

Religious Intelligence.

REFORMED CHURCHES.

The McCune Case.—The First U. P. Presbytery of Ohio met on the 2d of July, in Cincinnati. The official record of the Assembly's action in the McCune case, which had been declared necessary before proceeding at the former meeting, was presented; and Mr. McCune having withdrawn from the denomination, no further proceedings in regard to him were thought necessary. In regard to the doctrine in dispute, the Presbytery declared:

"Nothing can be more certain than that the doctrine that visible discipline is taught in her Confession and Catechisms, is the Scriptural condition of membership and fellowship in the Church of God, is still, as it always has been, the doctrine of our Church. This is the great, immovable, supreme Scripture law of organic fellowship in Zion; and, if any maintain that the decision of the last Assembly, virtually declaring the 15th article of the Testimony to be law, is inconsistent with this view, we answer, 'It does not so seem to us,' 'not at all.' But, consistent or inconsistent, this doctrine is the precious truth of God; it cannot be yielded; but must be steadfastly maintained. Any controversy doctrine is cardinal and serious error on the subject of church fellowship, and should be resisted by all who hold that the Lord Jesus Christ is our Judge, and King, and Lawgiver; and by all who have intelligently taken vows to receive and maintain our standards. And, the views which your Committee have here expressed, we believe will receive the approbation of a very large majority of ministers and people of our Church."

This affirms all that the Assembly is presumed to have condemned in affirming that the 16th article of the Testimony is the law of the Church. The controversy is, thus reopened, as Presbyteries overturn these principles to the Assembly.

The Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church (Old Side) met in Alleghany, May 22d to 29th. This Church is composed of eight Presbyteries, sixty-six ministers, and ninety-one congregations, with a membership of 7,824. During the year, 50 members had been received on profession of their faith, and in all ways \$77, the net gain being 406. The congregations raised for Foreign Missions, \$0,107.35; for Home Missions, \$2,478.02; for Freedmen, \$5,116.79; for Seminary endowment, \$2,548.74; for Church erection, \$23,193.02; for Pastors' salaries, \$47,163.40; for miscellaneous purposes, \$33,336.42, making a total of \$121,007.34; or an average of between fifteen and sixteen dollars per member.

Rev. J. R. W. Sloane, of New York, was elected Moderator. The Committee to Memorialize Congress for an amendment to the Constitution recognizing "the mediatorial headship of Christ," reported that such a memorial had been presented, and that a member from Ohio had promised to call it up, and have it referred to a Special Committee, or at least to have it printed in the *Congressional Globe*. The Theological Seminary reported sixteen students in attendance, and an endowment of \$28,113.05. It was reported that \$12,000 had been raised to establish a weekly paper, but that no editor had been secured as yet. In response to the proposal from the R. P. General Synod to re-unite, it was resolved that, "however dark the prospect may be, we firmly assure that the Church will eventually be visibly one; and we are fully persuaded that the truth, the whole truth, is the only proper basis of union." Rev. Samuel O. Wyke, of the Seventeenth Street church, in this city, was elected Professor in the Allegheny Seminary, to succeed the late Dr. James M. Willson. A proposal that the Synod should endow and control a Chair in Westminster College (U. P.) was declined. The Church has a very successful mission to the Freedmen in Washington, and a Foreign Mission in Syria.

A Hint.—The N. Y. Observer concludes its notice of our Philadelphia Farewell Meeting to the Irish delegation as follows:—

"No one from all the delegations from the old country, that we have ever had the pleasure of welcoming to our shores, has made a more favorable impression than the Rev. Dr. Hall of Dublin. His simplicity of character, and his genial manners, his warm-hearted piety; his rare talents, profound learning and glowing eloquence, have quite captivated the hearts of our people, and where not surprised that he has received, more than one pressing invitation to return and make his home among us. We should rejoice to welcome him to our shores, as a fellow laborer in the cause of Christ, and we are not without hope that we may have the opportunity."

Dr. Hamilton's Illness.—The numerous friends of the distinguished pastor of the Regent Square Presbyterian Church, London, Rev. James Hamilton, D. D., will be deeply grieved to learn that he has probably ceased from his earthly labors. A letter received in this city from one of his elders, says:—

"Our beloved friend and minister, Dr. Hamilton, has been seized with paralysis of the brain, and that fine intellect now lies a stricken wreck, unable to recognize even his dearest friends. We are all in profound sorrow, for he was dearly loved, and only the faintest hopes are given of his recovery.—*N. Y. Observer.* [Later accounts give hope of recovery.—Ed. A. P.]

Ordination of a Foreign Missionary.—An interesting meeting in behalf of Foreign Missions was held in Dr. Bredt's Church, Seventeenth and Spruce Sts., under the auspices of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, O. S., on the evening of the 16th inst. In connection with the services, the Presbytery ordained Mr. Francis Heyl Jr., to the work of the Gospel ministry, preparatory to his departure as a Missionary of the Foreign Board of that church in Northern India.

The Synod of the Presbyterian Church in the Lower Provinces met at New Glasgow, June 27th. Five licensures and eight ordinations and inductions were reported. Reports on temperance from sixty-five congregations showed that but nine communicants are engaged in the Liquor Traffic. There are eighteen in a subordinate position engaged in the business, as clerks, &c. Sixty-six regular hearers are in the traffic. 4,600 communists in the 65 congregations are total abstainers. The Financial Report showed receipts of \$5,969 for Foreign, and \$5,450 for Home Missions. Income for Education, \$5,103, being mainly interest on a fund of \$60,000. The mission to the New Hebrides, in the South Pacific, is sustained in connection with the R. P. Church in Scotland, and is liberally aided by the Presbyterians of Australia. It was unanimously resolved to establish a mission to the Coolies of Trinidad, W. I., the U. P. Church of the United States having placed their mission premises in that island at Synod's disposal; and Rev. John Morton, of Bridgewater, having offered himself for the work. The Canada Synod's delegation were warmly received. Elder Court said: "There is among us an earnest desire for closer union, communion and cooperation. Whatever the feeling with regard to Confederation, it is now a fact history, and wisdom demands that we should promptly recognize our obligations and opportunities arising from the circumstances in which we find ourselves placed." Father Clinchy briefly addressed the Synod on the duty and necessity of union in these eventful times.

The Canada Presbyterian Synod met in Toronto, June 4th; 203 ministers being in attendance, the largest meeting since the union. Presbyteries report showed, during the year, 11 licensures,

15 ordinations, 22 installations, 4 ministers received, and one dead. The increase in the number of ministers has been 19, making the number of the roll 267, against 248 last year. There are 41,907 communicants, a gain of 5,196. 21,765 children are enjoying Sabbath School instruction, while 7,554 are found in the Bible Class,—an aggregate of 29,819. Accommodation is provided for 105,000 hearers. The average stipend has now reached the sum of \$507.30, and the Committee suggested that six hundred dollars be made the minimum standard of ministerial support. For a period of eleven months, the sum retained for all church purposes amounted to \$301,209.79, being an increase over last year of \$9,000.Leave was granted to receive 5 ministers (one Congregational, one Wesleyan, and to license 15 students). Synod was addressed by the Free Church delegates; and by Prof. C. E. Stowe, Knox College, was reported as in a very satisfactory condition, and two additional lectures, "one of Apologetics, the other of Pastoral Theology" were created. The effort made to establish a college at Montreal has resulted in raising \$20,000 and Synod appointed one Professor to begin with. Rev. G. P. Young, and elected a College Board, and Senate. The receipts for Home Missions had been \$11,931.89, and the disbursements \$9,652.15; in addition to \$27,600 contributed locally; 155 preaching stations in 36 fields of labor had been aided, as also 47 weak congregations. The Irish Presbyterian Church was thanked for aid in this work to the amount of \$1,221. Father Clinchy's Kankakee (Ill.) work was entrusted to a committee of Synod and recommended as a separate Church scheme to the congregations. Synod dismissed an appeal from suspension for marrying a deceased wife's sister, by a vote of 138 to 5. The organ question was sent down to the Presbyteries, laid its interior use forbidden. Synod appointed one Professor to begin with. Rev. G. P. Young, and elected a College Board, and Senate. The receipts for Home Missions had been \$11,931.89, and the disbursements \$9,652.15; in addition to \$27,600 contributed locally; 155 preaching stations in 36 fields of labor had been aided, as also 47 weak congregations. The Irish Presbyterian Church was thanked for aid in this work to the amount of \$1,221. Father Clinchy's Kankakee (Ill.) work was entrusted to a committee of Synod and recommended as a separate Church scheme to the congregations. Synod dismissed an appeal from suspension for marrying a deceased wife's sister, by a vote of 138 to 5. The organ question was sent down to the Presbyteries, laid its interior use forbidden.

Congregationalists.—Mr. Clay Macaulay, of the last class in the Seminary at Chicago, has accepted a call to the pastorate of the Congregational Church at Morrison, Ill.—On the 11th of July fifty persons were admitted to the church in West Brookfield, Conn., fifty-one by profession and six by letter, the youngest eleven and the oldest seventy years of age! Thirty were heads of families, and twenty-three were heads of households. The first baptism was administered on January 1st, there have been seventy-five admissions since, sixty-two by confession. The Church has voted to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of its organization, which occurs Oct. 10th, of the present year. The Church having been organized in 1717. The 150th anniversary will be celebrated in 1867. The First Mortg. Bonds which the Company now offer to the public. The first question asked by prudent investors is, "Are these bonds secure?" Next, "Are they a profitable investment?" To reply in brief:

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8th. Although it is not claimed that there can be any better securities than Governments, there are parties who consider a first mortgage upon such a property as this the very best security in the world, and who sell their Governments to re-invest in these bonds—thus securing a greater interest.

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