

converting souls; and leading to, and building up in, sanctified lives. If they do that, they are justifying their existence, and carrying on their Master's work in His absence. If anything else occupies the chief thought, and time, and care, and expenditure of the church, it has forgotten its duty, and is spiritually weak and dead.

To know our duty, is half the victory. The utter worldliness about us should remind us of our Lord's command, to "watch."

CREED REVISION.

It is easier to make an authoritative creed than to get rid of it, or even to amend it. The Revision Committee of the American Presbyterian Church has had its first meeting; in Allegheny city. Fifteen ministers and ten elders were present. The trouble with the Committee is, that they are not directed to find what the Bible teaches, and to formulate a digest of what they there find—but to revise the existing "Confession," and in so doing not to impair the doctrines which are the foundation of the Presbyterian system. A complete begging of the question; for the first inquiry of an honest and intelligent man should be, "Is this system in accordance with the Divine revelation?"

Reporters were excluded; though the Chairman and Secretary were authorized to give such information of a general character as they may deem best, to the press. No official report will be given till their labors are completed. We extract the following from the *N. Y. Independent*:

Turning back to the beginning of the venerable Creed the revisers soon found themselves groping amid the shadows that enshroud the third chapter, and just when they will emerge is thought by all intelligent reporters to be problematical. For the present we leave them there.

We are assured, however, by a very conservative member, that an admirable spirit prevails in the Committee, and that there are indications that though their work may be tedious there will in the end be unanimity and mild revision. Your correspondent has reason to believe that individual members of the Committee favoring revision came to the meeting with the conviction that any important changes that could be effected at the present time would only leave the Confession in a more unsatisfactory form to the great mass of Presbyterians than it is now.

The fact that if changed at all it would be taken as the consensus of presbyterial doctrinal conviction would occasion this, whereas in its present form its historical value would be maintained without the Church being, as a matter of fact, committed to it as a correct symbol of faith.

It is rumored, and possibly true, that the revisers spent all of the Thursday afternoon session on Sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of Chapter III. of the Confession of Faith.

These are confessedly the hardest points with which the Committee will have to deal, as they have to do with the high mysteries of God's eternal decrees. It is said the members discussed the above sections freely, and for each section nearly every committee-man had a recommendation of his own. No vote was taken on any point, and it is thought by Secretary Moore that no vote on changes in the Confession will be taken at this meeting of the Committee. It is alleged that the discussion centered about Section 3, which reads;

"By the decrees of God, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels are predestinated unto everlasting life, and others fore-ordained to everlasting death."

The opinions of the members of the Committee took as wide a range as those of the presbyteries. It is reported that Dr. Patton argued most emphatically that this section lies at the foundation of the Calvinistic system, and that to change it would conflict with the Committee's instructions. Dr. Van Dyke, on the other hand, strenuously insisted that the Section should be revised. This information, it ought to be said, was not given officially and may be an inference from the known views of the men.

THE ENGLISH AUTUMNAL MEETING.

From the South Wales *Liberal* we learn that at the meeting on behalf of the Colonial Committee at Swansea, our old friend Rev. J. B. Saer, late of St. John's, N.B., made an eloquent appeal to English Congregationalists to support the Canadian work. Mr. Saer was incited to missionary zeal in Swansea by the words of Dr. Rees and Thomas Jones, and regretted to find that Wales contributed the miserable sum of £5 4s. 2d. to the funds of the Colonial Society. The Rev. John Burton, a delegate from the Ontario Congregational Union, also spoke briefly as to the folly of England neglecting her vast heritage in Canada, which, now that China is awakening from her lethargy, is the shortest route for England's manufactures to that great empire. His speech aroused so much interest that a resolution was at once adopted, asking the committee of the Union to arrange for his addressing the Assembly.

The request was acceded to, and at the close of Thursday's papers Mr. Burton was introduced to the delegates, and made a marked impression by the declaration that Canada was still loyal in spite of her neglect. The South Wales *Daily News* interviewer laid hold of him after, and heard some plain truths upon the subject.

REV. DR. HANNAY, so long the Secretary of the English Congregational Union, died on the 12th November, in London. A further notice in our next.