of the breakfast which was given by Mr. Hall, the invitations being issued by him, or in his name, was the strange gathering thereby brought together.

A HETEROGENEOUS ASSEMBLY.

There was, first, the rector of the parish in which Surrey Chapel stands. There was second, as representing the House of Lords, no less a personage than Lord Ebury—Lord Shaftesbury having, for reasons best known to himself, declined. There was Mr. Thos. Chambers, Mr. Harvey Lewis, Sir Frank Crossley, and a few more representing the House of Commons. There was (whom think you?) representing the Church of England, Dean Stanley, of all men. There was the son of Kossuth, the Hungarian patriot. There was Mr. Sella Martin, representing the freed slaves, I suppose; there was the Rev. Dr. Thompson, of New York; there was the Rev., the President of the Wesleyan Conference, Mr. Shaw; the Rev., the Moderator of the English Presbyterian Church, Mr. Alexander; the Rev. Dr. Angus and others representing the Baptists. These, with all the leading men of the Independent persuasion in England, such as John Stoughton and Mr. Henry Allen, made a strange gathering indeed. But the thing that has caused the greatest talk, and no little scandal, is the fact of Mr. Dean Stanley's presence.

DEAN STANLEY'S OPINIONS.

He is well known to hold hardly a scrap of anything that deserves to be called "Gospel." He laughs at imputation, scorns substitution, denies inspiration, doubts or openly professes his disbelief of all miracles; holds a sort of mysterious Deity who manifests himself at different times and places in different ways, but who is so essentially one as to preclude the possibility of any doctrine approaching to that of the Trinity; in fact, he is near to the level of the barest and boldest Socinian you could mention to me. I would not compare him for one moment with your Channing; Channing held and fell far more truth than ever did Dean Stanley. Well:

this man is invited to a breakfast, a public breakfast, in a public place, by a public man, and on public grounds. How was he received by this assemblage of Congregational ministers in the nineteenth century? They stood to their feet as one man when he entered, and waved their handkerchiefs, and stamped and cheered as if he had been a conqueror just returned from a battlefield. And so he is, a conqueror as he thinks; but the adversary is the truth of God. He stands up to speak, and has to wait several minutes before he can be heard, and, after he had finished, the whole assembly—nearly, for I at least sat still—rose again, and cheered and cheered as if they had before them the saviour of their country, if not the very Saviour of the world. Need you wonder that men are saying we live in strange times?

REPRESENTATIVE AMERICAN CHRISTIANS IN LONDON.

Your Mr. G. H. Stuart has been speaking at many meetings of all sorts here, from the Bible Society downwards, and always with the very greatest acceptance, so far as I learn, or have seen, or heard; the same may be said, though in a less degree, of Rev. R. J. Parvin, of your city. A meeting of the Christian Young Men's Association, on a grand scale, is to be held on the 22d, to do them honor, and hear their account of what was done in the war times.

OTHER TOPICS.

The cattle plague, week by week, slowly but surely diminishes; still it has not departed, and the returns are still as high as 2000 a week, and of course that must be far below the reality. We have had cases of cholera, too, in one and another town, and the weather has been of the most untoward description. We are now far on in May, and yet the leafage is but scant. It seems to me as if our spring were at least a month behind its usual time. Frosts here and there blighted and killed much of the bloom, so that our prospects of a fruit harvest are but scant, while the prospects of a grain harvest do not look much brighter. Cold, cutting East winds, and all but November fogs, have been the characteristics of our "merry month of May." Add to all this, that the European war which everybody seems to expect, is now all but inevitable, and you will not wonder when I tell you that, in many quarters, men's hearts begin "to fail them for fear." In some measure, doubtless, these considerations and combinations acted on the minds of men, and went far, if not to cause, at least to increase, the intensity of the money panic which we witnessed last week in the city of London, and which has hardly ever been equalled in intensity, possibly not within the range of the memory "of the oldest inhabitant." The furor was positively terrific; it was a panic foolish and ignoble in the extreme. It has now, however, passed away, and every day adds to the strength and steadiness of the gaze which men take into the future.

Let me come back before I close to a small ecclesiastical matter. The Free Presbytery of Glasgow have been engaged of late in dealing with one of their own ministers on a charge of heresy. Mr. W. C. Smith is an old friend and fellow-student of mine, and I know him well. His heresy is that of Dr. Norman McLeod. He fails to see the true relationship in which the old dispensation, and so the Old Testament, stands to the New. He denies the Old Testament altogether as a binding rule on us in any shape or form. I am convinced the heresy is nothing worse in him than a sin of ignorance. "Walter," as we used to call him, knows many things, and knows them well, but knows little of theology. Finally, I must humbly apologize to you and your readers for the delay of this letter. The real truth is, I have been so very busy that I have had no time for any extras whatsoever.

Yours, in good truth, PHILADELPHOS.

Special Notices.

The Presbytery of Cayuga will hold its next meeting at Aurora, Tuesday, June 19th, at two o'clock, P. M. CHAS. HAWLEY, Stated Clerk.

The Presbytery of Niagara will hold its next meeting at Lewiston, June 19th, at 4 o'clock, P. M. W. G. HUBBARD.

Philadelphia Tract and Mission Society.—Office, 115 South Seventh Street. The one hundred and thirty-sixth meeting in behalf of this Society will be held in the Calvary Presbyterian Church, Locust above Fifteenth Street, on Sabbath evening, June 10th at 8 o'clock. Rev. Messrs. Adams, Kummer, Smeal, and Church will address the meeting. Public invited. JOSEPH H. SCHREINER, Agent.

The Presbytery of Ontario will meet in Nunda, on the third Tuesday in June, (19th), at four o'clock P. M. J. BARNARD, Stated Clerk.

The Presbytery of Cortland will hold its next Stated Meeting at Dryden, on Tuesday, 12th of June, at 2 o'clock, P. M. H. N. MILLER, Stated Clerk.

Oxford Street Chapel.—The new Chapel Oxford Street, below Broad, will be dedicated with appropriate services, at eight o'clock, on Thursday evening, June 15th, at 8 o'clock. Rev. Messrs. Adams, Kummer, Smeal, and Church will address the meeting. Public invited. JOSEPH H. SCHREINER, Agent.

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The Presbytery of Ontario will meet in Nunda, on the third Tuesday in June, (19th), at four o'clock P. M. J. BARNARD, Stated Clerk.

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THE NATIONAL ORPHANS' HOME—STEAD, AT GETTYSBURG.

National Sabbath-school Enterprise.

The Sabbath-schools connected with the "Orphans named below, have taken twenty-five dollars in the Orphans' Homestead, each school thus securing by its contribution, the privilege to nominate one orphan for admission to the Institution:—

Presbyterian ch. Towanda Pa. 11 shares	\$275 00
Presbyterian ch. Laubach Pa. 11 shares	275 00
Christ Episcopal ch. Towanda Pa. 8 shares	200 00
First Baptist ch. Chester Pa. 7 shares	175 00
St. Paul's Epis ch. Philad. (in school) 6 shares	150 00
Missionary Society, Ist Independent church, Philadelphia, Pa.	150 00
First Presbyterian ch. Elizabethtown N. J. 5 shares	125 00
First Presbyterian ch. Milford N. J. 4 shares	100 00
Westminster Pres ch. Elizabethtown N. J. 4 shares	100 00
Epiphany Episcopal ch. Philad. 4 shares	100 00