

and who have reason to feel grateful to him for the marked kindness he invariably shows to them. His reputation as a scholar, theologian, professor, teacher and writer were gracefully alluded to, and the success with which he maintained the dignity and credit of the great institution over which he presides. Dr. Patton's reply was in happy vein. He could not help being reminiscent, thirty-two years having elapsed since he had attended a convocation of the University, and his references to names of the great departed, recalled fading memories to many a grey-headed alumnus present. The words with which he closed his speech might with propriety be applied to the present interesting circumstances of Knox College. Men of wealth, he said, had yet to learn that there was no better way of applying their wealth than in the service of truth, and there was no place where truth was likely to be better served than in the equipment of a great university. For university, substitute Theological College and let the funds flow in to revivify Knox College in the year of its jubilee.

A Liberal League Formed.

New York exchanges contain information of the organization of a Presbyterian League, the chief object of which is the reversal of the conservative policy supported by the Church as expressed by the decisions of the Assemblies *in re* Briggs-Smith. A number of influential names has been announced as connected with the committee which seems for the present, to be operating in New York and the vicinity. While the banding together of individuals for the furtherance of a common object cannot of itself be opposed, the methods already displayed by the Liberal League are to be deeply deplored. As expressed by a member interviewed by the *New York Times*, vituperation and misrepresentation seem to be the chief weapons of their propaganda. These may serve to prejudice the minds of some against the Assembly, but thoughtful Christian men and women will find nothing but food for regret in such obviously unfair and exaggerated statements as the following:—"According to the report of the *Times*, a member of the League claims that the conservatives have formed secret organizations in all parts of the country for the advancement of the principles and methods approved by the apparently dominating element in the Church; that very many ministers sympathize with the views of Drs. Briggs and Smith, but have not been permitted, by reason of the machinations of intriguing conservatives, to give expression to their belief in any of our Church courts, but will publicly declare them ere long, and ultimately gain a controlling influence in the Church." Any one who has followed the course of events in the United States during the past few years must be aware of the groundlessness of such charges as are here expressed.

The "Highest Criticism." His outspoken style is a characteristic of Rev. Dr. Parker of London. Speaking recently in Edinburgh he gave a specimen of what has been called the "Highest" Criticism. Canon Cheyne has expressed the opinion that the lxxii Psalm was written by David in honor of Ptolemy Philadelphus. "Sorry and painful would be the reading of it," were the Canon's opinion correct, said the preacher. "Ptolemy

Philadelphus, the incestuous beast!"—a phrase repeated with withering scorn—"No, gentlemen, ten thousand times no! I cannot believe that God will divide His throne with the devil!"

Next Year's Assembly. The General Assembly was almost unanimous in selecting London, Ont., as the place for its next meeting. London the less is to be congratulated on the fact, and so is the Assembly for in no place in the Dominion would a heartier welcome be extended to fathers and brethren.

Crescent Street Church, Montreal. In our issue of the 7th inst., it was stated that the revenue of the past year of Crescent street church, Montreal, amounted to \$13,000. Our attention has been drawn to the annual report of the congregation, in which are stated the various items of income amounting to \$18,407.42.

Professor Swings' Denial. The return of Prof. Swing to the Presbyterian Church of the United States, which has been rumored for some time has been denied by the Professor himself who says that his doctrinal views are "no more in accord with the standards of the Church than they were when the separation took place."

Young Men's Christian Association Jubilee. Few more notable gatherings have met even in London than those connected with the celebration of the jubilee of the Young Men's Christian Association. Swedes, French, Germans, Americans, and remarkable men of other nationalities were present, representing a membership of some five millions. The demonstrations have given an impetus to Y.M.C.A. work.

A. M. E. Church. The African Methodist Episcopal Church has a membership of 252,000, with 4,124 church edifices with a seating capacity of 1,160,838, an average of 281 to a building. It sustains one central church organ, one Sunday school journal, and one missionary journal. This church has nine Bishops, of whom Benjamin Tucker Tanner of Philadelphia is the most scholarly, and Benjamin Franklin Lee is the most learned. It supports four colleges, Edward Waters, at Jacksonville, Fla.; Richard Allen, at Columbia, S.C.; Wilberforce, at Xenia, O., and Paul Quinn, at Waco, Tex.

Rev. Dr. Parker on Unitarianism. Rev. Dr. Parker, of the city temple, London, Eng., spoke recently at Edinburgh, in Free St. George's church, on Unitarianism. He said the distance between it and the evangelical conception of Christ was the distance of infinitude. They could not reconcile or amalgamate the two, and the Unitarianism he hated was not the honest Unitarianism that took its own responsibility and lived upon its own petty income, but he hated the Unitarianism that was preached from evangelical pulpits. The man who would get into a pulpit such as they had in the Free Church, and would take evangelical money for preaching wrong doctrine was a knave. Whatever his talents might be, and his genius, it was knavery. If they did not believe the Bible, let them not believe it, but they should not declare continually their unbelief under a roof. They should go out to the thoroughfare and preach it at their own charges and on their own responsibility. "Thou shalt not steal."