

that he regarded the Old Testament throughout as given by inspiration of God, even as to its verbiage, we shall come to a close. In his Epistle to the Galatians (Chap. iii: 16) he proves that the covenant of redemption was made with Christ, by an argument the force of which hangs upon the distinction between the singular and plural of a noun. "He saith not unto seeds as of many, but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ." The whole of his argument hinges upon the fact that he who made the promise (Gen. xvii: 7-19) used the singular, seed, and not the plural, seeds, evidently assuming that the distinction in question was of divine authority, or in other words, that the inspiring agency which has given us the record in which the promise was found extended to its very words and letters. No less strong is Paul's testimony in 2 Timothy iii: 15, 16, which the reader can consult for himself.

The question, then, is whether we are to hear Christ and His apostles, or be led captive by—I was going to say in my haste, the arch enemy of all truth, but I check myself and say—the boasted scholarship of the present age. Certainly the evidence that the Bible, the whole Bible, is the Word of God, is ample and satisfying in the higher degree. We need not be disturbed by the slightest fear that it will ever cease to be so regarded. We are told again and again that it is full of contradictions and inconsistencies, but no one has yet been able to point to even one undoubted instance of contradiction and inconsistency to be found within the entire volume. It is true, difficulties are met with in its investigation, but even in our own times, some of these have been wonderfully and delightfully removed, giving promise that such of them as still stand in the way will yet find a happy solution. Certainly, the whole trend of modern discoveries, which have been neither few nor unimportant, has been to strengthen if possible the claims of this wonderful book to our fullest confidence and acceptance as an inerrant and authoritative guide in all matters pertaining to life and salvation, as the rule of our faith and life, "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, furnished thoroughly unto every good work."

GENERAL ASSEMBLIES.

United States Meeting at Saratoga.

II.

On the overtures as to reunion with the southern church, the committee reported overtures from the Presbyteries of Allegheny, Benicia, Chester, Dubuque, Hodston, Huntington, Kingston, Osborne and Utica, asking the Assembly to appoint a special Committee of Conference to confer with a similar committee if one should be appointed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States to take into consideration the whole question of organic union of the two bodies aforesaid upon the basis of their common standards and to report to the next Assembly. The committee recommended that the following action be taken by this Assembly: Whereas, We have heard with great joy that the General Assembly of the United States now in session in Nashville, Tenn., has before it overtures from its own Presbyteries, asking for the appointment of a special committee, to confer upon the subject of organic union with a similar committee of the Assembly, if one should be appointed. Therefore resolved, That a special committee of nine be appointed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States to take into consideration the whole question of the organic union of two bodies, upon the basis of our common standards and to report to the next Assembly; And that the Moderator and stated clerk be authorized to communicate this action by telegraph to the Moderator of the General Assembly now in session at Nashville.

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES.

The Seminaries report developed a prolonged discussion which continued over parts of three days. There was a majority and minority report, and the minority report published in last week's PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW carried on the following motion: "That the General Assembly having adopted the foregoing resolutions, appoint a committee of fifteen persons to confer with the various seminaries, with a view of securing their approval of said resolutions, and for the purpose of aiding them by counsel and otherwise in securing the necessary changes and amendments to the respective charters herein recommended, it being understood that the adoption of said resolutions is without impairment of any of the rights of the General Assembly, or of said seminaries, that may have accrued by the compact of 1870, and said committee to make report to the next General Assembly for final action on this whole subject by the Assembly."

HOME MISSIONS.

The report on Home Missions was read by Rev. Dr. Arthur J. Brown of Oregon Board was compelled to report an indebtedness of \$153,074.26 on Home Missions, and \$101,598.29 on teachers and chapels, making a total of \$253,645.25. The falling off in legacies was, of course, in a measure, foreseen. The living had no doubt been restrained by the financial depression which the whole country had felt, and which could not be foreseen. A condensation of the report gives the following:—Number of missionaries, 1,821; number of missionary teachers, 363; additions on professions of faith, 13,363; additions on certificate, 7,187; total membership, 111,830; total in congregations, 155,009; adult baptisms, 5,236; infant baptisms, 5,408; Sunday schools organized, 461; number of Sunday schools, 2,576; membership of Sunday schools, 171,341; church

edifices (value of same, \$4,874,220), 1,012; church edifices built during the year (cost of same \$224,330), 78; church edifices repaired and enlarged (cost of same \$80,205), 365; church debts cancelled, \$86,825; churches self-sustaining this year, 31; churches organized this year, 101; number of parsonages, (value \$592,349), 461. The report of the Board says: "A larger number of churches have contributed to our treasury than in any previous year of the Board's history. The aid receiving churches responded most nobly. The heroism of the missionaries enduring hardness, and their active efforts in the Board's behalf, contributed largely toward the measure of success attained. Not a few relinquished in part their well-earned and sorely needed salaries. Some of them in the east and in the west made personal canvas with subscription papers in behalf of the Board's treasury, knowing that the results, however great would add nothing to their own salaries." A few sentences from Dr. Brown's address in support of the report will indicate the nature of the work done in the western field. He pleaded for an earnest prosecution of the work among these men and boys who had come west to build up their fortunes and their fame. He thought the people of a typical western city ranked higher than the people of a typical eastern city. Eastern men put on airs but after they got over this, they make very respectable western men. As a rule the best men came West. A maiden lady in New England was asked why she had not married. Her reply was: "The best young men go West, and I had rather die an old maid than marry the kind that remain." (Laughter.) Many men in the West are completely filled with a worldly spirit; many are away from the restraints of home; many who have made fools of themselves in the East become black sheep in the West, come west, and all such people make the mission work very hard. The money given by the east to reclaim such men is not altogether charity. (Applause.) Elegantly arrayed, delicately perfumed, golden eyeglassed eastern ministers make a tour of western churches, and pompously announce in orotundo, too many churches in the West, and they write it to their church papers, while at the same time they are settled as pastors on avenues crowded with churches. Dr. Brown did not think the west was over-crowded with churches. He most eloquently portrayed the trials of a Home Missionary in the Far West. If these ministers were not splendid financiers they could not get along. Dr. Brown made one of the best Home Mission speeches ever made in the Assembly, and when he sat down it was amidst great applause.

EDUCATION.

The chief interest in the report of the Board of Education lay in the most admirable speech with which it was supported by Rev. Dr. Edward B. Hodge, the new secretary of the Board. He belongs to the famous Hodge family and carries the family resemblance. The report was submitted by Rev. Dr. Richard S. Holmes, who said that the Board took care of nearly 1,000 candidates. The number of candidates for the ministry is increasing but more than 4,000 churches gave nothing to the cause last year. It is strange that dead Presbyterians should be of more value to the church than living ones, as appears to be the case in the light of the legacies. The committee emphasized the need of more men for the work that shall confront the church when she passes the gates of the nineteenth century. A ministry educated to the demands of the hour, and money for the education are the need of the hour. Stringent rules were adopted as condition of aid, and the cause was ordered to be presented to the churches at least annually. \$150,000 was asked for the coming year and the work of the Board was cordially endorsed. The most important resolution adopted was that "the payments to the candidates shall cease regularly at the close of the collegiate year; or earlier, when the time for which they were recommended by the Presbytery has expired; and also as soon as it is determined that they are suffering from prolonged ill-health which may unfit them for the work of the ministry; or as soon as their private circumstances enable them to dispense with assistance; and if they have been manifestly improvident, or have contracted debts without reasonable prospects of payment, or if they have married since the last payment, or if they have received assistance from any other educational board or society, the entire three months' appropriation shall be forfeited."

One of the interesting local features of this Assembly is the display of portions of the Presbyterian exhibit prepared for the Columbian Exposition at Chicago. The action by which the gates of the fair were opened on Sunday debarred the church committee from putting up the various objects prepared and sent. Among these the most costly and interesting, perhaps, were the historic and heraldic objects prepared by the Tabernacle church of Philadelphia, of which Dr. Henry C. McCook is pastor. Dr. Durant wrote for this collection asking its use during the Assembly's session. The church consented and the objects are here, tastefully hung and displayed by the decoration committee in the Assembly's reception and post-office room. Among the objects shown are some of the old sacramental tokens used by the early settlers: engravings of old time log churches and parsonages; the models of the famous Scotch "Blue Banner of the Covenant"; portraits of pioneer preachers; a large model of an assembly seal, a fine example of hand carving in wood, and beautiful water color illuminated seals and emblems. One of the most interesting frames contains portraits of the ladies who worshipped with the Presbyterians while presiding as "Mistress of the White House."

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The report on Foreign Mission work was received with great attention. It was submitted by Rev. Dr. Geo. T. Purves, of Princeton, and was supported most eloquently by Rev. Dr. F. F. Ellinwood,