

sembly to relieve him of further service on the Committee, giving as his reason, the statement that the chairman and the members of the Committee were no longer in perfect accord as to the purpose of the Committee's work. The chairman understood that the Assembly appointed a Committee to bring about reciprocity and union, while the majority of the Committee felt that its work was simply a step in that direction. The request of the chairman has not been acted upon yet. The report of the Committee for which we shall try to find space next week, was read by Dr. R. M. Patterson, of Philadelphia, who said that nothing had been done toward union with the Protestant Episcopal Church, except the exchange of letters with the Commission of that denomination.

#### Bible Conference.

It is announced that the Nineteenth Annual meeting for Bible study at Niagara-on-the-Lake will be held from June 26th to July 2nd this year. The arrangements for the meetings, a summary of which will be published by the PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW next week, are very complete and ought to prove satisfactory. The Committee in charge is composed of Rev. Drs. J. H. Brooks, St. Louis; H. M. Parsons, Toronto, and W. J. Erdman, the Secretary. Among the reasons why the Conference is commended to the church the Committee give the following:

This annual Conference for the Study of the Sacred Scriptures has been to many a season of great refreshing; and the numerous inquiries from persons who hitherto have not been in attendance indicate an increasing interest in its one great object, the Study of the Word in order to glorify Christ Jesus as Lord and Saviour. The hearts of many missionaries in distant lands are full of thanksgiving for the revelations of grace and truth received here in past years.

The repeated assurances of their prayerful remembrance and the earnest desire of many in this country encourage the brethren in charge to continue its peculiar ministry.

Its attendants meet together as one "in Christ;" party names are forgotten; it is Christ alone who is exalted; all who love Him are welcome to this gathering.

The subjects of study during the past years have been many and various. They have unavoidably mirrored the times in the world of religious thought, in the endeavor to meet the needs of Christians sorely tried and perplexed amidst the confusions of this closing age.

**Theological Semi-** The General Assembly of the United States Church by a vote of over 4 to 1 resolved that pressure should be continued upon Princeton to change its charter and give the assembly the right to sue it. Similar grants are desired from others. Auburn and San Francisco only are exempted because they are under synodical control and are explicitly protected by paragraph number 9 of the concurrent declaration of the reunion. States will now be invoked to amend charters so that the civil law may execute the will of the Assembly. How far trustees will be able to change their trusts without malfeasance, or peril to the funds under their supervision, or perversion of the intent of the founders

remains to be seen. Where change can safely be made, it will probably be done, but where it cannot be done the seminaries should not suffer for what they cannot help.

**Dr. Middlemiss.** We are very much pleased to welcome the return to our pages of an old and highly honored contributor to the "REVIEW," in Dr. James Middlemiss of Elora, whose articles will be read with pleasure by all our subscribers. We look for a series of contributions of great value from his pen. Very few expositors in our Canadian Church excel Dr. Middlemiss.

**Presbyterian Union.** A discussion on Presbyterian reunion has been arranged to take place at the Grindelwald Conference on the 4th September, when the Rev. Principal Story, Moderator of the Church of Scotland; the Rev. Alexander Oliver, Moderator of the United Presbyterian Church; the Rev. Professor Lindsay, representing the Free Church of Scotland; the Rev. Robert Leitch, M.A., Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of England; and the Rev. Dr. Barrows, President of the World's Parliament of Religions, representing America, will take part in the discussion.

**A Word to Learned Ministers.** In Dr. MacEwen's "Life of Dr. Cairns" it is mentioned that the late Principal had the refusal of more than half a dozen Professorships and of the Principalship of Edinburgh University. His decision when a young man to forsake the field that would have led to great scholastic honors is strikingly expressed in the following passage in a letter to an intimate friend: "And now, my dear friend, I feel that I am, in a manner, to become another person, not by casting off anything that is justly esteemed among men, or assuming a demure and Pharisaical sanctimoniousness and austerity, but by abjuring every remnant of worldly distinction, and by aspiring through the grace of God, after the attainment of a character which, in heavenly-mindedness and simplicity of devotion and zeal for the Divine service, may not suffer by a comparison with the unofficial members of the Christian Church, nor stand exposed to the scorn or condemnation of men, and inconsistency and as scandal in the brightness of that light which surrounds the eminent station of the minister of the Gospel.

**Southern Church Reference** has been made to the fact that the Southern Presbyterian Church passed out of the past year with a balance on the right side in the Home Mission Fund. Details and confirmation are furnished by the report submitted to the General Assembly of which the following is a summary: Receipts from legacies, \$420; from contributions, \$23,320.29; from loan fund, \$186.50; from Foreign Missions office, on account of Indian Territory work, \$1,750; total receipts, \$25,676.79. To which add \$50, returned to this fund, and \$7,140.57, cash on hand at the beginning of the year, and we have total in the hands of the Treasurer during the year, \$32,867.36. Of this, \$20,095.02 were expended in support of eighty six missionary ministers and two candidates. The sum of \$1,266.25 was expended in support of seven teachers; \$1,468.33 were donated and \$6000 were loaned to aid in erection of fourteen church buildings in ten Presbyteries: \$938.50 were expended in the purchase of Calvin Missionary Institute, school property, in Durant, Choctaw Nation, and \$40 in purchasing ground and building at Wahpanucka, Chickasaw Nation, making an outlay from this fund for the field work of \$24,408.10. The sum of \$17.79 received during the previous year was returned to Roanoke Presbytery; \$3,060.65 were disbursed for expenses, and the year closed with \$5,139.61 cash on hand,