

were warmly responded to by the Council. The Rev. Theodore Monod, of Paris, representing the Free Evangelical Church of France, was called upon; but asking a little time to prepare himself, was heard the next morning, when he spoke with great fluency and effectiveness of the progress of religious freedom and Congregational principles in France.

The rest of Friday and Saturday morning, were occupied in hearing papers prepared by Committees appointed by the New York Preliminary Conference. The first, by Rev. Dr. J. P. Thompson, of New York, on the Declaration of Christian Faith, was a beautiful epitome of those grand foundation truths which have of late been assailed. It was referred to a special committee, of which Rev. Dr. Stearns was convener, and after long discussion upon their report, was referred back, and ultimately, in a remodelled form, was adopted on Friday, the 23rd, with great fervour and unanimity. A hasty attempt had been made to adopt it the previous day, while assembled on "Burial Hill," in Plymouth, within view of the lovely harbour where the "Mayflower" landed her precious company of Pilgrims, and while standing amid their graves. Rev. J. P. Gulliver thus admirably describes the scene:

"Hereupon followed a scene which is worthy of record. This 'Confession of Faith,' as it was called, was not designed to be a *creed*, or a *symbol of doctrine* of any sort, but simply a grateful acknowledgment of the fact that we, as a denomination, are in harmony in holding the cardinal truths of the Gospel. Still its preparation was regarded a matter of so much consequence that a large committee, including four professors of theology, had taken charge of it. They had presented an admirable statement the evening before, which was quite generally acceptable, though it lacked the rhetorical point and impressiveness which would have secured its enthusiastic reception. However, such as it was, it was generally expected that it would be adopted the next morning amid the graves of the forefathers at Plymouth. But when the reading commenced, the ringing periods and terse phrases revealed a new document altogether! The statements remained nearly unchanged; but the beginning and the ending were abridged and sharpened to a point, and the whole paper had a new resonance in it. It was an audacious proceeding, which no one but a soldier, a democrat and an old-school man, all in one, could possibly have attained to! The Chairman of the Business Committee (Rev. A. H. Quint) had evidently had the impudence to do the right thing in the right time. Everybody liked it, as it was read. Some, on the outskirts of the crowd, who could hear it only imperfectly, very naturally pronounced the whole proceeding outrageous, as it certainly was, from their point of view. The general voice was to pass it, from æsthetic considerations solely. It would be so grand to affirm the faith of our fathers on the graves of our fathers! It would be such a pity to disagree on Burial Hill! The disposition was strong to cry down all opposition. But the Puritan spirit was not all in the graves below. 'Let us be sure we are right! No compulsion! No pressure!' was the general voice. After much earnest talk the paper was read again. It was *the thing*! Everybody liked it, save an expression here and there. 'Let us adopt it for substance, and revise it to-morrow,' suggested one. 'Shall we have another vote upon it before its final adoption?' enquired another. 'Yes,' replied the Moderator (Hon. C. G. Hammond). That was satisfactory! The excitement lulled. Men that had clambered to the tops of their forefathers' gravestones, in their eagerness to check a seeming usurpation, quietly descended to the ranks. All stood silent and reverent there, prepared for the solemn act in which they should avouch the Lord Jehovah—their fathers' God—to be their God; and the faith of their fathers, planted on that wintry shore, to be their faith; and the hope, full of immortality, in which the sleeping dead around them had laid down in peace, to be the anchor of their souls, sure and steadfast. 'Are you ready for the question?' said the Moderator. '*Ready*' was the general and deep response. 'All who will, for substance, affirm the confession now read, will say *Aye*.' A thousand voices—