

LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA. JANUARY 7TH, 1876.

[From the Presbyterian Witness.]

Mr. Editor:—The excitement incident to the Holidays seemed to increase rather than diminish the interests in the meetings conducted by Messrs Moody and Sankey, in the great Depot Hall, 13th and Market Sts. in this city. The only meeting omitted was on Christmas Eve; the services appropriate to Christmas day being held on Thursday evening, when to an immense audience Mr. Moody preached from the text, "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Mr. Sankey and some of his great choir sang some of their sweetest and most joyous Christmas hymns. During the protracted season of inclement weather the attendance was far beyond the expectations of any, and on the worst evenings the attendance was not less than from five to six thousand, and when the evening was at all passable the attendance was much larger. With the return of good weather comes nightly the great crowd of the opening days, and weak days and Sundays the hall is full, ten thousand being the regular audiences, with at times ten thousand turned away unable to get in. The desire to get seats near the platform is so great that parties come and wait about the doors for hours before they are open, and four and five thousand people are often waiting for admission. Many come in at the close of one service and sit for three and four hours waiting for the next one. On New Year's eve the service began at 9 o'clock, and at 4 o'clock the crowd began to gather, and at 7.30, when the doors were open, the house was filled in a few minutes. The service lasted from 9 till 12 o'clock, and at each hour the doors were opened for ingress and egress. The Hall was densely packed during all the evening, full fifteen

thousand being present, and thousands were turned away unable to get in.

A few months ago who was sanguine enough to suppose that from ten to fifteen thousand people would sit from 9 to 12 o'clock to hear a simple presentation of the Gospel and simple songs of praise, and that, too, on the New Year eve of the Centennial Year, when the city was all ablaze with illuminations, fireworks, flag raisings, processions and merry makings, —and with the excitement in the streets seldom if ever before equalled? It is fair to suppose half of the audience were not church goers. Mr. Moody preached three most impressive sermons, and in the midst of one of them called the Rev Dr Plummer, of South Carolina, into the witness stand to testify as to the reality of the Gospel preached. Mr. Moody propounded some practical questions on different phases of Christian experience, and the difficulties met with every day in the inquiry rooms, and the Doctor's ready and exhaustive answers thrilled the vast audience. During the evening Mr. Sankey sang with great effect "The Ninety and Nine," and other solos, and with a choir—out in full force—sang a number of appropriate hymns, arranged for the occasion. Slips containing the hymns, had been distributed to the immense audience, and when the many thousand voices swelled the chorus, a mighty volume of sweet sounds of praise ascended heavenward. On Sunday last the eight o'clock morning lecture to Christians was attended by some six or seven thousand, largely the representative Christians of our most active churches. All over the house the rustle of leaves, as passage after passage was referred to showed that the audience were noting them in their Bibles for future use. In the afternoon the Hall was crowded with women only, and in the evening notwithstanding the rain, a large audience of men only were present.

Many of the prominent ministers of all denominations are present at every service, and among the distinguished men on the platform, other than these, have been the President of the United States, Post-master General Jewell, Ex-speaker Blaine, senators and members of Congress, Judges of the United States Supreme Court, Bishop Vail, of the Episcopa-