A LIVELY MEETING.

The Pan Presbyterian Council met at shall stay with us or not. Philadelphia last week and is still in Attacked thus furiously by two Ameri excellent report of Monday's proceedings and he got one, Not from Scotland. Prof. Calderwood set there, calm, intense, byterian readers. It says:-

The Rev. Dr. A. B. Van Zandt, of New Brunswick, N. J., read a paper on "Creeds." He reviewed the objection usually urged against the acceptance of prescribed formulas of belief, that they that Dr. Flint had sneered, "I detected that Dr. Flint had sneered, "I detected disparage the Scriptures and check theological progress, and argued that these views are based upon a misapprehension of the use of creeds, which, he said are ormed not to create, but to express a belief, and which are not made but grow. In considering the differences which exist as to the obligations incurred in subscribing to creeds or confessions, the author advised conservatism in the exercise of authority.

Prof. Flint's paper on agnosticism caused a little breeze to sweep over the nights to sleep over this paper and to weigh carefully its utterances. That they did so, the somewhat exciting debate of the morning indicates. Perhaps it was well that the hour of adjournment brought a sudden stop to the discussion. for some of these divines were getting greatly excited. The venerable Dr. Armstrong, of Norfolk, said that Prof. Flint had spoken sneeringly of church discipline, and the Rev. Dr. De Witt, of Philadelphia, had characterized something that the Rev. Principal Grant, of Canada, had said as most vicious. The debate revealed one thing very clearly: That the Scottish and Canadian delegates favor more of free thought and liberality than do the American delegates.

The little thorn that had pricked the delegate who opposed Prof. Flint was an assertion of his that the failure to comprehend or to believe portions of the Presbyterian dogma was to be overcome not by church discipline so much as by a more faithful study and explanation of dogma. Prof. Flint seemed to intimate that it was quite possible that the fature of theology might modify, or at least clarify these troublesome dogmas. Such an assertion, coming from so eminent an authority, was what troubled the strict constructionists, and gave comfort to the liberals. It certainly revealed the fact that there are still some points in that pillar of the faith, the Westministe not at all clear about. Prof. Flint. spread of any further light, or that investigation in theology can go no further by inference, at least opened the way for inside the fold. That is some felt would never do.

been read than Dr. Andrews mounted it all out, in the way the church interthe platform and raised his voice in vig- prets it. What are you going to do with orous protest against such an utterance, him? Shall he be forbidden to preach? and he attracted attention to himself He asks you whether you have any right strangely enough by saying at the outset to impose on him conditions that Christ stop that propogation of error except don't find anything in the New Testathrough church discipline. Here the ment about fifty churches. Only one is honorable a man over to the Methodists or Congreabhors? Let such a minister go out of that you restrict as Christ did not rethe church, and then let him teach what strict. Now I suggest that you reduce he pleases.'

most vital question that stares clergymen his own views about the non-essentials. to-day in the face, and which one dele- There was more applause when this dargate expressed thus: "Shall we, holding ing divine had finished. commissions to preach from the Presby- Dr. De Witt of Philadelphia was the terian Church, and not believing in all last speaker. He said that Prof. Flint points precisely, as the accepted interpre- had not sneered. He also said that he tation of the creed requires us to believe regarded the assertions made by Princistay in the church or go outside of it?" pal Grant as most vicious.

not one Scotchman or Irishman. It discussion to an end, but the delegates seemed to be the feeling among them kept it up among themselves, some of that as Dr. Flint had been accused of them until the afternoon hour. sneering by an American, they would leave it for Americans to defend him. LEIGH HUNT ON BURNS. —" It has been A youthful American divine, Dr. Boggs, well observed by somebody," says Leigh got the platform, and while he was more Hunt, "that Burns was not so unedugentle in his use of terms his condemn- cated a man as is supposed. He had ation of Prof. Flint's utterances was no books, and some good teaching, and was Andrews. Dr. Boggs asserted categori- some of the best writers. The intellically—and he faced Prof. Flint and rade gent part of what are called the uneduallied to astronomy in this respect, and talked with him, with the amount of his to geology. When Dr. Boggs made this acquired knowledge and his habits of repoint blank assertien, the impetuous flection." In the same essay in blood of Principal Grant of Canada which he makes this remark, Hunt adds though he was to speak then and there. English only, he sometimes affect-But he restrained himself and waited his ed. words fine enough. It was the opportunity. Dr. Flint who ranks with only evidence of a defective education the ablest theologians of Great Britain, betraved by his style,

could not restrain a slight smile as Dr. Poggs made the assertion. Dr. Be went further. He said that it was n unmanly for a preacher who has doubt to conceal them. "Let him come for ward like a man and tell the Church these doubts, and then we can say whether he

We are unable to give the pro- cans, Dr. Flint had need of a champion in the New York Sun shows how Cana- but quiet. The impulsive Dr. Hutton dian delegates are able to hold their own sat with his eyes fixed on the speakers, amongst their brethren all over the world. but he made no motion as of rising. Dr. It will be of special interest to our Pres- Watts sat with bowed head. Principal Cairn showed no disposition of defending his friend. In fact the silence Scotland was impressive.

Canada sent a fiery delegate to tne

theologian's defence, The Rev. Princi-

no sneer sir, in Prof. Flint's address. He is not the man to sneer. He has the courage of his opinions, and he will say boldly what he believes without any sneering. What he meant to convey was that if we try to reach doubt by church discipline, instead of by an effort for broader, clearer thought and a deeper search into the truths of theology-if thus we try to reach, doubtless we shall lead the way to agnosticism." Here there was applause, and none applauded louder than did many of the Scotch deleliberalism when a Scotch Canadian Pres byterian faces the leaders of this Church from all over the world and says these words: "We do err if we say the Westminister Catechism is beyond the region of inquiry. Creeds grow and how can there be growth unless there is liberty of thought. You say to a minister, if he has doubts about the accuracy of your interpretation, 'Go out of the church.' You say no honest man should stay in if he has doubt. You call him dishonest if he does stay in. I say no, no, let the Church cast him out if it will." There was more applause, but there were many delegates who heard the vehement protests and utterances with solemn faces. "Is the church afraid of liberty?" were Principal Grant's closing words, and he said them in ringing tones whose echo seemed to be heard above the applause

they occasioned. Principal Cavan of Toronto, a man of quiet method of speech, told the delegates plainly that in his opinion it was a life or death question with the Presbyterian Church whether you can expect such progress in dogma that you can discipline for not accepting it. Thus again from Canada came the intimation of a protest against what Prof. Grant called "illiberality."

Then a zealous, fiery young divine, the Rev. Mr. McDonnell of Toronto, mountcatechism, that some of the clergy are ed the platform. He plunged boldly into his subject. He spoke with the permitting the doubting Presbyterian to "The question to-day is, what is the faith? A young man full of the desire thing that some of the delegates plainly to preach salvation, and believing that he is prepared for it, is brought up all No sooner had the morning papers standing by the creed. He can't make that Prof. Flint had spoken sneeringly did not impose. Well, you tell him venerable gentleman waxed hot. "Is it spoken of there. Suppose you send such denomination who believes in what my to exchange pulpits with him and call church does not believe, what it in fact him 'beloved brother.' Thus you admit to a few weil-defined articles that are ab-This caused some confusion. It was solutely essential your creed, and require getting right dawn to the marrow of the your minister to stand by these and hold

Several delegates rose to reply, but The chairman's hammer here brought

less marked than was that of Dr. acquainted, at an early period, with his assertion sternly—that the great dis. cated are apt to be better instructed than coveries in theology are behind us-not is supposed, and many a workman and in the future. Theology, he said was peasant would surprise people, if they caused him to rise and it seemed as "When the Scottish poet wrote

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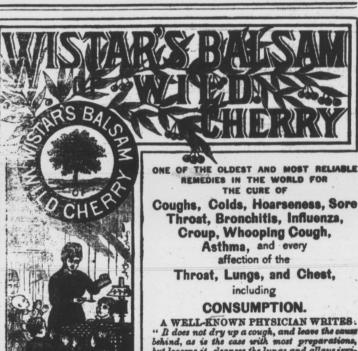
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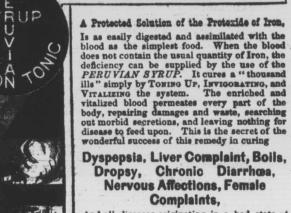
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