

The Presbyterian of the South

VOL. 94.

RICHMOND, VA., MARCH 31, 1920.

No. 13



Editorial Notes and Comment



FLOWERS may travel a long way without losing their fragrance. A bouquet that has just come to us from China is most refreshing and is most highly appreciated. This paragraph is taken from a letter from one of our leading missionaries in China. As it was not written for publication, we withhold the name of the writer. He says: "In these days when so many new isms are running rampant and so many people seem to believe nothing that they ought to believe, it is refreshing and most helpful to hear the clear, true ring of your paper. Every one can always know where the Presbyterian of the South stands, and it always stands in the right place!"

* * *

ORGANIC union of all evangelical churches is advocated by the Northern General Assembly and a commission was appointed to invite all these churches to send commissions to a joint conference to discuss and propose plans by which this union could be brought about. The conference was called, but very few of the denominations were represented. One of the striking facts about this whole matter is that, so far as we have seen, not one of the church papers of the Northern Church is at all in favor of this proposed conglomerate merging of all churches, though practically all of them are in favor of the organic union of the various branches of the Presbyterian Church. Do the papers reflect the sentiment of the Church at large in the North?

* * *

MISSION COURT is a name that is becoming familiar in our Church and knowledge of it is reaching out into our mission fields. As many of our readers know, it is the name of a building which is being erected in Richmond, as a home for the missionaries of our Church and their families, when they come back from their fields of labor on furlough, where they may rest and be freshened up to do better work than ever when they return to their fields. A short time ago a missionary of our Church said that when he started back to this country, he did not know to what place to have his baggage checked, as he did not know where he and his family could find a place to spend their furlough. Another missionary said that the thought of her furlough hung over her as a dark cloud. She knew that it was necessary for her and her husband to come back to this country to rest, but they had no place to go. The salary which they received would not enable them to pay board for their family. These are just two cases, where many others might be given. A small band of noble women in Richmond, aided by women all over the Church, are providing for this need by erecting an apartment home which will take care of four families at a time. It is located near the Union Theological Seminary and the Assembly's Training School, in one of the most beautiful residential sections of the city. It is hoped to have it finished in a few months. Applications for its use are already being received. In consequence of the high cost of building, \$5,000

is still needed to complete this much-needed home. Is there not some big hearted man among our readers who will give this amount? Gifts of any size may be sent to Mrs. G. R. Cannon, 306 Grace Street, Richmond, Va.

* * *

EVERY Member Canvass has been held in many of our churches under the old plan of holding it in March. General reports from these churches have not been received yet. Other churches are postponing the canvass until the time suggested by the Interech Church Movement, April 21st-May 2. The churches that have not taken the canvass have a good opportunity to study what the others have done, to profit by avoiding any mistakes or failures they have made and to be inspired by their successes. One difficulty in the past has been that many churches did not make the canvass, and another is that many failed to report promptly the result of their canvass. It is earnestly hoped that there will be no slackers this year in either respect.

* * *

DANCING has taken possession of this country and has run riot over the whole land. Like all forms of evil it has grown worse and worse. The older and less objectionable forms have practically been discarded. The modern dance has become so bad that even the dancing masters are becoming uneasy. They are afraid that there will be a revulsion of public feeling that will have a tendency to put a stop to dancing. It is devoutly to be hoped that their fears may be more than justified. The Nashville Christian Advocate says: "According to an appeal sent by the Dancing Masters' Association of America to those who conduct dance halls throughout the country, their business is in great danger. They have issued a pamphlet, says a news report (we do not know how to get hold of the pamphlet), in which they place the stamp of severe disapproval upon the exaggerated movements that may be observed on the dance floors today. They say that unless the objectionable is eliminated dancing will become extinct. We are sure that you realize with us, the pamphlet says, that if dancing is to be kept out of the discard, it is up to those of us who are vitally interested to do our best right now to raise the standard. Ten plain don'ts are suggested for those who want to make a start toward cleaning up the dance. Condensed, they are: Don't permit vulgar, cheap jazz music to be played. Don't permit young men to hold their partners tightly. Don't permit partners to dance with cheeks close or touching. Don't permit neck holds. Don't permit shimmying. Don't permit dancers to take either exceptionally long or short steps. Don't dance from the waist up. Don't permit suggestive movements. Don't permit dancers to copy the extremes that are now used on the modern stage. Don't hesitate to request objectionable dancing couples to leave the room. We move the adoption of one resolution as a substitute for these ten, as follows: Don't dance."

PROHIBITION is a curse to the country, say the advocates of the liquor business. Over against this statement place the fact that Boston has closed the department of its almshouse that provided homes for tramps and other down-and-out unfortunates, as there has not been an inmate in it for some time. Add this fact: the Alleghany county, Pa., jail, which was formerly kept crowded to capacity, now has five hundred unoccupied cells. Similar statements are coming from all parts of the country.

* * *

THE Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America does some queer things. This paragraph is clipped from a communication just sent out by it: "The Committee on Inter-relations Between Theological Seminaries was a means of strengthening another of the bonds between the two continents. Its recommendations included an exchange of professors and students and also of fellowships, between the seminaries of Europe and America. The first of these exchange students is now in residence at Union Theological Seminary" (New York). This seems to suggest that this committee had something to do with the arrangements for the inter-change of students. At any rate this information as to the seminary selected seems to indicate that the selection met with the approval of the committee. We cannot help wondering why the most discredited theological seminary in this country should have been chosen to give a European student his ideas of American theology.

* * *

EVERY man has his price, is often said, and there are many who think that any man can be bought, if enough money is offered. So thought the liquor men when they wanted to contest the constitutionality of the prohibition amendment to the National Constitution. They wanted a man to represent them in court, whose name, as well as his ability, would give him influence. So they went to Charles E. Hughes, recently a member of the Supreme Court of the United States, and later Republican candidate for President against Woodrow Wilson. They laid on the table before him a check for \$150,000, which was to be his fee, if he would undertake their case. Mr. Hughes' replied: "I would not champion this cause before the courts for any sum of money you could name." The liquor men then went to ex-President Taft and offered him a blank check, which he was told to fill in with any amount he might choose, if he would undertake their case. His reply was no less pointed than that of Mr. Hughes'. He said: "Gentlemen, you could not pile enough gold on this continent to induce me to take your case before the courts and before the public, for I will have you know my conscience is not for sale." America is proud of the fact that she has men of such prominence who are above price when an effort is made to induce them to advocate that which is evil. This nation is strong because she has many such men, and may their tribe increase.