

side it will be perpendicular. The upper sluices will be lined with cast-iron, and they, as well as many of the under sluices, will be worked by means of patent roller gates. They will be freely opened at flood time, so as to admit of a free passage through them of the flood waters of the Nile. The discharge at such seasons will take place at the rate of 14,000 tons of water a second. The reservoir, when filled to its greatest capacity, will hold more than a thousand million tons of water. The flood season, during which the water will be accumulating, lasts from about July to December; it will remain stored thenceforward on to March or April; and will be used for irrigation purposes through the dry season, which lasts from April to July. On the left bank of the river there is to be constructed a canal for navigation purposes, so that the dam will not interfere with traffic. The canal will be about 49 feet wide. Canal communication between the upper and lower reaches of the Nile will here be effected by means of locks, and as there will be a total drop between the two levels at flood time of 69 feet, the drop will have to be graduated by a series of four locks. The lock gates are to be constructed on a similar plan to that at the Nicaraguan canal, being single-leaved and rolling back into recesses at right angles to the direction of the lock.

The advantages of this noble undertaking to the Egyptian State at large, and the agricultural peasantry in particular, can scarcely be exaggerated. It is calculated that the increased value of land in Egypt through the operation of the barrage will amount to no less than £46,000,000. Every acre of land under cultivation will be worth £6 a year more than it is at present, and it will be possible to add some six hundred thousand acres to the five millions already being cultivated. The increase in annual produce will be £12,600,000, and in annual rent £5,390,000. The direct annual return to the Egyptian Treasury will be £850,000 a year, yet the cost of the entire undertaking will be only a couple of millions. In the small Province of Giseh alone, it has been estimated that the area under summer crops will be increased from 5,000 to 60,000 acres; and as the average value of the summer crop is £10 an acre, there would be a net increase of half a million sterling for that little district.

Egypt will also benefit by the employment of native labour on the undertaking itself. In addition to his Italian mechanics, Mr. Aird has engaged nearly two thousand fellaheen, at a wage of a shilling a day. To the native peasant this represents an unprecedentedly large sum. But of greater importance to the Egyptian labourer even than the amount of money earned is the fact—which he will not be slow to appreciate—that he is entrusted, for the first time in the history of Egypt, with the voluntary construction of a vast undertaking destined to confer upon his country untold blessings.—Black and White.

CREED REVISION.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, in the United States, met in the Fifth Avenue Church, New York, better known as the late Dr. John Hall's. That sprightly, vivacious, writer, speaker, poet, and professor, Dr. Van Dyke, was elected Moderator, and ruled that assembly of grave divines with a vigour and vivacity to which that great assembly was not hitherto accustomed. The chief event of the session was the report of the Committee on the Revision of the Creed. The great church was crowded with spectators. It was apprehended that the conservative old guard would protest to the death against laying hands upon that sacred ark of the covenant, the old Calvinistic creed, but "mirabile dictu," the revision was passed with almost perfect unanimity, there being only one dissentient vote. A correspondent in *The Western Advocate* says:

"It was a great victory! The prayer of thanksgiving voiced by Dr. Herrick Johnson came from full hearts. In less than three hours this great business had been transacted. It is easy to criticise the action as insufficient; it is natural to remember that it is the standard of blue that has been moved, and not our own, which has remained in fixed position for more than a century and a half. It is proper to note that upon the overtures the Presbyteries have still to act, and that, therefore, the movement is yet incomplete. Nevertheless it is a great triumph; the inauguration of a new era in the work of one of the greatest bodies of the world's Christianity; a triumph all the greater because more significant than the in-