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The Presbyterian Council.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

WHEN it is stated that the official report of the proceedings of the Council, under the care of editors appointed by the Alliance, will fill a large volume of nine hundred pages, it is obvious that we cannot here enter upon minute details. The purpose of this sketch will be served if we shall succeed in giving the readers of the Record a bird's eye view, so to speak, of the "environments" of this great meeting which has been regarded with such profound interest not only by Presbyterians, the world over, but, on account of its representative character, and the importance of the subjects passed under review, by the whole of Christendom.

Next to Edingburgh, a more fitting place for holding such an Ecumenical Council could not have been selected than Philadelphia—"The City of Brotherly Love." Excepting New York, it is the largest city in the United States. Its population according to the last census is 850,000. Its "limits" embrace the whole county. In the city proper—twelve miles long and five miles broad—there are 170,000 self-contained houses, one thousand miles of streets, and two hundred and fifty miles of street-railways. During five years prior to 1878 it increased at the rate of an additional house every half hour of every working day throughout the year; i. e. about 6000 houses were built annually. It has five

hundred Churches, thirty-nine Banks, one hundred Hotels, thirty-eight Markets, four hundred and sixty-six Schools with an average attendance of 88,627 scholars. Its taxable property is valued at \$576,815,427. Its public Park contains 3300 acres. Many of the public building are splendid. Girard College, for orphans, built of white marble in the form of a Grecian Temple is perfect of its kind. It cost two millions of dollars. By the strange caprice of its founder, no minister of any denomination is allowed to enter its gates. Religious instruction, however, is not excluded, and the institution, which is very large, is considered an admirable one. The new City Buildings in course of erection, also of marble, will when completed cost not less than fourteen millions of dollars. There are one hundred and twenty Presbyterian Churches, most of them large and costly, and one fourth of the entire population are Presbyterians. Of Roman Catholics there are 150,000. The Quakers number seven thousand, and have fifteen Meeting Houses, but they are no longer distinguishable by their dress from other people. The coloured population, numbering over 20,000, rejoice in the freedom, equality, and fraternity accorded them by Congress. They take their seats in the street cars and at hotel tables without let or hindrance, and it is not an uncommon sight to see a white man "shining" the shoes of a negro on the public thoroughfares.

The appointed place of rendezvous was the spacious and elegant offices of the Pres-