The Sun.

It Shines for All.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1871.

Amusements To-day.

Booth's Theatre—The Marble Heart.
Bryant's Opera House—534 st., between 6th and 7th ave.
Fifth Avenue Theatre—Jisobel.
Grand Opera House—La Grande Duchesse.
Japanese Troupe—San Francisco Minstrel Hall, 585 Broadway.
Lina Edwin's Theatre—Pluto. Matinee.
Niblo's Garden—The Black Crook.
New York Circus—14th st., opp. Academy of Music. Matinee.
Olympic Theatre—Horizon. Matinee.
Park Theatre, Brooklyn—Pique.
Tony Pastor's Opera House—Female Minstrels, &c. Matinee
Wallack's—The Rivals.
Wood's Museum—Across the Continent. Matinee.

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Semi-Weekly, per year,	2 00
Ten copies to one address,	18 00
Twenty copies to one address,	35 00
Fifty copies to one address,	80 00
Weekly, per year,	1 00
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The Connecticut Election.

The result of the Connecticut election seems to surprise the Democrats as much as that in New Hampshire did the Republicans. The reason is that neither party outside of those States was well informed in regard to the causes whose seemingly contradictory effects are now developed. The New Hampshire campaign was, down to the last moment, carried on by the Republicans exclusively in the interest of Gen. GRANT. At this juncture came the ostracism of SUMNER, which swept like a bombshell through the Republican ranks. The time was so short that the party had no opportunity to recover its position by the repudiation of the President, and the consequence was that they were beaten.

Not so in Connecticut. Forewarned, Gov. JEWELL was forearmed. As soon as he heard the thunder of the Democratic guns from the Granite State, he let GRANT slide, with his San Domingo swindle, his unconstitutional Ku-Klux programme to secure his renomination, and especially the outrage upon Senator SUMNER. This was the turning point which opened the way to what can almost be regarded as a triumph.

Other causes contributed to strengthen JEWELL. Whenever the negroes in any State vote for the first or even the second time, they go almost in a body for the Republicans. This is natural, and it is creditable to them. So soon, however, as they begin to find that no special benefit accrues from an exclusive support of Republican nominees, a portion of them fall off, like other classes, to the Democratic party, as has been exhibited in the Southern States. Now, the twelve or fifteen hundred negroes of Connecticut voted for the first time on Monday; and of course, while a fragment went for ENGLISH, the mass supported JEWELL. This alone swept away the 800 majority which ENGLISH received last year. Indeed, but for this negro vote, the Republican defection from GRANT and his measures was sufficient, in spite of JEWELL's great personal popularity and of his cautious repudiation of GRANT and his policy, to have given ENGLISH at least a thousand majority.

Another cause tended strongly to ENGLISH's defeat. As soon as the result in New Hampshire was known, the old Bourbons, who hang like dead weights on the skirts of the Democratic party and retard its advance toward broader and higher ground, ran wild, and began to talk of sending the United States Constitution to a National Convention for revision. This alarmed the anti-GRANT Republicans of Connecticut, and threw the State against ENGLISH. This should teach sensible Democrats that the sooner they send these reactionary malcontents to the rear of the column, the better it will be for the party.

At the last stages of the campaign it was asserted, in order to prejudice the Democratic cause, that Tammany was using its money to elect ENGLISH. This was an idle charge, for it is extremely doubtful whether the Tammany Sachems desired the election of ENGLISH, and for the reason that his triumph now would have made him a formidable competitor for the Presidential nomination next year.

The Prospect in France.

The suppression of the revolt in Paris is a matter of course. This was certain as soon as it became clear that the other prominent cities would not take part in the movement. If the extreme Republicans had been able to extend their insurrection to Lyons, Marseilles, and Bordeaux, they might have got possession of the country; but without this their failure at Paris was inevitable.

The Government of Mr. THIERS will, however, be broken down by its success in suppressing the Parisian Reds. This event will settle the question of the duration of the present republic. We may look at no distant day for the establishment of a new monarchy; and the facts indicate very strongly that this monarchy will very possibly be one which nobody has expected.

The National Assembly contains about six hundred and fifty members. Of these, three hundred are Legitimists and one hundred and fifty Orleanists. A reconciliation between these two parties has probably been already arranged; indeed, from information which has reached this country, we know that such a measure has for some time been in preparation. Of the two factions, the Legitimists are not only the stronger in numbers, but the more resolute in their opinions. They have gained also in power in the war with Prussia, for the best fighting has been done by them. Besides, the Orleanists can lose little by making the combination. If the Count DE CHAMBORD is placed upon the throne, the heir to the crown will be the Count DE PARIS. CHAMBORD, who is now fifty-one years old, fat and apoplectic, has no children and will not have any; and the adherents of the Orleans family are not so foolish as to sacrifice the chance of coming into power in the course of a few years, to an empty animosity against the last representative of the elder branch of the Bourbons.

The coalition of these two parties will form a majority of more than two-thirds of the Assembly. Mere conservatives and men of no fixed opinions, who only desire the safest and best escape from the present complications, will join them, leaving the Republicans in the Assembly in a small minority. After that the rest will be easy. It is a strange thing to say, but is anything else in France at present more probable than the proclamation of HENRY V. as constitutional King?

A Bubble Exploded.

We have more than once exposed the follies of the would-be menders of our present depreciated currency.

The latest phase of these follies, in the shape of BUTLER's bill, backed by the banks, we have already commented on. This measure, however, embodies a fundamental fallacy of such a stupendous character, and is so strongly supported by names of respectability, that we feel constrained to expose and re-expose it until its folly shall be so evident that it shall be glad to hide its head.

Setting aside the purely selfish interest which the banks have in it, which we have already explained, we only wish now to call attention once more to the leading fallacy of the bill. This is the idea that when a greenback is exchanged for a Government bond, which is itself reconvertible into greenbacks on demand at the Treasury, it is cancelled or redeemed. For this plan of redemption is heralded as the great modern discovery in banking, as the patent method by which we may always have plenty of paper money, and yet never have too much, because it will be always redeemable in Government bonds bearing interest. This is the extolled self-regulating machine which is to put an end to all necessity for specie hereafter as a basis for our paper currency. By this bill, it is triumphantly declared, the problem of a true paper money circulation is at last solved. Its friends exultingly proclaim that the "currency of the future" is to rest on this basis; and the great experiment is to be fully inaugurated by the passage of BUTLER's bill.

Now, we hold this proposition to be self-evident: That in measuring the volume of any circulating medium, its established and interchangeable equivalents must be included. That is to say, a currency of coin and of paper money redeemable in specie amounts in volume at any one time to the sum of the paper added to the specie held for its redemption and that used in circulation. It is all alike money, the one being always exchangeable for the other. The amount of the aggregate circulation is the sum of the whole added together. In estimating the money in circulation in any country, this is the invariable and only right method of computation.

Now, let us apply this simple test to the proposed plan of redeeming the greenbacks by a 3.65 Government bond. Assume, as a starting point, that the greenback circulation is four hundred millions of dollars. Enact a law, such as is proposed, that whoever wants to exchange a hundred-dollar or a thousand-dollar greenback for a bond bearing 3.65 per cent. interest per annum, can make the exchange at the Treasury; and whoever wants a hundred or a thousand-dollar greenback can have it from the Treasury by presenting a 3.65 bond; and how does the case stand? For our greenbacks we can command 3.65 bonds, and for our 3.65 bonds we can command greenbacks at the Treasury. What is the difference between them? None; for the one commands the other at sight. They thus become identical, and in practice will be used for identical purposes; for they are exactly equivalent. The amount of money in circulation becomes the aggregate sum of greenbacks and 3.65 bonds in existence. Being precisely equal to one another, the bond and the greenback will perform precisely the same functions in every transaction requiring money for its settlement. A debt of a hundred dollars can be paid with a hundred-dollar bond as well as with a hundred-dollar greenback, and thus the bond will go into circulation along with the greenback, carrying its earned and readily computed interest along with it, and adding so much to the principal.

Starting with the four hundred millions of greenbacks in existence as the instruments to create the 3.65 bonds, the four hundred millions will therefore remain the sum total of the Government circulation, just so long as this system of redemption, as it is termed, lasts. But there is no actual redemption in the case. The plan simply produces two kinds of paper money, one kind bearing interest and the other not. The interest bearing sort would for all large transactions become the favorite, for it would daily earn interest for the holder. A man who had a thousand-dollar bond in his pocket or in his safe would find it a very profitable and enticing kind of money, for it would be earning him a dollar every ten days. But at whose cost? Why, of course, at that of the tax-payers.

If this expenditure accomplished anything, we might not complain. If it improved the character of the circulating medium, if it cured its redundancy, if it approximated its value more nearly to coin, if it moved us a step nearer to specie payments, if, in a word, it did anything beneficial whatever, we might say it was an excusable expenditure. But what are we to say of putting our greenback circulation on interest, at an expense of twelve or fifteen millions of dollars a year, without effecting anything by it, or changing anything except to put these superfluous annual millions in the vaults of the banks and the pockets of rich bill-holders?

This then is the upshot of this vaunted scheme of a self-operating interchangeable circulating medium. According to its advocates, it will reduce the volume of the currency when it is not needed by the business of the country, and swell that volume whenever more money is required. But we demonstrate that on the contrary the volume of the circulating medium must on this system of interchangeability be always the same. Whether small or great, the quantity will be invariable. It will depend wholly on the volume of bonds or currency, or both, at the start. Whenever the system is put in operation, it must be on some fixed amount of bills in circulation or bonds which may be issued. And this sum, whatever it may be, is the actual, positive, unchangeable sum of the circulating medium; and its volume will never be increased or diminished a dollar by the operation of the proposed system.

The interchangeability feature destroys the essential nature of redemption, which is payment. Under this system there is no payment. There is merely an exchange of one piece of paper for another, each having the same functions, value, and quality. In this exchange there is no chance for either increase or diminution of the volume of paper money on which the system operates. The whole thing is a pure, unadulterated fallacy and delusion from beginning to end; and since our neighbor of the *Tribune* is one of its supporters, we especially commend our exposition to his candid mind.

And now let us see if, after the explosion of this last and greatest bubble of the financial quacks, we shall hear anything more on this subject from BUTLER and the banks. Their scheme is to saddle the Treasury with an annual tax of four millions, more or less, to be paid to the banks, and a further sum of eight or ten millions a year, to be paid to money-holders and dealers, to supply an irredeemable interest-bearing currency in place of the greenbacks, under the pretence that it is to establish a patent self-regulating system of redemption, to astonish mankind by its fruits, and become, in the language of one of its enthusiastic seers, "the currency of the future."

The War on Mr. Fenton.

Gen. GRANT is making the war on Senator FENTON quite lively. Only one of FENTON's friends remains in office in this city. This is Gen. PATRICK H. JONES, the Postmaster, and his turn will probably come before long.

Why the Hon. MOSES H. GRINNELL should be made to suffer on Mr. FENTON's account is hard to understand. Mr. GRINNELL was never identified with FENTON, and has been zealously devoted to GRANT ever since he was first nominated for the Presidency. Indeed, his devotion began before, for he gave a thousand dollars toward the cost of GRANT's house, and another thousand dollars subsequently toward paying Gen. GRANT for the house when it was turned over to Gen. SHERMAN. However, Mr. GRINNELL has been in office two years—one year for each one thousand dollars of his presents—and this may be considered sufficient.

The policy of this war on Senator FENTON is like that which formerly prevailed among the Democrats of Massachusetts. Their rule used to be to keep their party exactly large enough to furnish men for all the Federal offices. When GRANT gets the Republican party of this State down to that size, there will be no difficulty in his getting all the delegates from New York in the National Convention.

Some interesting particulars respecting the French and German war have just been published in Berlin from official sources. When war was declared by France on July 19, the German frontier was substantially defenceless; and if the French forces had been ready to move into Germany at once, they could have done so almost without resistance. It required seven days to get the German armies into movable order, and thirteen days to transport them to their first line of operations, extending from Treves on their right to Landau on their left. During this period forty-two thousand men a day were conveyed by rail to their appointed positions. This makes a force of 546,000 effective men with which the Germans began their campaign. In this great work of transportation five principal railroad lines were used, but most of the business was done by three of them. It must also be remembered that not only the men, but their artillery, horses, ammunition, and provisions, had to be transported. One-fifth of this great force had to be brought a distance of from three hundred to four hundred and fifty miles. The first great battle, that of Woerth, was fought on August 6, and the war was really ended with the surrender of Paris on January 28, in all one hundred and seventy-five days. Seventeen pitched battles and one hundred and fifty-six engagements were fought. The Germans took six fortresses, more than six thousand seven hundred cannon, and one hundred and twenty eagles or other ensigns, and they made prisoners of eleven thousand six hundred and fifty officers and three hundred and sixty-three thousand men. The investment of Paris lasted from September 9 to January 28, one hundred and thirty days in all. The siege had twenty-two engagements in consequence of sorties, some of which attained almost the dimensions of battles. There were only three naval engagements in the war: one at Hiddersee, on September 19; one at Putsiger Bucht, September 21; and one near Havana, October 12. One of the most remarkable features of this war is the utter insignificance of the naval operations on both sides.

We yesterday had the pleasure of a visit from a Southern gentleman largely engaged in planting in one of the Gulf States. As he was extensively interested both in cotton and sugar before the war, his testimony regarding the present mode of labor in that part of the country is of great value. He says that the negroes work admirably, and are in a progressive condition in respect of both wealth and intelligence. Their labor is much more effective than it was under the system of slavery. No overseer was ever able to get out of them so much good work as they now perform of their own accord. This fact is demonstrated beyond dispute by the enormous cotton crop of last year—over four millions of bales; and everything looks most promising for great crops the present season. The plan of renting lands to the negroes has come extensively into use. In Mississippi, especially in the rich bottom lands along the Mississippi river, the Yazoo, and the Sunflower, the owners of plantations have rented them to the negroes at the rate of twelve dollars an acre for the year. Lands which thirty dollars an acre would buy bring this amount of rent. Senator REVELS has a plantation of 1,100 acres in Jefferson county, of which 800 acres are cleared; and all the cleared portion he has rented at ten dollars an acre. Cotton lands in Louisiana are rented at nine dollars. The negroes who hire these lands pay generally as much as ten per cent. of the rent in cash in advance, and give good New Orleans acceptances for the balance, payable at the end of the year. These acceptances are generally furnished to them by Jewish houses in New Orleans, which have agents established with small stores in every part of the country. These agents know the character and means of all the leading negroes in every section, and upon their report their principals in New Orleans make themselves responsible for the payment of the rent. In consideration of this, the men who hire the plantations become bound to purchase all their supplies at the local stores kept by the agents of their city endorsers. For these supplies they pay, of course, an immense profit, generally one hundred per cent. When the season is over and the crop gathered in, it is sent to the New Orleans houses to sell, and after the proceeds are realized the accounts are settled. In this way one New Orleans house had last year consigned to it 90,000 bales of cotton, the property of colored men, for the payment of whose rent it had become responsible. By this sort of arrangement many negroes, who before the war were slaves, now command very extensive credit, and are making a good deal of money. One or two successful years will enable them to buy the farms they hire and to set out in life as substantial land-owners and capitalists.

The children of the negroes are universally sent to school and taught to read and write, their parents paying willingly for their instruction. As yet, however, the negroes have not generally devoted much of their earnings to improving their mode of living. They still inhabit such wretched cabins as they lived in when they were slaves, and pay as little attention to comfort and neatness in their houses and dress as they did before. What money they spend is on jewelry and showy articles. The first thing a negro buys is a watch with a shining gilt chain, and the next a horse to ride to meeting. As a general thing he prefers a poor horse to a good one, because the loss is less if the animal happens to die. Upon the whole, however, there is a steady progress among the colored population of the South. They are working hard, saving money, and educating their children. Moreover, as they begin to have means of their own and are required to pay taxes, they become sensitive to the villainy of the carpet-bag governments, and disposed to revolt against the corruption which lays such extraordinary burdens upon the people.

AMUSEMENTS.

Reappearance of Charles Matthews.

After an absence of some fifteen years Mr. Charles Mathews will appear at the Fifth Avenue Theatre in this city on Monday evening next. Mr. Mathews is one of the most elegant, accomplished, and charming comedians who ever trod the English stage. His visit to New York will be welcomed with delight by his former admirers, while the new generation may think themselves fortunate in the opportunity of witnessing the performances of so remarkable an actor. We are assured that years have taken away nothing of Mr. Mathews's spirit and elasticity, while they have added to the refinement and finish of his art.

James McCloskey.

The success of Mr. McCloskey's drama, "Across the Continent," has added the reputation of that gentleman as one of the most effective of the writers of that class of dramatic composition of the present day.

Mr. McCloskey is a native of New York city, and is now about 43 years of age. He has been connected with the stage ever since his sixteenth year, the principal portion of the time at the Old Bowery Theatre, and for some years at various theatres in California, and he is probably one of the best stage managers in the United States.

Besides his play of "Across the Continent," Mr. McCloskey is the author of several other highly successful pieces, among which are "Through by Daylight," "On Hand, or True to the Last," now being played with success at the Bowery, and "Pomp," which met with so favorable a reception at the Bowery, and has been played with equal success throughout the State, as at Buffalo, Rochester, Troy, and Albany, and is about, as we learn, to be produced at the Park Theatre in Brooklyn.

Among those who are acquainted with James McCloskey is known as a warm, generous, and open-hearted friend. Like others similarly disposed, his generosity and confiding nature have led him open to imposition, and he has at times been the victim of practical pretenders who have visited and made money on the strength of his name. Friends and admirers, especially such as will now know him, and he will find that his friends may be classed under the motto of the general public.

A New Play at Booth's.

Tom Taylor's admirable drama, "The Fool's Revenge," was brought out Monday evening at Booth's Theatre. It is a pleasure to welcome a play of such sterling merit. The story is simple, direct, and intense, the characters well defined and marked with individuality. The whole working up of the piece shows the master hand. The legitimate methods of art are pursued, and the result is such as entirely to command the most critical approbation. The play is founded on Victor Hugo's drama *Le Roi s'Amuse*, but it operates so widely from the original as to be entitled to be rated as a new play. The part of *Bertuccio*, the Duke's jester, is one of the most striking, vivid, and characteristic to be seen upon the stage. Having been deeply wronged by the nobles of the Florentine court, this hunchback schemes for revenge. In pursuing the overthrow of *Count Mauletta's* who, he nearly accomplishes his own daughter's ruin, and meets his own death. Mr. Booth depicts the alternations of scathed foolery, of deadly hate, of paternal affection, and of intense and aimless remorse with consummate artistic ability. The presentation of this character by this actor some twelve years since is remembered as a triumph of dramatic skill, and it has lost none of its force with the lapse of time. The picturesque Italian dresses of the fifteenth century and the admirable scenery lent fine illustration to the play. We shall recur to the performance again as one worthy of more than passing remark.

THE SURROGATE'S TRIALS.

The Fortune that was Captured by the Hon. Horatio P. Allen—Fighting a Will which Surrogate Tucker Admitted.

Catharine Fay's will was yesterday in the Surrogate's Court. Its story is very peculiar. Catharine Fay, who was related to the old Barsen and Jackson families of New York, died in April, 1868. She was aged 68 or 69 years. She left property, real and personal, worth between $25,000 and $45,000, and a will dated 1865, in which she bequeathed it all to her attorney, Horatio P. Allen, and his wife. At the same time she had a sister living, several half brothers and half sisters, and a number of nieces and nephews. She was on good terms with them.

When the nature of the will was made known the relatives were thunderstruck. They transferred all their legal right and title to Anna M. Merriam, the testator's sister, and she secured an attorney to contest the will. The attorney took a trip to the Surrogate's Court to ascertain the time when the subject would come up. Somebody gave him information which proved incorrect. He left the Court to make preparations for the contest, and during his absence Surrogate Gideon J. Tucker, there being no opposition, admitted the will to probate.

Two executors were appointed in the will, one being a brother of Horatio P. Allen. That gentleman lost no time in handing over the property of Catharine Fay to his brother, the legatee.

The mischief therefore was done. All that remained was to undo it. A protest was entered against the will and the probate, Mrs. Merriam alleging that undue influence had been exerted over the mind of the testator in the making of what purported to be her will, and that she was not in a proper state of mind at the time to make a will. The case was opened some time last year, but was frequently interrupted by the Taylor will case. It had been opened for Horatio P. Allen by the examination of the witnesses to the will, and there the case was rested for him. The contestants rebutted with their witnesses, and yesterday they still occupied the ground. They were represented by Messrs. Ludovic Bennet, D. C. Backus, and Calvin Frost.

Horatio P. Allen was present for himself, and was assisted by Messrs. Miner and Jacques and Judge Whiting. Mr. Allen is an aged gentleman with gray hair and gold-bowed eye-glasses. His face is thin and withered, and his nose resembles the Duke of Wellington's. He is a prominent member of an up-town church, and is a zealous school officer. He listened attentively to the testimony. Two witnesses, ladies, intimate friends of Catharine Fay during her lifetime, were questioned, and the proceedings were again adjourned. There was only one solitary spectator in the court-room. It was a venerable colored gentleman, who sat in a corner.

Erroneous reports respecting the will of the late Brian McCahill have been freely circulated. It has been stated that the bulk of his fortune was left to his nephew, Mr. Thomas J. McCahill, and comparatively small legacies to his other relations. This is entirely incorrect. Under the provisions of the will Mr. Thomas J. McCahill has an equal share with fifteen other nephews and nieces of the deceased. He has no more and no less than any of the others. If the will is confirmed, he will receive about fifteen thousand dollars—to a man of his property a matter of comparatively little importance.

The corrected history of what are known as the Alabama claims has been prepared and published by Charles C. Beaman, Jr. It forms a thick octavo volume of 357 pages, and gives all the details and documents necessary to an exact comprehension of the case, not only of the Alabama, but of the Florida, Shenandoah, and other rebel cruisers built and sent out from British ports.

Some discussion has arisen in Germany over a proposal to annex portions of Alsace to Bavaria. The Prussian journals are almost unanimous against it; but it is argued on the other side that the district will still be German, and that Bavaria will be conciliated by the cession.

IS HYMN SINGING WICKED?

ROUSE'S VERSION VS. GEORGE H. STUART AND THE HYMNISTS.

Courts Civil and Ecclesiastical Pestered with the Songs of Zion—Has a Synod Original Jurisdiction, and is a Presbytery Greater than a Synod?—Africa Settling the Squabbles of the Scotch Covenanters.

Correspondence of The Sun.

PHILADELPHIA, April 3.—The testimony in the pending *quo warranto* proceedings against the Trustees of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, which occupied the attention of Judge Williams and a jury in the Court of Nisi Prius in this city during nearly all the month of March, was closed on Friday last. The argument of counsel is to be heard this week, having begun this morning, and the case also will go to the jury for a verdict.

This case has attracted attention because of the prominence given to the action of the Synod of the Church nearly three years ago, imposing a sentence of suspension against Mr. George H. Stuart, one of the ruling elders of the church, and others. This was an incidental occurrence in the long train of unfriendly and factious proceedings, in courts both civil and ecclesiastical, which have marked the history of the case. Mr. Stuart is widely known throughout the country as President of the United States Christian Association, one of the most prominent benevolent agencies which the war of the rebellion brought into existence. He is a merchant of Philadelphia, of Irish birth, and decided Presbyterian opinions, wealthy, generous, and able.

The Reformed Presbyterian is one of the several branches into which the old Church of John Knox, in Scotland, has been divided by the lapse of time. The word Reformed in its title, however, indicates a crab-like movement rather than an advance in harmony with the intelligence and spirit of the age. The old Kirk of Scotland, the parent Presbyterian ecclesiastical organization, planted itself upon a rigid adherence to the text of the Scriptures in all devotional exercises beyond the extempore prayers of the worshippers, and the weighty sermons of the pastors. Hymns, as aids to devotion, were esteemed

A DEVICE OF THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS

to lure unwary souls from the straight and narrow path. But singing being recognized in the Scriptures as a legitimate and important part of public worship, the Church authorities could not rule it out. How to sing without something to sing was a question which early agitated the founders of the Church. But in this emergency one Rouse came forward with a metrical version of the Psalms of David, preserving the original language, or the words rather of King James's version of the sacred poet. This production was, indeed, a Providential provision for the old Covenanters, and Rouse's version was duly appointed, by the highest authorities of the Church, to be sung at public and private worship, to the exclusion of all others. It is not necessary to quote samples of these strange rhythmical effusions to show to modern readers how little adapted they are to the purpose for which they were designed. Rather than elevating the thoughts of the worshippers and inspiring the sentiments of the people, the beauty of the original Psalms was destroyed by the poetry all knocked out of them in the desperate effort to preserve the original words. And in their adoption for congregational use, the Church merely decreed the overthrow and disuse of a most beautiful and attractive feature of christian worship. This led to trouble in the church and dissensions. Other versions of the Psalms were prepared, in which

GREATER POETIC LICENSE WAS ALLOWED,

and something better adapted to singing was produced, the aim being to preserve the sentiment rather than the words of the original. These versions were adopted by seceding branches of the parent church, giving rise to as many separate ecclesiastical organizations as there were different metrical versions of the Psalms. In process of time the license given in uninspired versions was used to introduce into the Psalms David's Psalms into the psalmody of the Church, and even the writings of profane poets were received and sung. The Reformed Presbyterian Church came into existence as an effort to purify the church in this regard, and restablish the exclusive use of the ancient and only genuine Psalms of David. The church took root in this country before the Revolution through the efforts of missionaries sent out from Scotland; but at that time its members were too few to justify

SEPARATE PRESBYTERIAN ORGANIZATION,

and the few churches that were established, and the missionaries sent out, allied themselves with or to be more exact, were placed under the charge of a Presbytery of the Associate Presbyterian Church, another branch of the old Scotch stock, which had previously been established here. But in 1782 the Reformed Presbyterians found themselves sufficiently numerous to set up on their own account, and withdrew from the Associate Presbytery, organizing a Presbytery of their own in harmony with "the testimony, doctrine, and standards" of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland. The Reformed Presbyterians of Scotland, the successors of the ancient church in Scotland, the use of any other psalms or hymns being regarded as cause for the exercise of discipline. From this Presbytery others have since been formed, the whole being grouped in the "General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in America," which is the highest ecclesiastical judicatory of that branch of the church in this country.

THE FIRST REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

of Philadelphia was organized in 1751, and is one of the oldest, wealthiest, and most prosperous of the churches of that denomination in this country. It has a fine stuccoed brick church edifice on Broad street, south of Spruce, built seventeen years ago at a cost of $70,000, but now appraised at $30,000. Previous to the present difficulties the congregation numbered about 300 communicating members. It is an incorporation under the laws of Pennsylvania. By its charter its temporalities are committed to the care of seven trustees, to be chosen by the ballots of the church members and pew holders annually, the election to be held on the first Monday of each year. The church, of which notice shall be given two weeks previous from the pulpit, the trustees are also required to be recognized by the Session of this congregation as being in full communion with this church."

The spiritual affairs of the church are subject as in all Presbyterian churches, to the immediate control of the Session, which consists of the pastor and ruling elders. This church has seven ruling elders, of whom Mr. George H. Stuart is one. Its pastor is the Rev. Dr. R. W. J. Wylie, who has held that position for the past seventeen years, and for nine years previous was assistant pastor.

PRESBYTERIAN GOVERNMENT.

It will assist to an understanding of the existing troubles to state here that, unlike Presbyterian government, the Church Session has original jurisdiction in disciplinary action against laymen, and the Presbytery against clergymen. The Synod has only appellate jurisdiction in either case.

It seems that in this particular church there is or was a conservative party, church tories, if you please, who are great sticklers for decorum, conformity to the law and traditions of the church. There is also a more intelligent party, who while they respect their traditions, are yet sufficiently liberal to do not consider it the exercise of Christian of all that is good and desirable in matters. The Pastor, it would seem, is party; so too are a majority of the Session, conspicuously so Mr. George H. Stuart. These are willing to unite with other evangelical Christians in the promotion of the general cause of religion. Mr. Stuart has been known to

PREACH AT UNION MEETINGS

for Christian work in churches of other denominations, and has even gone so far away from the old Scotch standards on such occasions as to sanction the use of, and even announce for singing, such profane hymns as, "From Greenland's icy mountains," and "Rock of ages cleft for me."

This tendency to heterodoxy became so patent at last that the tory faction feared the church was to be stolen bodily over to some of the unsanctified hymn-singing sects; to avoid which they, at the election for trustees in January, 1868, attempted to get control of the organization, and for that purpose ran a separate ticket for trustees. At that election 471 votes were cast, of which James Graham and Thomas Johnston, who ran on both tickets, received all. The tory party cast an average of 258 votes for each of their other candidates, and the Stuart party but 222 for theirs. The latter party at once

CLAIMED A FOUL

and demanded a scrutiny of the voters. A list of the persons voting was thereupon referred to the Session to determine their eligibility, none but church members or pew-holders being entitled to vote. It was charged that 127 of the voters "had no right to the privilege of voters in the congregation," being in arrears for pew rents, or not pew-holders at all. The tory party, however, in defiance of the Session, sustained the election, and their Board of Trustees immediately organized in the lecture room of the church, by electing George Gordon, one of their number, President. An adjourned meeting of the congregation was held on the 23d of January, when the Session reported that they had not yet completed the revision of the list of voters, and asked for further time. This was

A PROTRACTED AND STORMY MEETING.

The Gordon party, attempted to get a vote through, declaring the election valid, and their trustees elected; but the Stuart party, though in a minority, filibustered successfully until 9 o'clock the following morning, when the meeting adjourned without doing anything.

In the mean time, the old board of Trustees held over, claiming the right to do so until their successors were duly elected and organized. Hearing of the organization of the Gordon trustees, the old Board caused the locks on the church doors and gates to be changed, and refused to surrender the property. James Graham and Thomas Johnston, who had been unanimously elected trustees for 1868, were also members of the old Board. They refused to act with the Gordon Trustees, and acted with the old Board in holding over.

THE FIRST APPEAL TO THE COURTS.

On the 24 of February, 1868, the Gordon trustees filed a bill in equity in the Supreme Court against the old Board, and praying for a decree affirming their title to the custody of the church property as the legal trustees. This complaint was referred to an Examiner to take testimony, and the case was held open for several months, during which time a great mass of testimony was adduced, when the Gordon party discontinued their proceedings.

THE PRESBYTERY TAKES A HAND IN.

In the mean time Presbytery met, and in reviewing the sessional records, was made cognizant of these difficulties. That body proceeded to appoint a Commission "to investigate the difficulties existing in the First Church, with a view, if possible, to restore peace and harmony." This was on the 14th of May, 1868. On the 26th of the same month the General Synod met at Pittsburgh. The Gordon party, backed by about 150 of the congregation,

APPLIED TO THE SYNOD BY REMONSTRANCE

for redress against the trustees in possession. Synod, instead of referring the matter to Presbytery for its action, assumed original jurisdiction of it, referring the whole matter "to a Commission of General Synod, who shall be clothed with Synodical powers, and have authority to issue the whole case," and directing the Commission to meet in the church the June following. This action of Synod was brought about amid much acrimony and bitterness. The Synod, at the same meeting, also entertained charges against Mr. George H. Stuart, and without the form of a trial, or any pretence of complying with the laws of the Church,

SUSPENDED MR. STUART FROM THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

for the alleged crimes of using in the worship of God "imitations and uninspired compositions called hymns," and of communing "with others in other churches in sealing ordinances." The Stuart party considered all this action of Synod as irregular and invalid, and accordingly disregarded it. On the 20th of June following, the Reformed Presbytery of Philadelphia met in special session, and, after hearing a full report of the extraordinary proceedings of Synod, adopted a long preamble and series of resolutions, asserting the proceedings of Synod in appointing a commission and in suspending Mr. Stuart to be contrary to the standards of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, to its Book of Discipline, to its terms of communion, to its formula for ordination, and to numerous acts upon its records, and thereby

SUSPENDING THE RELATIONS OF THE PRESBYTERY TO THE SYNOD

until the objectionable action of Synod should be revoked, or until further light should be obtained, asserting the continuance of the members of the Presbytery with the Reformed Presbyterian Church, maintaining her organization, and endeavoring to develop and apply her principles in their proper application to the present age and country.

Pending these proceedings the Gordon trustees undertook to collect the pew rents due the church, and as a matter of fact did get access to some of the revenues. Thereupon the old Board of Trustees promptly applied to the Supreme Court for

AN INJUNCTION

restraining Gordon and his associates from attempting to act as trustees of the church. This case was fully heard by the Chief Justice, sitting at *Nisi Prius*, and an injunction granted restraining each and all of the Gordon party from interfering with the trustees in possession in the lawful exercise of their office. That injunction is still in force.

It is alleged by the Gordon party that charges were duly filed against George H. Stuart and another elder, James Grant, before the church session, but that the Session refused to entertain them. It is further alleged that the moderator of the Session, the Rev. Dr. Wylie, upon the papers being laid upon the table at a regular meeting of Session, picked them up and

"CONTEMPTUOUSLY AND VIOLENTLY"

threw them into the face of the prosecutor. It is also claimed that an appeal was then taken to Presbytery, but that the Presbytery refused to consider the case; whereupon the case was carried up to the Synod with the result above set forth.

The Commission appointed by the Synod met at the church on the 17th of June, 1868, but found the doors shut against them. They say in their report, "a number of the Stuart party and their friends, "near the church and on the opposite side of the street, jeering and hooting and ridiculing them," "conducted to say the least of it, uncommanding gentlemen and members of a Christian church." The Commission then adjourned to another church. After meeting and adjourning from day to day, and succeeding in getting but a single witness before it, the Commission adopted the following minute:

WHOLESALE EXCOMMUNICATION AND REORGANIZATION.

Whereas, The General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America did, at its annual meeting held in the city of Pittsburgh, May, 1868, appoint a commission to meet in the First Reformed Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, on the 17th day of June of the same year, and adjourn certain pending difficulties in said church; and

Whereas, When the commission assembled at the time and place appointed they found the doors closed against them, and those claiming to exercise control over the church property directing the doors to be closed against the members of said commission, and in connection with them the public, and refusing admittance to the church during the time the commission was in session, only to those present, and in defiance of the Synod and the laws of the church, they did, on the day mentioned, hold a meeting in another place; and

Whereas, When the parties in said congregation, claiming to exercise authority and control, both in spiritual and temporal affairs, were asked by the commission if they were duly called to appear before the Commission, and accordingly were informed by the Commission of the object and authority of the Commission, they refused to recognize the Commission from issuing a rule from the matters referred to it; and

Whereas, The Commission has learned on unquestionable authority that the Reformed Presbytery of Philadelphia, which has had the charge of the First Presbyterian congregation of Philadelphia, which congregation is now in a state of schism, and which met on Friday, June 12, 1868, attempt to secure a majority some of the acts of the Synod passed at its late meeting, seceding from its control, and placing themselves beyond the jurisdiction of the Synod, and that this Commission—one minority member of the Presbytery voting against and dissenting from such action, and another not voting, but expressing no dissent—has left the Presbytery in suspending its relationship with the Synod; therefore,

Resolved, That the Reformed Presbytery of Philadelphia, having by its conduct placed itself out of the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and withdrawn from its jurisdiction, the officers and members thereof are hereby declared to be without the jurisdiction of General Synod, and of this Commission.

Resolved, That Dr. A. S. McMurray and Robert Guy, having been nominated as ruling elders and others, for the office, and members who have been elected, appear on the various papers submitted to Synod at this late meeting, and by Synod referred to this Commission, together with the Session of the church, to be, and they hereby are declared, to be the First Reformed Presbyterian Congregation of Philadelphia, and as such entitled to all the rights and immunities appertaining thereto, and by the Constitution, and the exercise of the power intrusted to the Synod are hereby placed under the care of the Second Reformed Presbytery of Philadelphia.

Resolved, That such officers and members of the other congregations, viz: The Second and Fifth congregations of Philadelphia and the Second congregation of Milton and Reading, who may find it hereby themselves with the act of secession of the Philadelphia Presbytery, but avow their adherence to the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, be declared to be the Second and Fifth congregations of Philadelphia, and the congregations of Milton and Ulster under the care of General Synod, and the liberty is hereby given to place themselves under the care of the Second Presbytery of Philadelphia, and that Presbytery is hereby, upon their application, authorized to receive them.

This action was subsequently fully ratified and approved by the General Synod.

A DEMAND AND A SEPARATION.

Immediately thereafter McMurray, Guy, and Gordon claiming by virtue of the above proceeding of the Commission of Synod to be the recognized authorities of the First Reformed Presbyterian Congregation, made a formal demand upon the Rev. Dr. Wylie, pastor, and Wm.