

RECOGNITION ASKED.

The National Reform Conference Memorializes the President

MENTION DEITY IN HIS PAPERS.

A Quarter-Centennial Convention With Over 100 Delegates Present.

WHAT WAS DONE, BOTH DAY AND NIGHT

The quarter centennial National Reform Convention opened yesterday afternoon in the Eighth Street Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Rev. T. P. Stevenson, D. D., of Philadelphia, corresponding secretary, spoke of the work being accomplished over the country by establishing district societies.

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A CHURCH SQUABBLE.

Pastor Hill Refused to Resign, and an Attempt Was Made to Oust Him—A Reverend Clergyman's Flock Can't Agree.

While the reporters were busy Monday night putting the list of licenses granted and refused in shape for publication, the congregation of the Sovereign Presbyterian Church, on Herron avenue, were holding a lively meeting.

Some of the members of the church want the pastor, Rev. R. A. Hill, to resign, because, as they say, he is now too old to continue the work, and they are anxious to secure a younger and more active man.

Mr. Hill doesn't quite see it in that light, and refuses to accede to their requests. The meeting was called by those who oppose the pastor to take a vote of the congregation on his resignation or rejection.

Mr. Willis Booth, who favors the preacher, was made President, and, after a lively discussion, a vote was taken. Mr. Hill won by a majority of 12 votes.

His opponents, after the meeting adjourned, held a conference and decided to submit the matter to the Presbytery. Their decision is awaited with interest.

Another meeting will be held next Wednesday. The pastor, Rev. R. A. Hill, is a man of about 60 years of age, and has been in the ministry for about 30 years.

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AN AFRICAN ESTHER.

The Famed Biblical Cantata Presented by a Colored Cast—Really Creditable for an Amateur Performance.

Nya Orinle, the severe dramatic and musical critic, could not have found a flaw in the rendition of the beautiful cantata, "Esther," by a galaxy of well-trained African amateur artists in the Avery Mission Church last night.

No one living could murmur a word against the size of the audience, either, as the array of fashionables would have made many a poor theatrical manager happy at 50 cents a head.

Play it is that a larger and better equipped hall had not been available, or the church treasury would have been favored far more magnificently. The lights were not of the most modern manufacture, and at one time the darkness was very noticeable, rendering it quite difficult to see the characters on the stage.

However, their sweet voices rang out the solos and choruses in such a charming manner that the audience was completely compensated by what it heard, yet could not see.

There is a melodious sweetness in the negro voice, and, as the sounds were wafted from an intricate and well-arranged orchestra, sweet odor like one has read of in fairy tales also permeated the building, the interior of which was filled with fragrant flowers of various kinds.

The costumes were all very elaborate and appropriate. The principal characters in this cantata, the story of which is well known, as an adaptation from the Bible of the old story of King Ahasuerus, are the beautiful Queen Esther, Haman and Mordcai, the Jew, the king of whom is to take charge of the Kingdom, in conjunction with proud Haman, etc.

As the beautiful Queen Esther, Miss Kate Kelly made a distinct hit, both in her acting and in her singing. Her voice has a clear and strong, and especially did she gain merited applause in the duet with the King, which is, "Haste to the Banquet." Near Waters, King, just looked and acted like one, but his voice was rather weak at times for a monarch.

Charles Waters, an African, did not stand out in the estimation of the audience on account of his extreme hauteur. This, of course, is very complimentary to Mr. Waters, Mrs. Susan Lee took the character of Zerai, and her voice was a most pleasing and full of harmony.

Mordcai, with big store whiskers, was portrayed by Mr. Marshall Chambers, and his "Haste up" was quite catchy, as was his acting.

The song and chorus, "Haste to the Banquet Hall," was, figuratively, eaten up by the audience, and, in every way, the cantata was a most successful one. The other minor parts of the cantata were well acted, and the choruses were greeted with vociferous applause and an encore.

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THE PITTSBURGH DISPATCH

Branch Offices. For the accommodation of the public, Branch Offices have been established at the following places, where Want, For Sale, To Let, and other transient advertisements will be received up to 9 P. M. for insertion next morning.

Advertisements made up with the advertiser already have accounts with this Dispatch.

THOMAS MCCAFFREY, 300 Butler street. E. M. STUCKEY, 310 Third street and Penn. ave. J. W. WALLACE, 101 Fourth street. N. E. SMITH, Fifth Avenue Market House, East End.

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