

Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, SATURDAY, MAY 26, 1860.

The General Assembly, at Rochester, has three hundred and twenty-nine members. Much business claims attention. Many prayers should ascend for Heaven's guidance.

REFORMED PRESBYTERIANS.

The General Synod of this body, (New Side), has been holding an Annual meeting in the church of Rev. Mr. McMillan, Allegheny City. The body is small, but is respectable for talent and piety, and for a noble zeal for Foreign Missions.

The meeting was opened on the evening of the 16th, with a sermon, by Rev. JOHN NEWCOMB, 2d Cor. x. 4. Rev. Wm. STEWART, of Philadelphia, was chosen Moderator. Dr. MURKOCK, of the New School General Assembly, took his seat as a delegate.

It was resolved that the practice of inviting ministers of other denominations to sit as corresponding members, be discontinued.

The Presbyteries of Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Western, Chicago, Ohio, and Northern, reported. The meeting with the New School Assembly, we note in another column.

The Superintendent of the Theological Seminary, reported seven students in attendance, during the last term of the Seminary; that arrangements are in progress to complete the endowment, now amounting to about \$18,000; and that the prospects of the Seminary are generally good.

The Board of Education reported its operations for the last year. Three young men have been added to the list of its beneficiaries, and three by license or otherwise, have gone under its charge.

Eight remain under its care, four from the Northern, two from the Philadelphia, and two from the Pittsburgh Presbytery. Referred to the Committee on Theological Seminary.

Synod reaffirmed the former testimony on Palmyra, viz.: "singing God's praise is a part of the public worship, in which the whole congregation should join;" and that "the Book of Psalms, which are of Divine inspiration, is well adapted to the state of the Church, and of every member in all ages and circumstances, and these Psalms to the exclusion of all imitations and un-inspired compositions are to be used in social worship," so this Synod still continues to declare and maintain.

The Synod agreed to adjourn on the evening of Wednesday.

THE NEW SCHOOL GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

To save room for our own Assembly, meeting at Rochester, we have placed some of our editorial matter on the first page.

Our notice of the opening sermon in Pittsburgh, by Dr. PATTERSON, may there be found. It is necessarily brief. The sermon merited much more space, if space had been at our command. We allow the largest liberty of speech to brethren, and we claim an equal freedom in response.

Rev. P. A. MILLS, D.D., of Indianapolis, was elected Moderator, on the second ballot. The total vote was 174. Messrs. M'HAUG and BUSHNELL were chosen Clerks.

The Assembly is transacting its business with much harmony of sentiment. The fifth annual report on Home Missions, states that \$14,101 were collected the last year. Foreign Missions are conducted in connection with the American Board; but there is evidently a strong desire to retire from the union, and to institute a denominational agency.

The report on Education, stated that there were fifty-three students at the Theological Seminary, at Auburn, and one hundred and forty-one at New York. The number at Lane, we did not hear stated. The Church collected, during the year, about \$80,000 for Education. A great desire was expressed for more zeal in raising and sustaining denominational Schools, Colleges, and Seminaries.

The Publication Committee presented their eighth Annual Report. The work proceeds. The receipts of the year were \$10,778.

The Church Extension Fund now amounts to \$109,000. It is increasing. The churches aided last year, were thirty-one, and to an extent of \$11,150.

The Reformed Presbyterian Synod, (New Side), in session in Allegheny City, was invited to unite with the Assembly in religious exercises. This was cordially responded to, and the Synod crossed the river, and engaged, on Saturday forenoon, for two hours, with the Assembly, in prayer, praise, and addresses. The Old Psalms were used, of course. The meeting was fraternal. It is delightful to see Christian families recognize each other in the worship of their one Lord. This meeting tended to strengthen Christian ties, and will lead to increased cooperation.

On Sabbath the members of the Assembly occupied the pulpits of the Presbyterian, Baptist, and Methodist churches, generally, in and near the city.

The General Convention of Vermont was represented by Rev. J. E. RANKIN, who presented the Christian education of that body. Mr. R. alluding to the dissensions on the subject of the joint action of the Congregationalists and the New School, on Home Missions, said:

CRUSADES.

The Crusades were religious wars, waged by Christians against the Turks. They aimed at the recovery of Jerusalem and the holy places. Those Christians were Romanists, and their zeal was superstitious. The Turks regarded it as being malignant. Others have joined them in this opinion. Hence the term crusade, though it denotes a warfare under the Cross, has come to have a bad meaning. It is now used reproachfully and to excite odium; so our friend the Presbyterian seems to use it in its article of May 19th, as follows:

"CRUSADES AGAINST THE BOARDS. Our readers will remember that during the last year a few individuals united their efforts to exclude Dr. HAPPESETT from his office as a General Agent in the Board of Domestic Missions, and so far succeeded as to induce that gentleman to resign. He was represented as a superannuated and inefficient, who was diverting the funds of the Church from their legitimate object, that he might be supported without any countervailing benefit to the cause of missions. It was boldly said that his retention in office was condemned by the Church, and a prediction was advanced on that event, that the collections for missions would be seriously affected. Indeed, it was hinted that the churches could not in conscience contribute while he held his place, for it would be supporting a useless man at the expense of 'poor missions'."

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EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

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into Church affairs, and to invigorate Church agencies, is very wrong. It has been too much a habit to assail them personally and hold them up to scorn, as being malignant, injurious, impelled by bad motives, guilty of tergiversation, waging a crusade against cherished institutions. Men conscious of rectitude, never descend to such a course. And for a Church to tolerate such things is to put itself in the power of the few who manage its affairs.

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The feelings, Mr. President, with which I part from you, the officers, and other members of the Board, my associates in the work of the office, our candidates, the co-operating ministers and elders in the Church, and the whole cause, in all its departments, how can I ever express? God has wisely and righteously inflicted on me a severe, wasting, and still progressive disease, and I have a clear conviction that I obey his will in surrendering an office whose duties I can no longer discharge.

With my affectionate regards to all the gentlemen of the Board, I am your fellow-servant in Christ, C. VAN RENSSSELAER, By C. L. V. R.

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3. The effort to excite odium against any and all who may seek to inquire

into Church affairs, and to invigorate Church agencies, is very wrong. It has been too much a habit to assail them personally and hold them up to scorn, as being malignant, injurious, impelled by bad motives, guilty of tergiversation, waging a crusade against cherished institutions. Men conscious of rectitude, never descend to such a course. And for a Church to tolerate such things is to put itself in the power of the few who manage its affairs.

4. The truthfulness of our statements relative to the Boards, has never been directly assailed. There have been evasions and implied contradictions, but a direct denial of any important fact, we have not yet met with. Our statements have been facts, in all their important features, but the possibility of refutation. Hence our brethren, while very liberal in the application of epithets, have been exceedingly shy about denying our statements, copying our articles, answering our questions, or giving quotations, facts, and figures.

5. We have not heard of any charges derogatory in any aspect, to the Board of Foreign Missions. But we feel assured, that if such shall be made, the worthy officers of that Board will respond candidly and fully.

REV. DR. VAN RENSSSELAER.

This worthy brother, long the efficient Secretary of the Board of Education, still continues deeply affected by disease. His Winter's residence at the South, has retarded his restoration to health, and he has concluded to resign his office. The following letter was read in the Board, on the 4th inst.:

BURLINGTON, N. J., May 1, 1860. JAMES N. DICKSON, President of the Board of Education of the Presb. Church. My Dear Sir—It has become my duty, in the providence of God, to present my resignation of the office of Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Education, to which, by the favor of the Board, I have been elected for the last fourteen years, the resignation to take effect at the Annual Meeting of the Board, if my life be spared so long.

The feelings, Mr. President, with which I part from you, the officers, and other members of the Board, my associates in the work of the office, our candidates, the co-operating ministers and elders in the Church, and the whole cause, in all its departments, how can I ever express? God has wisely and righteously inflicted on me a severe, wasting, and still progressive disease, and I have a clear conviction that I obey his will in surrendering an office whose duties I can no longer discharge.

With my affectionate regards to all the gentlemen of the Board, I am your fellow-servant in Christ, C. VAN RENSSSELAER, By C. L. V. R.

The resignation was accepted. Here is a deep loss to the Board and to the Church. Dr. VAN RENSSSELAER served the cause with great ability, and on principle. He was no place-man. Emolument was not his object. He was a man wholly consecrated, and with singleness of heart he performed the duties of his office.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., May 17, 1860. Our trip to this place was a very agreeable one. The Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad, so well managed under the Presidency of