

contain evidence that the floodgates of criticism have burst and editors will be deluged with the mighty stream. On both sides the war is being waged, and so far the Moderator's side has the better of the argument. Indeed so confident is one of the commentators that he exclaims:—"No one who reads the address can for a moment longer doubt that the Verbal Theory is dead." But this is not passed with impunity, for the reply is "the internal and external evidence for the truth of Scripture is so demonstrably strong that it is like pouring water on a ducks back for the disciples of the (misnamed) 'higher criticism' to attempt to destroy it." The agitation forced the Moderator to an explanation. "Stress of time" did not allow him to state in full his arguments; these will be published, but before the Assembly dispersed he addressed the brethren as follows:—"I now say to you that my address was in every respect conformable to the Confession of Faith. I for weeks carefully considered the matter, and I am convinced there is not one word on which any man can lay his hand and say, 'This is contrary to the standards of the Church.' I am sorry to find the views I have expressed have been in some quarters misunderstood. I take the opportunity of saying that these views, properly understood, are by no means incompatible with a firm faith in the Divine authority of Holy Scripture as a perfectly reliable record of the revelation therein contained. What I attacked was a prevalent and popular theory, which has not a place in the standards of our Church, and disproof of this theory, instead of injuring the Holy Scriptures as a Divine revelation, will on the contrary elevate them to a position they have not held before in our esteem. I venture to affirm not only that I believe that the Scriptures are inspired and contain a revelation—I assert that most distinctly and most plainly, Fathers and Brethren—but I am able to say that with more confidence than those who dissent from my views."

The publication of the address has attracted much attention among our readers, a result not to be regretted will be the replies which the expression of such views will bring forth. Already, through the publication of the address in the *PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW*, the religious journals in the United States are issuing articles in defence, and some have been received by ourselves from able pens. The first, by Rev. Wm. Cleland, Toronto, will appear next week and others will follow; also a timely article by Professor Green, of Princeton, which will be found to be a valuable contribution to the question.

Presbyterian Federation.

The following is the report of the Joint Committee on Federation representing eight Presbyterian bodies adopted at their meeting recently held in Philadelphia:

For the glory of God, and for the greater unity and advancement of the Church of which the Lord Jesus Christ is the Head, the Reformed Churches in the United States holding to the Presbyterian system adopt the following articles of Federal Union.

1. Every denomination entering into this Union shall retain its distinct individuality, as well as every power, jurisdiction, and right which is not by this constitution expressly delegated to the body hereby constituted.

2. The acts, proceedings, and records of the duly constituted authorities of each of the denominations shall be received in all the other denominations, and in the Federal Council, as of full credit and with proper respect.

3. For the prosecution of work that can be better done in union than separately, an Ecclesiastical Assembly is hereby constituted, which shall be known by the name and style of the Federal Council of the Reformed Churches in the United States of America holding the Presbyterian system.

4. The Federal Council shall consist of four ministers and four elders from each of the constituent denominations, who shall be chosen, with alternates, under the direction of their respective supreme judicatories, in such manner as those judicatories shall respectively determine.

5. The Federal Council shall promote the co-operation of the federated denominations in their home and foreign missionary work, and shall keep watch on current religious, moral and social movements, and take such action as may concentrate the influence of all the churches in the maintenance of the truth that our nation is a Protestant Christian nation, and of all that is therein involved.

6. The Federal Council may advise and recommend in all matters pertaining to the general welfare of the kingdom of Christ, but shall not exercise authority, except such as is conferred upon it by this instrument, or such as may be conferred upon it by confederated bodies. It shall not interfere with the creed, worship, or government of the federated denominations. In the conduct of its meetings it shall respect their conscientious views. All matters of discipline shall be left to the exclusive and final judgment of the ecclesiastical authorities of the denomination in which the same may rise.

7. The Federal Council shall have the power of opening and maintaining a friendly correspondence with the highest Assemblies of other religious denominations, for the purpose or promoting union and concert of action in general or common interests.

8. All the differences which may arise among the federated bodies, or any of them, in regard to matters within the jurisdiction of the Federal Council, shall be determined by such executive agencies as may be created by the Federal Council, with the right of appeal to the Federal Council for final adjudication.

9. The officers of the Federal Council shall be a president, vice-president, clerk and treasurer.

10. The Federal Council shall meet annually, and on its own adjournment, at such time and place as may be determined. Special meetings may be called by a unanimous vote of the officers of the Council on thirty days' notice.

11. The expenses of the Council shall be met by a contingent fund, to be provided by a pro rata apportionment on the basis of the number of communicants in each denomination; and the expenses of the delegates to the Council shall be paid from this fund.

12. Amendments to these Articles may be proposed by the Federal Council, or by any one of the supreme judicatories of the churches in the federation; but the approval of all these judicatories shall be necessary for their adoption.