THE PRESBYTERIAN ASSEMBLIES.

Second Day's Proceedings of the Two Councils.

PROPOSED BASIS OF REUNION.

Appointment of Standing Committees and Reception of Reports.

THE OLD SCHOOL ASSEMBLY.

Second Day.

At nine o'clock yesterday morning the General Assembly of the Old School Presbyterian Church of the United States reconvened in the Brick church, corner of Fifth avenue and Thirty-seventh street.

The proceedings were opened with prayer by the Moderator, after which

A motion was made that the first half hour of each day's session be devoted to devotional exercises.

The minutes of the previous session were then read and approved.

A number of additional commissions were reported by the Committee on Elections and recommended to be added to the roll. Report adopted.

The motion for the morning half hour's devotions daily was put to the house and adopted.

THE MORNING DEVOTIONS

were then opened with the singing of the hymn commencing with the words

There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins,
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.

Rev. Dr. MARSHALL, of Columbus, Ohio, then offered prayer. The thirty-fifth hymn of the Selections was then sung, after which the Moderator read selections of Scripture.

Rev. H. R. WILSON, of St. Louis, invoked the Divine comfort. The house then sang the twenty-sixth hymn of the Selections, after which Rev. Mr. GILLESPIE, of the Synod of Pittsburg, offered prayer, and the Moderator read another selection of Scripture. Rev. Dr. MUSGRAVE followed with an impressive prayer, in which he invoked God's blessing upon the other branch of the Church now in session, and that they might be guided in singleness of purpose and that the whole family of the Church might be brought together; that all those people who have so long been conservative may be brought to a reunion, to the glory and prosperity of the Church and to the honor of Christ's holy name, and that the Church may ultimately go forward in the conquest of the whole world.

The TEMPORARY CLERK moved that the second order of business be the call for the Synodical records. Adopted.

The MODERATOR announced the receipt of the certificates from the New School Assembly of the appointment of Rev. William Adams, D. D., and W. E. Dodge as representatives of that body in this Assembly.

THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

The conference Committee on Reunion, composed of the following named members, was announced:—Rev. Dr. Musgrave, Rev. Dr. A. G. Hall, Rev. Dr. L. Atwater, Rev. Dr. Willis Lord, Rev. Dr. H. R. Wilson, ministers, and Elders Robert Carter, J. C. Grier, Charles D. Drake, Henry Day and W. M. Francis.

The MODERATOR also announced the following

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Bills and Overtures.—Ministers—George H. Musgrave, D. D.; J. H. M. Knox, D. D.; John S. Hays, J. M. Batchelder, J. Irwin Smith, Robert Beer, D. F. McFarland. Ruling Elders—William M. Francis, T. S. Hening, Joseph Combs, Hugh Lee, Benjamin Silver.

Judicial Committee.—Ministers—A. G. Hall, D. D.; Stephen Yerkes, D. D.; Samuel Miller, D. D.; John McClintock, O. A. Hills, J. G. Reaser, D. D.; W. M. Robinson. Ruling Elders—Charles D. Drake, John T. Nixon, Martin Ryerson, Henry Day, William Sheets.

Board of Foreign Missions.—Ministers—Willis Lord, D. D.; S. Mattoon, J. B. Waterbury, D. D.; John H. Sherrard, John Gillespie, J. J. Henderson, S. M. Irwin. Ruling Elders—David Conger, John C. Hervay, Joseph G. Bartlett, James Davidson, D. S. Marquis.

Board of Domestic Missions.—Ministers—John Hall, D. D.; William C. Roberts, David P. Lowary, William O. Johnstone, R. S. Goodman, Joseph H. Barnard, L. G. Hay. Ruling Elders—J. A. Gardner, Robert Davis, Henry Meeker, John Potter, Archibald McClure.

Board of Education.—Ministers—Robert Hamill, D. D.; J. B. Garritt, James Frothingham, Henry C. McCook, D. C. Lyon. Ruling Elders—Walter B. Crane, David Oliphant, H. E. Smith.

Board of Publication.—Ministers—L. H. Atwater, D. D.; J. B. Dunn, Ezra W. Fisk, D. D.; M. A. Parkinson, G. S. Plumley. Ruling Elders—John B. Skinner, William G. Reed, Horatio P. Van Cleve.

Board of Church Extension.—Ministers—E. J. Newlin, D. D.; W. C. Anderson, William W. Campbell, Samuel Findley, J. B. Dickey. Ruling Elders—Dennis Baldwin, Horatio G. Spofford, R. Lambertson.

Freedmen's Committee.—Ministers—Benjamin C. Cutcaiow, S. S. Murkland, Thomas McCauley, D. K. Richardson, Joseph Williams. Ruling Elders—Thos. Hunt, John H. Thompson, R. Hills.

Disabled Ministers' Fund.—Ministers—W. R. Marshall, D. D.; J. C. McClintock, F. T. Williams. Ruling Elders—Samuel Burtis, E. F. Houseman.

Theological Seminaries.—Ministers—W. H. Hornblower, D. D.; Robert Hammill, D. D.; W. J. McKnight, J. W. Dinsmore, J. B. Stewart, S. M. Bayless, John Gillespie. Ruling Elders—Henry Day, T. S. Henning, M. D.; Judge Skinner, W. M. Francis, H. G. Spofford.

Narrative of the State of Religion.—Ministers—Thomas H. Skinner, Jr., D. D.; J. B. Stewart, T. D. Ewing. Ruling Elders—George M. Maclean, John C. Hervey.

Finance.—Ruling Elders—Robert Carter, Levi A. Ward, James E. Brown.

Foreign Correspondence.—Ministers—H. R. Wilson, D. D.; William Blackwood, D. D.; J. R. Eckard, D. D. Ruling Elders—William P. Buffett, M. C. Grier.

Systematic Beneficence.—Ministers—C. K. Imbrie, D. D.; James Harper, D. D.; James F. Holcomb, A. A. E. Taylor. Ruling Elders—Theodore Strong, George H. Nitchie.

Devotional Exercises.—Ministers—J. O. Murray, D. D.; John Hall, D. D.; William M. Paxton, D. D.; M. C. Sutphen. Ruling Elders—A. B. Belknap, W. S. Gilman, Sr.

Mileage.—Ruling Elders—Morris Patterson, Peter Schoonmaker, E. B. Hall.

Leave of Absence.—Ministers—Wilson Phraner, S. M. Bayless, A. K. Strong. Ruling Elders—Nelson Rue, Samuel Cochran.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The following orders of the day were then decided upon, business to begin at ten A. M.:—

Monday—1, Board of Publication; 2, Board of Church Extension.

Tuesday—1, Board of Foreign Missions; 2, Board of Education.

Wednesday—1, Committee on the Fund for Disabled Ministers; 2, Committee on Freedmen.

Thursday—1, Board of Domestic Missions.

On motion it was resolved that the New School Assembly be officially notified of the appointment of this committee.

The synodical records were then called in and referred to the appropriate committees.

Rev. Dr. IRVING, chairman of a committee appointed by the last Assembly on Systematic Benevolence, presented a report which contained a plan for assessing synods, these to assess presbyteries, and they in turn to assess sessions for all the stated objects of benevolence. This matter was referred to the appropriate standing committees, and will come up again.

The following resolution was offered and adopted:—

Resolved, That it be made the first order of the day for Monday next to hear the report of the standing Committee on Publication, and the second order to hear the report of the standing Committee on Church Extension; the first order for Tuesday to hear the report of the standing Committee on Foreign Missions, the second order to hear that of the standing Committee on Education; the first order for Wednesday to hear the report of the standing Committee on Disabled Ministers, and the second order to hear the report of the standing Committee on Freedmen; the first order of the day for Thursday to hear the report of the standing Committee on Domestic Missions, and that ten o'clock in the morning of each day be made the hour for the consideration of the first orders named.

The Reformed (late Dutch) church sent a certificate of the appointment of delegates to this body, namely, the Rev. Dr. W. J. R. Taylor, D. D., and the Rev. R. Wells.

Rev. Dr. MUSGRAVE, from the Committee on Bills and Overtures, presented a unanimous report in favor of the recognition and enrolment of the delegates asking admission from the Presbytery of Austin (Texas) and that that Presbytery be assigned to the Synod of Nashville. Adopted.

A resolution was adopted authorizing the trustees of certain property in the District of Columbia, belonging to the Metropolitan Presbyterian church, Washington, to sell the same to private parties for the sum of $30,000.

A motion, that when this Assembly do adjourn at half-past twelve o'clock P. M. on Saturday, it adjourn until Monday morning at nine o'clock, was adopted.

The Assembly then, at half-past eleven o'clock, adjourned until half-past two o'clock in the afternoon and was dismissed with prayer.

Afternoon Session.

At half-past two o'clock the Moderator opened the afternoon session with prayer.

A number of additional and informal commissions were referred to the Committee on Elections.

PROPOSED BASIS OF REUNION.

Rev. Dr. MUSGRAVE presented the report of a committee appointed by the last General Assembly to meet other similar committees if they should be appointed by the New School Assembly and the Philadelphia Union Convention. The report was as follows:—

APRIL 18, 1869.

A meeting was held at the Mission Home, 907 Arch street, Philadelphia, of the following members of the respective committees appointed by the General Assemblies in pursuance of a request by the Convention held in Philadelphia, November 6, 1867, viz.:—The Rev. Drs. John T. Pressly, David R. Kerr and William Davidson, from the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church; Rev. Dr. Zephaniah M. Humphrey, from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (New School); the Rev. Drs. George W. Musgrave, Alexander T. McGill and Hon. Robert McKnight, from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (Old School). It was unanimously resolved that union among the different denominations represented is very desirable, if the way be clear. It was then resolved that the basis agreed upon by the Philadelphia Convention above referred to be taken as a guide for the deliberations of this conference. Being altered and amended in several particulars it was unanimously adopted in the following form, viz.:—

ARTICLE 1. The Old and New Testament Scriptures are acknowledged to be the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

ART. 2. The Westminster Confession of Faith, as the same has been modified by the churches here represented, in its doctrines concerning the powers of the civil magistrate, together with the longer and shorter catechisms, shall be received and adopted as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures.

ART. 3. The United Church shall receive and adopt the Presbyterian form of church government.

ART. 4. (1) It is the will of God that the Book of Psalms should be used by His Church in His worship to the end of the world, and the united body shall, at the earliest practicable day, prepare as faithful and acceptable a revision of those Psalms as may be for use in the churches. (2) Any of the churches desiring to use the Psalms exclusively in the service of song shall always have the right, unchallenged, to do so.

It was then resolved that these articles be submitted by the committees composing this conference to their respective Assemblies for consideration, and that if they receive the favorable action of the churches represented the Assemblies be requested to appoint each a committee of five, to meet at Pittsburg, Pa., on the first Wednesday of August, 1869, at eleven o'clock, A. M., to take into consideration such further questions as may be necessary to be decided, in order to a formal consummation of the union of the bodies here represented.

The above is faithfully extracted from the minutes.

Approved April 10, 1869. ALEX. T. MCGILL, Secretary.

A message was received from the National Temperance Society, requesting that clergymen of all denominations be requested to preach against the evils of intemperance on the last Sabbath of the present year, which was referred.

A complimentary invitation from the National Academy of Design to the two Assemblies to visit the annual exhibition of paintings on Saturday next was received, accepted and a vote of thanks therefor tendered to the Academy.

The Board of Education in connection with the Presbyterian Assembly presented a memorial setting forth the many benefits that have accrued to the Church from the operations of the Board, and suggesting that the evening of Tuesday next be set apart as the occasion of the celebration of the semi-centennial anniversary of the Board, and that Rev. Drs. McGill, Lord, Bedell and McCosh be invited to address the assemblage on that occasion. Agreed to.

A communication was received from the New School Assembly, stating that a committee of conference had been appointed to meet that of the Assembly of the Old School. It consists of Revs. William Adams, D. D.; Jonathan F. Stearns, D. D.; Samuel W. Fisher, D. D., LL. D.; James B. Shaw, D. D.; Robert W. Patterson, D. D.; Messrs. William Strong, Daniel Haines, E. Dodge, Jacob S. Farrand and John L. Knight.

The Committee on Devotional Exercises reported the programme of services and appointments of ministers to conduct the same in the various Presbyterian churches on Sunday, May 23, morning and evening.

A motion for adjournment was made at half-past three o'clock, and pending its consideration

A motion was made and agreed to that half an hour be spent in devotion.

The devotions were then commenced, and consisted of singing, prayer and reading of the Scriptures.

Rev. Mr. WILLIAMS, of Georgia, a venerable colored gentleman, in the course of the devotions, was called upon to respond in prayer, and offered a fervent and very appropriate invocation to the Almighty. Mr. Williams was formerly known as "Old Uncle Joe," among his friends of other days in Georgia, and it is understood was at one time on the plantation of the late Howell Cobb.

After the transaction of some minor business, the half hour of devotion being already concluded, the meeting was adjourned, with prayer by a delegate and the benediction by the Moderator, until nine o'clock this morning.

THE NEW SCHOOL ASSEMBLY.

Second Day.

At half-past eight o'clock yesterday morning this Assembly reconvened, pursuant to adjournment from yesterday, in the Church of the Covenant, corner of Thirty-fifth street and Park avenue. The church was crowded by the delegates and a large number of spectators.

After the usual devotional exercises, Rev. Dr. Fowler, the newly elected Moderator, called the Assembly to order.

The minutes were then read and approved, and the Moderator proceeded to announce the standing committees, with the exception of that to be appointed on reunion, which was postponed until a later period in the proceedings.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Bills and Overtures.—A. T. Chester, D. D.; B. Sunderland, D. D.; R. R. Bath, D. D.; C. S. Dunning, H. W. Ballantyne; John Fairchild. Elders—John A. Foot, H. G. Torbert, M. D., Samuel Anable, Joseph Longmiller, Noah Corey.

Judicial Committee.—C. P. Wing, D. D.; S. C. Aiken, D. D.; John Waugh, James Shaw, R. E. Wilson, Richard Craighead. Elders—John Porter, W. T. Jackson, F. G. Burnham, Jarius Kenner, Royal E. Barbour.

Polity of the Church.—H. Darling, D. D.; E. P. Pratt, D. D.; L. Betts, E. Whitaker, George Pierson, R. D. Van Deusin. Elders—H. W. Williams, S. H. Thayer, C. M. Lukins, Timothy B. Rose, E. R. Willard.

Foreign Missions.—G. W. Heacock, D. D.; S. R. Riggs, A. M. Stuart, Gustavus A. Foster, J. Evarts Weed, C. H. Palmer. Elders—F. Starr, C. B. Nelson, E. G. Atwood, P. C. Sampson, Jonathan Warner.

Education.—E. Huntington, D. D.; George M. Maxwell, D. D.; A. W. Cowles, D. D.; Professor Caleb Mills, D. D.; John Patten, D. D.; Charles Hutchinson. Elders—S. Willard, M. D.; George W. Lane, — Burnham, Daniel Keefer, B. F. Thayer, M. D.

Home Missions.—Zeph. Humphrey, D. D.; C. H. Taylor, D. D.; W. F. Brier, J. Lewis Jones, F. R. Gallaher, D. D.; Norman Seaver, D. D. Elders—Thomas Williams, G. W. Tero, — Ballantyne, — Auchenbaugh, James M. Browner.

Publication.—Thomas J. Hastings, D. D.; A. A. Wood, D. D.; Levi Parsons, W. W. Wells, R. Allen, D. D.; G. T. Everest. Elders—William A. Cummings, E. D. Dimock, G. W. Shields, D. E. Beatty, D. C. Roberts.

Church Erection.—H. Johnson, D. D.; Rollin S. Sawyer, G. C. Noyes, R. Kessler, H. M. Millard, E. P. Marvin. Elders—E. B. Jones, G. G. Roots, E. Kirby West, Louis Chapin, D. W. Ingersoll.

Sabbath Schools.—D. W. Parr, D. D.; A. McA. Thorburn, Isaac Emory, George Van Deurs, B. W. Chidlaw, Thomas Street. Elders—Joseph Mills, E. H. Palmer, C. A. Shaw, C. W. Bacon, S. H. Hand.

Ministerial Relief.—S. B. Canfield, D. D.; W. W. Whipple, M. N. Preston, Alexander Parker, John Sailor, H. Osborn. Elders—George H. French, B. Rice, A. Cowden, R. W. Jones, Homer H. Winchell.

Narrative of Religion.—D. Magie, Solon Cobb, C. Gillette, G. W. Cleveland, J. Gordon Jones. Elders—Henry H. Fowler, Henry M. Clark, Harrison Teller, M. D.; Peter Wilson, Thomas B. Crosby.

Mileage of Commissioners.—Francis Ferry, George W. Beal, S. T. Bodine.

The regular order of business was then taken up and opened by the reception of synodical records.

WALTER L. GRIFFITHS read the report of the Permanent Committee on Foreign Missions, which was referred to the standing committee.

On motion it was resolved that the report of the Committee on Reunion be received.

The report was then read by Dr. ADAMS, of New York city. It was accepted and referred to the committee appointed to confer with the committee of the Old School. The report contained an elaborate review of the various attempts made at reunion since 1866, and concluded with the hope that that object would be accomplished at the present time.

The MODERATOR then appointed the following committee on reunion, to confer with a similar committee from the Old School:—Revs. Drs. Adams, R. W. Patterson, S. W. Fisher, J. F. Stearns, and J. B. Shaw; Elders William Strong, Daniel Haines, Jacob S. Farrand, John L. Knight and William E. Dodge.

Rev. Dr. KENDALL, secretary of the Committee on Home Missions, then read a lengthy report of that committee. It stated that Protestant immigration was fast increasing, and the Papal population of the United States were least accessible to the religious influence of the Presbyterian Church. They wanted to plant the Gospel where the immigrant made his home, in the great West.

The branch of the foregoing report pertaining to the freedmen, which was prepared by Rev. Dr. Hatfield, the Stated Clerk, was read by that gentleman. It commenced with a review of the operations of the Committee on Home Missions to the freedmen for the past year, and recommended the appointment of agents to the Southern States to arrange for the erection of churches in that section for the colored population. It also contained a lengthy résume of the operations of the schools recently established in various districts of the South under the management of both white and colored teachers, exhibiting the results of the labors in this connection in a very flattering manner. A deeply interesting race, says the report, one to be regenerated, and the Church will not cease from its work until Africa and her children shall be evangelized and civilized.

The CLERK here read a communication from the Old School branch, sitting in the Brick church, corner of Thirty-seventh street and Fifth avenue, giving formal notification that they had appointed a committee to confer with the New School as to a basis of reunion.

On motion the communication was acknowledged and the clerk directed to notify the Stated Clerk of the Old School that the New School had appointed a committee to meet them in conference.

After prayer by the Moderator the Assembly took a recess, at one o'clock, until half-past two.

Afternoon Session.

The Assembly recommenced at half-past two o'clock.

After prayer by the Moderator, the minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

Mr. LAMBERT, ex-Mayor of Brooklyn, N. Y., then read the report of the treasurer of the Committee on Home Missions, showing the following state of accounts:—

EXPENDITURES.

Paid to missions and general and district secretaries	$144,736
Salary of Assistant Treasurer	1,200
Rent and repairs of New York office	907
Rent of Philadelphia office	125
Printing annual report, &c.	569
Presbyterian Monthly	532
Blank books, &c.	38
Postage and revenue stamps	356
Interest on loans, exchange and collections	812
Legal expenses in will case	25
Office furniture	111
Maps	50
Total	$149,675
Balance to new account	12,745
Grand total	$162,420

RECEIPTS.

By balance, May 1, 1868	$3,175
Donations from churches	127,151
Donations from individuals	3,867
Interest on investments, estate of Rev. J. W. Irwin, &c	326
Interest from Yandis fund	332
Interest on permanent fund (late S. H. Hanger fund investment)	507
Ferry Ministry fund	900
Legacies	26,158
Balance to new account	12,745
Permanent fund—	
Bequest of S. H. Hungerford, of Westfield, N. Y., invested in government bonds	8,800

Ex-Mayor LAMBERT also read the treasurer's report of the Home Missionary Committee having charge of the freedmen's department for 1868-69:—Receipts, $15,941; expenditures, $15,661—leaving a balance of $270 to new account. The average contribution per head, throughout the Church, is 75½ cents. Both reports were referred to the Standing Committee on Home Missions.

Rev. Dr. JOHN C. ATTERBURY, Chairman of the Committee on Education, reported that 210 candidates for the ministry had been assisted by the committee—63 in theological, 103 in collegiate and 44 in their academic course, besides 7 colored students. The receipts from the contributions of churches have been $24,037, being an increase of $6,530 over last year. Only 372 churches contributed. The report was appropriately referred.

Rev. JOHN W. DULLES, secretary of the Publication Committee, read the report of the committee for the year, which exhibited the number of books and tracts which the committee had received by grant and otherwise since the meeting of the last General Assembly. He also read the report of the treasurer, as follows:—

The report of the treasurer is an encouraging one, showing an advance in all the departments of the committee's work. In sales, in donations received and in donations made the past exceeds the year which preceded it, and also every preceding year, leaving out of view the receipts of the sums contributed to the special endowment fund. In the purely benevolent part of its work the committee expended $6,851. For the year ending March 31, 1869, the total of sales was $48,409.

The "cash received on account of sales" in the treasurer's report does not show the full amount of sales made, as in some cases balances only appear upon the books of the treasurer. The report shows:—

Balance on hand April 1, 1868	$3,516
Cash received on account of donations	14,213
On account of sales	38,010
On account of Presbyterian House	3,272
On account of interest on investments	300
On account of premium on gold	113
On account of investments	5,412
On account of temporary loan	1,000
On account of gas bills, &c.	137
On account of interest on temporary loan	235
Total	$66,214
Cash paid by orders on treasury—viz.:—	
On account of committee	$46,331
On account of book store	6,566
On account of Presbyterian House	3,154
On account of temporary loan	4,000
On account of investments	5,325
	65,387
Balance on hand March 31, 1869	$827

Rev. Dr. DARLING, chairman of the Committee on Answers to Overtures, said that after examining all the papers which had been placed in the hands of the committee they discovered that of the 113 presbyteries attached to their body but seventy-one had handed in officially any answer to the overture sent down by the last Assembly on the subject of reunion, making forty-two presbyteries which had given no answer. It would be impossible for the committee properly to collate these reports unless these presbyteries should in some official manner report what action they had taken to this Assembly. He proposed that the Clerk of the Assembly should read the names of those presbyteries that had given no official answer to the overture.

The CLERK, by direction of the Moderator, then called the names, when the delinquent presbyteries replied they would report to the chairman of the committee.

Rev. FRANK E. ELLENWOOD then read the report of the Committee on Church Erections, which went into lengthy details on the subject, pointing out various methods of increasing the number of Presbyterian churches throughout the country. The average amount given to each church during the year was $475, which was $275 less than last year. From $1,000,000 to $2,000,000 had been used within the last eighteen months in building churches. The treasury, the report stated, is now worse than empty, and the necessity of contributing freely for the object sought was strongly advocated.

The report of the treasurer of the Church Erection Committee was next read. The following is a digest of the report:—Permanent fund, the interest of which is given to aid in building churches, $126,000; cash received from regular and special contributions from churches and individuals and from interest on investments, permanent and temporary, $54,896; donations (regular and special) to churches, $30,164; expenses, salaries, &c., $11,682; donations appropriated, but not yet paid, $8,150; total, $53,997; balance on hand, $898.

Rev. Mr. BROWN, secretary of the Committee on Ministerial Relief, read the report of that committee, which was merely a running history of some of the more aged and indigent ministers of the Church, and contained an appeal in their behalf for pecuniary aid. The funds collected last year amounted to $23,612; balance in treasury now $2,597.

Rev. Dr. PRENTISS announced that the Council of the National Academy of Design in this city had extended an invitation to the members of both Assemblies to visit the exhibition at the Academy, corner of Twenty-third street and Fourth avenue, this evening, and had sent tickets of admission for all the members, each to be accompanied by a lady if he chose.

The invitation was accepted, and on motion of Rev. Dr. ADAMS, a vote of thanks was passed to the Council of the Academy.

The fifteenth annual report of the trustees of the Presbyterian House was next read. The total receipts for the year were $4,809; total expenditures, $3,697; balance on hand, $1,112.

The report of the Treasurer of the General Assembly of last year was read and referred to an Auditing Committee.

On motion it was resolved that it be the order of the day at half-past ten on Monday morning to receive delegates from the Old School.

It being now half-past five o'clock, the Assembly adjourned to this morning at a quarter to nine, after prayer by Rev. Dr. COX.

A WOMAN CONVICTED OF MURDER IN MASSACHUSETTS.

She Protests Her Innocence and Declares Herself Willing to Appear Before the Bar of God—Exciting Midnight Scene in Court.

BOSTON, May 21, 1869.

Mrs. Nancy B. Madan, who has been on trial in Dedham during the past three days for the murder of her son-in-law, Obadiah Jones, has been convicted of the charge. The murder was committed, it is alleged, by shooting; but there seems to have been no particular motive for the crime. Previous to his marriage with the daughter of Mrs. Madan, Jones had threatened to kill himself if she did not marry him, and an effort was made to prove that he carried this threat into effect after his marriage; but the jury believed that his mother-in-law fired the fatal shot, and brought in a verdict accordingly.

The case was given to the jury last evening, and, previous to their retiring, Mrs. Madan arose in the prisoners' dock and spoke as follows:—

"GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY—I have nothing to say only this—I am not guilty. I am willing to appear before God, but his blood will not be found upon my hands."

Throughout the trial the unfortunate woman exhibited a calm exterior, except when her senior counsel made his earnest appeal to the jury in her behalf, at which time she was affected to tears and wept freely and silently. Propped up with the hope and impression that after her case had been so strongly presented it would be impossible for the jury to convict her of murder, she expected an acquittal, or, if not that, a disagreement among the jurors.

Upon retiring to deliberate shortly after six o'clock last evening, the jurors took a vote on the probabilities of suicide by the deceased, and the ballot, it was stated, stood five in favor of the opinion and seven opposed, a number of the jurors being in some doubt on the question of suicide, and not wishing to act precipitately. After a consultation of about two hours a couple of the doubtful ones became convinced, and upon a vote being taken shortly before nine o'clock as to whether a verdict of murder should be decided upon there appeared to be still three dissenters. At two o'clock, or thereabouts, this morning these jurors veered around and a verdict was agreed upon.

The Court and counsel were immediately informed of the decision of the jury, and at half-past two o'clock the judges resumed their seats on the bench and the prisoner was brought in to hear the verdict pronounced. The usual question, "Mr. Foreman, is the prisoner at the bar (Nancy B. Madan) guilty or not guilty?" being propounded by the clerk, the Foreman replied, "Guilty of murder in the first degree."

The prisoner was deeply agitated upon the announcement of this verdict, entirely unexpected by her, but she exhibited no violent emotion. Mr. B. W. Harris, her senior counsel, addressed the Court, requesting that time be allowed for consideration as to whether or not himself and his associates in the case would file exceptions and move for another trial; and sentence was therefore deferred, in order that an opportunity might be afforded for so doing. Friday next, at ten o'clock A. M., was assigned for the hearing or the final disposition of the case, and until that time an adjournment was had.

THE LATE MURDER IN NEW HAVEN.

Yesterday morning Peter Elliger, the man who was so terribly wounded on the night of the 9th inst. by George McVetey, just before he murdered Benson, died from lockjaw produced by the wounds which were then inflicted upon him. Since he was stabbed he has suffered terrible agony. A jury of inquest viewed the body and, after a post mortem examination, adjourned over until to-day. George McVetey is in jail, and will have a hearing before the City Court next week.

WASHINGTON.

THE EIGHT HOUR LAW PROCLAMATION.

A Reduction of Hours Without a Reduction of Wages.

Incidental Expenses of Reverdy Johnson's Mission.

Forty Thousand Dollars for a Cable Despatch.

MORE COLORED OFFICE-HOLDERS.

WASHINGTON, May 21, 1869.

The Eight Hour Law—Proclamation by the President.

Whereas the act of Congress, approved June 25, 1868, constituted on and after that date, eight hours a day's work for all laborers, workmen and mechanics employed by or on behalf of the government of the United States and repealed all acts and parts of acts inconsistent therewith,

Now, therefore, I, ULYSSES S. GRANT, President of the United States, do hereby direct that from and after this date no reduction shall be made in the wages paid by the government by the day to such laborers, workmen and mechanics on account of such reduction of the hours of labor.

In testimony whereof I have hereto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington this 19th day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine, and of the independence of the United States the ninety-third.

U. S. GRANT.

By the President.

HAMILTON FISH, Secretary of State.

More Cabinet Troubles—Unpopularity of Attorney General Hoar—Resolution of Censure to be Introduced on the Assembling of Congress.

A strong effort is being made to have the President dismiss Attorney General Hoar from the Cabinet. He has rendered himself extremely unpopular with those who have had business to transact with the Attorney's General's Office, and especially obnoxious to Senators and members. "I will bet a champagne supper," said a Senator the other day, in the presence of a dozen gentlemen, "that you cannot find a single Senator or member, not excluding the delegation from Massachusetts, who will speak well of this man Hoar." The company, which was composed mostly of Congressmen, echoed, "That's so" to this remark, and nobody took the bet. Hoar is eminently against the politicians, and he puts down in this category all the members of both houses of Congress. He was so insulting in his manner towards the Congressmen that a couple of members of the Cabinet who happened to hear about it went to him and advised him to change his policy, otherwise he would make hosts of enemies for the administration. It appears, however, that he has refused to adopt the advice, alleging that he did not take charge of the Attorney General's office to please the politicians. The Congressmen say all sorts of hard things about him—as, for instance, that he is run by ex-Attorney General Evarts—and they threaten that if he is not removed before Congress meets a resolution of censure will be introduced upon him and passed. Strange as it may appear, the most bitter against him are the members from Massachusetts.

Unsettled State of Affairs in Georgia—Presidential Interference Asked For—General Butler's Sanguinary Remedy.

Senator Sumner, General Butler and other prominent radical Congressmen have been urging the Secretary of War and the President to adopt some vigorous policy in Georgia which will bring the malcontents down there more effectually to their senses. The immediate cause of the attention bestowed by Sumner and Butler upon Georgia is the numerous murders which are reported as having taken place there recently. They complain that nobody has been caught and nobody punished. Both the President and the Secretary of War have promised to look into the matter, but they leave it to the military authorities. Sumner says if he were President he would have the military authorities preserve order there or he would go down to Georgia and do it himself. Butler thinks the military commander does not go the right way about it. If he were the military commander in Georgia and a political murder was committed he would issue a proclamation setting forth that unless the murderer were delivered up within a certain time, with the evidence to convict him, he would destroy every green thing for a space of ten miles square around where the murder was committed. A course like this, Butler thinks, would put an end to the murders and insure the punishment of the murderers. Sumner would be more mild; he would content himself with taking hostages. Butler says he tried that in the South before, and it had no effect. The other plan, he thinks, would work admirably. Whether Grant will instruct General Terry to adopt it in Georgia remains to be seen.

Reconstruction in Texas—Conservative View of Affairs in the Lone Star State.

Major General W. T. Clarke, of Texas, had another long interview with President Grant to-day regarding the condition of affairs in that State. General Clarke gave a very different statement from that laid before the President yesterday by Major Moore, another gentleman from Texas, who urged a postponement of the election until next November instead of during August. General Clarke declared that the true policy to be pursued was to restore Texas and all the States as soon as possible consistent with the interests of the people of these States. He said that August would be a better time, because the people would not then be engaged in gathering their crops, and because it would enable the State to be represented in the Congress which is to assemble here next December, besides so much the sooner restoring the blessings of civil government. The President questioned General Clarke very closely as to the alleged outrages prevailing in Texas, and was informed that though disorders occurred there as well as in other Southern States, still the general condition of affairs was satisfactory. The reports of outrages and violence were grossly exaggerated, and he had no doubt that the restoration of civil government would prove a remedy all sufficient. The policy of some of the politicians in Texas seemed to be something like putting Spanish flies on old sores. Instead of trying to conciliate they did everything in their power to feed the prejudices of the unreconstructed element. President Grant, towards the close of the interview, seemed to be much impressed with the statements of General Clarke, and remarked that he would do all in his power to restore Texas and Mississippi with as little delay as consistent with the true interests of the people.

Instructions of the Haytien Minister.

Professor Ebenezer D. Bassett (colored), the newly appointed Minister to Hayti, who has been here for a few days to receive his instructions from the State Department, left to-day for New York and will proceed without delay to the field of his diplomatic labors. Mr. Bassett had an interview with Assistant Secretary of State Davis this morning and was posted as to his duties, without receiving, however, any specific instructions. Our government has only one claim of any account against the Haytien government, and that is for the repair of a Haytien vessel, amounting to something like $30,000. This claim Mr. Bassett has been requested to have settled as speedily as possible. Mr. Bassett says the story that his appointment as Minister to Hayti is not acceptable to the authorities of that country is not strictly correct. A few people there, he says, are dissatisfied, and they have for some selfish purpose endeavored to make it appear that the whole government of Hayti would prefer a white man to be sent as minister instead of a gentleman of color. Mr. Bassett stopped with George Downing during his visit to the national capital.

Another of Seward's Legacies—Moderate Bill of the Cable Telegraph Company—Forty Thousand Dollars for a Single Item.

Senator Sumner, in conversation some time ago, said he was curious to know the amount of the Atlantic cable bill contracted by Mr. Seward in conducting his correspondence with Reverdy Johnson during the negotiations of the Alabama claims treaty. A single item in that bill has recently been brought to light through the refusal of the State Department to pay for it. It amounts to the modest little sum of $40,000 in gold. This, it is alleged, was for a single cipher despatch sent by Mr. Seward to London. It appears that the Cable Company allured Mr. Seward into giving them considerable business by the promise that they would make a liberal discount on his messages. The thing pleased Seward. He liked to sit in the State Department and dictate by telegraph what he wished done in London. He became rhetorical and even verbose in his despatches. They were to be sent at a cheap rate, and he thought he could afford to spread himself. When the bill came to be paid Mr. Seward grumbled at it. It was too high. The company, he averred, had charged him full commercial rates, instead of making any discount. In short, he refused to pay the bill, and it was bequeathed as one of the bad debts of Andrew Johnson's administration. The Cable Company has started anew to see what can be done under this administration. They have put the little bill into the hands of one Simon Stevens for collection. Simon used to figure about old Thad while he lived, and the impression got abroad that he was a relative of the old man, and, therefore, a person of some influence. But this was a mistake. Simon showed his little account to Secretary Fish, but the "Governor" didn't feel like paying Seward's bills. He then went to the President, who, after looking at it through a cloud of tobacco smoke, said it had better go to Hoar for an "opinion." The erudite Attorney General is engaged in making extensive research into the cost of telegraphing from the earliest times to the present day. It will take him considerable time to get through, but it is expected he will give an "opinion as is an opinion" on Seward's extravagance and the exorbitant rates of the cable.

Report of the Pacific Railroad Commissioners—Defective Construction of the Road.

The commission to examine the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads, consisting of Major General G. K. Warren, J. Blickersdefer, Lieutenant Colonel R. S. Williamson and J. S. Clements, have completed their report and the commission has been dissolved. From what can be ascertained of the report they estimate that at the date of their examination in February last an expenditure of $2,800,000 would be required to bring the Central road up to a first class road and equip it for through business, with rolling stock, depots, machine shops, engine houses, &c. Two of the commissioners, Messrs. Warren and Blickersdefer, also think an expenditure of $1,600,000 is required to improve its location. Messrs. Williamson and Clements report that the road has been built upon the location approved by the government, and is suitable to all the service that will be at present required. Accompanying the report is evidence showing that since the examination by the Commissioners the Central Pacific Railroad Company has purchased rolling stock, machinery, iron, &c., to the amount of $4,500,000, the greater portion of which has already been placed upon or is now in transit to the road. The remainder was being delivered from day to day.

Upon the Union Pacific road they report that at the time of their examination the sum of $6,700,000 was necessary to complete and equip the 1,035 miles according to the first class standard, since which time the company have been constantly at work completing the road and placing upon it the material necessary fully to equip the same according to the requirements of the commission and the law. The report states that the haste in which the roads have been constructed has resulted in defects of location and construction which must be remedied to bring the roads to the standard of efficiency required by law. No action has yet been taken by the Executive upon the report.

General Dent Learns Wisdom and Politeness—His Regard for the Herald Correspondent.

General Dent, the polite card receiver at the White House, has become mollified since attention was called to his conduct in the HERALD. Senators, members and others having business at the White House notice the change and are pleased with it. He has ceased to announce, in auctioneer style, a Senator's business with the President to the promiscuous crowd in the ante-room. He has inaugurated a conciliatory policy towards the representatives of the press. He denies that he intends to throw any of them out of the White House windows. He might be compelled to make an exception in favor of the HERALD correspondent; but he would not throw him out of the window; he would be milder, and simply kick him down stairs. He had thought of getting the President to issue an order to keep the HERALD man out of the White House, but, on reflection, he thinks he had better not.

Grant's Interest in Invalid Soldiers.

Major General Emory, who has been running at large for some time in search of a department, has at last been provided for. Yesterday he was appointed to the command of the Soldiers' Home, a snug retreat outside Washington,