GREEN CLAY SMITH.

Record and Opinions of the Temperance Nominee for President.

HE WILL ACCEPT.

The Prohibition Organization Holding the Balance of Power.

CERTAINTY OF ULTIMATE SUCCESS.

LOUISVILLE, May 22, 1876.

I called on General, or perhaps I had better say the Rev. Green Clay Smith to-day, to converse concerning his nomination for the Presidency by the prohibition reform party at Cleveland, Ohio, last week. He talked freely and intelligently; but before recording his remarks I wish to detail some interesting biographical information. Green Clay Smith was born in Madison county, Kentucky, July 2, 1832. His father, John Speed Smith, was a prominent lawyer; his mother was the daughter of James K. Duke, a nephew of Chief Justice Marshall, of the Supreme Court of the United States. At an early age Green Clay Smith manifested a predilection for the army, and on the breaking out of the war with Mexico enlisted in his country's cause, being at that time at the very youthful age of fifteen years. He soon became a lieutenant under Colonel Humphrey Marshall's command, that worthy having the leadership of the Kentucky cavalry. Young Smith's conduct for one so youthful is said to have been very gallant. It aroused within the bosoms of his comrades a spirit of patriotism seldom seen. They called him

THEIR "BOY LEADER,"

their "brave boy," &c., and would have complied with almost any request he might have made. General Tom Marshall was so pleased with the youngster's valor that he tendered to him a position as Adjutant General of his staff, with the rank of major. Green Clay wished to accept the position, but his company would not consent to his leaving. The men gathered around their "brave boy" and begged him to stay with them, and yielding to their desires he complied. He continued fighting in Mexico and then came back to his native State and returned to school, graduating at Transylvania when twenty years of age. He abandoned his warlike ambition for the law, and continued practising his profession until the secession of the States. He took decided Union grounds and warmly espoused the cause of the federalists. Previous to the breaking out of the war he was a Douglas elector and a member of the State Legislature from the Covington district.

SMITH VOLUNTEERED

to take up arms, and enlisted as a private in the command of Colonel Foley to protect the Kentucky frontier. Upon the call for the three-year troops he was appointed major of the Third Kentucky cavalry, but soon transferred to the command of the Fourth Kentucky regiment of cavalry as colonel commanding. In June, 1862, he was made a brigadier general, having then figured in numerous engagements in Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky, utterly routing Morgan once at Lebanon, Tenn. He participated in numerous skirmishes when holding the first ranks, and, after becoming a brigadier general, coped successfully with General Forrest, near Brentwood. For the gallant conduct then shown by General Smith and his command they were

PUBLICLY COMPLIMENTED

by General Rosecrans. General Smith continued serving until his election to Congress in 1863 by the people of his district. He then resigned his position in the army and went to Washington, serving a full term as a member of the Committee on Elections and on several select committees. He was re-elected to the House of Representatives of the Thirty-ninth Congress, served a short time and then, in 1866, resigned to accept the government of the Territory of Montana. Three years later he retired voluntarily from the Governorship of Montana and sought private life in Kentucky. In 1870 he was

ORDAINED A MINISTER

of the Baptist faith, and has so continued ever since. At present he is pastor of the largest church in the capital of his native State. Twenty years ago he became identified with the temperance cause and soon soared as the leader of the Kentucky Order. He has never lost his identity with the temperance people, and has gone through all the offices they have the power to bestow upon an individual. They all love and respect him, and in convention assembled at Cleveland tendered to him their support for the Presidency. I met General Smith at the Louisville Hotel to-day. "Do you think, General," said I, "of accepting the nomination tendered you by the prohibitionists?"

General SMITH—Yes, sir, I do.

CORRESPONDENT—What strength has your party?

General SMITH—We are 700,000 strong, and, I think, the balance of power, as it were. If the republicans at Cincinnati and the democrats at St. Louis fail to do their duty our party will be made much stronger.

CORRESPONDENT—In what respect fail to do their duty?

"Ah," said the preacher general, with a light laugh, "that's telling. You see," continued he, as he shook his forefinger in my face, "I am once again in politics and must therefore keep close our party's secrets and secret hopes."

CORRESPONDENT—In the event of the democrats and republicans doing their duty, then what?

General SMITH—Then we have our original strength. If we miss things this time, we will not in eight years hence.

CORRESPONDENT—What did you say you based your judgment of this upon?

GENERAL SMITH—I don't think I said, but since you seek to ascertain I will tell you. The American element of our country is disgusted with the party in power and afraid of the one which seeks to succeed.

THE AMERICAN ELEMENT

wishes reform, vigorous and prompt. Our party promises it. There are also large numbers of Germans who feel the same way. Of these many belong to our Order. We have a great number of Irish, and more of both nationalities are coming.

CORRESPONDENT—The Teutons like their bock and lager?

General SMITH—Some; many, I presume; but to say that all Germans or Irish are confirmed drinkers is an insult, sir. There are very, very many of them as enthusiastically for temperance as anybody.

CORRESPONDENT—What about those lineal descendants of Ham?

"They, I think," said the General, "are great on societies."

I told him I thought so and understood the inference. We next referred to the Presidential candidates of republicans and democrats. Said I, "General, are you a republican?"

General SMITH—I never have been exactly a republican. I was a Union democrat. I now incline to republicanism as opposed to the present principles of democracy. In Congress I voted for the constitutional amendment for the abolition of slavery.

AVAILABLE CANDIDATES.

CORRESPONDENT—All thing considered, who is the most available, that is to say the strongest man with the people of the republicans?

General SMITH—Bristow is the strongest man with the people, and the most available for his party.

CORRESPONDENT—How about Uncle Sammie, of New York, for the democrats?

General SMITH—He is their best man. His location makes him strong and his reputation is good.

"Is Cassius Clay a relative of yours?" asked the examiner, as he arose to go.

"Yes, sir; an uncle. Brutus Clay, his brother, was in Congress with me, and Cassius at that time was Minister to Russia."

General Smith seems to have confidence in the success of his party, but if he expects to be the centennial President he is badly mistaken. He is a clever and an able man, but he was nearer to the White House when Andy Johnson beat him in the caucus at Baltimore than all the temperance people can ever place him.

"INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY."

At the meeting of the independent labor party at Masonic Hall last night, the secretary read a communication from Abram S. Hewitt to the effect that as soon as the tariff question comes before the House he will urge that the government shall assist settlement on government lands by the free grant of 160 acres, and farming utensils, seed, &c., to the value of $400. On motion the corresponding secretary was directed to request the members of Congress from New York to facilitate the passage of this project, and also to give their best efforts towards the abolition of the tax on shipbuilding materials.

On motion of F. Waters the action of the Indianapolis Convention in nominating Peter Cooper and Senator Booth was indorsed.

Mr. B. Medina moved that the Woodin charter be condemned as injurious to the best interests of the workingmen in that it limited the appropriation for public works to $1,000,000 a year, and transferred the appointment of judges, &c., into the hands of the Governor. Mr. Jenny said that putting the appointment of judges into the hands of the Executive would open the door to corruption, and he asserted that he had positive knowledge of a contract being made whereby Mayor Wickham was to retire a month before his term expired, so that the Board of Supervisors might nominate him for the position of Comptroller in place of Mr. Green. Messrs. Tully, Smith, Kenny, Medina and others were appointed a committee to petition the Governor to veto the Woodin charter.

On motion of Mr. Marmen the proposition to accept from the Pacific Railroad certain lands granted to them formerly, as payment for a money debt of $60,000,000, was denounced as unwarrantable and immoral, after which the meeting adjourned.

IDEAS OF GERMAN-AMERICANS.

A well attended meeting of the German-American Citizens' Association was held last night at Beethoven Hall, Hon. Oswald Ottendorfer in the chair.

The Executive Committee, through Judge Otterbourg, reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:—

Well aware that only by the observance of the strictest private and public economy may we be able to restore our former prosperity; convinced that a reduction of the steadily increasing taxation is necessary to prevent the entire depreciation of the real estate in this city, we learn with regret that the proposals at the last meeting of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment presented by the newly organized Excise Commission considerably exceed in amount the appropriation of last year. Be it therefore

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to present at the next meeting of the Board of Apportionment the protest of this organization against such an appropriation, the increase being inconsistent with the dominant spirit of the people and the demand of sound economy, and is needless to properly perform the duties devolving upon said Board of Excise.

We congratulate our fellow citizens upon the victory secured to the faithful guardian of the public finances, Comptroller Green, by the decision of the Court of Common Pleas in the suit of Sheriff Brennan against the city of New York.

The following declaration was adopted:—

We greet with sincere joy the agitation inaugurated by the Conference held at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. We recognize in the principles declared in the address issued by the Conference a confirmation of all that we have ever upheld and defended as the fundamental principles of our organization, and herewith affirm our devoted and unshaken adherence to the same. We pledge ourselves, individually and as an organization, in the coming Presidential election to support no candidate who will not in all respects meet with the demands embodied and set forth in said address.

The following resolution was adopted in reference to the Woodin charter:—

The bill adopted by the last Legislature known as the "Woodin charter" contains many provisions which, we believe, will diminish the expenses of our city, increase the efficiency of the city officials, prevent untimely improvements, limit the further increase of city debts, surround the sinking fund with new guarantees and thus improve the credit of the city. During the last day of the Legislature's session several new provisions were smuggled into the bill and several amendments made which are directly antagonistic to the spirit of the law. The detriment which may be feared by these amendments are overcome by the many advantages, and the bill is one of the best measures enacted by the last Legislature; therefore,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to urge Governor Tilden to approve of the bill.

HUDSON RIVER TUNNEL.

IMPORTANT DECISION BY THE CHANCELLOR OF NEW JERSEY—RIPARIAN RIGHTS PROTECTED.

Chancellor Runyon, of New Jersey, rendered a decision yesterday on the motion of the Hudson River Tunnel Company to dissolve the injunction obtained by the Delaware and Lackawanna Railroad Company, restraining the former company from proceeding with the work of excavating under the Hudson River from the Jersey shore. The Chancellor said that the Hudson Tunnel Company had no right to construct its tunnel in the land of the State without first obtaining consent of the Board of Riparian Commissioners, unless such right was conferred upon them by the act of March 21, 1874. The general railroad law under which the tunnel company was formed provides that corporations formed under that act shall not take any land under water belonging to the State until the consent of the Riparian Commissioners shall first be obtained, and those Commissioners are thereby authorized to convey the land on such compensation as they themselves may fix. The act further provides that no corporation organized under that act shall be authorized to take by condemnation any lands belonging to the State. It is clear, then, that unless the right to occupy the lands belonging to the State was, as the defendants' counsel contends that it was, granted by implication by the act of March 21, 1874, the defendants have no right to occupy them. That act recognizes the defendants as a corporation under the laws of this State, and extends the time for the completion of their work, as above stated, and it does no more.

IT WAS ARGUED,

on the part of the defendants, that because that act was passed subsequently to the general railroad law and recognizes the defendants as a corporation under the laws of this State, and gives them time for the completion of their work, the Legislature may be presumed to have thereby given the consent of the State to their occupation of so much of the lands of the State as the defendants possessed, as the Legislature must have known them to occupy. It will be enough on this point to refer to the decision of the Court of Errors in the case of Stevens vs. The Paterson and Newark Railroad Company, in which it was held that a statute giving a railroad company the right to lay their road along a river and to acquire the rights of the shore owners, will not be construed to give by implication the right to take the lands of the State lying below the water line. The State is never presumed to have parted with any part of its property in the absence of conclusive proof of an intention to do so. There is no evidence of an intention to grant the land of the State to the defendants in the act of March 21, 1874. On the case made by the information the defendants have no right to occupy any part of the lands of the State.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL INSISTS

that they can obtain none from the Riparian Commissioners, for they are prohibited by existing covenants made between them and their lessees from giving such consent. The State is entitled to protection against the threatened injury to the reversion. That injury consists in taking possession of part of the property and adapting it to permanent and exclusive occupation as part of a great work.

The Chancellor, after reviewing the arguments on both sides, concludes:—"I cannot assume that the defendants will not be able to acquire the right of way. There is no ground for assuming that the Riparian Commissioners, if they find themselves free to do so, will not grant it. The injunction should be modified so as to permit the defendants to proceed to condemn as against the lessees. Otherwise it will stand for the protection of the rights of the State. The defendants have declared their intention to proceed immediately with their work after the conclusion of the proceedings for condemnation against the lessees. They not having acquired the right to do so as against the State the rights of the latter should be protected."

ELEVATED RAILROAD.

The Board of Directors of the Elevated Railroad met yesterday afternoon at No. 7 Broadway and elected for President John F. Tracy, of the Rock Island Railroad, and Milton Courtwright, Vice President and Chief Engineer.

The ironwork is being rapidly completed at the Passaic Rolling Mill. The upright posts are put together at the shop, as well as the girders, and forwarded to New York ready to be set up. All that has to be done here is making the foundations and supplying the rails and crossties. Trains laden with material for the mill arrive almost daily, and the work is in a fair way of being completed.

TEMPERANCE DEMONSTRATION.

On Thursday evening, the 1st of June, one of the largest temperance demonstrations ever held in this city will take place in the Cooper Institute. The following will be the officers on the occasion:—John B. Gibbs, President; George Smith and William Dalton, Vice Presidents; J. S. Dennison, Grand Usher; P. McGuire, C. Griffin and Thomas Keating, Reception Committee. The committee of ways and means on the mass meeting met last night at No. 214 Bowery to arrange all preliminaries. Among those present were John Hibbard, Michael Higgins, B. O'Donovan, W. Dalton, G. Smith and others. Among the many religious and temperance societies intending to take part in the demonstration are the Good Templars, all the divisions of the Sons of Temperance and the Father Mathew societies. In fact, every society in this city connected with the temperance movement will participate. All societies will turn out in full regalia. Delegations from Brooklyn, New Jersey, Greenpoint and Westchester will also attend.

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLARS.

Preparations are being made for the departure of the various commanderies of Knights Templars from this city and Brooklyn for the great parade in Philadelphia next week. Palestina Commandery, No. 18, of this city, will leave the Masonic Temple on Tuesday morning, at seven o'clock, and will march in full dress along Twenty-third street, and down Broadway to Cortlandt street, thence by the ferry to Jersey City, where they will take the cars at half-past eight A. M. for Philadelphia. Columbian Commandery, No. 1, will leave the Temple at half-past one P. M. on the same day, and march in full dress along Twenty-third street, down Fifth avenue to and along Fourteenth street to Broadway, thence along Canal street to Desrosses street ferry, in order to take the three P. M. special train for Philadelphia. Merton Commandery, No. 4, will leave on Wednesday morning, on which day it is expected the other commanderies of New York and Brooklyn will also leave.

THE JERSEY ELEVATOR ACCIDENT.

The serious accident which happened on the elevator of the North Hudson County Railroad in Jersey City a few weeks ago, when a horse car filled with passengers was precipitated into a pit thirteen feet in depth, has led to the adoption of precautions which, it is believed, will render such accidents impossible in the future. Implicit reliance will no longer be placed in telegraphic signals between the engineer above and the man on the platform below. A signal will be given by a circular disk, painted red, by day, and by a red lamp at night. The turning of this signal from red to white will indicate that all is right and the engineer can "go ahead." A further and a most excellent precaution has been adopted. The platform on which the cars are elevated has been fitted with automatic hooks, which secure it firmly to the pit. The signal is not given to raise it till the iron bar, which closes on the rear of the car as a guard rail, falls down into its socket. This downward motion detaches the bolt below and releases the platform, which then ascends. It will be seen that even if, through stupidity on the part of the man below, the signal should be prematurely given, the platform cannot be moved till the guard rail is secured and the platform thereby detached.

M'SHERRY, THE RUFFIAN.

An incident occurred yesterday morning which serves to show with what impunity the grossest outrages can be perpetrated by the rowdy element in New York city under the very eyes of "our model police." An open car, No. 254, belonging to the Third Avenue Railroad, left the City Hall about three o'clock A. M., and the conductor proceeded to collect the fares in the usual manner. One of the passengers, a bloated-looking ruffian of the lowest type, stretched himself at full length on the forward seat and prepared for a luxurious snooze during the trip up town. When the conductor demanded his fare this fellow pretended that he had been brought down town without his knowledge, and demanded that he should be taken back to Thirty-fourth street free of charge. The conductor quietly told him that he could not take him back without pay, as he was not responsible for people coming beyond their destination, and that the company's rule required each passenger to pay fare. The fellow, from a wheedling, assumed an offensive tone, and refused to pay or leave the car. The conductor, aided by the driver, tried to remove him, and called loudly for a policeman, but no policeman could be seen. A struggle ensued, during which the ruffian struck the patient conductor savagely in the face, cutting him severely, and succeeded in holding on to the car. At this juncture a policeman sauntered up and inquired of the rowdy, "What's the matter, old man; why don't you pay your fare?" and, notwithstanding the requests of the passengers made no effort to remove the fellow, being evidently disinclined to run the risk of an encounter with him. The rowdy, whose name is Edward McSherry, finally paid the fare and jeeringly took his seat again, while the conductor retired to the rear platform to wipe the blood from his face. To crown the outrage, this insolent ruffian coolly went back to where the conductor stood, and, after laughing heartily at his disfigured face, told him that he ought to feel happy that he (McSherry) did not cut or shoot him, and that he would have done so only that the driver knew him. This fellow keeps a liquor store on First avenue, between Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth streets, and is evidently a power in the "district." All the passengers on the car were indignant that he should be permitted to go unpunished after such a wanton and cowardly assault on an unoffending official who was simply discharging his duty. They unanimously declared that if the policeman who witnessed a part of the scene and who gently interfered on behalf of the distinguished politician from First avenue was too cowardly to do his duty then the Police Commissioners should put a man in his place who would act fearlessly.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE IN CENTRAL PARK.

As Mr. L. Feirst and Charles Mitzell were walking in Central Park, north of the Museum, last Thursday night, they came upon a man lying on the pathway suffering apparently from poison. Officer Flock was called and the man was taken to the station house in the arsenal. His name was found to be Karl Lemke, a native of Germany, aged fifty years, and that he had taken Paris green. He was sent to Mount Sinai Hospital. In his possession were found a loaded pistol, a box of powder, balls, caps and a razor, which he said he had intended to use if poison should not take effect. He has lately become a citizen of the United States, his papers having been made out in Elizabeth, N. J. He said that his wife and child were dead, and that he had nothing more to live for. Yesterday his recovery was despaired of.

A SUICIDE'S HISTORY.

Justice Jahn, of Hoboken, gave the following details yesterday respecting the career of Thomas de Bilyerd, who committed suicide by jumping off a ferryboat on the 29th of last April and whose body was recognized yesterday—"The deceased belonged to a highly connected English family," Justice Jahn says, "his father being a crown solicitor in Australia. He was educated at Cambridge University, and coming to London, studied for the law. This became distasteful to him, and after passing a very creditable examination he joined the army and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant. While stationed at Melbourne he ran away with his captain's wife and fled to England with her. In London he worked for some time in his brother's law office, till he became a victim to dissipation. Meanwhile his paramour abandoned him and shortly afterward his brothers disowned him. He then came to this country, and although a perfect wreck from drink, he was taken into the office of Messrs. Speiman & Brusch, surveyors, in this city. They clothed and treated him with the utmost kindness, but after working very steadily for upward of a year he fell to drinking anew, and they were forced to discharge him. One day I met him and he pleaded that he intended to reform, and said that he had been sleeping out in the Elysian Fields at night. I took pity on him, and he reformed, and he worked splendidly for me. He told me that his sister was married to a lord, whose name I forget. Last autumn he broke out into his old dissipated habits again, and I was forced to part with him. I then got the poor fellow into the Poorhouse, and managed to obtain clerical labor for him. Meanwhile he had written home for pecuniary aid. Shortly after its arrival a gentleman connected with the British Centennial Commissioners came and told Bilyerd that he would try and get him employed in Philadelphia at the Exhibition. The unhappy man was overjoyed and bought new clothes, and looked, with the exception of the dissipated appearance of his face, a very gentlemanly fellow. The day he committed suicide he received £5 from the British Consul (leaving a balance there of £20), and with this he became terribly drunk, and while in that state jumped off a Hoboken ferryboat. He was a veteran of the Franco-Prussian war, it is said, fighting as a volunteer on the French side, and I believe distinguished himself considerably."

NEWARK SUICIDES.

Last Saturday Rev. J. Marshall, a Baptist clergyman, left New York, for Europe. The following evening, Sunday, Miss Clara J. Marshall, his daughter, residing with her brother, Mr. Philip Marshal, at No. 14 Frelinghuysen avenue, Newark, N. J., took a large dose of laudanum. For some three years her health had been very poor, so as to render her life miserable. After taking the poison her friends found her in an unconscious condition, sent for a physician and vainly tried to save her. She died subsequently, leaving a letter behind, in which she mentioned her weariness of living wretchedly and her confidence in forgiveness and salvation.

A Mrs. Schureman threw herself into a cistern during a fit of temporary insanity on Thursday, and would have drowned but for the prompt efforts of friends.

SUICIDE OF A JUNK DEALER.

Yesterday afternoon the body of John Kock, a German junk dealer, of Clinton street, Brooklyn, was yesterday discovered by his wife hanging from a rafter of his stable. He was unfortunate in business of late.

A BOLD HIGHWAYMAN.

Mr. James W. Luckey, cashier of the Stacy House, got off a Third avenue car at two o'clock yesterday morning, and walked through Eighth street toward his residence. He was followed by a young ruffian named Edward Thomas, who now gives his residence as No. 62 Gold street, Brooklyn, but who really is a noted Eleventh ward thief, belonging around "the Hook." When midway in Eighth street Thomas struck Mr. Luckey, knocking him down, and snatched his watch chain and locket, breaking the chain at the watch swivel. Thomas dashed through Astor place toward Broadway, where he was arrested by Officer Killiles, of the Fifteenth precinct. Being a very powerfully built fellow, he tripped the officer, and both fell into the gutter. The officer became victor, however, and took Thomas to the Mercer street station. On hearing the evidence at the Washington Place Police Court yesterday, Justice Smith held Thomas in default of $2,000 bail to await the action of the Grand Jury, and forwarded the papers to the District Attorney.

NOTORIOUS THIEVES ARRESTED.

Robert Ripley, one of the oldest panel thieves in the country, Louis Lewis, alias "Sheeny" Louis, who was arrested for the Great Barrington bank robbery last fall, and Joseph Hart, another notorious sneak thief, were arrested in front of the new Post Office yesterday by Detectives Williamson, La Rue and Thompson, of the Central office. The prisoners, whose portraits are in the Rogues' Gallery, were seen by the detectives to enter a number of banking offices in Wall, William and Broad streets, evidently with the intention to commit a robbery, and were followed to Park row, where they stood watching the persons coming out of the Nassau Bank. As only last week a clerk was robbed of $2,000, while leaving the bank, Justice Murray, at the Tombs, remanded the prisoners until ten o'clock to-day, in order that they may be seen by the young man. Hart gave his name as Carter and Lewis his as Fennington. Counsellor Mitchel, who represented them, claimed they were reputable citizens, and said he would sue out a writ of habeas corpus. Judge Murray said he did not care what the counsel did, and sent the thieves back to Headquarters.

A NEWSBOY'S REVENGE.

When Tommy McGee was brought into the Washington Place Police Court yesterday morning by a tall and powerful policemen he was blubbering like a baby. He is about eleven years old, ragged, dirty and smart. He reached half way up to the railing and had four HERALDS and five *Suns* under his arm. He had got on the rear platform of a University place car and was thrown off by the conductor. Promptly he caught a large potatoe from a convenient grocery stand and flung it with all his force at the conductor. The potatoe crashed through a window of the car and nearly blinded a lady passenger. When he was asked what he had to say he wiped his eyes with the elbow of his coat sleeve and blurted out, "I didn't mean to hit the lady, Judge, you wouldn't see me stuck with my papers, would ye?" He was sent below until the Judge should decide whether the House of Refuge was the best place for him or not.

PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

EIGHTH DAY'S SESSION—LOOKING AFTER SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIANS, BLACK AND WHITE—FRATERNIZATION.

Yesterday the Assembly accepted the invitation of the Ministerial Association of Chicago to hold its next annual session in that city. There was no alternative, for this was the only invitation given, and a few days ago when it was presented the Assembly referred it on account of the last meeting having been held in that city. The report of the Committee on Church Erection heretofore indicated was called up and adopted and managers to fill vacancies in the Board appointed.

Dr. Rankin, from the Committee on Overtures, reported one on the Assembly representation, which asks for the amendment of chapter 12, section 2, "Form of Government," so as to read:—

The General Assembly shall consist, as nearly as possible, of an equal number of bishops and elders, chosen by the Presbyteries in the following manner:—Each Presbytery, consisting of not more than fifteen ministers, shall send one representative; each Presbytery, consisting of more than fifteen ministers, two representatives, and in like proportion of one for every fifteen ministers in any Presbytery, and these representatives shall be styled Commissioners to the General Assembly. The number of ministers and elders from any Presbytery shall always be equal, except when an odd number is to be chosen, in which case the odd number shall be alternately a minister and an elder, the first half of the Presbyteries to begin with a minister and the other half with an elder. New Presbyteries shall begin with the class into which they fall alphabetically. The General Assembly shall have power at any time to admit a representative of a foreign missionary Presbytery, whether alphabetically entitled to a seat or not. The reasons for this recommendation are that it will reduce the Assembly to 332 members, which will make it convenient in size; it presents one rule for all the Presbyteries; it practically equalizes the clerical and lay representatives; it is simple and can easily be adapted at any time by simply changing the unit of representation.

The report of the Committee on Freedmen was presented and after discussion adopted. It sets forth that the receipts to this cause during the past year were $54,958 84 and the expenditures $53,137, and that a balance of $1,821 84 remains in the treasury. The debt of this Board has been reduced $5,285 14. The number of white churches that have contributed to its funds was 1,696 and of freedmen's churches 111; non-contributing white churches numbered 3,185 and non-contributing colored churches 17. The Board has 24 ordained colored preachers and 2 licentiates, and 23 teachers laboring under its authority. It has also 128 churches under its care, 8 of which were organized last year, and 9,916 communicants. Its 107 Sabbath schools contain 7,009 pupils. The value of its church property is $107,860. It has, besides, three high schools or academies valued at $32,950, and 39 day schools, in which 65 teachers instruct 3,776 pupils; 43 students are preparing for the ministry, 37 of them for service in the Presbyterian church. The aggregate pay of all the teachers is $11,151.

Dr. Prime, from the Committee on Correspondence, presented the following on this subject (it was introduced by Dr. Talmage the day before):—

The committee appointed to confer with the Presbyterian General Assembly, now in session at Savannah, in reference to the basis of a union between the two bodies, being unanimously and heartily in sympathy with the object which they were appointed to accomplish, and recognizing the fact that the two assemblies accept the same form of government and directory of worship, and are closely bound together by historical as well as doctrinal ties, and whereas these Churches, one in faith, order and labor, are called by the Great Head of the Church to unite effort for the extension of His kingdom throughout the country and the world, and as no adjustment of differences is accomplished by the rehearsal of the past, therefore, with a view to the expression of the united and hearty wish of this body that at the earliest practicable moment we may see the establishment of correspondence with the other Assembly; therefore,

Resolved, That this Assembly reiterate its cordial desire for the establishment of fraternal relations with that Assembly on terms of perfect equality and reciprocity as soon as it is agreeable to it to respond to this assurance by a similar assurance.

Rev. Dr. Talmage moved that the report be accepted, adopted and telegraphed to the General Assembly. (Applause.) The motion was divided, discussed and adopted almost unanimously and a telegram reporting this action was sent to Savannah.

Dr. Bacon then offered for adoption a protest against the violation of the treaty with China by the recent legislation of California whereby Chinese immigration has been checked, and the Chinese here virtually expelled. Such treatment, he said, is a violation of the dictates of humanity and of Christianity.

A committee of arrangements for the next Assembly was appointed, and committees to wait upon the mayors of Brooklyn and New York in regard to Sunday liquor traffic. For the former, Rev. Dr. Seaver and Elder E. A. Lambert; for the latter, Rev. Dr. Adams and Elder Jeremiah Skidmore.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

In the afternoon Dr. Charles E. Knox, of Newark, presented a report on the relation of the Presbyterian Church to the Germans. He argued in favor of the proposition that the Church should train more German speaking ministers, issue more books and periodicals in the German language and in other ways seek to win the Germans to Christ. He showed their importance in this country as a thrifty, intelligent and increasing part of our population. He claimed they are an aggressive people, and that unless they are Americanized and Christianized they will rationalize this country. Protestants need their help in the coming issue between it and Romanism, and it would not do to treat them in the future with the same indifference as they had been treated in the past. The speaker recited the progress that the Methodists had made among them since 1838, and contrasted it with what the Presbyterians had done within the same period, much to the disparagement of the latter. Messrs. Marshall, Jackson, Woodbridge and others took part in the discussion. By vote Dr. Siebert, a professor in the German Theological School in Newark, N. J., was permitted to speak on this question, he not being a member of the Assembly. Dr. Siebert has been laboring sixty years among his countrymen, and he declared that the true way to Christianize them is not by first Americanizing them. That was not Paul's way. That apostle was a Greek to the Greeks and a Hebrew to the Hebrews, that by all means he might win some to Christ. If we want to Christianize them we must preach to them in the language in which they think and not alone in English, as some propose. The Germans read and pay for books in their own language, and don't expect them for nothing as some had said. The speaker, in conclusion, urged the Assembly to train and send German preachers to the Germans.

The report was adopted, and the report on church erection was then made the second order for Monday.

Dr. Dickey presented the report on sustentation, and Dr. W. E. Knox presented a report of a special committee on the same subject. The matter was humorously discussed by Rev. Dr. Kompshall, and gravely by Dr. Musgrave, the time being extended for that purpose. It was placed on the docket for further consideration.

To-morrow afternoon at four o'clock Dr. Breed, of Philadelphia, is to deliver his great historical discourse on Presbyterianism in the United States before the Assembly, and in the evening a missionary meeting will be held. The Moderator, Rev. Dr. Van Dyke, will preside, and addresses will be made by Rev. Dr. Ellenwood, in behalf of the woman's work in missions, and by Rev. Dr. Talmage, Rev. Dr. Brodhead and Rev. Dr. Chamberlain.

The Assembly spent last evening in a social way with Mr. H. K. Sheldon, of Pierrepont street.

METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

BALTIMORE, Md., May 26, 1876.

Bishop Janes presided in the Conference to-day, and the entire session was taken up in debate on the majority and minority reports of the Committee on Itinerancy, the point under discussion being the election of presiding elders by conferences. The minority report provided that "presiding elders shall be appointed by the bishops on the nomination of a majority of the Annual Conference by ballot, without debate, provided, however, that, in case the bishops shall deem that the interests of the Church demand that any person so nominated be otherwise employed, they shall communicate their judgment to the Conference, which shall then proceed to make other nominations until the required number is obtained." The majority report leaves the matter as at present under paragraph 229 of the Discipline, viz.:—"Presiding elders are to be chosen by the bishops." Dr. Crawford, chairman of the committee; Dr. Buckley, of New York, and R. H. Davis, of Illinois, opposed the minority report; and Dr. Cummings, of New England; R. H. Moore, of Erie; Dr. D. Curry, of New York; F. B. Riddle, of Central Pennsylvania, and G. W. Hughes, of Southern Illinois, favored its adoption. The Conference adjourned till to-morrow.

THE BAPTIST ANNIVERSARY.

BUFFALO, N. Y., May 26, 1876.

This morning, the fourth day of the meeting of the Baptist national societies, was held the forty-fourth annual session of the American Baptist Home Mission Society. Hon. Samuel A. Crozier, of Pennsylvania, presided. The annual report, presented by Nathan Bishop, LL. D., Corresponding Secretary of the Board, showed that the indebtedness of the organization at the close of the year ending April 1, 1874, was $45,287 40. During the year ending April 1, 1875, it was reduced to $10,341 20, which amount has been entirely paid during the fiscal year just closed, and a fair balance is now in the hands of the Treasurer. The receipts of the society during the year ending April 1, 1876, for missionary and educational purposes were $175,534 38, being a falling off of $25,000 from those of the previous year. The property of the society includes the Wayland Seminary, of Washington, D. C.; the Richmond Institute, of Richmond, Va.; the Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C.; Benedict Institute, Columbia, S. C.; Augusta Institute, Augusta, Ga.; Nashville Institute, Nashville, Tenn.; Leland Institute, New Orleans, La. The permanent trust funds of the society amount to $45,422 83. The conditional trust funds reach $60,195 26. The Executive Board commissioned 267 missionaries during the past year, who organized sixty-five churches.

The meeting was addressed by the Rev. E. F. Winkler, of Alabama, and Rev. Dr. W. Howard, of Texas, representatives of the Southern Home Mission Board, relative to the work among the freedmen.

A communication was received from Sheldon & Co., publishers, New York, donating 5,000 copies of the Centennial edition of "Service of Song" for distribution among needy Baptist churches of the South, which was accepted and a vote of thanks ordered to be sent to the publishers, after which an address was made by Rev. Dr. E. G. Taylor, of Providence, R. I., on the condition of the Baptist freedmen.

Rev. Rufus Perry (colored), of Brooklyn, representing the American Baptist Consolidated Convention, addressed the society upon the work being done by colored Baptists for the advancement of their race, and a resolution was adopted extending them expressions of fraternal fellowship and a desire to co-operate with them.

At the afternoon session the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Hon. Robert O. Fuller, Massachusetts; Vice Presidents, Hon. William Stickney, District Columbia, Hon. Jesse P. Bishop, Ohio; Treasurer, Joseph B. Hoyt, Esq., Connecticut; Auditors, William Phelps, Esq., New York, Joseph Brokaw, Esq., New York; Corresponding Secretary, Nathan Bishop, LL. D., New York; Recording Secretary, Rev. D. B. Jutten, New York; Members of the Board of Managers, first class—Rev. David Moore, New York; J. F. Elder, D. D., New York; W. H. Parmly, D. D., New York; Albert B. Capwell, Esq., New York; S. S. Constant, Esq., New York.

Addresses were made by Rev. R. S. MacArthur, New York; Dr. Sears, Secretary of the Peabody fund; Mr. Hinman, Illinois; Mr. Murray, Indian Territory; Dr. Samuel Moss, Indiana, and Dr. Gillette, New York, on general home mission topics, after which the Convention adjourned.

This evening a general hallelujah service of praise of all the delegates and members in attendance was held, which concluded the anniversary services.

PLYMOUTH PRAYER MEETING.

MR. BEECHER ON THE PEACE THAT PASSETH UNDERSTANDING.

Mr. Beecher's benevolent face beamed on his congregation again last night and consequently there was a large increase in the attendance. Every spot in the lecture room was filled. After the customary exercises Mr. Beecher said:—

You recollect when our Master was on earth, and especially in the last years of His life, when troubles gathered around Him, how out of the darkness and distrust He was continually giving forth peace to His disciples. "Peace I give unto you; my peace I give unto you." You recollect the expression, "Peace that passeth all understanding," and beyond analysis, beyond reasoning, as we reason from cause to effect. This was not a transient matter, so much was it in the mind of the Apostle Paul that you will be astonished to see in his letters how much he looked toward that as the final experience of Christians—not faith nor joy, but peace, as being a stage higher than these, as it is. We are brought up to have an impression that true Christian evidence is inseparable from a feeling of dissatisfaction, that a man who finds fault with himself every day has evidence that he has life. This is on the ground, I suppose, that when a drowning man is rescued we prick him to see if he has life. That is very well for a drowning Christian, but for one even but half alive it is very poor—it is one of the very lowest stages of Christian experience. We are brought up to have a very low opinion of ourselves; we have an overwhelming sense of our unworthiness; we keep ourselves down before the footstool all the time. That is not Christlike; that is not discipleship. It is not Christlike to be discontented. "My peace I give you." That Divine peace, surely, is not made up of such experiences as those we have. Again, we have an idea that presumption and audacity go with confidence, but a calm and settled certainty in our position is not likely to give us audacity. Then excitement and a general disposition to activity is cultivated very much. Some people think they who are always working and exciting themselves are the most exemplary Christians. Very useful they are. A great deal of work requires energy and zeal; but these are not the characteristics of Divine presence.

NOTHING GROWS BY THUNDER,

but when in the stillness of the night all the roots are sucking up the moisture, what a power there is in it! All the energies by which nature works are silent. These intensities of life may be needed; but they are not the peculiar characteristics of divine life in ourselves. What is this peace? It is something higher than attrition, than intense zeal or joy. What is it? I don't know. It does pass understanding. It is of God—in a sense peculiar, special. We know something about it, though we may not compass the whole. The work of God is one we cannot trace. Consider what the root idea of Christian life is. It is the indwelling of the Divine nature, the brooding of the Holy Ghost. What ought we to expect in the soul of man, having the faculties he has, where God is the gardener. Consider again that there is a state of excitement that gives men a certain peace afterward when tranquillity comes. That is sure ease; it is more nearly rest than peace. It seems to me that peace is that condition in which every part of the moral nature of man is vitalized and filled and brought into perfect harmony with God. Did you ever see the tide come in? How it rushes up and laps the rocks on every side! It is musical, but it is agitated. By and by, when the tide is perfectly full, it smooths itself all over because it is so full, and it lies placid and the whole heaven is reflected perfectly. It is so with the fullness of the soul. In the filling there is energy and vital activity, but when the soul is full it discharges agitation and lies in the perfect tranquility of the peace that passeth understanding. That is the highest and usually the last stage of Christian experience. We want such men for beacon lights to guide the world. These men are the lighthouses of the Church. They are the ones to whom Christ says more than to others, "Let your light shine, that men may see your works, which are to the glory of your Father which is in heaven."

Mr. Beecher here gave a space for remarks. Brother White said he thought that doctrine might be hurtful to some who, being only resting, considered themselves as having the peace of God. He was afraid it might put some consciences to sleep that ought to be stirred up. "I should not wonder," said Mr. Beecher. "I would like