

degree in the expression of them. A few years ago he revisited the scenes of his earlier labors in Ontario, and Knox College remembering his eminent services to the Church conferred upon him the degree of D. D., a graceful tribute which was regarded with much satisfaction by all classes as an honor most worthily bestowed. His son-in-law is the highly respected member for West Victoria in the Ontario Legislature, Dr. John MacKay, Woodvill.

UNION OF NORTH AND SOUTH.

The following forecast of the Union Question at the meeting of the Assembly of the Northern Presbyterian Church now in Session at Winona, Indiana, will be found to be of great interest to the reader :

At the Assembly there are 700 commissioners, representing 224 Presbyteries and thirty-one Synods, and a total Church membership of nearly 900,000 will answer. These figures constitute what is known as the Northern Presbyterian Church, and one of the most interesting questions before the Church to-day, one which will create a spirited but friendly debate at the coming Assembly, is that of the union of the Northern with the Southern division.

This Southern division has a membership of 200,000. The question of reunion is an old one, though it has never been forced so near a climax as at the present time. The new movement recently took an aggressive form in Louisville, Ky., whereupon the Louisville Presbytery published the following significant sentiment :

"It having come to the knowledge of this Presbytery that a movement has been recently made in the city of Louisville by the elders and deacons of the Presbyterian Church (North and South) looking to a union of the two Assemblies with which these churches are connected, therefore, we do hereby express our extreme gratification, profound interest and ready indorsement and encouragement in regard to these and all such laudable endeavors; and we prayerfully await the day when a consumation so devoutly to be desired shall be fully and satisfactorily realized."

It is expected that each Assembly will be invited to meet at Louisville in 1898, with a view to cementing the union there. A reunion, however, will not be brought about without difficulty. There are several points of Presbyterian doctrine and church polity upon which the two divisions are seemingly unalterably opposed. Generally speaking, the Southern Presbyterians are more distinguished for their conservatism than are their Northern brethren. It is, therefore, the conservatives of the South who fear the liberals of the North, and the liberals of the North who fear the conservatives of the South. It was the antagonism between these two parties in the Northern Church which culminated in the suspension of Dr. Briggs and the placing of the Union Theological Seminary beyond the authority of the General Assembly.

The Christian Endeavor Societies are said to be another obstacle in the way of the proposed union. The Southern Church is not at all friendly to the Christian Endeavor movement, while the Northern Church has made it a feature of its work for several years.

But there is another question which is likely to agitate the Assembly. It is the old subject of seminary control, the legacy of the Briggs sensation, and it is said by many prominent churchmen that a clash of arms upon the old battle ground is not at all improbable.

Magnify the Good. It is an easy thing to find fault. In every church service there is something that may be criticised as a defect, In every flower some broken or injured petal may be discovered. In each person's con-

duct some blemish may be noticed. But he is a very foolish, not to say wicked, person who gives his time and strength to searching for and dwelling upon these blemishes. With all there is that is so beautiful and so helpful in life about us, we would better show that we appreciate the good, and are anxious to encourage it, than that we have noticed the weakness and the defect.

Higher Criticism so Called. In a recent issue of the *Young Man*, Prof. A. H. Sayce says: "I believe that, in the main, they establish the traditional as opposed to the modern critical view of the integrity and credibility, and historical trustworthiness of the Old Testament records, more especially the Pentateuch . . . I have come to disbelieve thoroughly in the so-called critical view of the composition of the Pentateuch. I believe that substantially it is the work of the Mosaic age, and of Moses himself." This view has not been always held by the learned professor, who began his career as a disciple of the Higher Criticism School. His researches in the field of Egyptology are responsible for the opinions he now holds and of course his conclusions are in consequence of all the greater value to students of Scripture.

General Grant and The Sabbath. In a recent issue we gave an estimate of General Grant which brought into prominence many of his sterling qualities. It seems appropriate now to quote from the *Presbyterian Witness* the following testimony to his firmness in refusing to attend races on Sunday: "The great national race took place while the General was in Paris, and that race is held on Sunday. The President of France presided. General Grant was specially invited to be present and to take a seat alongside the President. But General Grant was not on the grand stand that day. We saw him among the worshippers in the American Church in the Rue de Berri; for it was the Lord's Day and he chose to honor the Lord of the Sabbath in His own house, rather than receive honor and praise of men. According to General Noyes, American Ambassador to France: "When General Grant received his invitation from the President of the French Republic to attend with him the Sunday races, with no less candor and courage than courtesy, he thanked the President for the honor of the invitation, but begged to decline it, giving as a reason for so doing, that it would not be in accordance with the sentiments and customs of his country to attend secular Fetes on the Lord's Day."

The Season at Northfield. The syllabus for the season at Northfield has been issued, containing evidence of Mr. Moody's great activity in his unique home work. The World's Student Conference, one of the most interesting features of the season is thus described: *The Students' Conference* has been one of the most potent factors of recent years in the promotion of Christian living and work among college men, and this year will be the most representative student gathering ever held. It has deepened the spiritual life of thousands of students, and given a marked impetus to Bible study. The sessions of the Conference are held morning and evening. The afternoon is given to recreation. Platform meetings, to which all are most welcome, whether appointed delegates or not, Bible classes, association and missionary conferences, informal discussions and private interviews indicate the varied character of the privileges which this gathering affords. Among the speakers already secured for this Conference are President F. L. Patton, D.D., LL. D., Princeton, Rev. Henry Van Dyke, D.D., New York City; Rev. Alex. McKenzie, D.D., Cambridge; Rev. A. F. Schauffler, D.D., New York City; Mr. J. L. Houghteling, President Brotherhood of St. Andrew; and Mr. D. L. Moody.