

THE PRESBYTERIAN

OF THE SOUTH
COMBINING
THE SOUTHWESTERN PRESBYTERIAN
THE CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN
THE NORTHERN PRESBYTERIAN

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VOL. 93.

RICHMOND, NEW ORLEANS, ATLANTA, NOVEMBER 12, 1919.

No. 46

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Editorial Notes and Comment

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HOME MISSION work—does it pay? There are some people who doubt it. In the Synod of North Carolina forty men were engaged in Home Mission work under the direction of the Synod. The result of their work during the past year was one church and fourteen Sunday-schools organized and 2,212 professions of faith, or 55 professions for each worker. If all of the 1,956 preachers in our Church had had the same results in conversions under their ministry the total would have been 107,580. The fact is that the average additions to the church were seven for each minister. We recognize the fact that some of our ministers are not in the active ministry and that some of those who made profession of their faith in North Carolina did not join our Church, still it must be admitted that the number won for Christ in the home mission fields was far above the number of those won in the established and stronger churches. It does pay well to preach the gospel in mission fields.

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A SUBSCRIBER to a business magazine which is trying to increase its subscription list, sent in five new subscriptions, and wrote, "Let's keep the good work going." He did this because he believed that the business men of his acquaintance needed this magazine. There are some of our subscribers who feel that others need The Presbyterian of the South to help them in their Christian life and to aid them in their church work, and they have secured and sent in their subscriptions. We hope that there are many others who will help us in the same way. "Let's keep the good work going."

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CHURCH papers as well as all others are having a pretty hard time these days to meet expenses. So far as we know the Presbyterian of the South is one of the few Church papers that has not been compelled to raise its subscription price. We do not want to raise it, and hope it will not be necessary to do so. If any of our friends feel as we do that the Church needs a paper which will cost not more than two dollars, we will appreciate it very much, if they will aid us in keeping the price down by helping us to get some new subscribers. Some of them are doing this now.



Rev. George L. Petrie, D. D.
Pastor of the Charlottesville Va. Church

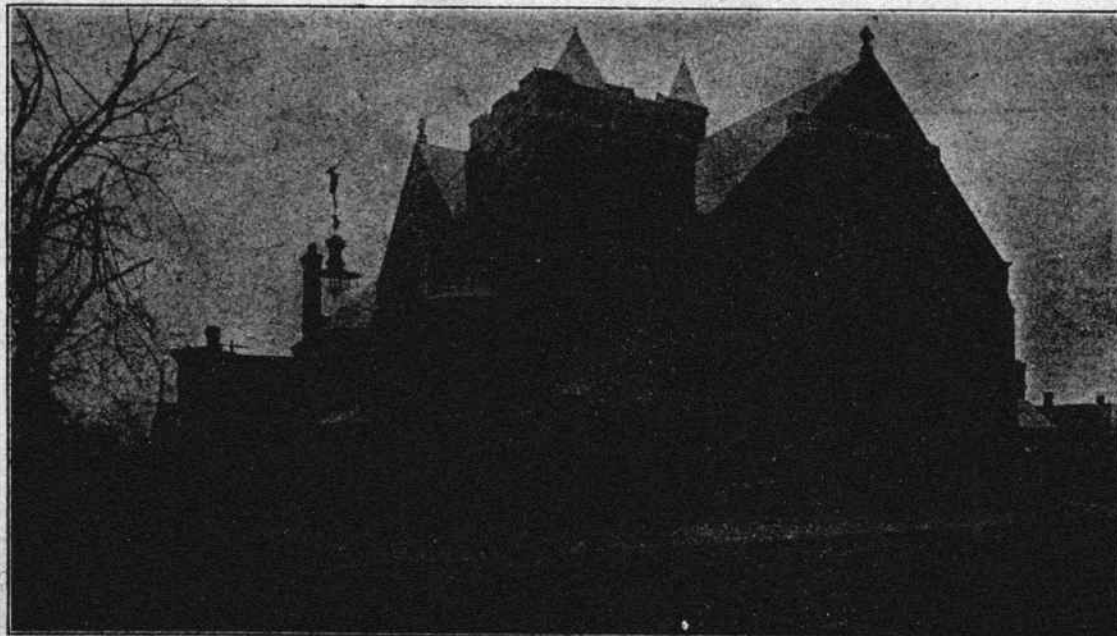
CHINESE have always had a hard time learning to read. It is said that their language contains about 50,000 words, and each word is represented by its own written sign. So he who would read the whole language must know these 50,000 signs. Recently an alphabet has been devised to take the place of these signs, so that the Chinese will be able to spell out their words as other people do. They will have 39 letters. What a help this will be to the missionaries. The China Sunday-school Association publishes the Sunday-school Journal and a large part of each issue of this paper is printed in phonetic spelling by the use of the alphabet.

A MOST philanthropic woman, convinced that she has found a remedy for evils which she finds in the South, and a happy solution of the race problem, proposes that the churches get together and raise about two billion dollars for the purpose of breaking up the congestion of negro population and colonizing them elsewhere in such a way that there will be some of them in every community where they can get good homes, decent surroundings and economic opportunities. The money proposed to be raised is for the purpose of building these homes for the colonists, who are not able to do this for themselves, and for whom the funds could hardly be raised by public taxation. It is needless to say that the proposition emanates from a woman who lives north of Mason's and Dixon's line, and who has hardly studied with much care the little histories written of late years by Springfield, Ill., Springfield, O., East St. Louis, Ill., Chicago, Omaha and Washington. These histories indicate that, besides subsidizing the colonists, it will be quite as needful beforehand to Christianize many of the people in the midst of whom the colonists shall be placed. With all her unwisdom, however, it is a fine tribute which she pays to the churches, and an acknowledgement of their power, in thinking that they can get the medium through which to accomplish her end.

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THE Federal Council has taken up the negro problem and has sent out a long communication on the subject. It begins with a pessimistic view of the matter, as though conditions had suddenly become much worse than they have been. Conditions have not changed materially, but the Northern people have more recently been brought more closely in touch with these conditions. The Council very wisely

urges the churches to be more faithful in giving the negroes the gospel. Every church must plead guilty to shortcoming just here. But the Council goes too far when it undertakes to make suggestions about business, social and civil relations, the division of funds and recommendations for the franchise. It then makes recommendations to the governors of the States as to what they ought to do. The Council represents the churches and the work of the Church is to preach the gospel.



Presbyterian Church Charlottesville, Va. Where Synod of Virginia is meeting this week.