

PITTSBURGH, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1890.

## THE REVISION ISSUE

To be Taken up Once More at a Meeting of Distinguished Presbyterians

IN THIS CITY NEXT WEEK.

The Committee on Change of Creed to Begin Work on Wednesday.

DIVINES AND LAYMEN OF NOTE

Appointed by the General Assembly for the Difficult Task.

IMPORTANT EVENT IN CHURCH CIRCLES

The most important event in Presbyterian circles this year will be the meeting in this city next Wednesday of the General Assembly Committee on the Revision of the Confession of Faith. The outside community is watching to see what these eminent theologians will do with the work of the Westminster divines. If those "fathers" were alive they would probably give the committee a tussle in the argument, but they will not be able to "rise and explain."

The long-continued agitation on the subject of revision culminated in the last meeting of the General Assembly when the committee was appointed. It was constituted of 25 members, 15 clergymen and 10 laymen, including many of the ablest and most prominent gentlemen of the denomination. The clergymen all have big titles, and seven of them have been moderators of the Presbyterian General Assembly, and seven are theological professors. Two others are college presidents.

## DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEEMEN.

Among the laymen, all of whom are ruling elders, are some of the most prominent men in the United States. The following are the members of the committee: Ministers, Prof. Francis L. Patton, D. D., LL. D., Prof. William Henry Green, D. D., LL. D., President Thomas S. Hastings, D. D., LL. D., Prof. Matthew B. Riddle, D. D., LL. D., Prof. William E. Moore, D. D., LL. D., Prof. Edward D. Morris, D. D., LL. D., Prof. Herick Johnson, D. D., LL. D., Prof. William Alexander, D. D., LL. D., Prof. William C. Roberts, D. D., LL. D., William E. Moore, D. D., Henry J. Van Dyke, D. D., Ebenezer Eskridge, D. D., James T. Lett, D. D., D. D., Samuel J. Nicolls, D. D., LL. D., Edward B. Burkholder, D. D., LL. D.

The elders are: Ex-United States Judge William Strong, ex-Senator Samuel J. R. McMillan, ex-Judge Alfred Hand, Hon. E. F. White, Judge Henry B. Sawyer, Hon. William C. Roberts, Hon. Barker Gummere, Hon. William Ernst, Charles M. Chanley, Esq., and George Junkin, Esq. These men are from New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Chicago, San Francisco and various other parts of the country. One-half of them are natives of Pennsylvania, and several of them are foreigners by birth.

It looks like a bold thing for this committee to hold its first meeting in Pittsburgh, as it will next Wednesday, in the heart of an anti-revision community. But as so many of them are Pennsylvanians, so many opposed to revision, and nearly all the rest very mild revisionists, they may meet here without peril. The sessions of the committee will be held in one of the lecture rooms of the Western Theological Seminary, which may thus become the "Jerusalem chamber" of the institution.

## THE FIRST BUSINESS

will be to elect a permanent chairman, to which position it is very likely the Rev. William C. Roberts, the present temporary chairman, will be elected. The committee will then probably proceed to draw an executive distinction between supra-sarism and sub-lap sarrism. But as so many of them are Pennsylvanians, so many opposed to revision, and nearly all the rest very mild revisionists, they may meet here without peril. The sessions of the committee will be held in one of the lecture rooms of the Western Theological Seminary, which may thus become the "Jerusalem chamber" of the institution.

Below are brief personal sketches of the leading members of the committee, which is to be historic in the church:

## WILLIAM ERNST.

Dr. William C. Roberts is the temporary chairman of the committee, with a good prospect of becoming the permanent chairman. He is a native of Wales, and was long settled over the largest Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth, N. J. He was for several years Secretary of the Board of Home Missions, and was once offered a chair in the Western Theological Seminary, which makes him at home in Pittsburgh. He was Moderator of the General Assembly of 1889, and is now President of Lake Forest University. On revision he wants but little, and could get along without any. He is physically one of the handsomest men on the committee.

## THE PRESIDENT OF PRINCETON.

Dr. Francis L. Patton is one of the brainiest of the committee, and of the whole Presbyterian Church. He is a Scotchman in intellectual vigor and influence. He is a native of the Bahamas Islands, and a graduate of a university in Canada. He was for many years the pastor of Jefferson Park Presbyterian Church in Chicago, and while there he achieved a national reputation by his masterly treatise on the "Presbyterian General Assembly which met in Pittsburgh in 1878, when he became well acquainted in his study of the very successful President of Princeton College, the successor of Dr. McCoon. His conduct in the last General Assembly as an anti-revisionist won the admiration of all, and it will not be a surprise should he be elected Chairman of the Committee on Revision. He is quite likely to be the most influential member of the committee.

The Hon. Emerson E. White, of Cincinnati, is an elder in the Presbyterian Church, of which Dr. William McKibbin, late of Pittsburgh, is the pastor. He was for several years the President of Perine University and afterward the City Superintendent of Common Schools in Cincinnati. He was

prominently mentioned for the position of Commissioner of Education under the present administration. He has been an elder in the Presbyterian Church for several



Rev. W. E. Moore, D. D.

years and was a member of the last General Assembly. He is the author of a series of school books and of a work on pedagogy. He is in favor of as much revision as the majority of the committee may desire.

Rev. Dr. William E. Moore, of Colum-

bus, is one of the most widely known men on the committee. He was elected Moderator of the last General Assembly by acclamation. Dr. Moore was born in Strasburg, Pa., in 1823, graduated at Yale in 1847, studied theology privately under Dr. Atwater, of Princeton, and after a 22 years' pastorate at Westchester, Pa., he took charge of the Second Presbyterian Church of Columbus in 1872, where he has been ever



REV. WILLIAM C. ROBERTS, D. D., LL. D., THE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN.

since. Dr. Moore is the author of the "New School Digest" of 1860 and of the "Digest of the Reformed Church" of 1873 and of a second edition of this in 1888. Dr. Moore served in the reserve corps of the Christian Commission during the war, and in the Gettysburg campaign as a lieutenant and acted clerk of the Synod of Ohio. He is the chaplain of the Fourteenth Regiment of the Ohio National Guard and is a very active member of the Grand Army. He is permanent clerk of the General Assembly and acted clerk of the Synod of Ohio. On the subject of revision he is very moderate.

One of the most eminent elders of the committee is Judge Alfred Hand, of Scranton. He was born in 1826, graduated at Yale College in 1847 and was admitted to the bar in 1850. He has practiced in Scranton since 1860. He was made District Judge in 1873. He was appointed to the Supreme Bench in 1888, where, during his year of service, he made an enviable record. He has always been prominent in philanthropic and charitable movements. He has been an elder in the Presbyterian Church over 25 years, and will make his voice felt in the revision of the confession. He will cautiously consider every step taken.

## FORMERLY A PITTSBURGH PASTOR.

Herick Johnson, D. D., LL. D., is well known in Pittsburgh, as he was for five years the very popular pastor of the Third Presbyterian Church. While here he received the title of D. D. He was born in New York in 1832, graduated at Hamilton College in 1857 and at Auburn Theological Seminary in 1859 and at once became copastor with the celebrated Dr. Beman, in



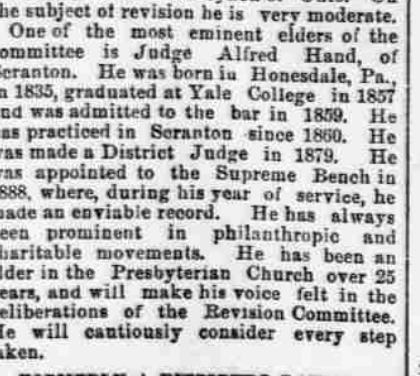
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LL. D., professor of Hebrew in Princeton Theological Seminary, is one of the most learned men in the Presbyterian Church, and one of the greatest living Hebraists. He would long ago have been a Moderator of the General Assembly, but when he hears of a movement in that direction he does not go. He has written a great deal on the subject, and has been a great help to the committee. He is opposed to revision, but can be relied on to carefully consider proposed changes in the standards of the church. Prof. Green is the author of a Hebrew grammar, of several books and able magazine articles. His reputation as a scholar extends all over the Old World.

## THE REV. DR. HENRY J. VAN DYKE.

The Rev. Dr. Henry J. Van Dyke, formerly of the Southern Presbyterian Church, now settled in Baltimore, and Dr. Edward B. Burkholder, of Rapid, Ia., are also members of the committee. The Rev. Dr. Henry J. Van Dyke, of Brooklyn, an ex-Moderator of the General Assembly, is one of the leaders of the revision movement. He has written a great deal on the subject, and has been a great help to the committee. He is opposed to revision, but can be relied on to carefully consider proposed changes in the standards of the church. Prof. Green is the author of a Hebrew grammar, of several books and able magazine articles. His reputation as a scholar extends all over the Old World.

Troy. After his pastorate in Pittsburgh from 1862 to 1867, he took charge of the First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia. For six years he was professor of pastoral theology in Auburn Theological Seminary, and in 1880 he accepted a call to the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago. He is now professor of sacred rhetoric in McCormick Seminary. He was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 1882. He is father of the Board of Aid for Colleges. He is the author of several books and tracts and is a very popular preacher. He is a radical prohibition-

ist. He has written a great deal on the subject of revision, favoring the movement to some extent.

Rev. Thomas S. Hastings, the President of Union Theological Seminary, New York, is probably the most advanced revisionist on the committee. He is a highly cultured man and an eloquent speaker. He is a leader among the theologians of his type of doctrine. In the revision discussion in the Presbyterian of New York he took a very prominent part. He will make his influence felt in the committee.

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## A TURN OF THE TIDE.

The Trade of Titusville is Now Coming Toward Pittsburgh.

## RAILROAD FACILITIES BETTER

Than Some Time Ago, Though There is Room for Improvement.

## THE REAL CENTER OF OIL OPERATIONS

Complaint was made to THE DISPATCH from Titusville that business which would naturally come to Pittsburgh, from that section, was diverted to other places by reason of the better facilities for travel and freight transportation in other directions. THE DISPATCH ordered its Titusville to investigate and to see the railroad officials about the matter.

After interviewing many merchants, shippers and receivers of freight at Titusville, and the officers of the Allegheny Valley Railroad, THE DISPATCH is glad to state that the facilities are now better than ever and that trade is coming this way more than it formerly. Titusville has long ago fallen into a bad habit of dealing at other places for various reasons, but is now breaking that habit. Some improvements could be made and the Allegheny Valley people have been trying to make them.

Arrived at Titusville, I asked Editor H. C. Bloss what he was of the matter. He replied: "In a general way I think the facilities are not good. I have thought that with fast trains running through without change of cars between the points having a stop at Oil City, travel to and from the East would go through your city more, and more people would go to Pittsburgh to trade."

## NO COMPLAINT TO MAKE.

C. P. Devereaux, boots and shoes—Facilities are much better between here and Pittsburgh than between here and Erie and freight rates are better. I certainly have no complaint to make.

Mrs. Henry Kehr, milliner—No, I don't know that I have any complaint to make about the facilities for travel between here and Pittsburgh or the freight rates, only that from Philadelphia we must pay two rates, while from New York we pay only one. I wish that could be changed.

J. Westheimer, boots and shoes: "We can get goods from Buffalo in one day. It takes longer from Pittsburgh. That is about the only difference. That is