

American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1867.

Westminster Abbey, Parliament and Billingsgate Market, by our European Correspondent; Mr. Hammond's last letter from Palestine, and Kil-gloved Reform, page 2d; Rural Economy and Scientific, page 3d; Family Circle, page 6th; and the first instalment of Prof. Smith's Report to the Evangelical Alliance on America, page 7th.

The offer of the American Agriculturist of "3 months for 0," published in our advertising columns last week was intended for subscribers received in September; they now offer to send "2 months for 0" to those who subscribe during October.

THE APPROACHING CONVENTION OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES TO MEET NOV. 6, 1867.—Pastors of the various churches in this city are earnestly requested to send names of friends in their respective congregations willing to entertain one or more delegates, to the Committee on Entertainment, No. 912 Market-street, 2d floor, at the earliest moment.

WM. GETTY, Chairman.

KENDERTON CHURCH, on Monday, Oct. 14, unanimously elected Rev. Samuel W. Duffield pastor. They offer him a salary of \$1200 without any missionary aid, although formerly with such aid they gave but \$600. Mr. Duffield having accepted the call, is the first pastor since the organization of the church. Under its present degree of prosperity and its encouraging prospects for the future, we cannot doubt that the relation will be mutually profitable. The building is neat, commodious, and clear of debt, and the surrounding community look with favor upon the enterprise.

PRESBYTERIAN NATIONAL UNION CONVENTION.

This Convention to be composed of Ministers and Elders from the various Presbyteries and kindred bodies, will meet in accordance with the circular already issued on Wednesday, the 6th day of November next, at 11 o'clock, A. M., in the city of Philadelphia, in the 1st Reformed Presbyterian church (Rev. Dr. Wylie's), Broad between Spruce and Pine streets.

A General Union Prayer Meeting will be held in the same church on Tuesday evening preceding the Convention at 7 1/2 o'clock.

The churches of the Presbyterian order throughout the country are invited to hold prayer-meetings on the day of the meeting of the Convention or during its sessions to invoke the blessing of God upon its deliberations. Pastors are also requested to remember the Convention in prayer on Sabbath, November 3d.

Delegates will please send their names at once to George H. Stuart, chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, No. 13 Bank street.

Entertainment will be cheerfully provided for those who may desire it, and such persons will please send their names to William Getty, chairman of the Committee on Entertainment, No. 912 Market street, so as to reach him on or before the 4th November.

The Committee on Entertainment will be in session in the Lecture-room of the church on Tuesday, from 2 P.M. until after the prayer-meeting, and again at 9 o'clock on Wednesday morning, ready to assign delegates to their places of abode.

Rail Roads, whose terminus is in Philadelphia, will convey properly certified delegates on the following terms:

Pennsylvania R. R. and Philadelphia & Erie R. R. will return free those who have paid full fare.

North Pennsylvania R. R. will issue excursion tickets from their various ticket offices at half fare, good from the 4th to the 14th of November.

Philadelphia & Reading R. R. will issue excursion tickets at single fare from \$2 upward; less than \$2, two-thirds of double fare.

Camden & Amboy R. R., covering all the lines between Philadelphia and New York, will issue excursion tickets for the round trip at \$4, provided the Committee can take fifty. Those who wish to avail themselves of this should write immediately to Geo. H. Stuart, Philadelphia, and if the requisite number are applied for tickets can be mailed to the applicants.

Rail Roads in other parts of the country will, on proper application, extend similar facilities, which, in some of the leading cities, our friends may announce in their local religious papers.

Geo. H. Stuart, Chairman, Committee of Arrangements.  
W. T. Eya, Secretary.  
PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 15, 1867.

Several communications are unavoidably deferred.

SYNOD OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The annual meeting of this Synod was held in the city of Williamsport, commencing on Tuesday evening, the 15th instant. The attendance was very good, especially so in view of the fact that Williamsport is at the remotest point northward of the Synod. It is worthy of notice that, with the exception of the Presbytery covering that ground, the largest proportional representation was from that of the District of Columbia, lying at the opposite extreme.

The retiring Moderator, Rev. Wm. E. Moore, preached the opening sermon from John iv. 34. "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." The discourse was in the proper etymological sense of the word, edifying. Passing beyond the popular interpretation of the passage, the preacher regarded the divine author of the text as declaring that his spiritual (human) nature was built up under the strengthening and maturing influence of an active and suffering obedience, just as the physical system is invigorated and perfected by the nourishment of food. This brought out the theme of the discourse: "A life of duty—the means of Christian growth and perfection." For a closing illustration a felicitous reference was made to our own church—to the stagnation in the days of the past when our energies were expended in internal strife and hunting of heresies, as contrasted with the growth and the wholesomeness of condition of the later years, while, at peace with one another, we have thrown ourselves with freshened zeal into the service of extension, and sending the gospel to the wastes in our own country, and the dark places in the ends of the earth.

Rev. William Tracy, of the Presbytery of Harrisburg, who, after an absence of thirty years as a missionary of the American Board in India, is now on a visit to this country, was elected Moderator, and Rev. Messrs. Charles D. Shaw and Stephen W. Dana, Temporary Clerks.

On Wednesday Rev. Messrs. Robinson and Moore, the committee to attend the examination in Union Theological Seminary, reported that they had fulfilled their appointment, and in common with committees from other Synods they cordially expressed their satisfaction as to the manner in which the students sustained their examination, and commend the Seminary to the confidence and support of the churches, and to young men intending to study for the ministry. The committee concluded its report with a proposal that Synod should express its wish that the Seminary should be placed under the care of the General Assembly, at least so far as the election of Professors is concerned. The first part of report was approved. But the suggestion of the committee was laid over for future consideration. Rev. Byron Sunderland, D.D., and Rev. Frank L. Robbins were appointed to attend the next examination.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Rev. John McLeod, from the Synodical committee on Foreign Missions reported the amount of contributions from the churches individually during the year. Presbyterially aggregated the amounts are as follows.

Presbytery of District of Columbia,	\$811 00
Wilmington,	740 00
Philadelphia, 3rd,	5250 00
Philadelphia, 4th,	4743 00
Harrisburg,	2262 00

Synodical Total, \$13,806 00

The Presbytery of Harrisburg was the only one in which contributions were reported from every church, but the pleasant fact was revealed that throughout the Synod the exceptional cases of non-reporting churches were few, much fewer than in past years. In the Presbytery of the District the average of contributions from each member were 46 cents; in Wilmington, 40; in Philadelphia, 3rd, 1.13; in Philadelphia, 4th, 71; in Harrisburg, 1.66. It was, however, only too apparent that, in coming down to individual members, the number who give absolutely nothing, is very large, and to this sad fact the attention of pastors and sessions was earnestly directed. Reference was made to our Lord's two great commands—the first, "Do this in remembrance of me," and the next, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Our membership, with scarcely an exception, observe the first: why not the equally explicit one which follows?

Rev. Robert Adair, from the Synodical Committee on Church Erection, reported that no cases had arisen requiring the action of the Synod.

The committee on the Minutes of the General Assembly reported for the consideration of the Synod, the Assembly's recommendations in relation to special seasons of prayer. It was thereupon resolved, that it be recommended to the congregations to observe the week commencing with the first Sabbath in January as a season of special prayer and religious services; and also that the last Thursday in February be set apart for the concert for prayer, for the effusion of the Holy Spirit upon colleges and other seminaries of learning.

PUBLICATION.

The Standing Committee on Publication reported a gratifying increase of the means and efficiency of this enterprise,—that of sales having grown from \$3,700 in 1858, to more than \$50,000 in 1867. The establishment of local depositories secured by raising small funds in the locality, was recommended as a means of getting

the publications of the Committee where they can be seen and known by the people. Notice was taken of the need of tracts and books reflecting the doctrines and ecclesiasticism of our church, for gratuitous distribution by missionaries. Regret was expressed that the liberality of our churches and people, for promoting such gratuitous distribution was so limited, the account standing as follows:

District of Columbia, 2 out of 9 are contributing churches. Amount contributed, \$60; Wilmington, 3 out of 17 contributing churches, \$190; Philadelphia 3rd, 1 out of 24 contributing churches, \$665; Philadelphia 4th, 9 out of 30 contributing churches, \$43; Harrisburg, 8 out of 9 contributing churches, \$1,518.

The report closed with a recommendation of the *Presbyterian Monthly* to increased patronage, not alone for revenue, but as a means of bringing the people face to face with our noble church enterprises, and to show to them what immense opportunities for usefulness are before us.

RELIGIOUS PRESS.

The committee on the AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN reported the following resolutions which, after earnest support from a number of members, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this Synod recognizes the AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN as an indispensable aid in forwarding the denominational and spiritual interests of the region which it occupies.

Resolved, That the soundness of its general ecclesiastical and doctrinal tone, its peculiar fidelity to our denominational interests, its favor toward the wider interests of Christianity which are the common care of the church catholic, its many utterances for right and holiness in all those departments of action where immorality and wrong seek to establish themselves, and its acknowledged power in forming a wholesome public sentiment, increase our sense of the importance of sustaining it upon a scale of liberality which shall nourish its vigor and enlarge its usefulness.

Resolved, That this must be done, and it shall now be the care of Synod to see that it is done. To this end it is urged that the number of patrons be at once increased to a minimum of six additional subscribers in each of our congregations, and larger numbers in proportion to the circumstances of cases.

Resolved, That we are encouraged in an effort to this end, by the gratifying announcement of an important improvement in the subscription list of the paper during the past year.

Resolved, That Synod looks to its Pastors and Sessions as the efficient agency for carrying out the work here proposed, and it especially urges the Sessions of vacant churches to consider that the upholding influence of a safe and earnest religious paper is never more essential to their spiritual support, than while they are without an established pastoral watchfulness.

Resolved, That Rev. J. Garland Hamner, Rev. G. E. Wiswell, D.D., Rev. H. A. Smith, Rev. W. T. Eya, Rev. M. P. Jones, and Messrs. Jas. S. Earle, B. Kendall, Samuel T. Bodine and Samuel C. Perkins be appointed a Synodical Committee, to prosecute any measures which may be agreed upon by the proprietor and themselves for securing the objects contemplated by these resolutions.

HOME MISSIONS.

The Standing Committee on Home Missions reported that the Third and Fourth Presbyteries were cultivating their fields with the usual amount of diligence and success. The Presbytery of Harrisburg has opened two or three new mission stations, and hopes soon to organize one or more churches. Wilmington has resuscitated three supposed extinct churches on the Peninsula, and is engaged in exploring that ground for new fields. The District Presbytery has revived action in some collapsed churches in Maryland. No statistics respecting the contributions were given, the committee referring Synod to the last published report of the Assembly's Permanent Committee for information.

MINISTERIAL RELIEF.

The Standing Committee on the Ministerial Relief Fund reported that the contributions of the year have been as follows:

District Columbia, 3 contributing churches, 3 cents per member, whole amount \$57; Wilmington, 3 contributing churches, 5 cents per member, whole amount \$98; Philadelphia 3rd, 15 contributing churches, 15 cents per member, whole amount \$719; Philadelphia 4th, 15 contributing churches, 14 cents per member, whole amount \$941; Harrisburg, 5 contributing churches, 43 cents per member, whole amount \$589. Synodical Total, \$2404.

The increase of contributions over those of the last year was fifty per cent. The applications for aid from the field at large have increased in the same or a greater ratio, and a still larger increase is expected. It was recommended that the Presbyteries continue in existence efficient committees to attend to the interests of this enterprise, that they endeavor to secure the co-operation of every church, that Pastors and Sessions give to Ministerial Relief a place for periodical and systematic contributions, and that the cause be remembered in the prayers of the churches.

EDUCATION.

The Standing Committee on Education stated that only an imperfect account of contributions had been secured. The following were reported:

District Columbia, 7 contributing churches, amount \$60; Wilmington, 8 contributing churches, amount \$147; Philadelphia 3rd, 15 contributing churches, amount \$559; Philadelphia 4th, 11 contributing churches, amount \$1052; Harrisburg, 8 contributing churches, amount \$782. Total \$2600.

Twenty-five candidates for the ministry are under the care of the Presbyteries connected

with the Synod. Appropriate mention was made of the great loss sustained in the death of the originator of this enterprise as a distinct denominational one, and its efficient executive officer to the last, Rev. Thornton A. Mills, D.D.

NARRATIVE

The concise report of the Committee on the Narrative of the State of Religion, we insert in full, as follows:

The Narratives of the Presbyteries all contain evidences of material prosperity, and of spiritual growth. Many of the church edifices have been renovated and enlarged. Several new ones have been built and some are now in progress. The congregations are in most instances large and attentive. Sabbath-schools are prosperous, good order and harmony prevail. The various operations connected with the extension of the Gospel in our own and other lands, are sustained with an increasing though yet greatly insufficient liberality.

But amidst all these evidences of God's goodness, there is a mournful and surprising absence of these mighty operations of the Holy Spirit which we need, and which God is ready to give. The impenitent have not been converted in large numbers, the professed disciples of Christ have not manifested faith, love and devotedness of life on a scale commensurate either to the high standard of the New Testament, the wants of the world, or the intense activities of the age in which we live. Instead of consuming time of the Synod, with a protracted narrative your committee would hold up to the view of all the evident fact that the great want of our churches and the world is the fulfillment of the Saviour's promise at the beginning of the Gospel.—*Ye shall receive the power of the Holy Ghost coming upon you, and ye shall be witnesses for me, unto the uttermost parts of the earth.*

DECEASED MINISTERS.

In relation to deceased members the following minute was adopted:

The Synod regards as an appropriate matter for record the providence of God in the removal by death, during the Synodical year, of two of its honored members, Rev. George Foot, of the Presbytery of Wilmington, and Rev. James W. Davis, of the Presbytery of Harrisburg. Mr. Foot's membership in this body has been of long standing; he has occupied the position of its presiding officer, and has been an active and able participant in its deliberations. As a pastor he was active and faithful, persevering in his work until disabled by those physical infirmities which terminated in his death. He was a solid theologian and a watchful defender of the truth as it is in Jesus. Mr. Davis was for several years devoted to the spiritual welfare of our soldiers, though for many previous years he had been a faithful pastor. He had reached a good old age, and was obliged to struggle with great infirmities and trials. These he bore with peculiar fortitude and a most unselfish devotion to his Master. Both of these brethren died in heavenly peace and under the supports of the faith which they so long preached. While expressing this remembrance of the departed, we would accept the admonitions which these constantly recurring providences afford. As said our Master of himself in his humanity, so would we say to ourselves, "I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day: the night cometh when no man can work."

Dr. Mears offered the following, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the act of the last Legislature of Pennsylvania, known as the Sunday Liquor Law, is, in the judgment of Synod, a most wise and wholesome enactment; the faithful enforcement of which, especially in our large cities, will prove a great defence against vice, a guarantee for a well-kept Sabbath, and a promoter of habits of Temperance among the people; and Synod regards it the bounden duty of the members of its churches within the bounds of the State of Pennsylvania, to give their cordial support to the maintenance and enforcement of the law; and that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor and the heads of both branches of the Legislature of this State.

The devotional exercises formed a peculiarly pleasant character of the meeting. According to a standing rule, the first and last half hours of each morning session were given to these services. They were uniformly solemn, and at times the deep tenderness common to season of spiritual revival, was visible in all parts of the house.

This was especially the case on Thursday morning when the feeling drifted into anxiety and prayer for the conversion of the children of the ministers of the Synod. In this connection the Moderator, who many years ago began the experience of that bitter necessity of missionary life, the parting with his children that, in a Christian land they may be out of sight of the pollutions of heathen life, and be educated in Christian schools, gave a touching view of the heart of the missionary while making these most painful parental sacrifices, and of the heart of the children left behind, who, though nourished and loved by the friends around them, send back to their parents the cry, "I want to feel a parent's love; I want to say to somebody, 'Father! Mother!' I want somebody to say to me, 'My son!'" In his tender manner, and at times broken in his discourse by his own tears, he related cases of grief, such as that of the widowed missionary mother who, standing on the shore while the vessel started off, bearing away to America all her children while she remained alone in her work, clasped her hands in anguish and raising them to heaven, cried, "O my Jesus! I make this sacrifice for thee." He appealed to the audience to remember such, and the appeal was answered by tears; in some cases by audible weeping.

We do not recollect ever to have witnessed in a meeting of the Synod, so large an attendance of the people of the place on the hours assigned to devotion. The Synodical prayer-meeting was held on Wednesday afternoon, and the Sacramental Supper, on the evening of the same day. At the latter, the honored Moderator presided, and the elements were administered by Rev. Messrs. Adair and Dunning. The house was full. A good number from the Old School Church accepted the cordial invitation to all Evangelical Christians to participate in this fellowship, visible as well as real.

On Thursday evening, addresses were delivered in behalf of our denominational enterprises. Dr. Paul (Ruling Elder), advocated the cause of Foreign Missions, speaking from a heart long in sympathy, practical as well as emotional, with our Foreign Missionaries and their work. Mr. Adair spoke for Home Missions, Secretary Ellinwood for Church Erection, Mr. Aikman for Education, Mr. Brown for Ministerial Relief, and Dr. Wiswell on a broad scale for the evangelization of our fast populating regions by any and every means. All spoke with power, and left solemn impressions—God grant that they may not have the vice of transitoriness. Dr. Ellinwood made a feeling allusion, afterwards affecting revived by Mr. Aikman, to the great loss sustained by the Church in the death of Rev. Thornton A. Mills, D.D.—a strong, persistent, moulding spirit, which had passed on to the land of the holy.

After the usual complimentary resolutions, offered by Dr. March, and followed in his happiest vein with a parting address to the people of Williamsport, who with so unaffected Christian hospitality, had given to the members a delightful temporary home, and a feeling and beautiful response from the pastor Mr. Sterling, Synod adjourned to meet in Reading on the third Tuesday in October, 1868, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

A notice of this meeting ought not to be closed without paying a tribute to the excellent manner in which the Moderator presided over its Sessions. It was felt from the first, that, under the peculiar circumstances of his long connection with us, and his being our only remaining representative in the Foreign Missionary work, it was fit that at this, his first presence with us for some thirty years, and perhaps his last meeting with us upon earth, he should sit at the head of the assembly. But the Synod was not prepared to find in a brother so long disused to our forms and rules of Presbyterial proceedings, so accomplished a presiding officer as he proved himself to be. We have rarely seen the chair filled by one who better understood its duties, or fulfilled them with more grace or quiet promptness. These qualities, united to an earnest Christian tone will secure for his moderatorship a pleasant remembrance.

FROM OUR ROCHESTER CORRESPONDENT.

SYNOD OF UTICA.

The annual meeting of this body was held in Clinton, commencing on Tuesday evening, October 8th, with an excellent sermon by Rev. A. H. Corliss. Rev. J. Jermain Porter, D.D., was elected Moderator, and Revs. Edward Lord and B. F. Willoughby, Clerks. On Wednesday afternoon the Communion sermon was preached by Rev. John Reid. After the celebration of the Lord's Supper, Rev. A. McLean, of Buffalo, appeared as a delegate from the Synod of Buffalo, (O. S.) and presented, in a warm, earnest speech, the fraternal salutations of that body; to which the Moderator made a very handsome reply. Both earnestly favored re-union.

On Wednesday evening, by appointment Rev. Dr. Fisher preached a most able and eloquent discourse, on the signs of the times, and our duty as a Church to occupy the entire land with the Gospel. Bro. Stowe had already placed his big Map in the rear of the pulpit, to which the speaker frequently alluded, and that too was pleading most eloquently all the time for the same object.

After singing, Rev. M. P. Parmelee, a returned Missionary from Turkey, was heard for half an hour on the interest of Missions in that dark land. Although the evening was far spent, and the congregation had already had a surfeit of good things, they manifested no unseemly impatience to retire, but heard the missionary to the close, evidently much interested in what he had to say.

On Thursday forenoon Rev. Mr. Stowe was heard for Home Missions, Rev. J. W. Dulles for Publication, and Rev. J. B. Richardson for the Bible Society. In the afternoon Rev. Dr. Fisher was appointed delegate to the Synod of Buffalo, (O. S.) for next year; Rev. W. B. Stewart was heard for the Am. and For. Christian Union; and there was some discussion on re-union, some presenting the difficulties and others looking more favorably upon the project. The matter was left to the Presbyteries.

On Thursday evening, a popular meeting was held in behalf of Home Missions, Church Erection and Education; with able and very interesting addresses by Dr. Porter, President Brown, Dr. Ellinwood, Prof. Upson, and Rev. A. M. Stowe.

And so ended the meeting of the Synod of Utica. It was well attended by its members; had much business to do, and gave heed to it; staid until the business was through, holding on until Thursday evening, and then adjourned. We