Lancaster Intelligencer.

WEDNESDAY EVE'G, MARCH 14, 1883

Freight Discriminations.

The House of Representatives has passed the bill to prevent discrimination by railroads in their charges. We believe the bill simply enacts the language of the constitution, provides a penalty of $1,000, and leaves to the jury the question of the injustice of the discrimination. A railroad company gets into merciless hands when it falls under the harrow of a jury, and probably the Legislature could do nothing worse to them than to hand them over to a jury's care. Railroad officers hate juries with great fervor. They have a very low opinion of this great "palladium" of our liberties; but the public generally find the jury a very good institution, especially when it gives heavy damages against a railroad. For the fact is that the people hate the railroad managers; that is the reason the juries do, because they come from the people. The people and the jury cannot help being in sympathy. There exists between railroad corporations and the public an irrepressible conflict; the railroads, when they have the people under their thumb, handle them without consideration. They do as they please, and to those who do not like it, they say in the language of Mr. Tweed, "What are you going to do about it?" And when a jury gets hold of a railroad, it uses its power with as little consideration for the feelings of those whom it has by the ears.

So that on the whole the people have reason to be satisfied if the Legislature turns over to their juries the matter of restraining railroad discrimination. If the Legislature makes the whip stout enough, and gives it a good stinging lash, the juries will be apt to apply it with a discrimination that will at least suit the public taste. The effect of such a law ought to be to make the railroad officers very accommodating. We all know how the most arrogant of people become the most humble when they come before anyone who holds a whip over them. There will not be the least profit in the practice of anything but the justest rules in arranging a freight and passenger tariff, when juries everywhere along the line of the road in the state stand ready to put their scrutiny upon the charges; they will have to be of the fairest kind to pass muster.

The constitution says that everyone shall have an equal right to railroad transportation, and that "no undue or unreasonable discrimination shall be made in charges for, or in facilities for, transportation of freight or passengers within this state, or coming from or going to any other state. Persons and property transported over any railroad, shall be delivered at any station, at charges not exceeding the charges for transportation of persons and property of the same class, in the same direction to any more distant station." That languaage might be improved, but it is good enough for its purpose, if a jury is left free to construe it, and the penalty is made severe enough to be feared.

VENERABLE in years, picturesque with its historical associations, eminent in material resources and foremost in its spiritual activities, the conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, whose members are sojourning in our city during its ninety-sixth annual session, may with good right review its history with pride. Our national historian makes the development of Methodism a significant feature of the growth of American institutions. Its century of history is almost exactly contemporaneous with the history of the government, and the story of its wonderful growth and influence makes a large chapter in the record of the marvellous story of the American people. Numbering its churches by tens of thousands, and its adult membership by millions, planting its places of worship every day on the frontier line of advancing development, and doing its great work of evangelization, education and philanthropy all over the world, no estimation of the vital forces of human progress is accurate that does not make due account of its influence and significance. The representatives of this great interest are warmly welcomed to the hospitality of our city, and the proceedings of their conference have a general interest for the whole community.

INDICATIONS multiply that it is the determined purpose of the Republicans in the Legislature to block the passage of the apportionment bills this winter, for the reason that they know that any pretense of a fair apportionment will be less favorable to their partisan interests than the existing gerrymanders forced upon the state by Republican Legislatures ten years ago, and more grotesque in their unfairness now than they were even then intended to be by their projectors. Unfortunately, and owing to the ignorance of Democratic management in such things, the apportionment bills were returned late and obtained a low place on the calendar. They cannot obtain preference of consideration without a suspension of the regular order, which the Republicans will not assent to, for there seems to be no body of Republicans in the House able to rise to the level of a demand for a fair apportionment, to be made as the constitution peremptorially directs. There is one thing that remains for the Democrats to do if the opposition persists in its arbitrary purposes to defeat the plain direction of the fundamental law. Every preceding bill, as its turn comes, can be postponed until the apportionment measures are reached. Grave public duties demand heroic treatment and no more serious concern is enjoined upon the Legislature than the passage of apportionment bills.

METHODIST conferences in Lancaster county, though like angels' visits in respect of being few and far between, are not entire strangers here. It has been some twenty-eight years since conference last assembled here, and the city, like the conference, has changed somewhat since then—both for the better it is to be hoped. Less familiar than with the proceedings of that assemblage of over a quarter of a century ago, are the visiting brethren with a conference that assembled in Lancaster county about four-score years ago and in the days of primitive Methodism, of which even the recollections rouse the orators to fervor and their audiences to enthusiasm. At Soudersburg, ten miles from Lancaster, down the Philadelphia turnpike, in 1804, Bishop Asbury, of blessed memory, presided over the seventeenth annual session of the Philadelphia conference, some account of which, specially prepared for the INTELLIGENCER, will appear in its columns to-morrow.

NOTWITHSTANDING the hanging of two men for murder in New York on Friday, the Sunday following witnessed two cruel murders in that city, committed with a deliberation that plainly showed the murderers to make no account of the example set by the fate of those who had gone to their death two days before by way of the gallows erected by the law. Hanging is not "played out," but if it has any influence to alter men from crime it has not been demonstrated.

IT was only a little election yesterday over in Camden, but the Democrats carried by 600 majority the chief city of the late Mr. Robeson's district.

BENJAMIN BUTTERWORTH, a Philadelphia sexton, has been held to answer the charge of indecency to a little girl, but his congressional namesake, who emptied the ladies' gallery on a memorable occasion, is still at large.

ONE of the witnesses in the Delaney investigation at Harrisburg heard of 100 bar boxes of soap being cut down to sixty in a box; and thus it was that the contractor was able to supply the state at $1.50 less per box than the wholesale cost price. This was as considerate as the humane coal contractor, who supplied the state with 1,200 pounds to the ton to save his horses from hauling too heavy a load up capitol hill.

WHARTON BARKER having accomplished civil service reform, a remodeling of the tariff and a reduction of the internal revenue, now directs that the revenue from tobacco shall be divided among the various states in accordance with the population, a certain percentage to be used for the payment of the state's debts, and the rest for the public schools. "We Independents propose to force the Regulars to adopt this, and if possible have it placed in the next national platform."

HONS. WM. S. EVARTS and Roscoe Conkling, are to be interrogated by some persons who have large mercantile interests at stake, with reference to the question that is coming up, touching the constitutionality of the new tariff. The idea has got abroad that the Senate transcended its functions in "originating" a revenue measure, and that if a case can be made for the supreme court, that tribunal will declare the whole thing null and void. If Conkling and Evarts could be got to agree on something it would be worth an effort, anyhow.

THE rival operatic war between Abbey with Nillson and Mapleson with Patti has reached white heat. And the climax of bombastic advertising is reached in this description of Patti's success by her manager:

"In Pittsburgh the scene was something to be remembered. Magnificently dressed women, with Patti tickets clutched tightly in their hands, fought their way from one landing to another. Great bouquets of exquisite artificial flowers were brushed from their corsages and were trampled among a thousand feet. At the matinee in Boston the lobby was one unbroken mass of wet and dripping men and women. After the house was in 131 single overshoes were picked up. They were thrown into a heap. In the evening nearly as many more were added to the pile."

FEATURES OF THE STATE PRESS.

The *Legislative Record* is the most irregular of our exchanges. But when it comes it is numerous.

The York *Age* avows that its editorial staff consists of two live and experienced newspaper men.

The Altoona *Tribune* kicks at the idea of Huntingdon county being attached to Blair as a judicial district. It wants to go it alone.

The Scranton *Republican* thinks that if the new lunacy bill does not suit the asylum superintendents they had better resign.

The Philadelphia *News* declares that no one objects to the proper limitation of the powers of the building commission. But to abolish it is another matter.

The Philadelphia *Press* and *Inquirer* have a good word for Gen. Peter Muhlenberg as the subject for a Pennsylvania statue in the national capitol.

The Hughesville *Enterprise* sees clearly that "all the signs point to the approaching dissolution of the Republican organization."

The Wilkesbarre *Record* foretells a good time coming when there will be "a new deal in which the Delaney-Adams class of self sacrificing patriots will have no opportunity for plunder."

The Oil City *Derrick* shouts that the conviction of ballot box thieves in Philadelphia is "glorious." "Let the good work go on until there is left no man who dare do these dastardly deeds."

The Harrisburg *Independent* ascribes the downfall of Republicanism to its ruthless disregard of public opinion, and thinks the party should advertise for leaders.

The Pittsburgh *Leader* does not believe the Dukes jury is a "set-up" one because it happens to be composed of Democrats. The real hope of Dukes is reliance on his social status. Can Fayette county hang "a gentleman?"

The Columbia *Herald* suspects that the bill reducing the internal revenue taxes should have been entitled "an act for the benefit of cigar manufacturers and manufacturers of proprietary medicines." The consumer will have to pay the same old price for his pills and cigars.

EX-SENATOR WINDOM will not go to New York. He loves Minnesota too well—and he has some grudges out there to pay off.

NEWS NOTES.

A COUPLE OF IDIOTS WITH GUNS.

A Playful Young Man Who Did Not Know It Was Loaded.—Various Other Recent Happenings.

Catharine Adams, a young lady 18 years of age, living at Caseyville, St. Clair county, Ill., some ten miles from East St. Louis, was shot and killed last Saturday evening by John Jacobs, an intimate friend. Jacobs was sitting at his front door looking out, and seeing a young lady friend coming up the street he thought it would be a nice thing to play a practical joke on her and frighten her a little. He hurried into an adjoining room, picked up an old shot gun, which he supposed was empty, and putting on a cap he hurried back to the door. He thought he would snap the cap at her, and that the sound of it, whether she saw the gun or not, would make her jump. He waited where he could not be seen till she was in front of the door, only a few feet from him, and then pulled the trigger. There was a loud bang and a little cloud of smoke, and Catharine Adams fell dead at his feet. She did not speak a word, and perhaps never knew that she had been or was going to be shot. Jacobs was, of course, horrified and went about afterward crying like an idiot, that he was. The villagers quickly gathered, and there was great indignation and threats of lynching, but a train soon came along and the constable hustled Jacobs aboard, and now the prisoner is at Belleville, in the county jail. The young lady was eighteen years old, very pretty, and was popular in the little town, which numbers only two or three hundred inhabitants.

Telling on His Confederates.

The case of Enos J. Crowther, charged with complicity in the robbery of $100,000 worth of city bonds from the treasurer's office in St. Joseph, Missouri, a year ago, is now on trial in that city. Tuesday John S. Cox, one of the defendents, turned states evidence. He testified that he, with Crowther, Irwin and Scott, planned the robbery, and that "on the night of 17th of March, while the St. Patrick's day ball was going on in the City hall, Crowther and Scott entered the office of the city register and abstracted the bonds from the vaults. Subsequently Scott and Irwin went to New York and negotiated them."

A Precocious Boy.

Mrs. Kline, of Westbury, Long Island, went out yesterday morning leaving her ten-year-old son to take care of his sisters aged six and eight years. During her absence the boy got his father's gun, placed his eldest sister on a bench, said they "would have some fun," and fired at her, causing a fatal wound. When he saw what he had done he washed the wound and told her to say she had cut herself with glass. He then got a doctor, who discovered the serious nature of the wound. It is alleged that the boy "did not know it was oaded."

Miscellaneous Matters by Mail.

The American baseball association, in session at St. Louis, Tuesday, elected as regular umpires: Charles H. Daniels, Hartford; W. H. Becannon, New York; Benjamin Sommers, Cincinnati. Substitutes, John T. Wagner, St. Louis, and John E. Bass, Brooklyn.

Walter Webb, master mechanic of the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg railroad, was killed by a train at Watertown yesterday.

A MINISTER DEPOSED.

Rev. Mr. Keyser Found Guilty of Breach of Promise and Expelled.

The ministers of the Lebanon Reformed church classis trying the case of breach of promise against Rev. Alexander S. Keyser, of Pottsville, were in session until three o'clock Tuesday morning in St. John's Reformed church at Hamburg. At that time the classis decided against Keyser and his license to preach was at once revoked. He was much disheartened and left for Pottsville that morning. Miss Elizabeth K. Miller, the plaintiff, also departed for her home. She said she was certain all along that classis would favor her after her full story had been heard. Rev. Keyser is a native of Maxatawny township and is about thirty-six years old. He is of medium height, sparely built, dark complexion, dark eyes and dark, curly hair. He was licensed and ordained in 1881 and the second Reformed church at Pottsville was his first charge. He is a graduate of Ursinus college. Montgomery county. Miss Miller formerly resided in the family of Rev. D. K. Humbert at Bowers, where she formed the acquaintance of Mr. Keyser when she was about 17 years of age and he was a young student preparing for the ministry. She is below medium height, with dark brown hair, dark eyes and fair complexion, and of prepossessing appearance. Her parents are dead. Miss Miller's son, Milton Obadiah Keyser, who is in the sixth year of his age, sat by her side in the church during the trial. Keyser, on being asked if he were guilty of the charges against him, answered, "No, no." Mr. Keyser was represented by Rev. L. D. Steckel, of Womelsdorf; Rev. J. O. Johnson, of Schuylkill Haven, and Rev. H. Keyser, of Lebanon; the accused by Rev. Dr. F. W. Kremer, of Lebanon; Rev. Dr. Bausman, of Reading, and Rev. Geo. Wolf, of Myerstown. The child of Miss Miller is the very image of Rev. Keyser. Witnesses were heard on both sides and then the testimony of Rev. Keyser was taken. A letter was then produced in which he made efforts to be released from the promises he had made to marry Miss Miller. During the time of their courtship 425 love letters were written by Keyser to Miss Miller, and all in the most endearing terms. These were all returned to Keyser at his own request, except 25. The witnesses spoke highly of Miss Miller's good character. Her story was all straight.

PERSONAL.

BURNAUD, editor of *Punch*, jests incessantly, has been twice married and has fourteen children.

SALMI MORSE has been released from any criminal accountability for giving private rehearsals of his "Passion Play."

J. J. HAMBRIGHT, formerly of this city and a member of the 79th, has been helping to organize a Grand Army post in Oakland, California.

SENATOR JOHN I. MITCHELL is charged by the Stalwart Washington *Critic* with having dismissed the messenger of the committee on pensions, of which he is chairman, in order to make place for his fifteen year old son.

FREDERICK N. CROUCH, the composer of "Kathleen Mavourneen," is a gray-haired man, who lives on poor fare in Baltimore. A tattered coat of Confederate gray keeps some of the cold out. He is now out of employment and too old to help himself. He has a wife and five children. He tries to smile cheerily at fate, but admits that he needs help.

DR. FORBES, of the Jefferson medical faculty, Philadelphia, was found "not guilty" yesterday of the violation of sepulture. This was "owing to the continued absence of the most important witness for the commonwealth." A new jury was then impanelled to try Dr. Forbes on another bill, in which he is charged with others with conspiracy to rob the graves of Lebanon cemetery.

MRS. AUGUSTA J. EVANS WILSON, authoress of "Beulah" and "St. Elmo," lives happily with her husband near Mobile in a beautiful home of the real Southern type. She has refined and delicate features, set in a frame of soft brown curls falling to the shoulders; dark, pleasant, expressive eye; a figure hardly up to medium size for a lady, and a delicate appearance, as if the mental structure rather overbalanced the physical. She is not young and dresses in perfect harmony.

SOTHERN gave a dinner party at which all the guests arrived promptly on time but one. Sothern proposed as a joke that when this comer was announced everybody should get under the table. This proposition was agreed to, and Sothern, when the rest had crawled under the table slyly resumed his seat. The late comer entered, stared and exclaimed, "Hello! where are all the fellows?" Sothern shook his head in a lugubrious fashion, and in melancholy tones replied, "I can't explain it, my dear feilow; but the moment they heard your name, they all got under the table." The guests emerged one by one looking very foolish.

MT. JOY MATTERS.

Recent Intelligence From the North West.

"Yes sir, my busy season is almost over," said Capt. L. D. Gallagher, the veteran auctioneer, of Mt. Joy, as he puffed vigorously at a cigar, in answer to a question from an INTELLIGENCER representative. "It's been a very busy season, too;" and continuing he said, "why sir, since the 30th day of January, in about six weeks' time, I have sold in round numbers $80,500 worth of personal property. Mind, now it's personal, not real estate," and a triumphant smile lit up his weather worn countenance. "On the average I talked six hours a day, have been out in rain, snow and sunshine, and traveled hundreds of miles, and I don't mind it a bit."

"I guess you got good prices for personal property?"

"Yes, it's been an excellent season. But talk about prices. I have an item for you that'll beat anything I ever heard of about these parts. I had a sale on Monday of household property, belonging to the estate of Catharine Snyder, deceased, who was the widow of John Snyder, sr. Well, sir, it was wonderful how they went. An eight day clock, a long, old-fashioned one, brought $225. I never sold any for more than $75. Emma Snyder, a daughter of the deceased, bought it, after some very lively bidding. Her nephew was bidding against her, and would have run it up higher but his mother persuaded him to stop. A yellow pitcher brought $12, two sugar bowls $6 apiece, a little cream jug $3, a small pewter tray $9. These are only a part of the articles that went so high, but they are all I can think of now," and the captain himself went off to call a sale at Landisville.

The exorbitant prices realized at the sale, which was a singular occurrence for that neighborhood, created a good deal of comment.

On last Saturday Eli M. Engle, farmer, a young married man, of near Newtown, Rapho township, was kicked on the forehead by a horse. He was seriously injured, but he will recover.

Katie, a three-year old daughter of Jacob Mumma, of Donegal Springs, East Donegal township, fell from the forebay of their barn, on Saturday. She sustained injuries about her head and both wrists. Dr. James P. Ziegler attended her.

SUICIDE IN THE STATION-HOUSE.

A Well-known Man Hangs Himself—The End of An Old Soldier.

Jacob Leibley, aged between 55 and 60 years, committed suicide sometime during last night by hanging himself in the station-house. He resided with his family at No. 422 East Strawberry street. Yesterday he had been drinking and one of his folks made complaint against him before Alderman A. F. Donnelly. He was arrested by Officer Merringer and placed in the station house between 7 and 8 o'clock. At that time he was but slightly under the influence of liquor. At 10 o'clock he was placed in cell No. 5, having been taken from another, which was near a drunken tramp who was making a great deal of noise. He was seen alive then for the last time. This morning George Yeager, grandson of Turnkey Nagle, went to the cell to give Leibley some breakfast; he found him dead, hanging in the eastern end of the cell. He had used the strap which he wore to hold his pantaloons up, one end of which he tied to the swinging grate on the window. The other he tied around his neck, and in that manner he was strangled. When found his feet were touching the floor. It was evident that he had been dead for some time. Coroner Shiffer was notified and he held an inquest, the jury rendering a verdict of suicide by hanging.

The deceased was a butcher by trade, and worked for years at Killinger's, on East King street. He suffered greatly from a bone felon, which he had had for a long time and recently he had to have a hand amputated. He was a soldier during the war and drew a pension. He leaves a wife and family of children. Several times before he has threatened to commit suicide.

Other Attempts.

There have been a number of attempts at suicide in the station house since its erection. Nan Butler, a colored woman of this city, has been cut down no less than three times. B. F. Davis, the tramp, had his life saved by the timely arrival of a policeman and an Arab and a German, each of whom choose the same mode of leaving this world, were prevented from doing so in that building.

AT ST. MARY'S.

Closing of the Forty Hours Devotion.

St. Mary's church was packed to repletion last night with one of the largest assemblages ever gathered within its four walls, the cause of the immense gathering being the closing ceremonies of the forty hours devotion. Long before 7:30 o'clock, the time when the services were announced to commence, the rear portion of the church was filled with an expectant throng who were unable to obtain seats, and later on it was well nigh impossible to get a nearer view of the ceremonies than that afforded by the vestibules of the building. After the singing of a hymn by the choir Rev. Father McDermott, of West Chester, ascended the pulpit and delivered an eloquent and profoundly logical discourse on the Catholic doctrine of the "Real Presence." His exposition of this article of faith, difficult to believe, because contrary to the testimony of the senses and apparently equally contradictory of reason, was masterly in style and enchained the attention of his hearers throughout.

After the sermon the litany of the saints was recited, following which a procession of the Blessed Sacrament took place in which upwards of 120 young ladies and little girls participated. The solemn exercises of the evening terminated with the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the singing of the choir at this portion of the services deserving special commendation.

Police Cases.

By the mayor this morning one drunk was given 5 days and three others 15. Lizzie Culp got drunk last night and amused herself by breaking the windows of Barney Brecht's saloon. Officer Elias arrested her and she got 30 days.

Alderman McConomy sent a train rider, who was arrested by Railroad Officer Roy, to jail for 10 days.

Slight Accident.

Yesterday Mr. John Keller, the contractor, was standing near a derrick, at the Rockville bridge, above Harrisburg, where some repairs are being made. An iron guy broke and struck Mr. Keller, knocking him down upon the railroad track. He had a wrist sprained and was badly bruised.

THE CONFERENCE.

ITS NINETY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION.

The Historical Society's Celebration—Organization of the Conference—The Work of the Week.

The Philadelphia conference of the Methodist church, of which the 96th annual session is now being held in the Lancaster court house, is not the oldest of the 101 conferences in the United States—where Methodism has its greatest strength. That proud distinction belongs to the Baltimore conference by several years. For though to Barbara Heck and Philip Embury is due the credit of the first church organization in New York, whose centennary was celebrated in 1868, it was upon that memorable Christmas eve of 1784 that the great conference was begun which organized the Methodists of America as a separate fold into the one "flock of Christ." Of the eighty-one American preachers, nearly sixty were present, most of them young. Here Coke took his seat as superintendent; and here, taking to himself presbyters, he consecrated Francis Asbury as a superintendent for America; here eleven or more persons were elected elders, and all of them who were present were consecrated; here Asbury, who refused to receive the office of superintendent at the will of Wesley alone, was unanimously "elected bishop or superintendent by the suffrages of the whole body of Methodist ministers through the continent, assembled in general conference;" and here Coke, obeying the directions of Wesley, took to himself at least the canonical number of presbyters, and ordained him, Francis Asbury, as "a superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal church in America." In the ordination sermon delivered on that day and published at the time, Coke asserts his own "right to exercise the episcopal office," and defines the title of superintendent as the equivalent of "bishop."

The Philadelphia Conference.

As claimed by the speakers at the celebration last evening, however, in many respects the Philadelphia conference is preeminent. Within its bounds as early as 1767 was held a Methodist service by Capt. Webb, and even before that an audience had been bespoken for him by Dr. Wrangle, a Swedish missionary, who being acquainted with Wesley's writings, had left word upon his departure that if any of Wesley's preachers visited the city the people should go to hear him. This conference is one of the original six and the mother of many of the later ones. In wealth, influence, the character of its charges, the amount of its missionary collections, the learning and might of its ministry, it commands the respect and admiration of the whole church. The reverend bishop resident within its limits is the senior of his rank and the pride of Methodism in this country and abroad. Some idea of its territorial extent and divisions, and of its work and influence may be gathered from the following abstract of the

Work of the Past Year.

The work in the past year has been arranged in four districts, viz., the north, northwest, west and south Philadelphia.

The North Philadelphia—Rev. Jacob M. Hinson, presiding elder. The district is bounded on the south by Race street; on the west by Fifth street, North Pennsylvania railroad, Lehigh and Nesquehoning valleys; on the north by the north lines of Carbon and Monroe counties; on the east by the Delaware river. There are 64 charges in the district; 107 preaching places, 95 of which are churches. Value of church property March, 1882—Churches, value, $773,620; parsonages, 24; value, $73,300; aggregate, $846,920; Sunday schools, 103; officers and teachers, 2,163; scholars, 19,057.

Northwest—Rev. W. Swindells, presiding elder. The district embraces 24 charges in Philadelphia, 15 in Montgomery county, 12 in Schuylkill county, 5 in Berks county, 5 in Chester, 1 in Bucks county—in all 62 charges in the district; 78 preaching places, 76 of which are churches. Value of church property—Churches, $916,788; parsonages, 25; value, $105,200; total, $1,021,988. Sunday schools, 85. Officers and teachers, 3,188. Scholars, 16,782.

West—Rev. Jacob Dickerson, presiding elder, includes that portion of the city of Philadelphia lying on the west side of Sixth street, from Girard avenue on the north, to Race street on the south, including Western church, excepting Trinity; all of West Philadelphia, except Paschallville, and the churches along the line of the Pennsylvania railroad to Mt. Joy; the churches on the Northern Central railroad to the northern boundary of our conference; the Lebanon Valley railroad from Reading to Harrisburg; the appointments of the S. & T. road in Tremont, Pine Grove, etc., and also the appointments on the Waynesburg R. R. There are 54 charges on the district; 80 preaching places, 73 of which are churches. Value of church property—churches—value, $870,014; parsonages, 29; value, $99,950; aggregate Sunday-schools, 79; officers and teachers, 1,695; scholars, 13,525.

South—Rev. John S. J. McConnell, presiding elder. The district embraces all that part of the city of Philadelphia south of Race street, between the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers (except Western church), and the territory of our conference along the line of the following railroads: The Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore, the Baltimore Central, the Philadelphia & West Chester, the Pomeroy & state line, the Peach Bottom, the Columbia & Port Deposit, the Lancaster & Quarryville and that part of the Pennsylvania railroad along the Susquehanna river between Columbia and Steelton. It includes 54 pastoral charges, representing 87 churches. Value of church property—churches' value, $1,084,000; parsonages' (26) value, $100,200; aggregate, $1,184,200. Sunday schools, 91; officers and teachers, 1,864, and scholars, 14,004.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The Anniversary of the Organization Celebrated Last Evening.

The anniversary of the Historical society of the M.E. church took place in the Duke street church last evening. The body of the church was entirely filled and large numbers occupied seats in the galleries. In the audience were many distinguished members of the annual conference, whose sessions commenced this morning in the court house. The chair was occupied by the president of the society, Rev. J. S. J. McConnell, and Bishop Bowman and several other clergymen occupied seats on the pulpit platform.

The exercises opened with the singing of hymn 679, commencing "How Firm a Foundation, ye Saints of the Lord," and was followed by a brief but earnest prayer offered by Rev. S. T. Thomas. After a voluntary by the choir, the librarian, Rev. J. S. Hughes, presented his annual report:

Librarian's Report.

"We take pleasure in reporting that the society has been favored with an unprecedented share of success during the past year. The additions to the library comprises about 200 volumes, including several important biographical works. The principal donations were from Rev. T. R. Peterson, about 40 vols.; Professor William L. Boswell, 24 vols.; Joseph Thompson, esq., 20 vols.; Dr. Matthew Sorin's family, 22 vols.; Miss Jane McClintock, 9 vols. We are also indebted to Benjamin C. Hopper, esq., for the donation of a handsome bookcase. The room has been beautifully fitted up during the year, making it the most attractive in the entire building. Since our last report we have received a few interesting and carefully prepared contributions to our local history. The growing custom among the churches of celebrating various anniversaries promises to furnish the society eventually with the history of many, if not most of the churches within the bounds of the conference; but we beg to suggest that the uniform experience of those who have attempted the task is, that the earlier such historical sketch is commenced the better and more easily it will be accomplished. We again append the resolution unanimously passed at the session of the conference in 1877:

'*Resolved*, That each member of the Philadelphia annual conference, and each preacher hereafter admitted to full membership in the conference, be requested to prepare a brief sketch of his life, especially of his early religious experience and call to the ministry, and that such sketch be sent to the Historical society, No. 1,018 Arch street, Philadelphia.'"

Bishop Bowman's Address.

Rev. Bishop Bowman, president of the conference, was then introduced, by the president, and made the opening address. He said that some weeks ago a report had reached him in his home in the West that he was expected to deliver an address on "Methodism Then and Now," but the programme was changed, and this morning he learned that he was to open the exercises with a short address and others were to follow with longer speeches. He had intended to run back over the history of Methodism in central Pennsylvania as it was in the early days of the church and compare those days with these, but the length of time allotted him will not permit of his giving more than a few hurried items. He remembers very well when he was but five or six years old that he thought it "awful," as the ladies now say, that his father and mother should go off to camp meeting and leave him at home, and he remembers how bitterly he cried to go along with them. He remembers when the church had no foreign missions, and how interested he was in them when they were first opened in 1823 and how the words of Rev. Knox thrilled him when he spoke of the duty of the church to carry the gospel into Africa, and how he felt that it was his duty to be one of the missionaries. He remembers how in 1838 he became the agent of the Colonization society, and in that capacity traveled over a very large portion of the country, and how he visited this county and was sheltered from a great storm by a pious Presbyterian minister, Mr. Barr and his family, and how a few years afterwards he preached here in Lancaster from the very same text that Bishop Janes had preached from on the day before—and how he wouldn't have done so, had he known it. [Laughter.] The bishop then read a statistical summary showing the wonderful growth of the M. E. church in Sunday schools, churches, preachers, membership, and wealth. Lancaster city was first organized as a station in 1828 with a membership of 72. Now it has 722. Columbia was not organized as a station until 1835, and to day there are more Methodists in Lancaster county than there were in the whole of Pennsylvania portion of the Philadelphia conference at that time. The bishop then compared the Methodism of to day with that of the olden times, and confessed that had he forty years ago dropped into the Duke street church as it is now, he would not have acknowledged it to be a Methodist church. The beautiful organ which now furnishes such fine music would have then been regarded as the devil's music box. Instead of the handsome church edifice we now occupy, the only Methodist church in Lancaster when he first visited it was a rickety old frame that was propped up by logs and was nearly blown down one stormy night when he was in it—frightening him almost to death. All this is now changed; commodious and comfortable churches, with pealing organs, have taken the place of the old ones; the simplicity of hospitality extended by the fathers has given place to more sumptuous entertainment by the sons. While in Philadelphia recently he saw a sign which read, "Friends' Book Store," and in the windows he saw pretty pictures and music. He went inside to see if his eyes deceived him, for he had been brought up among Quakers and Methodists and he knew that both in olden times abjured pictures and music. To his inquiry in regard to the innovation the Quaker bookseller merely said "the world moves and we move with it," and so it is with the Methodist church. The organ is no longer the devil's music box, but a noble instrument on which to sound the praises of God. Bishop Bowman told a number of amusing anecdotes about himself and other preachers, and concluded his discourse by saying that he had long ago made up his mind to care nothing of what people said about him; to prepare himself for his work as well as he could, to perform it zealously and leave the result with God.

"The Preaching of the Fathers."

This was the subject of an address by Rev. A. Johnson, an impulsive, enthusiastic speaker, of Irish appearance, and who prefaced his remarks with the bull, that "he wanted to say one or two things before beginning." His address was an eloquent tribute to the fathers of the church from Wesley down. Their courage, their zeal, their sanctity, their fidelity, their unbounded faith and the ability with which they enforced the doctrines of the church, were highly eulogized. They were men of bright intellect, with knowledge of both men and books, who carried the truth to every door that was opened to them, and they opened doors that were closed against them. The overwhelming conviction of their hearts was that they had nothing to do but to save souls. They climbed mountains, forded rivers, penetrated canebreaks, preached in log cabins, in by ways and highways—everywhere their voices were heard like the blare of trumpets. They may have lacked training, but so did the apostles. Their enemies denounced them as ignorant; the Pharisees said the same of the disciples. They are charged with having been over-zealous ranters; but Bishop Ames has said that "while angels whisper redeemed men must shout." They preached in God's daylight, and their theme was the "Light of the world." They made no compromise with sin, but, as is said of a distinguished Lancaster politician, they regarded "compromise as the American devil." They understood theology and preached with manly grace, with cool heads and warm hearts, the doctrines of the atonement, remission of sin, justification, sanctification, and eventual glorification. Their preaching had saved our frontiers from savages, had saved the nation from destruction; their labors had leavened the American pulpit, had founded the Methodist book concern, had started foreign missions and planted them from Greenland to Patagonia, and their spirits are with us to greater victories.

At the conclusion of Rev. Johnson's address, the hymn 1,078 was sung by the choir and congregation.

"The Philadelphia Conference."

Rev. J. A. Roche, D. D., of Brooklyn, was next introduced and delivered an address. His theme was "The Philadelphia conference—the classic ground of American Methodism." He said that it was with pleasure he accepted the invitation to be here on this interesting occasion; he came as an humble son of the Philadelphia conference to render a grateful tribute to an honored father. As the traveler, while enjoying the beauties and attractions of foreign lands, cherishes the memory and delights of his native land, and even at the end of life's journey cherishes a desire to mingle his ashes with the dust of his ancestors, so he feels now that he is at home in the midst of his brethern. The Philadelphia conference is the classic ground of American Methodism; it is distinguished as one of the earliest and the most fruitful fields of labor in the cause; as having been the home and honored by the confidence and co operation of the most distinguished citizens; as containing within its territory the meeting ground and council chamber of the most illustrious men ever known in American history; as having been the arena of the most ancient exhibition of the zeal of the fathers of the church; as being the field wherein have labored the most remarkable preachers and rulers of the Methodist church. The first of its great preachers, Thomas Webb, who caught the first gleam of religious light from the apostle of Methodism, John Wesley, was engaged with Gen. Wolfe at the battle of Quebec where he lost the right eye of his body, but the right eye of his soul remained forever undimmed. Robert Strawbridge, a flaming herald of the truth, began his labors within the limits of the Philadelphia conference. It was here that Thomas Asbury and Whitney thrilled the multitude with their powerful preaching; the most illustrious, intelligent and refined yielded to their influence and rallied round the standard of Jesus with an intensity of thought and feeling unknown before. The Philadelphia conference was the parent source from which New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, Norfolk and Petersburg were supplied with preachers. Such being the origin of the Philadelphia conference it might well be termed classic ground. It was here that was exhibited and developed the full fruition of our religion. Here the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was first observed. Here Francis Asbury, Richard Watts, Benjamin Adams, Joseph Henry, Benj. Abbott, Wm. Penn Chandler, Thos. Webb and a host of others stupendous as giants labored and triumphed. Here is located the venerable St. George's church, which for 113 years has stood as a monument of Methodism, from whose pulpit the most eminent orators have proclaimed the truth and beneath whose floors and altar sleep the ashes of the most blessed saints of the church. When he had sat on the platform of the conference room of St. George's he had said within himself "O holy spot! how can I honor the place in which I have been honored by being allowed to preach;" where have lived and labored Webb and Asbury, Ezekel Cooper, Solomon Sharpe, Bishop Scott and a host of others scarcely less eminent. Dr. Roche closed his address with a fervid peroration calling upon those living to show equal zeal in the cause left in their hands by the illustrious dead.

Election of Managers.

The managers whose terms expire were then re elected, making the board consist of the following persons, the first five of each class, clerical and lay, being those whose terms expired and who were re-elected last evening:

Ministers—J. B. McCullough, J. S. Hughes, S. W. Thomas, D. W. Gordon, T. B. Neely, G. W. Maclaughin, W. M. Ridgway, M. D. Kurtz, J. S. J. McConnell, T. S. Fernley, T. S. Thomas, W. Swindells, G. W. Lybrand, T. C. Pearson, J. R. Taylor Gray.

Laymen—B. C. Hopper, B. Schofield, jr., J. Simmons, Thomas May Peirce, Jos. H. Thornley, John T. Scott, H. C. Shurtleff, H. M. Reading, H. Q. Nicholson, W. N. West, E. P. Smithers, James McCauley, T. C. Nesbitt, John Shalcross, L. S. Heins, R. A. Miller, J. A. Thompson, W. L. Bosnell.

Providing the Funds.

Brother Fernley then took the floor and spoke humorously and pointedly in behalf of a generous Methodist collection for the society. It was taken up. Also St. George's church, through its minister, subscribed $10 to make Dr. Roche a life member of the society; and a like sum was made up by dollar subscriptions to make Bishop Bowman a life member. Both gratefully acknowledged the compliment, the bishop remarking that he had supposed himself to be a life member of all the societies in the Methodist church.

Reminiscences.

Rev. Jas. Neill, a retired minister and now a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature, closed the exercises by a most entertaining address on "Forty Years Recollections of the Philadelphia Conference." He has been a member of the church 52 years and knew a great deal about it, but the preceding speakers had covered a great deal of the ground. Times have changed and the presiding elder now makes his rounds at the lightning speed of 40 miles an hour, but the earlier days were not without their advantages. The preacher generally then had the best horse. After a vivid contrast of the dimensions of Methodism fifty years ago, as contrasted with to day, the speaker indulged in a series of reminiscences of the old days, the old ways and the old preachers to which nothing but literal reproduction would do justice. His own first circuit was 200 miles around; and his entertainment consisted one evening of sour buckwheat cakes and sage tea, and the next of saffron tea and buckwheat cakes. Mission collections were not a cent where they are now dollars. After an address which greatly interested and oftentimes amused his audience, Mr. Neill concluded with an avowal of his utter inability to do justice to the Philadelphia conference, like the Kentucky preacher who, in trying to picture Heaven to his Southwestern audience, summed it all up with the exclamation: "Well, it's a second Kentucky!"

One of Mr. Neill's best stories was that once, when Bishop Bowman was young and heard Brother Neill preach, he threw his arms about his neck and said: "Oh! Brother Neill, I wonder if I shall ever be able to preach a sermon like that." Brother Neill watched his turn, and when Brother Bowman was made a bishop he waited for him in the vestibule of the church; threw his arms about him and said: "Oh! Brother Bowman, I wonder if I shall ever be a bishop like you." And then he felt ready to quit even.

With the doxology and benediction the audience was dismissed.

OPENING OF CONFERENCE.

Organization—Appointment of Committees—Rev. Cleveland and Universalism.

The 96th session of the Philadelphia conference commenced at 9 o'clock in the court house of this city, Bishop Bowman in the chair. Rev. J. A. Roche, D. D., of Brooklyn read a portion of the gospel of St. John. The conference sang the 785th hymn, and Dr. Roche led in prayer.

Bishop Bowman made a brief address to conference, calling upon the members to go to the work before them in the fear and trust of God, and called upon any members of this or other conferences who have been forty years or more in the ministry to come forward and partake of the sacrament of the Lord's supper from the Lord's table. Quite a number came forward and received from the bishop's hands the bread and wine, after which the elements were carried by the el