

pher, and friend of the youth of America."

We reached the evening of the ninth day without any perceptible diminution of interest in the proceedings. Nay, "they have kept the good wine until now;" so at least some of us thought as we listened to our old friends Dr. Waters and Dr. Lang, on "Large Cities," to Dr. Wm. Johnston, of Belfast, on "The duty of the Church to her orphans," to Dr. J. R. Johnston, of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Patterson, of Philadelphia, on "The Press," and to Dr. John Hall on "Congregational Life and Work." These were living issues. "We want churches with fewer toll-bars. We need methods more elastic; outside agencies more active; more visible unity. How paltry and poor our discussions on order and ritual, and other 'Church questions,' while so many are questioning even the existence of God and of Jesus Christ. We need to have the gospel preached by living men and women going down into the chasms; not more ministers with white neck-ties and elders with communion cards: we want LIFE." So said Dr. Lang. "In Glasgow, in one district (his own) sixty out of sixty-five churches of all denominations are united for the purpose of aggressive evangelistic work: together they have a force of 900 lay workers in that great city, and yet there is room for more."

On the last day Dr. Blaikie submitted an elaborate report on "The better organization of the Council." He himself regarded this meeting as in some respects the most successful yet held. The free and friendly discussion of matters requiring the utmost delicacy in handling had, he thought, sufficiently tested the strength of the bond that held the Alliance together, and vindicated its right to live. So say we all. In accordance with the recommendation of the report, an Executive Committee, consisting of some fifty members, was appointed for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the Alliance during the intervals between the meetings of the Council. This commission is divided into two sections, a European and an American section, and is empowered to appoint a paid secretary and to consider the desirability of publishing a magazine or journal to be devoted to the interests of the Alliance at a moderate rate of subscription. At the evening session the church was densely filled in every part. After an appropriate paper had been read by Princi-

pal Brown of Aberdeen on "Personal Consecration," cordial thanks were voted to the people of Belfast, the local committee, and others who had in various ways contributed to the comfort of the delegates and the success of the Council. It was ten o'clock when Dr. Cairns rose to deliver the valedictory address. He spoke for nearly an hour, without note or paper, but from a full heart, words that will not be forgotten by those who heard them. He shewed an intimate knowledge of Ireland and Irish life in all its phases, civil and ecclesiastical. No less extensive was his acquaintance with the Continental Church in its various branches. He concluded by expressing the hope "that this Alliance may before long include the great Lutheran Church of Germany, that so a happier day may be hastened when a believing Protestantism, knit together in all its members, shall stand up in its unity against Romanism and unbelief in all the world." It was a grand speech—worthy of the speaker and of the occasion. Long may Dr. Cairns live to grace with his presence and aid by his counsels the deliberations of Presbyterianism, of which he is at once a typical representative and an ornament.

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This sketch would be incomplete without some reference to the hospitality of the good people of Belfast. It was manifested in a variety of ways. They were not forgetful "to entertain strangers," and this they did in a manner that made the delegates feel they were neither strangers nor foreigners, but "fellow-citizens" while they sojourned in that beautiful city. The writer has a grateful recollection that the times fell to him in very pleasant places. He cannot trust himself to say more. The Council was invited *en masse* to dinner in the Ulster Hall, on four different occasions, when from three to four hundred delegates with their wives and daughters enjoyed an hour and a half of social intercourse, had their hunger and their thirst appeased after the most approved fashion, and enjoyed a feast of reason in the excellent extempore addresses which were delivered by the stars of the Alliance. A pleasant afternoon, too, was that on which we consorted on board of the *Meg Merrilees* and made a swift circuit of the Lough. What matter if we were enveloped in dense fog most part of the time, with Dr. Johnston