

WAR OF THE BISHOPS.

Violence and Bloodshed Feared at the Coming Christian Evangelical Conference.

THE BOWMAN-ESHER-DUBBS FIGHT

Has Reached Such a Stage That Two Thousand Congregations are Now at Swords' Points.

A CAMPAIGN OF FORCE DECIDED ON.

Immanuel Church to Be Seized and Bishop Bowman Thrown From the Pulpit.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.

ALLENTOWN, Pa., Feb. 21.—The war of the bishops will assume a new phase at the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, which convenes its annual session in this city Thursday next, and then must begin un-

derstanding the reaping everywhere of that perilous harvest of dissension sown in the Christian Evangelical Association of the United States and Germany a year ago.

Bishop Bowman, who is coadjutor with Bishop Escher in the warfare against Bishop Dubbs, is booked to preside by virtue of his former authority, which he claims remains unimpaired. Ninety out of the 125 delegates to the Conference are violently opposed to him, and announce beforehand that if he attempts to preside and make appointments, they will withdraw in a body and set up an independent Conference.

It Is the Decisive Battle.

The warring elements in the denomination are desperately massing their forces to bring the fight to its logical conclusion. This, plainly stated, is most one of three things: The undisputed supremacy of one or the other of the opposing factions, the ultimate independence of a majority of congregations from the authority of bishops, or else the eventual demoralization of the whole organization.

The three bishops constituting the ruling triumvirate of the association, as will be recalled, were accused of usurpation, and becoming to ministers of the gospel, and were each in turn deposed last spring from their ecclesiastical offices by trial bodies made up of adherents of their opponents—Bishop Dubbs being first subjected to this treatment in Cleveland February 21, and then, by way of retaliation, Bishop Bowman in Chicago, March 7, and Bishop Escher in Reading, Pa., March 21. Technically all three were cut off from the performance of their episcopal functions and the receipt of their \$6,000 annual salaries, but not so in practice. Bishop Dubbs accepted the results of his trial, and has not up to date drawn his pay or asserted his prerogatives. Not so with Bishops Escher and Bowman. They have declined to abide by the judgment of the trial bodies and the decisions of the civil courts, and have resolutely proclaimed themselves as being still full-fledged bishops.

Into the Western Courts.

Injunctions obtained from courts in Iowa and Illinois to restrain them from acting have not in fact restrained them, the jurisdiction of the courts in the matter being consequently doubtful. In those and other Western States numerous suits and counter-suits are pending to determine the ownership of church property and the power of certain mission societies and publication boards to collect and disburse funds; but the prospects of settlement that way seem hopeless, and the affairs of the association are daily growing more complicated, with multiplying chances of more fights and their accompanying interchange of broken heads and rent clothes.

The plan of action adopted for Thursday is this: The 90 anti-Escher delegates and the members of the Immanuel Church here, in which the conference meets, are to take possession of the building Wednesday night, and early Thursday morning, possibly before daylight, are to pack a strong body of athletic brethren in the pulpit and in the aisles leading to it. They will hold it against all comers until the formal proceedings open, and then, when all is ready, a minister will be selected to preside and passed up safely to the pulpit between

The Seized Banks of Friends.

In that case Bishop Bowman, being effectually crowded out, will retire with his followers, probably numbering 35, and organize a separate Conference in the First Ward Church. In all likelihood Bishop Escher will accompany Bishop Bowman. Should he do so, considering the popular bishop's fame as an irresistible fighter and strategist, the well-laid plans of the opposition may miscarry.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, the first established, is by far the most powerful and influential in the association, and by reason of its consequent unquestioned prestige, its disposition of the quarrel before it will be accepted by other conferences as almost conclusive and followed as a controlling example. The divisions which occurred in the Illinois and Iowa conferences were purely incidental and unpremeditated, and therefore had no general effect. In this case, however, the moral strength of both factions at large is to be exerted, and both parties are moving themselves with the energy of despair for a supreme struggle. The result is expected to be decisive, practically forestalling the labors of the General Conference next October. That is why all three bishops have been so busily canvassing the East for the last two months, and so industriously strengthening their respective lines. That is also the reason why nearly all the congregations in the Conference, anticipating the catastrophe which must follow, have declared their sentiments and instructed their delegates in such unmistakable language.

The Eastern Conference Almost Sold.

The Immanuel and Salem churches here in Allentown, the Salem and Sixth Street churches in Reading (the former being the original mother-church of the entire denomination, and the latter one of the largest and wealthiest); St. John's, at Shamokin; the Salem Church, at Fredensburg, and those at Mohenville, Adamstown, Bowmanville, Reamstown, Terre Hill, Shenandoah and other places have all passed, in the last fortnight, vigorous resolutions condemning Bishop Escher and Bowman, and urging their exclusion by the Conference. Only the Ebenezer Church at Reading, and one or two small congregations elsewhere, have taken the other side. The resolutions adopted by Salem's Church here, and which fairly serve to represent the action taken by the other churches, are these:

WHEREAS, It is rumored that in the event that the suspended Bishops, J. J. Escher and Thomas Bowman, are not permitted to preside at the coming session of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, they will retire with those willing to follow them and organize a pseudo Conference; Resolved, That if either of them should proceed in this manner and should appoint a preacher for this congregation we will not re-

ceive or support him, nor permit him to use the church and parsonage, etc.

Bishop Bowman Is Determined.

Although the drift of sentiment is overwhelmingly against Escher and Bowman, yet Bowman has been wonderfully active of late and has thoroughly covered the ground in advance. Before leaving here the other day to preach in Brooklyn he said, in answer to a reporter's inquiry: "Most assuredly I will preside at the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference on the 26th. Bishop Escher may be here to assist. Nothing can prevent me from presiding except physical force. It is my urgent duty to preside, and I cannot and will not decline. We know as much of our church discipline as anyone else. I hope for harmony; but harmony or no harmony, I will preside over the Conference. Rest assured of that."

The "antis," meanwhile, both clergy and lay members, are holding daily councils to frustrate his design, and propose to exhaust every available means to that end.

The whole trouble seems to have arisen primarily out of ordinary human jealousy among the three bishops. In a word, it is a contest of two against one, Bishops Escher and Bowman being leagued together in irrefragable antagonism to Bishop Dubbs. All three are strong and able men. Repeated clashes of authority and interest among them occurred, but did not get into the courts or newspapers during the first

Three Years of Strained Relations.

however, and things ran along without definite point until February of last year. Then the climax was reached. Bishop Escher determined to strike a blow. Through his followers he secured the disgrace and removal of his colleague, Bishop Dubbs, from the Board of Bishops. The charges against Dubbs were mainly of a frivolous character, based on rumors, irresponsible gossip, and baseless allegations. Dubbs, they could not help being, unamplified. They tended to show that his morals regarding women were questionable, and that therefore he was unfit for the office of Bishop.

It was claimed that the deposition was the thing aimed at, and that the premises charges, though ostensibly bonafide, were crafted solely to accomplish that end. Both Bishops Escher and Bowman took a prominent part in the prosecution. The trial committee was composed of 15 clergymen, all of whom were intimate associates and adherents of Bishop Escher and stopped with him during the trial. No one was admitted to the proceedings except those holding cards issued by Escher. Bishop Dubbs was denied the right of cross-examination of witnesses and was not allowed to take testimony. He was promptly convicted. After that, of course, open hostilities began in real earnest.

The Tables Turned About.

The retaliatory measures executed by the Dubbs people, culminating in the expulsion of Bishops Bowman and Escher, had to follow as a natural sequence. The charges against Bowman were: First, evil speaking, with ten specifications; second, lying, with eight specifications; and third, passionate language, with two specifications. The charges against Escher embodied 20 specifications were: "unchristian conduct; slander; evil speaking and falsehood; creating dissension and perpetrating and intensifying the agitation in the church, and disturbing her peace by a revival of old and previously adjudicated difficulties and differences."

As illustrating to what length the animosities engendered in the great feud have already gone, a clipping from a recent issue of the Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, edited by Bishop Dubbs in Chicago, may be here reproduced. It is a personal threat sent by an unknown correspondent and is as follows:

It DUBBS—Sir: Your career is gone long enough. How long I seek revenge. Your miserable life I will take.

On the reverse side of the original manuscript is a picture of a coffin, surmounted by a skull and cross-bones. The one prayer now uppermost on the lips of devout and peace-loving Evangelicals is that the coming Conference here will at least be saved from bloodshed and slaughter.

LAST week of our clearance sale. Call at once and see some of our bargains in furniture. Goods stored free until wanted.

MICHTIGAN FURNITURE CO., 437 Smithfield st.

Do You Move This Year? Before renting consult the special to let lists appearing Mondays and Thursdays in The Dispatch. Leading agents contribute choice lists on those days.

SPECIAL Ingrain, carpet and lace curtain sale this week. Read the startling prices we name for this week in another column, at J. H. Kunkle & Bro.'s, 1347-49 Penn avenue, Pittsburg.

The Rent Lists Will be full and excellent to-morrow (Monday). Mondays and Thursdays are special rent days.

IRON CITY beer is uniformly excellent. None but the perfect article is allowed to leave that brewery. Ask for it at your dealer.

To-morrow Kaufmann's store will close at 12 o'clock (noon).

Open To-morrow. Hendricks Co.'s photograph gallery open all day Monday. 12 elegant cabinets \$1. 68 Federal street, Allegheny.

Very Convenient. The collection and publication of special rent lists on known days saves time and care for house-hunters. Mondays and Thursdays are the special days.

\$15-SEAL GARMENTS-\$15

To have your SEAL SACQUES cut over into any style desired, by actual measurement. A perfect fit guaranteed in every case. Work done promptly. Also REWEAVED and REFINED. Plush Sacques Reshaped and Relined.

Duquesne Hat and Fur Co., 445 WOOD STREET, Third door from Fifth avenue. 22-40

ESTABLISHED 1861. Eyes Examined Free. Artificial Eyes Inserted. J. DIAMOND, 22 SIXTH ST. 42-28-7850

FEICK BROS., 21 SIXTH ST. Surgical Instrument Establishment. Specialties: Scientific fitting of FRUITS, SPECULUMS, FOR DEFORNITY and ARTIFICIAL LIMBS. Largest stock of surgical instruments in Western Penn. Large illustrated catalogue free to physicians.

TROUSERINGS AND SUITINGS. Medium-weights. Exclusive specialties in pattern and fabric. Latest correct styles. H & C. F. AHLERS, MERCHANT TAILORS, 420 Smithfield street. Telephone 1383. ja 28-7850

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.



The stately Father of His Country dressed in one of Jackson's, Home-made Overcoats and Dress Suits would have looked as patriotic as he did in his continental uniform crossing the Delaware. He would have been a hundred years ahead of time; but it is as bad for us to be behind the times. Jacksons are always on time. Our Spring stock is nearing completion. We are better prepared than ever to meet the popular demand for stylish, serviceable clothing.

Our stock of PIECE GOODS for Spring now awaits your inspection. Come early to avoid the usual rush of the spring season.

POPULAR GOODS. POPULAR PRICES. JACKSONS Clothiers, Tailors, Hatters and Furnishers, 954 and 956 LIBERTY ST., STAR CORNER. fe 22

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

STOCK ENTIRELY NEW. FINE WALL PAPER! AT ALL PRICES.

WM. TRINKLE & CO., 541 WOOD ST. 541 Bank of Commerce Building. DEALERS IN "LINCRUSTA WALTON." fe 22-58

Closing-Out Sale to Quit Business

The entire stock of THE TANNER CHINA COMPANY to be closed out before March 15. Come early and get the bargain. See our prices:

- 200 dozen China Bone Dishes at 9c each, worth \$2.00 doz. 200 dozen Cut Glass Pattern Tumblers, 42 dozen, worth \$5.00 doz. 36-piece English Decorated Stone China Tea Sets, \$2.98, worth \$4.75 112-piece English Decorated Stone China Dinner Set, \$7.20, worth \$9.75 12-piece Decorated Chamber Set, \$3.70, worth \$4.75

Also a complete line of Haviland & Co.'s Decorated French China Tea and Dinner Sets and a large line of White China for decorating.

NO. 38 FIFTH AVENUE. fe 22-7850

THE POWER OF MONEY!

HOW To Make a Dollar Go a Long Way. That's the Question!

NEIGHBOR, LISTEN! While there has been little or no business done by the would-be Czar of the Furniture and Carpet trade, you can still hear our gentle racket going on from day to day, selling the best Furniture and Carpets for the money of any house in the city.

YOU KNOW We always have done so, and will always continue to do so. There is no earthly reason why we should not. Our expenses are one-third less than any house in the city.

TERMS: If you cannot pay CASH WE WILL GIVE YOU CREDIT. And Easy Payments without interest.

PICKERING'S, STORES, 46, 48, 50, 52 Tenth St. 962 and 964 Penn Ave. fe 22

SPRING STYLES



Among the hundreds of select and exclusive novelties thus far received are the following: Ladies' All-wool Cheviot Reefers, in black or navy, with shawl or notched collar, at only \$3.50. Very stylish Plain Cloth Reefers, all shades, with facing and collar of contrasting colors, at \$5. Imported Diagonal, Cheviot, Broadcloth, Camel's Hair and Vicuna Cloths, from \$5 to \$35. Fine All-wool Navy and Black Vest Front Jackets at \$7. Fashionable, finest imported Diagonal Worsted Vest Front Jackets, with embroidered silk collar and facings, at \$15. Fine All-wool Diagonal Blazer Jackets, with the new pointed collars, with cord and tassels, at \$8.50. Fine All-wool Cloth Blazers, in navy, black, tan and gray, from \$2.50 to \$5. Gorgeously embroidered Blazers, in black and colors, from \$5 to \$20.

"KIDS."

The following rare specials will be offered in our Kid Glove Department during the next three days:

Very latest Spring Dress Gloves for Gentlemen, genuine French goods, at \$1.50. 65c for Ladies' 4-Button Dressed Kid Gloves, in all colors. \$1 for Ladies' best 5-Hook Dressed Kid Gloves, every pair warranted.

\$1 for Ladies' 4-Button Undressed Kid Gloves, in light and dark shades. Of course these shoes are sold below the cost of manufacture, but it isn't our loss. Our wide-awake shoe buyer scooped in 500 pairs of Ladies' fine Shoes at a sacrifice to the manufacturer, during his recent Eastern trip. They come in Bright Dongola and Curacao Kid, all widths, but a few of the sizes are missing. TO-MORROW and TUESDAY we will close them out at \$1.89. Get a pair.

KAUFMANN'S, Fifth Ave. and Smithfield St.

WASHINGTON.

(This cut illustrates the life-size and life-like tableaux now exhibited in our Corner Window.)



LAST IN WAR

Was the beloved and honored man the anniversary of whose birth occurs to-day. LAST IN WAR, because, not until liberty and independence had been firmly established, did he sheathe the sword. In their commercial sphere Kaufmanns emulate the example of "The Father of His Country." Their warfare against shoddy goods, high prices and old fogyism will not cease until every dealer will be in the ranks of honorable competition. Kaufmanns' name will

LAST IN PEACE

With those for whom the saving of money has an object. Studying as they do the wants of their customers, being ever on the alert for the manifold opportunities the market affords to large cash buyers, and never failing to give their patrons the benefit of their enterprise and experience, Kaufmanns' memory will

LAST IN THE HEARTS OF COUNTRYMEN

As long as clothing will be worn. During this very week they have prepared such an unusual series of attractions as are bound to make dull February go out in a busy blaze of glory. Read the offerings at the right and left and be convinced.

KAUFMANN'S, Store Will Close To-Morrow at Noon.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Equally attractive bargains and inducements to all buyers at both our Mammoth Market Street Store and our Elegant New Retail Store, 433 Wood Street. No Reserve. Stock must be sold. All Goods Warranted.

FOLLOW THE TIDE. A Deluge of Bargains in Fine Shoes.

LAIRD'S SACRIFICE SALE!

PRICES AT LOWEST EBB.

Goods Flowing Out Fast. Perfect Flood of Bargains ALL THIS WEEK.

\$2 75, \$3 00 and \$3 50 Shoes at \$2 18.

\$4 00, \$4 50 and \$5 00 Shoes at \$2 90.

\$5 00, \$6 00 and \$7 00 Shoes at \$3 90.

LADIES' \$2 18 SPECIAL OFFER.

1,700 pairs Ladies' Fine Dongola, straight goat, pebble goat heels of spring heels, Common Sense, Opera, Spanish Arch, New York or Philadelphia lasts. Long, medium or short waps, plain toes or tips, hand turns, flexible sewed or double soles, AA to EE, all sizes. Reduced from \$2 50, \$2 75 and \$3 18.

LADIES' \$2 90 SPECIAL OFFER.

4,000 pairs Ladies' Fine Dongola, French Kid or Straight Goat Shoes hand-turns, welts, flexible or double soles; fine patent leather vamps cloth or Dongola tops, tips or plain, long or short waps, AAA to EE, all sizes, reduced from \$3 75, \$4 and \$4 50 to \$2 90.

LADIES' \$3 90 SPECIAL OFFER.

700 pairs Ladies' Finest Kid Shoes, also patent leather vamps and French cloth tops, finest hand-made goods, latest styles, choice selections; all sizes, were \$5, \$6 and \$7, now only \$3 90.

GENTS' \$2 18 SPECIAL OFFER.

900 pairs Gents' Fine Dress Shoes, Lace or Congress, seamless, silk stitched, single or double soles, smooth inner soles, no wax, tacks or threads to hurt the feet, all solid and prime, latest style, every size. Reduced from \$2 50 and \$3 to \$2 18.

GENTS' \$2 90 SPECIAL OFFER.

378 pairs Men's English Grain Waterproof Bals and Creedmore. Reduced from \$4 and \$5 to \$2 90.

1,900 pairs Men's Fine Galf Bals and Congress.

560 pairs Men's Genuine Kangaroo Bals and Congress, single or double soles, tipped or plain, hand-sewed and Goodyear welts; very elegant goods, all sizes. Reduced from \$4, \$4 50 and \$5 to \$2 90.

GENTS' \$3 90 SPECIAL OFFER.

MEN'S \$5 00, \$6 00 AND \$7 00 SHOES ONLY \$3 90 PER PAIR

480 pairs French Calf, hand-made, \$3 90, 375 pairs Imported Cordovans, \$3 90, 390 pairs Genuine Kangaroo Welts, \$3 90, 287 pairs Finest Patent Leather, \$3 90.

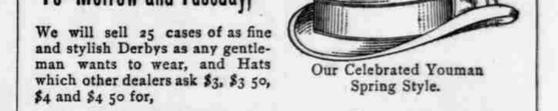
Gentlemen, these average 40 per cent off, and are special prices on every pair. They will move quickly and can't be duplicated. All fresh, late styles. Fully warranted. Can exchange or money refunded. Every size.

W. M. LAIRD, MAMMOTH SHOE STORES,

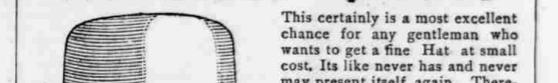
406, 408, 410 MARKET STREET. BARGAINS BOTH STORES. NEW RETAIL, 433 WOOD ST. Wholesale Store, 515 Wood Street. fe 22-7850

FOR 2 DAYS!

To-morrow and Tuesday, We will sell 25 cases of as fine and stylish Derbys as any gentleman wants to wear, and Hats which other dealers ask \$3, \$3 50, \$4 and \$4 50 for,



Our Celebrated Youman Spring Style. AT ONLY \$1.98!



Our Popular "Mercantile." \$1.98 WILL BUY YOUR CHOICE.

SPRING OVERCOATS.

During the past week we have received 50 different styles of Men's finest and choicest Spring Overcoats, representing the very latest styles of the season. See them. No use in leaving your measure when ready-made garments can be had so fine and perfect. And there's big saving in them, besides.

Confirmation

SUITS—our specialty. We generally fit out about two-thirds of the candidates for holy communion or confirmation. Don't postpone purchasing until the line is broken. NOW you can get anything you want, besides, 'tis none too soon to buy, for Easter is but four weeks off. Bring in the boys and girls.



This is the Lamp of which we have just 150 left, and we'll close them out at only \$1.65 to-morrow and Tuesday. They're handsomely decorated Parlor Vase Lamps, with shade to match, duplex burner; can't be bought elsewhere below \$3 or \$4.