PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLIES.

New School—Sixth Day.

INTERESTING DISCUSSION OF THE SLAVERY QUESTION.

The Assembly convened at nine o'clock yesterday morning, and after the usual devotional exercises Rev. Dr. Mills expressed the hope that the members would exhibit toward each other a true feeling of fraternity and brotherly love. This was particularly to be desired on the present occasion, as an exciting question would probably come up, during the discussion of which they should abstain as much as possible from all expressions that might be calculated to create ill feelings, and he trusted that they would not conduct themselves as political gladiators.

Dr. ASA D. SMITH, previous to the order of the day being called up, (the majority and minority reports on the slavery question) desired to make a few introductory remarks. I am, said he, no zealot upon this question of slavery discussion. I abhor the system; and if in the lowest depth of my heart any lower depth could be found with which to fill with abhorrence, I would diligently search for it, but at the same time I have, trust, a very large charity in reference to individuals. There are slaveholders at the South whose shoe latchet, I believe, I am unworthy to loose. I draw the line of demarcation between the individual and the system. Although I have no desire for discussion, but am perfectly willing to have this whole matter disposed of without any, I don't fear discussion in this body. There is no subject appropriate for discussion that may not be considered here. We the majority of the committee found ourselves to our Malakoff of freedom. We thought we had guns enough to man the whole extent of the fortification, but our dear brother came up to us and said, "Those guns look rather sad up there; we are pacific all round here; we don't want any ecclesiastical war, and had you not better take down as many as you can? We desire to be peaceful on our side." Well, we looked about us, and almost dismantled our fortress, leaving one gun only, and that of small calibre. When that was done our brother peeped over and up here. You saw him; his battery was unmasked, and you saw how the flame streamed forth, the fire and smoke. I think there was some smoke. (Laughter.) You saw the flame flash upon our battery—not only that, but those discharges, those grape and chain shots raked all along the course of your former Assemblies; not an Assembly but received more or less of the discharge. The balls went back even to the old Assembly of 1818. Well, that is the state of things; and now come some excellent brethren who say, "Had you not better take down your one gun for peace sake?" Now, while I have said this in regard to the minority report, I should say it is not altogether conclusive.

Judge JESSUP desired to know what was the state of the question at this time.

The MODERATOR explained that it was on a motion that the majority and minority reports be printed on the minutes.

Judge JESSUP—I am opposed to that motion in the present shape, because, if I understand the effect of it, it will be to remove these reports entirely from the action of the Assembly up on the question involved in them. It precludes us from expressing our opinion upon either the one or the other. I am opposed, therefore, to the adoption of this resolution, inasmuch as it leaves this Assembly without the expression of opinion in any way relating to this great question. What disposition do we make of the report? Act upon it? No, sir; we merely order it to be printed, without saying one thing or the other relating to it. I may say, Mr. Moderator, that I should deem that an injudicious course for this Assembly to take. I did not, within the rules of order, feel myself at liberty to discuss the merits of this question. If I were at liberty to make a motion, it would be that this Assembly would adopt the majority report. I submit this is a subject of importance as a constitutional law, and to relve an adjudication of this assembly it comes legitimately before it; yet, if you look at the past history of the General Assemblies, you will find that this very business of giving a construction to the constitutional power has been a matter in which General Assemblies have been uniformly engaged. This, therefore, is a grave question of constitutional obligation, and we shall not be doing our duty if, having this subject before us, we did not properly dispose of it. I have no hesitation in saying that the discussion of these questions has not been unwelcome or unwelcome—they have not been at war with the interests of our Zion.

Mr. ALEXANDER of Albany—The remarks made by Dr. Smith merit my full approbation upon the main points; but there is a difference on some points. A report coming from men of their great intelligence and biblical knowledge is entitled it to some consideration, and the report, in itself, so masterly, so candid, and as an expression of constitutional power, was much needed and brought before us after two years' operation, ought not now to be put to rest. Who ever you or I may think of discussing this question, the people at large will think we are trifling with them. Some brethren regard this as a difficult subject, but the only way to do is to act upon it fairly, calmly and moderately. I now move that the majority report be adopted and printed.

This motion, the MODERATOR said, was unnecessary, for, if adopted, it would be printed in the minutes.

Mr. BRIGGS, of Livingston Presbytery, spoke as follows: I have not, said he, occupied a moment of this house on any question previous to the present time. I wish to say on behalf of the churches I have the pleasure to represent, they are looking to this Assembly with a great deal of interest, to see what course it will adopt, and I might composed, as it is, very largely of ministers and members from Northern churches and we, in ourselves, being a very small minority from Southern States, we desire to see what course they will pursue in future. The question has not some upon the evils of slavery, but upon the constitutional power of this Assembly upon the subject. It has been represented this morning by a valued member of the committee, who made the majority report, that it is questionable whether the idea that the Assembly has or has not the power is totally abolished. I suppose the question of power in this Assembly is very like the question of power in our national government over the subject of slavery in the Territories—some question its power, while others question the extent to which it should go. Our Southern churches wish to know what this Assembly views as the amount of power, and if there be any in this Assembly over the subject of slavery. There has been a great deal said about the liberty of opinion in this Assembly, and we are accustomed, when we come to it, to hear opinions expressed in regard to slavery, existing, as it does, in our churches; and unfortunately we come here under the quasi charge of sin, and it is claimed that there is perfect liberty in regard to the holding of slaves. Our churches, I say, are anxiously waiting the decision upon this question; and if there is one thing more than another that they wish to know, it is this—they wish the Assembly to speak out fully and without qualification. They don't wish any mealy mouthed speaking. It is not for us to argue the subject to any extent. It is, as we consider, very clearly and ably presented by our Brother Boyd. We are willing to leave that representation of our view of the constitutional power with the Assembly; but we earnestly desire that that report may go upon our minutes, that it may be in the hands of all our churches. These reports have been prepared with singular ability and care, and they are both worthy of being printed and read, especially as they respect a subject of so much agitation in the church and country at the present time. We suppose you will do just as you please with us, and we expect you will do with us just what will seem good to you, but we hope you will have the fairness to present the minority if you accept the majority report.

Dr. WOOSTER said, that five years ago there was no question that presented such a house, as far as order was concerned, as this question of slavery. When it was brought up in Detroit, there was not a man who could attend to his own business when a word was uttered on this subject; but our present demeanor shows that we are going to treat it calmly, and with reference to the best interests of the church. The resolution, as it now stands, brings the whole subject before us. I admire exceedingly the majority report. It is as able a legal paper as I have ever read. I have examined it carefully, and, just as far as I am able to decide, the constitution of the Presbyterian church has placed it where it should be placed—by that report—and let me say, there are legal minds upon that committee equal to any in the land. The house at this time have nothing to do with the Detroit resolutions—they are past, and must be regarded as the exposition of the church with regard to the question of slavery. The whole question now is, are you satisfied with the legal exposition as given here? Is it the sense of this house? I think the majority report defends the interests of the South as well as the North, and there is a line of demarcation in reference to the powers of this house that is admirably drawn up. If the South would understand this matter, let them be careful. We have expressed our views upon this subject, and in doing so have exhibited a desire carefully to guard the feelings of the South. They are our brethren, whom we love, and what we desire is to settle this question of slavery, and to pass to questions of great importance in the church. And now, if we have got the law of the church, let us say so—let us adopt this resolution. We settle principles not to unsettle them again; and here is a great law of the church, as expounded by a most able committee, and I hope that the vote may be unanimous, and that it may go out from this place that the majority report is the opinion of the entire General Assembly upon this great subject. I am opposed, however, to the printing of the minority report on the Minutes, but I am at the same time in favor of printing it in any other form.

Rev. Mr. WOOD, of Newtown Presbytery, Miss., said—I rise to address the Assembly with great reluctance. Though for a number of years a member of the Assembly, I have never ventured to make a speech. I desire to propose a resolution which I think will expedite this business—proposing that a few brethren from the South and North draw up a document expressing their sentiments. I see there is a design on the part of the Assembly to have full discussion. I wish that our brethren of the South here may but possess a great deal of forbearance, and hear with courtesy these polite gentlemen. I fear that in this State the impression will go abroad unless we do the propensity to make speeches. It reminds me of a story about an old woman who emigrated to Indiana. She took with her two hens and twenty eggs; when she arrived there one of the hens died, and she put the other hen on all the eggs, but found that she could not cover them all. "Go!" said she to the hen, "when you come to a new country you must spread yourself!" (Laughter.) And so it seemed with some of the members of the Assembly. They must have been advised by this lady that on this question they must "spread themselves." I came here from the remote South—I breathed the air first under a Southern sun, and I expect to die there. Though I feel cordial toward the members of this General Assembly, we have been called abolitionists because we of our connection with this General Assembly. Our brethren of Missouri say they want to know what the Assembly is going to do upon this question, and the committee might have said the Assembly hasgor has not the constitutional power over this subject, and we of the South would have understood what they mean. But I feel at a loss to say whether Brother Smith's report is in favor or against the exercise of a constitutional power.

Dr. SMITH—Then you had better read it again.

Rev. Mr. WOOD—I read it this morning, and thought it was a better thing than it first appeared to me. Now, this is a plain question, and I want it answered—yes or no. So our Southern people all feel. But let me say that the South is for continued connection with the General Assembly, and that the Southern brethren are misunderstood upon this question. Some think that we of the South are fire eaters, and would desire to force slavery upon you. Now, we don't want you to feel or believe upon this subject as we do. Not at all. If, however, this agitation is continued in this Assembly, we must either abandon the subject or this body. I believe that is the feeling of the South upon the question. I am not going to say whether our brethren at the North are right or wrong. I am not going to discuss that question. If you desire the immediate emancipation of our slaves that, I may tell you, is altogether out of the question. But if the gradual emancipation of slavery is desired—that is a very different thing. You may regard it as an evil, and may desire the gradual emancipation of slavery, and an emancipation that would secure the safety and welfare of the white as well as the black population. But I ask, what practical plan has ever been presented to the people? We don't propose any plan ourselves, but we believe that in the unsearchable providence of God a plan will be made and worked out. I wish, then, to say that the people, the public mind on this question in the South has changed, or that the agitation of it in the Assembly has driven the public mind far back. We recollect that our mothers wore bonnets that came over the face, and now our daughters wear bonnets that have received a terrible backset. (Laughter.) When I came into the ministry, several years ago, there were a great many who were opposed to slavery in the South, but the Assembly was in the habit of saying that slavery was a great evil—now, a thing may be evil and yet not be a sin. A man may have a cancer upon his face, and think it a great evil, but the more he scratches it and works with it the worse it will become—so we consider that slavery, under all systems, is a sin.

A MEMBER—DOES Dr. W. regard the system of slavery as a sin?

THE MODERATOR—I doubt whether that question is desirable. No one can answer for all.

Dr. WOOD—I do not regard the system as sinful in itself. I became at one time the owner of a woman. I had been in the habit of hiring slaves, for I had formed an opinion, after reading the Declaration of Independence, that slavery was an evil, and that all our connection with it was rather unpleasant, because we have a good deal of domestic trouble arising out of it. But I was a poor man, and didn't marry a wife who had a great many negroes, as some of our brethren who, from the North to the South, do—(Laughter)—and all the help I could get for my wife was a black servant. Well, one morning, a man came to my house with a cart having a hog tied up in it, and there was a woman in it too with the hog, who he wanted to sell. Now, as we are not abolitionists, we let such things pass. If I wanted, however, to find fault with the municipal regulations of a community, I might come here and say I never saw such a thing as I saw in the city of New York—a woman hitched in a cart, with a couple of dogs. (Laughter.) [The Rev. gentleman doubtless alluded to the rag pickers, some of whom have dogs to assist them in drawing their carts.] I had thought that in New York woman's rights were well understood. (Laughter.) I don't blame the Moderator nor our general Assembly for this—or that they permit such things to exist. (Renewed laughter.) Well, the woman said to me, "Old master, I want you to buy me," and the man said that she had been sold at Sheriff's sale, and that she wanted somebody to buy her—that she might not be separated from her husband and children. Well, I bought her, and I have treated her, I have no doubt, with as much kindness as she ever was treated before. She has requested me to buy her husband and son, and they have also asked me to do so, but I have not the money; but if I had I think I would have done so. In conclusion Dr. Wood jocosely said that he did not want the reporters to say to the South that he had indulged in any remarks against slavery.

Judge JESSUP—I believe that it was the intention of previous Assemblies, in their action upon this subject, to say something in view of the pressing obligations upon them, and I may be permitted to say, in passing, that what my brother has said as having been done by the General Assembly was for the furtherance of the great cause of religion, North and South. But I don't propose to enter into the consideration of the question whether the Assembly, in their deductions at Detroit, were correct or not—it is not necessary, because if the minority report represent the views of our Southern brethren, there is no difference of opinion between us on that point. If the Assembly at Detroit expounded freely the great feeling of the North, then that feeling has met a perfect response, if the minority report be an exponent of the views of our brethren. The minority report says—

The committee would further remark, that they do not feel themselves called on to present their views of the moral character of slavery, nor to re-argue the question whether slaveholding is, in any case, a disciplinable offence. They do not suppose they were appointed with reference to that question. It was thoroughly discussed in the assembly of 1850, and the conclusion reached, that the holding one fellow man in the condition of slavery, except in those cases where it was unavoidable by the laws of the state, the obligations of guardianship, or the demands of humanity, is an offence in the proper import of that term as used in the Book of Discipline, chapter 1, section 2, and should be regarded and treated in the same manner as other offences." This conclusion has been reaffirmed either expressly or virtually, by nearly every succeeding assembly, including the last.

Now let us see what the minority report says. I find in it the following remarks—

The undersigned likewise concurs in the sentiment which he understands to be implied in the second resolution adopted by the Assembly in Detroit, and which he has the assurance is the opinion of the majority of the committee that slaveholding is not a sin per se; and cannot, therefore on this ground, be made a subject of discipline. The undersigned also readily admits that slaveholding, like every other relation in life, is a sin in the sight of God, when it is inconsistent with the demands of humanity. In his view of the subject, the exceptions stated in the second resolution adopted in Detroit will cover at least the vast majority of cases of slaveholding in the land. He considers that the present condition of the colored population in the slaveholding States, the law of love and the obligations of guardianship demand that the relation of master and servant should exist until some scheme in the providence of God, is devised by which the white and colored population can be separated, and the latter be, not merely in name, but actually invested with all the rights and privileges of freemen. The undersigned, therefore, does not dissent from the sentiment implied in the Detroit resolutions, and in the report of the majority of the committee, that slaveholding is a sin in the sight of God, if it exists in violation of the obligations of guardianship or of the demands of humanity.

Now, I ask, where is the difference in principle between us? Is it not rather in words than in sentiment? What says my brother? I repeat that we are agreed, North and South, upon this great question. All the minor considerations connected with this great subject are as nothing, and I venture to say that my brethren may go with this doctrine to every man in the Presbyterian Church, and say, "My brother, that is your doctrine." If slaveholding contravenes the claims of humanity, you cannot practise it; it should never stand between you and the exercise of humanity; it should not be narrowed nor circumscribed, but broad as that humanity, which says, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Dr. ROSS—Under the Detroit resolution could you ask Mr. Aiken, of South Carolina, to emancipate his three thousand?

Judge JESSUP—I would say that no man could hold them, except on the claim of guardianship.

Dr. ROSS—Can he hold them on the principle of humanity?

Judge JESSUP—I could not answer that without understanding the surrounding circumstances. If his relations to common humanity are such he holds those slaves blameless before God and before man. (Applause.) But I hold him responsible for his prayers, his efforts unceasing and unceasing—that they shall be put forth to change that awful condition of men thus circumstanced.

Rev. Mr. PRITCHARD, of Oneida county, said the act of slaveholding itself was a sin, because it was holding a human being as a chattel. He did not regard the two reports as concurring with each other, but thought they were very different in their expressions and views in regard to this question. It would not do to put slaveholding on a level with the other relations of life, such as marriage, of that of the husband towards his wife, or parents towards their children. Neither did he consider it right to call a brother who held slaves a slaveholder, so long as he treated them with humanity—that was a title which applied only to those who upheld such atrocious laws.

Rev. Mr. MILLS, of Indianapolis, desired to direct the attention of the Assembly to the exact subject before it. The simple question was upon the adoption of the majority report.

Mr. PETRIE presented the following preamble and resolutions:—

Whereas, an important question involving the powers of the constitution of the Presbyterian church has been definitely brought before us in the report of the committee appointed for that purpose; and, whereas, it is desirable to put this question into such a definite shape that our true position may be read and known of all men, (just what our Southern brethren ask of us).

Resolved, That the power of the constitution of the Presbyterian church, by general review and control, as defined in the Book of Discipline, chapter 7, section 1, paragraphs 5 and 6, covers every case of heresy in doctrine, or immorality, or practice, which may in any manner lawfully and regularly be brought before this General Assembly.

Resolved, That every case of voluntary slaveholding for the sake of gain be such an immorality in practice as justly to be considered an offence according to the Book of Discipline, chapter 1, paragraph 3, and should be called to an account.

Mr. GARRETT, from Madison Presbytery, Indiana, said that in his view slaveholding was an offence; not the accidental things that are sometimes connected with it, but that it was itself a bundle of abuses, and as John Wesley had said it was "the sum of all villanies."

Rev. Mr. TURLEY said it was sufficient for him to know that in the book of inspiration he could not find anywhere "thou shalt not hold slaves." On the contrary, in the New Testament, it is spoken of as a fact existing, and the General Assembly ought to treat it as a fact that exists and lay down rules for its government. He was opposed to the majority report because he did not consider it definite enough.

Rev. Mr. HOLLY—If this assembly establish the principle that slaveholding is a sin per se, I will abandon it. You say we are great sinners—so we are, and you don't know how bad we are. We only ask this General Assembly to look at us in our position. God in his providence has placed us in a community where men think and feel, and have hearts and minds in connection with you. Now pass such resolutions as will force us to abandon this field, and who are you going to send there to preach the Gospel to those people? If Southern men, with Southern manners and Southern feelings, are not permitted to preach the Gospel to the South, who will you send? Men with your sentiments? Nay. You say in every such resolution, and in every act, that you abandon the South, you give it up as lost, and take from us all power to do good. In the Presbytery I left we have one man, a Northern man—a Yankee—and I don't say this out of any disrespect, for my wife is a Yankee, and I love them—but he is a man whose soul is bound up in slavery, and who feels he cannot stay in the General Assembly if it don't pass such resolutions as will satisfy him. If you shall cut him off, you will force him to abandon this Assembly in self defence. I will stand by the rights I defended in 1837 and 1838. I am a slaveholder in principle, and I would not recede an inch for my life. I am a slaveholder from choice, but if I had been born at the North, very probably I should have been an abolitionist.

Mr. COOPER—Does the brother think robbery is wrong?

Rev. Mr. HOLLY—I do not think that is a legitimate question. Mr. Holly proceeded to speak at still greater length, on the views he had set forth.

Judge DARLING, of Philadelphia, was in favor of the minority report, but said that Dr. Boyd and his friends could have the minority report printed in the minutes by a protest.

The MODERATOR explained the points presented in both reports.

Rev. Dr. JOHN PARKER spoke in support of the minority report. He desired to know did Christ or St. Paul make any abolition movement upon the subject of slavery? Yet Christ had given his apostles the work of converting an empire in which, according to Gibbons, there were sixty millions of slaves. Tell me, said he, a place in the Scriptures, where Christ or his apostles direct masters to liberate their slaves. When in the case of the woman, who the brother tells us was in the same cart with the swine—when I buy her at her desire I am not bound to give her up, for she owes me service.

A MEMBER—If you paid a rent'eman a thousand dollars for me, do you think it would be right to hold me in slavery, without my consent.

Dr. PARKER—It is not right for servants to hold principals, and I should not not therefore like to do so. (Laughter and applause.) When the Southern black people acquire sufficient intellect to enable them to rule the South, then, I say, let them get the power to do so, and free themselves by the sword.

The further discussion of the question was here postponed to be resumed this morning, at half-past nine.

Old School—Sixth Day.

The Assembly met yesterday morning at the usual hour, and was opened with prayer.

The committee to whom had been referred the subject of the destitution of ministers' families made a report, embracing resolutions recommending the establishment of a fund for their relief, and that each minister should be taxed $5, and each church $2, annually, for that purpose.

The report was made the second order for this morning.

The Rev. Messrs. R. G. Northruss, of the General Association of Massachusetts, and Maltby, of the General Conference of Maine, were fraternally received, and respectively addressed the Assembly upon the progress and general condition of religion in their sections of the country. Rev. Mr. Northruss (Mass.) observed, that he considered the Church in New England as approaching an unanimous opinion upon the subject of slavery, abstaining, however, at the same time, from violent partizan vituperation respecting it.

Rev. Mr. MALTBY stated that the General Conference he represented were Congregationalists. They numbered 17,000 members in 235 churches, divided into 14 conferences. With respect to slavery, they regarded it as a great evil, as this General Assembly did, and so expressed the opinion often in resolutions. It has grieved us, (observed Mr. M.) and it may have grieved you, in part; but we rejoice that it has not divised us, nor severed the correspondence which prevails between us.

The MODERATOR in reply, after alluding to his reception as a delegate to the General Conference, said:—As to slavery, I never heard remarks upon the evils of the system that I could not subscribe to. But we at the South desire forbearance; we know the evils of slavery better than you at the North. I never heard a man at the south vindicate it, till the abolitionists compelled us to charge our ground; and had it not been for that, we would never have heard it eulogized as a part of the profession of civilization. Allow me to tender you our salutations and assurances of fraternal affection.

Mr. WM. E. SCHENCK submitted the report of the Board of Publication, of which the following is an abstract:—

The limits of the financial year of the Board have recently been changed, so that it will hereafter commence annually on the 1st of March instead of the 1st of April. Owing to this change the portion of time under review comprehends this year only eleven months.

The operations of the Board were presented under the three following heads:—

1. *Production.*
2. *Distribution.*
3. *Sustentation.*

1. *Production*—The publishing agent reports that there have been issued 39 new works, viz.: 16 new volumes, and 23 smaller publications. Of these new works there have been published 111,000 copies. The reprints of former publications have been 485,250 copies. Thus the total publications of the year have been 596,250 copies.

The total number of copies published since the organization of the Board, to March 1, 1856, has been 5,546,688.

There has been an increase in the number of copies of all kinds printed during the past year, of 125,750 copies over the year preceding.

The largest work issued last year has been the "Assembly's Digest," by the Rev. Samuel J. Baird, a volume of 856 pages, which has received much commendation. The Board has also issued an edition of the "Life of Dr. A. Alexander," by Dr. J. W. Alexander. Several additions have also been made to the Board's list of German tracts.

Much attention has been given to the judicious increase of its "Sabbath School Library." An anxious desire is expressed for its enlargement, and suitable manuscripts are invited from ministers and laymen in every part of the church.

Periodicals.—Circulation of the *Home and Foreign Record*, 17,166 copies, being an increase within the year of 500 copies. *Sabbath School Visitor* 43,000 copies, increase 2,000 copies.

2. *Distribution.*—There are three distinct channels through which the publications of the Board reach the hands of the people.

Distribution by sales from the publishing house to private individuals and booksellers. These have amounted during the eleven months now reported on, to 171,516 volumes, besides 3,269 pamphlets and tracts, and 14,496 copies of the Record. The value of these sales (including the *S. S. Visitor*, but not the *Record*) has been $70,702 28.

Distribution by Colporteurs.—In this department there has been great encouragement and encouragement during the past year. The number of colporteurs commissioned within these eleven months has been 210, an increase of 37 over those of the preceding twelve months. These colporteurs have been distributed throughout twenty-eight States and Territories, as well as through all the British Provinces, from the Gulf of St Lawrence to Lake Superior. They have also begun to occupy Oregon, California, Kansas, Nebraska, the Lake Superior mining region, and hitherto unoccupied portions of Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, and Florida. These colporteurs have sold 125,790 volumes, an increase of 27,940 volumes sold. They have gratuitously distributed 13,913 volumes, an increase of 3,153 volumes; they have also distributed 101,564 pages of tracts; and they have visited 91,734 families, an increase of 12,642 families visited. There is much evidence that the colporteurs have also increased in qualifications and efficiency during the past year, and that the spirit of God has largely attended and blessed their labors.

Distribution by Donation by Executive Committee.—This has amounted to 3,269 volumes and 111,873 pages of tracts, which have been chiefly given to Sabbath schools, feeble churches, needy ministers and to individuals for gratuitous distribution. The total distributions of the eleven months have been as follows:—

By sales at publishing house	171,516 vols.
" " by colporteurs	125,790 "
By grants of colporteurs	13,913 "
" " of Executive Committee	3,269 "
Total of volumes distributed	314,488

besides tracts, pamphlets and periodicals.

3. *Sustentation.*—This has been gratifying an increase in the receipts of the Board from every source this year, that for eleven months only they exceed those of the preceding twelve months. They have been as follows:—

Total receipts of 11 months	$88,896 10
Total payments of 11 months	86,039 43
Total receipts from sales of books, tracts and Sabbath School Visitor	70,702 28
Total receipts for colporteurs	14,497 28
Balance in treasury of Board	17,033 95
Balance of deficiency against colporteurs fund	2,256 67

Agencies.—Not a single collecting agent has been commissioned during the past year. There is an evidently growing disposition on the part of pastors themselves to instruct and train their people in habits of benevolence, a result to which the Board greatly rejoices. During the past year the income of the Board has been derived from a larger number of Presbyteries and churches than ever before, although there has been no collecting agent in the field.

The whole aspect of the work committed to this Board is one of progress and encouragement, such as it rejoices to be able to spread before the Assembly, and no encourages it to new and enlarged exertions for the time to come.

Rev. Dr. BOWMAN presented a brief report, with resolutions, from the committee appointed to take action upon the report of the Publication Board.

The resolutions recommended that John Sydney, Esq., be elected to fill the vacancy in the Board which occurred during the past year, by the death of Hugh Auchincloss, Esq., and that the Rev. Joseph Stratton, D.D., be appointed to preach the annual sermon before the Board, and Rev. Wm. Hewitt, D.D., be his alternate.

Rev. SAMUEL J. BAIRD, (Iowa,) supported the report, &c., in some earnest remarks, urging the necessity of the church assisting, by increased contributions, the publication enterprise.

The report and resolutions were adopted.

Rev. JOSHUA PHILIPS offered a resolution to the effect that the Board of Publication be directed to issue an edition of the Confession of Faith in the German language. Mr. P., in support of his resolution, referred to the fact of the immense German emigration, a large portion of which was Calvinistic in opinion; but as they could not read English, it was desirable that they should be furnished with a German translation of the work referred to.

Laid over till the next day.

After a short recess the Assembly proceeded to the order of the day—the reception of the reports of the various committees upon Synodical records. This business appeared to be merely of a routine character, and did not possess any feature of interest.

On motion, the Rev. Dr. Thornewel (S. C.) was requested to deliver a sermon in the First Presbyterian church, in Brooklyn, next Sunday evening.

The Assembly then adjourned.

Coroners' Inquests.

ANOTHER VICTIM OF THE PANAMA RIOT.—Coroner Connery held an inquest at the New York Hospital upon the body of George C. Fields, a native of this city, who died from the effects of severe wounds received during the late riot at Panama. The deceased was cut across the face with a machet, and received four slugs in the forehead, from a gun. The immediate cause of death was congestive fever, but this disease was brought on by the wounds received. The jury in this case rendered a verdict of "Death from congestive fever, superinduced by injuries received at the late Panama riot," and we further censure the natives of Panama for their cruel conduct towards Americans. It is the intention of deceased's friends to obtain redress from the government of New Granada for the outrage committed upon the person of the late Mr. Fields. The deceased was twenty-one years of age, and was in the employment of J. B. Williams, 139 Duane street, previous to his departure for California.

SUICIDE OF AN UNKNOWN MAN BY SHOOTING.—Coroner Hills held an inquest yesterday morning at the Nineteenth ward station house, upon the body of an unknown German, who committed suicide by shooting himself in the head with a pistol. The deceased, it appeared, was discovered in Jones' wood, near the line of Sixty-fourth street and Second avenue, by some citizens, who immediately reported the occurrence at the station house. The suicide was quite dead, and had from the appearance of the body been a corpse for a number of hours. No papers were found upon his person whereby a clue to his name could be obtained. There was a small basket lying beside him, in which was a hammer and some other trifling articles. The letters A. O. were marked on deceased's undershirt. The pistol used in committing the suicide, was found in detached pieces about the person of deceased, leading many to suppose that it exploded when fired off by deceased; but the explosion was sufficient to cause death, as the deceased's brains and face were completely blown away. Deceased was about forty years old.

Supreme Court.

ADMISSIONS TO THE BAR—IMPORTANT TO STUDENTS.

MAY 21.—The following gentlemen were admitted to the bar:—William H. Toft, Lewis Beach, O. E. Bright, T. B. Eldredge, S. C. Garthwaite, Jr., E. B. Hornles, W. D. Jones, B. Lockwood, T. M. McCarty, R. A. McCurdy, H. S. Smith, T. S. Stearns, George Schmderer, George R. Thomson, G. A. Bims, F. C. Bowman, A. T. Dittenhoefer, C. Fisk, S. T. Glassey, John Hayes, F. Kapp, G. W. Morris, T. P. Morris, G. F. Nichols, Wm. Slosson, O. B. Steele, T. Henry Tapp, A. N. Weller.

Supreme Court—Circuit.

Before Hon. Judge Davies.

ACTION AGAINST A RAILWAY COMPANY—THE NORWALK CALAMITY.

MAY 21.—*Vanderventer vs. the New York and New Haven Railroad Company.*—This was an action brought by the sons of Mr. Saul Vanderventer, who was killed or drowned at the Norwalk bridge calamity, the particulars of which are so familiarly known. The deceased was in the India rubber business, and was President of the National India Rubber Company, which had been then recently formed. Testimony was given to prove that the body of Mr. Vanderventer was a passenger and was taken out of the water. Previous to the calamity Mr. V. turned to Mr. Jonathan Trotter, a fellow passenger, and remarked that the cars were going fast. At the same instant the whole front of the car seemed to be coming towards them; the cars went down, and they were all thrown into the water. There was a small wound over his right eye. It was one hour and a half after the collision when his body was found, and the supposition is that he was drowned. The cars were going from twenty-seven to thirty miles an hour at the time.

The Judge, in charging the jury, said that they were to regard the defendants not as a rich corporation, but simply as defendants, and to pass upon their rights as they would upon those of any private individual. The jury would err in their duty, if they were to permit any appeals by counsel to excite prejudices in their minds against the defendants because they were a corporation, or any prejudice resulting from this terrific calamity. There was no pretence that this was done wilfully on the part of these defendants—that they committed a wilful murder of the father of these children by this accident; it was a legal negligence, and therefore the defendants are legally responsible for the results flowing from it, because the accident resulted from the carelessness of one of their employés.

Verdict for plaintiff, $850 and costs.

United States District Court.

Before Hon. Judge Ingersoll.

THE EUDORA IMOGENE MYSTERY.

MAY 21.—The Grand Jury, of which Anthony J. Bleecker was foreman, was sworn in, and the Judge proceeded to charge them. Having referred to the ordinary topics, he mentioned that the case of the mysterious crimes committed on board the schooner Eudora Imogene, while in the East river, would be submitted to them. The vessel had been scuttled and sunk, the captain and mate were missing, and the only person found on board, a negro, was arrested while endeavoring to reach shore in a small boat. A former Grand Jury found a true bill against the accused for murder and scuttling the vessel on the high seas. Those offences were punishable with death, according to the laws of the United States. Exception was taken to the indictment, and it was quashed, on the ground that the place where the offence was committed was not on the high seas. The accused was subsequently arrested on a charge of violating some other act of Congress, and the United States Commissioner held him to answer before the Grand Jury, on a charge of making a revolt and usurping the command of the vessel. The act of Congress provides that if any one or more of the crew of an American vessel shall—within the Admiralty or maritime jurisdiction of the United States—usurp the command thereof, or deprive the master or officer of his authority, or confine him, he shall, on conviction, be punished by hard labor for ten years. The Court charged that Hurlgate, where those crimes were committed, was not on the high seas; but if it is within the Admiralty and maritime jurisdiction of the United States, and if this black man did deprive the captain of his command, or usurp his authority, by force or otherwise, then, although he cannot be punished for the murder, he can be tried and convicted under this law. After some further observations from the Court, the Grand Jury retired.

Kings County Circuit Court.

Before Judge Rockwell.

MAY 21.—*William W. Russell vs. George Law.*—This cause was concluded on Tuesday afternoon, and given to the jury about seven o'clock that evening, with instructions to bring in a sealed verdict yesterday morning. At the opening of the Court yesterday, they returned a verdict for $18,381 48, being half the amount claimed, or two and a half per cent on the amount paid for the steamships in question. An order staying proceedings for thirty days was granted, in order to allow defendant's counsel to prepare a bill of exceptions.

JUDGE ROCKWELL AND THE LIQUOR LAW.

It will be remembered that Judge Rockwell, in his charge to the Grand Jury of Kings county, two weeks ago, laid down the principle that every one was guilty of a misdemeanor who sold liquor in less quantities than five gallons. Yesterday, after the Jury had returned a verdict in the case of Russell agt. Law, he adjourned the Circuit Court for the term, in order to take up the indictments found under his charge, before the Court of Over and Terminer. The District Attorney, Mr. Underhill, not being prepared, however, to try the cases, they were sent to the Court of General Sessions, to be tried before Judge Morris, who is one of the counsels for the Kings County Liquor Dealers' Association. The court was therefore adjourned *sine die.*

Brooklyn City News.

ANOTHER COWHIDING AFFAIR.—Yesterday Mrs. Jane Pentland and Mrs. Elizabeth Childs were arrested on warrants charging them with committing an assault and battery upon Mr. Benjamin Baldwin. Mrs. Pentland, who is the wife of Jo. Pentland, the circus rider, was complained of as principal and Mrs. Childs as accessory. It appears that Mr. Baldwin, who is a real estate agent in this city, and extensively known, circulated, as alleged, some reports prejudicial to the character of Mrs. Pentland. She made up her mind to obtain redress, and, sending word to Mr. Baldwin, invited him to call at a certain house in Fulton avenue, on Tuesday evening, about seven o'clock, as a gentleman about going to Europe wished him to take the agency of his property while absent. He made his appearance at the time named, where the two women were in waiting. As soon as he came within reaching distance Mrs. Pentland, cowhide in hand, advanced and applied it to his person with all the vigor in her power. A gentleman near by took the weapon from her, when she made use of her fists. Mr. Baldwin effected his escape as soon as possible, and the next morning sued out warrants against both women. They appeared before the Justice, and through counsel waived examination and gave bail in $250 each, to await the action of the Grand Jury.

FALL OF A BUILDING AND NARROW ESCAPE OF THE INMATES.—About 11 o'clock yesterday morning, a two story frame building in the rear of No. 75 Poplar street, gave way and tipped over at an angle of about 45 degrees. The lower floor was occupied as a school, by Miss Potter, and the children were engaged in reciting their lessons at the time. They were all thrown against the side wall, but recovering themselves managed to escape without injury to any one. The upper story was occupied by a family, who also escaped unhurt. The cause of the damage was the uncermining of the foundation wall by some workmen who are digging out a cellar on the lot adjoining. The building is owned by Mr. B. A. Brewster. The chimney fell against the rear of a house which fronts on Fulton street, but created more fright than damage.

Personal Intelligence.

Captain Edward A. Pollard leaves Newburg, N. Y., where he has lately been residing, on the next steamer for Nicaragua. Captain Pollard was associated with Walker in editing a paper in California, and has latterly been preparing a political work on Central America, principally in defence of the late revolution.

Hon. Moses H. Grinnell and family, of New York, are at the Burnet House, Cincinnati.

From the steamship Pera, at England, on May 3, with the India and China mails, arrived M. R. P. de Silver, bearer of despatches to the United States government.

ARRIVALS.

At the Everett House—Maj. Robert Anderson, U. S. A.; S. R. Van Wyck Fishkill; Wm. Rhodes, Philadelphia; F. H. Johnson Alabama; T. P. Butler, South Carolina; C. H. Meller, Philadelphia; E. Holmes, New York; Thomas C. Loch, England; George S. Cameron, Charleston S. C.; Wm Philips, Boston; P. C. Calhoun, Bridgeport; Mrs. Taylor, Darien, Ct.; Prescott Bigelow, Hon. John P. Bigelow, Boston; Rev. G. B. Hayden, East Haddam, Ct.; Dr. John C. Simpson, Mrs. Simpson, Miss Simpson, S. C.; David Allison, Halifax.

From Havre, in the steamship Fulton—James Gordon Bennet, J W Hewitt (bearer of despatches from Paris), Capt F Myrick, M Chapman, F Lang, B Seton, M Rosenbein and two servants, C E Forstall, M Gaudet, lady, child and servant R G Perry, lady, child and servant Mad Heinz M'lle Heitz, Tony Oechs, H McKay, Mad Crawford, four children, governess and servant, M Booker, M Smythe, Mad Kenney, Mad De Genebal, Mad Hewitt, child and servant, Mad La Poet M'lle M Poet, M Boisenbin, Oscar Barthel, M Rossiter, three children and two servants, A Kohler and lady, M Ritchie and servant, M De Fonora, Mad Pretsch, M'lle Pretsch, M Migeon and lady, M Beroizheimer, M Favarger, Gustave Bernard, David McHenry, Rev Mr Kelly, M Vialion F B Pearson, J Philip, Jas E Dryburgh, Thos Higgines, Jno Hays, Mad Rasoon, Amable Lefevre, M Burjan, Emile Pancelot, M Marcozis, Jean Dezelus, Felix Graff, Eugene Bartman, M'lle F Fromaget, J M Garr, M Levy, lady, four children, two infants and two servants, Wm Rider, M Harris and lady, Capt Richard Adams, A Stephani, M'lle Foult, M'lle Winston, Mr O Loeschigk and lady, M'lle C Haviland, Madame J C Wright, M Wright, M C F Haviland, M Arthur Hewitt, M Barry, M B C M Barbas, M Leroille, Jean Deszelus, M Franscoli, Jean E Horne, H Stackh, Jacob Kech, Chas Luiz and lady, Madame Veiman, M Pesch, M Basso, M Syl Lang,