

derata of Church History," but, alas, in an inaudible tone of voice. Dr. Breed, of Philadelphia, was heard on the "Diffusion of Presbyterian Literature," and Dr. Hatfield of New York, on "Revivals of Religion," of which he highly approved. In the evening the crowd at the Academy was so great that it was found necessary to hold an overflow meeting in Horticultural Hall, which was also filled to the door, and much interest was manifested in the short and spirited addresses on the State of Religion in Bohemia, Spain, Italy, India, and other countries.

In all there were about sixty papers read before the Council; very few of them, however, were read in full, as the time-limit of thirty minutes for each was strictly enforced. The papers were, without exception, very good but, as it is possible to have too much of even a good thing, it was generally conceded that it would have been better had the programme prescribed one half the number of essays, and allowed more time to mark, learn and inwardly digest what was read. Three sessions were held daily, namely, from 9.30 a.m. till 1 p.m.; from 2.30 p.m. till 4.30, and from 7.30 until 10 p.m. About one hour each day was usually as much time as could be allotted to discussion, and it must be admitted that the most was made of that one hour, during which the speakers were restricted to five minute speeches. Had it not been for this "safety-valve," shall I call it, there might have been, if not an explosion, at least serious misunderstanding as to the real import and drift of many of the statements contained in the papers that were read. The result of the brief discussions that were held went to show that in regard to the essentials of our faith, the great heart of the Presbyterian Church, as here represented in its various branches, is true to its distinctive principles, and that the points of difference amongst its members are few and small in comparison with those on which all are agreed. The Council amounted to nothing if it did not give the world to understand that the mission of Presbyterianism still is to *hold fast* as well as to hold forth THE TRUTH. It disclosed a considerable amount of diversity in the polity and practice of the various Churches, and vindicated the claim of Presbytery to the expression of independent thought and freedom of speech; but the tone of the Council, as a whole, was *conservative*.

The programme for Saturday, the closing day of the Council, was expressed in the comprehensive term "Miscellaneous Business," in which was included a variety of reports of committees, and votes of thanks to the citizens of Philadelphia for their abundant hospitality, to the committees of Decoration and Management, and to the Press for the ex-

ceedingly good reports which they had given to the world of this great Convention. One paper more was read, and that not the least important that engaged the attention of the Council, namely, the Circular Letter prepared by Dr. John Marshall Lang, in the name and behalf of the Council, which was heartily approved, and it was resolved to send a copy of it to the Churches represented in the Alliance, with the request that it be read from all their pulpits on the first Sabbath in next year. At three o'clock in the afternoon, the Council adjourned to meet at Belfast, Ireland, in the year 1884.

It will interest our readers to know that the Canadian Church was largely represented in Philadelphia, and that the delegates appointed by the General Assembly took their full share in the proceedings of the Council. Three of them read papers, all of which were well received. Three others were appointed to preside as chairmen of the meetings. Two were members of the Standing Committee on Business, and nearly all of them took part in the discussions which followed the reading of the papers. Two of our delegates were unavoidably absent—Principal McKnight, of Halifax, and Hon. Alexander Morris, of Toronto. Their places were supplied, however, by Rev. Donald McKae, of St. John, as Moderator of our General Assembly, and Dr. Mathews, of Quebec, as Joint-Clerk of the Alliance. Dr. G. L. Mackay, of Formosa, Professor Gregg, of Toronto, and Rev. C. Chiniquy, were invited to sit as Associates. Besides these there were present, from the Maritime Provinces, Dr. Waters, of St. John, and Revds. Allan Simpson, of Halifax, Rev. A. Burrows, of Truro, and J. A. F. McBain, of Chatham, N. B.; from Montreal, Messrs. A. B. Mackay, P. Wright, and John Scrimger, Ministers; and Mr. Jas. Court, Elder; from Ontario, the following Ministers,—Dr. Bain and Mr. Burns, of Perth, Messrs. Burnfield, of Brockville, Beattie, of Blenheim, Ballantyne, of Pembroke, Cameron, of Chatsworth, and Cameron, of Cotsworth, Chrystal, of Flamborough, Fraser, of St. Thomas, Hamilton, of Motherwell, Laidlaw, of Hamilton, McKechnie, of Bothwell, Macpherson, of Stratford, Macpherson, of Nassagaweya, Murray, of Kincardine, Gilchrist, of Shelburne, Alexander, of Mount Pleasant, and McAlpine, of St. Mary's, with Elder W. T. Root, of Ingersoll, and possibly others who may have escaped our notice. Several ladies from Canada were also conspicuous by their attendance.

The hospitality of the people of Philadelphia towards their numerous guests was upon as large a scale as the occasion which called it forth. Dr. Lang hit upon the right word by which it should be expressed, when he said it was simply "*prodigious!*" One thing