

Followers of Calvin and Their Progress

PHILADELPHIA, May 4.—(Special).—The Presbyterian church, at its general assembly in Philadelphia on May 15, will announce what it believes at the dawn of the twentieth century. For a year a representative committee of sixteen has been laboring with the question of revising the Westminster Confession of Faith and endeavoring to bring forth a report which will, on the one hand, give the relief desired by a part of the church, and at the same time not offend those whose votes are necessary in order to secure the adoption of the new or revised creed. On the committee are some of the ablest men in the church. Princeton seminary is not represented. Prof. Benjamin B. Warfield was appointed, but declined to serve, assenting in his courteous reply that he could not conscientiously serve on a committee whose appointment he deplored. One of the latest additions to the teaching force of Princeton university was substituted.

The following are the names of the men who have held four meetings, one in Saratoga in August and two in Washington, one in December and the other in February, and one in Pittsburg. Rev. Drs. Charles A. Hickey of Philadelphia, Herrick Johnson of McCormick Theological seminary, Chicago, Samuel J. Nicolls of St. Louis, Daniel W. Fisher of Hanover college, Indiana; William McKibbin of Cincinnati; George B. Stewart of Auburn Theological seminary, Samuel P. Sprecher of Cleveland, S. W. Dana of Philadelphia and Henry VanDyke of Princeton university; ex-President Benjamin Harrison of Indianapolis, John M. Harlan of Washington, Daniel R. Noyes of St. Paul, E. W. C. Humphrey of Louisville, William R. Crable of Pittsburg, John E. Parsons of New York and Elisha A. Fraser of Detroit.

Instructions to the Committee.

The committee was appointed not to revise the Confession of Faith, but to "consider the whole matter of the restatement of doctrines most surely believed among us and which are substantially embodied in our Confession of Faith." After asking the presbyteries to take action on the subject and to report whether they desired "revisory, supplemental or substitutional changes or no change at all," and receiving their answers, the committee has issued this statement, which will form the basis of its report to the assembly.

"It was unanimously agreed that some change in the Creedal statement was necessary.

"A majority of the members present agreed to recommend to the general assembly that a change should be made by a supplemental explanatory statement, to cover certain points in the Confession of Faith, and also to include statements as to the doctrines of the Holy Spirit, missions and the love of God for all men."

A minority report may recommend a supplemental statement of doctrine without being restricted to specific and limited points in the Confession, but in harmony with the system of doctrine contained in the Creed. It is also possible that there will also be a second minority report proposing simply a declaratory statement. The most that can be done this year is to appoint a committee, or re-appoint the present one, to prepare a revision of the Creed to submit to the next assembly. Strong opposition is being organized to crush the revision movement at this time on the ground that the returns do not indicate a general desire for a revision of the Standards, and, further, that those asking for changes are not agreed as to the matter or the manner of the proposed revision.

For two years in successful meeting the changing of the century has been noted and \$1,000,000 in a single city has been added as a thank offering to the Twentieth Century fund. The clearing of \$1,000,000 on the Presbyterian building in New York is one of the special objects which has been in view and heroic efforts have been made looking toward that end. The last assembly authorized the raising of a fund to be used for the endowment of Presbyterian academic, collegiate and theological institutions, for the enlargement of missionary enterprises, for the erection of church buildings and the payment of debts upon churches and educational institutions, and for the other work of the boards, at the option of the givers.

The first Friday of the assembly this year has been set apart for special services in connection with the advent

of the twentieth century—the morning session to be occupied with the review of the history of the church during the nineteenth century, much of the time during these sessions to be devoted to prayer and praise, and the evening session to be of a popular character, with addresses appropriate to the occasion.

The program for the proposed celebration includes addresses by Rev. Dr. Willis G. Craig of Chicago, on "Review of the Nineteenth Century;" Rev. Dr. William C. McCook of Philadelphia, on "Progress of the Presbyterian Church in the Nineteenth Century;" Rev. Dr. Henry Collin Minton of San Francisco, on "The Divine Purpose Developed in the Progress of Time;" Rev. Dr. George T. Purves of New York, on "The Problems of the Twentieth Century;" Robert E. Speer of New York, on "The Speedy Bringing of the World to Christ," and Rev. Dr. Samuel J. Nicolls of St. Louis, on "The Opportunity and Duty of the Presbyterian Church in the Twentieth Century."

The committee of arrangements for the Twentieth Century celebration consists of Rev. Drs. Charles A. Hickey, William Henry Roberts and William B. Noble, with John Wanamaker and William H. Scott. That on management of the special fund is made up as follows: Rev. Drs. Marcus A. Brownson, George T. Purves, Richard S. Holmes, Robert Hunter, Richard D. Harlan, William J. Chicheser, William J. McKittrick, John H. Converse, Louis H. S. Verance, Frank K. Hipple, John Wanamaker, H. Edwards Rowland and William B. Gurley.

Permanent Judicial Commission.

The advisability to have a permanent judicial commission has been discussed a good deal in the religious press and in the meetings of the assembly during the last dozen years. The heresy cases of Briggs and Smith led to the appointment of a committee to consider the matter. On this committee were the stated clerks of three leading presbyteries, New York, Philadelphia and Washington, and two well known lawyers.

The committee recommends permanent judicial commissions, which shall be courts of justice of the church and shall have jurisdiction only of judicial cases. Presbyteries and synods may elect a commission, to hear and determine any particular case, but the committee makes it mandatory on the assembly to appoint a permanent commission of fifteen, whose decision shall be final. If this order of procedure had been the law of the church ten years ago, the offending clergymen would have been tried by fifteen and not six hundred of their peers. If the committee had made its recommendation for the assembly permissive and not mandatory, the overture proposed would doubtless have carried; this change made on the floor of the assembly.

Nearly every year there is an effort made to lessen the power supposed to reside in the stated clerk and to shorten his term. The present year is no exception to this rule. Several overtures have been adopted by presbyteries whose members look toward Dr. Roberts' office in the Witherspoon building with feelings akin to jealousy. At present the clerks serve for life or good behavior. Dr. W. E. Moore served as permanent clerk for sixteen years; he died two years ago and his place has been filled by Rev. Dr. William B. Noble of Redlands, Cal. Dr. William Henry Roberts has served as stated clerk since 1881 and

had been permanent clerk for two years before accepting his present office. The salary of the permanent clerk is a few hundred dollars, his labors being confined to the fortnight covering the meeting of the body each year. The salary of the stated clerk is \$4,000, his duties being continuous throughout the year; by virtue of his office he is the secretary of many committees. While the service given is well paid for, Dr. Roberts' experience is invaluable to the church; there are not a few clergymen, however, who would be glad to surrender their churches and gain a similar experience at the same rate per annum.

Sketch of the New Clerk.

Dr. Noble, the new clerk, was born in Bedford, Pa. He was graduated at Jefferson college and the Western Theological seminary. After a successful pastoral experience in the east he went to California with the hope of restoring Mrs. Noble's health. He was settled at San Diego, remaining pastor of that important church for six years. San Rafael urgently sought his services, and, as this church had intimate relations with the theological seminary, Dr. Noble was induced to accept the call, remaining pastor for six years. During this time he was a prominent member of the board of directors of the San Francisco seminary and for one year taught in the Greek chair with great profit to the students.

Three years ago Dr. Noble was called to Redlands, and, inasmuch as Mrs. Noble found southern California more congenial to her health, he entered upon the work in this beautiful, orange-growing city, which has greatly prospered under his care, and the church in southern California rejoiced to receive him back again to its midst. Dr. Noble has been one of the most active and influential of the ministers in California. He has been the means of erecting new church buildings in San Diego, San Rafael and Redlands. These three houses of worship will be a standing memorial of his efficiency and his architectural taste.

Hitherto the clerks and certain friends whom the moderator invited for that purpose have assisted the moderator in making up the standing committees, but this year the Peoria plan of selecting the committees will be put in force for the first time. This plan resembles that in use in political conventions, where county or state delegates decide who shall serve on the various committees.

New York had the moderator two years ago and Philadelphia has that honor this year. It is probable that Dr. George T. Purves, the pastor of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church of New York, will be the new moderator, if he is willing to accept the office. President George B. Stewart of Auburn seminary, Prof. Henry C. Minton of San Francisco seminary and Rev. Dr. J. W. Dinsmore of San Jose, Cal., are also mentioned as candidates.

Invited to New York.

The New York presbytery has extended an invitation to the general assembly to meet in that city in 1902. The motion was made by Rev. D. Stuart Dodge, president of the Board of Home Missions. Rev. Dr. Charles A. Stoddard of the New York Observer seconded the motion and said that he was authorized to announce that the trustees of the Fifth Avenue church had voted to extend to the assembly the use of their church for this meeting. Dr. W. D. Buchanan of the Fifth Avenue church said that his officers had taken similar action, having already invited the assembly to hold its next meeting in their church. Dr. George T. Purves, the moderator of the presbytery, said that when the assembly accepted the invitation from the presbytery the question of churches could be amicably adjusted. Dr. J. Balcom Shaw of the West End church said that the suggestion of the meeting in this city next year was in the nature of an inspiration. The motion was adopted unanimously by a rising vote. It is probable that his invitation will be accepted by the assembly.

Several invitations have been received by the Philadelphia committee of arrangements from university officers, asking that their institutions be visited by the commissioners while the assembly is in session. The University of Pennsylvania, Princeton and Lincoln are among those who wish to have the Presbyterians see their equipment for training the youth of the twentieth century. A reception by the Presbyterian Union of Philadelphia is also on the program, so that those who attend the assembly as delegates or visitors will be hospitably entertained. In addition to the 600 commissioners there will be as many delegates to the women's meetings and friends interested in the growth and development of this branch of Christ's Kingdom.

Here is a Fish Story

Matthew Clark and his 11-year-old grandson, Jimmy, were the crew of a shack on the ice in Varnum's Cove, South Brooksville, Me., one day last week, and they were having good luck catching smelts, relates the New York Sun. It was a comfortable shack, with two bunks and a pot-bellied stove for heating and cooking. The old man sat on the edge of his bunk and smoked the morning hours away, while Jimmy tended the set lines and yanked smelts through the ice hole with the skill of a veteran.

Toward noon the smelts stopped running, and the old man went ashore to chop wood for the fire, while Jimmy curled himself up in his bunk and went to sleep. When the old man started to go back to the shack with a fine bundle of dry pine he heard a strange noise. He looked at the shack and the sight that he beheld rooted him to the spot where he stood.

Protruding from a ragged rent in the



HENRY TUCKLEY, D. D.—WHO WILL WRITE FOR THE BEE ON SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN ENGLAND.

flimsy roof of the shack was the long snout of a man-eating shark. The monster seemed to be caught fast in some manner and was thrashing about furiously. Smoke was curling from the eaves of the shack and rivulets of blood were coursing from beneath the little building along the ice.

Grandfather Clark thought of his boy. He rushed to the shack and tugged at the door. But the door stubbornly refused to open. With his ax he chopped savagely at the planks. At last the door fell in with a crash and out rushed a cloud of smoke and steam. Although the door was down the old man could not get into the shack, for the great, shining black body of the shark was suspended directly across the opening.

Grandfather Clark called out to the boy and was overjoyed to hear the cheery response through the clouds of smoke and steam: "All right—try to chop through."

The old man attacked the side of the shack and soon had a hole through the wall, from which emerged the boy.

Meantime the struggles of the shark had ceased and it soon was dead. Then Jimmy told his story to the assembled smelters, all the time keeping a firm grip on a bloody ice chisel that he held in his hand when he came out of the shack.

Jimmy said that he had been awakened from sleep by a splash of cold water, and had jumped up just in time to see the body of the shark shoot straight up through the smelt hole, its snout going through the roof before its speed was slackened. When the shark fell back it was caught under the jaw by a stout iron hook suspended from the roof, and there it hung, unable to get loose.

No Breaking Off

Detroit Free Press: "See here, Daniel," began the old farmer when he had cornered his son out by the corner, "what's this here circalatin 'round 'mong the neighbors 'bout you and Patience breakin' off yer engagement?"

"Nuthin' to it 'tall," with a sullen tone and look.

"Blamed funny. I never see so much smoke where they wasn't some fire. Did you and her have some words?"

"I said there wasn't no breakin' off, didn't I? What's the use of cross-questionin' a feller like he was on the witness stand?"

"Lot's of use, my young man. Hain't I told you more times 'n you've got fingers an' toes that my mind and ma's mind is set on this here marriage? Don't our farms jine, and isn't she a only chile an' hain't you a only chile? Hain't you got no gum'tion nur common sense?"

"She said not. She said I didn't know

enough ter peel 'biled peraters afore eatin' 'em, or to keep awake when I was a courtin' of her."

"She ain't so fur wrong, either. And what did you say?"

"I tole her she didn't have interleck enough to talk so's to keep nobody awake and that of I was a plekin' and a choosin' fur beauty she'd be at the foot of the class. That's what I tole her."

"Well?"

"She ordered me ter git out and said ef she ever see me on that farm from then hencefor'ard she'd set the dogs on me, an' I tole her the dogs would have a confounded easy time of it so fur as I concerned. But there was no breakin' off."

Then the old man informed the boy that if the engagement wasn't renewed within twenty-four hours he'd leave every "durned dollar to a sannytorium fur fools."



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