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RICHMOND, VA., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1878.

FOR THE CENTRAL PRESSYVERIAN. REMINISCENCES OF PRESBYTERIAN

> BY AN OCTOGENARIAN. No. 33.

most influential ministers in the Synod of Virginia. He was before my day. The

and refinement.

John Blair Hoge, one of his sons, was an eloquent preacher who died in Richmond in middle life. His health was impaired, and a voyage to Europe was recommended by medical advisers as the likeliest means of restoration. In the summer of 1816 we saw him immediately after his return to Virginia from his foreign tour. We soon perceived that he had been observant in the course of his travels. Though free from ostentation, his conversation about foreign objects was highly interesting. The war of 1812 against England was declared before he went. Our naval victories led the English to treat Americans with more respect than formerly, for they had often been taunted with the question, "Who reads an American book? Since then John Bull-has read a quantity of our literature, and our divinity with considerable relish. "But did no instance take place," I asked, "of seeming, though not ntentional disrespect." "Well." he replied, "I went out of my tracks to pay my devoirs to Adam Clarke, the Commentator, tang that tempted Eve, or he was trying to solve the problem, if there are no serpents in Ireland how could one have crept into Paradise? How long did he keep you waiting?" "About three-fourths of an hour." "Quite as long," I remarked, "As Richter was kept when he went to see Goethe. But he appeared at last." "Yes: just as my staff was taken to bid the family adieu. Then he appeared to be a good humored Irishman. He was a critic in the learned languages; but in his criticisms made some huge mis-

It has become so common a thing for our ministers to cross the Atlantic that we have almost ceased propounding questions about foreign parts. Of late years we have heard enough of the Abbeys of England, Welsh valleys, Westmoreland lakes and Irish pillars; stitution. And now who were on that Combut at the date of which we write such ob- mittee, An excellent elder from Virginia, jects excited curiosity. Curiosity has been fully satiated. "From France did you not the Synod of Kentucky, Dr. Stuart Robinoutstrip the Jura mountains, and descend to Genoa where lived the most intellectual of how could you suppress your "deep concern" the Reformers, though in action he fell below Luther, Knox, and Zuinglius?" "Yes: I stood in the stone pulpit from which he honored doctrine?" But "the times change preached to his vast congregation. In the. and we change with them." This theory of ology he was the Mount Blanc of Geneva, and in humility a kind of Chamouni Vale .-The scenery around Geneva is magnificent. There is the Leman Lake and the Rhone darting through its azure waves, filled with worthlessness of such deliverances. (a) silver trout and golden perch and vineyards,

his way to Bedford Springs. The Scotch stitutional fountains of power," and then gentleman by whom he was accompanied "each judicatory is a fountain of power under proposed that we should call at Martins | the arrangements of our Constitutions," there burg, the capital of Berkley county, and is inherent power in the Presbytery one day. spend a day or two with the subject of this and the next this notion contradicts common paper. "Agreed," said I. "No proposi sense. You are like the Irishman's flea, when is the use of breaking our necks in getting Your theories are about as incongruous, not through this world?" My Reverend friend to say grotesque, as that fabulous animal "With this statement of facts I now submit gave us a warm reception. Martinsburg is which was half horse and half alligator with to the judgment of all who feel any interest bestowed upon it. "Whoever heard of such a healthy town-its people are genteel and a little touch of thunder. But I have hopes in the subject," whether you have not ut an anomaly in our Court of Appeals as Mr hospitable, but its streets are more rocky of you. (b) than we could have wished. A Sabbath One word more. The intimation in your failure reminds me of this story. A young let the Code of Virginia answer you. In came. It was the day on which the pastor article of January 9th, that in endorsing Dr. man who feels no admiration in the presence vanced by the Northern Assembly in 1866. groan, but I thought you would do it in a dangerous thing." (q) flection? Better that he should turn lawyer, question of Commissions, and I remark— behaved worse at a funeral. For one who is one of judicial process, but it was a judicial ought not to be entrusted to such a body; and on nerves and a lively imagination."

and urge debtors to the giving of forthcoming bonds.

The Reverend Moses Hoge was one of the rael escaped to mountains, but God was an- week before it was printed, and at least three ties, did you? This reminds me of a fight I Review and Control did suspend a minister my want of acquaintance with him forbids diana. Though a grave clergyman he en- read thus, "That whatever the Synod itself whom he thought he could whip, and began trial. (s) my entering into any details. He officiated joyed the John Gilpin of Cowper. It was can do, that same thing, under certain limito badger him. To his surprise the little in Sheperdstown on the Potomac, was Presinot long after our interview with John Blair tations, it can do by a Commission." It fellow sprang upon him. and tripping him, was tried by his Presbytery for heresy and dent of Hampden Sidney College, and was Hoge before we heard of his being called to would seem, therefore, that when that sentiequally respected in both these positions. Richmond. He was in that city the right ment was imputed to me by you, you at least bellowed, "Take him off!" They were sep- the ground of prejudice in the lower court, After his removal to Prince Edward, that man in the right place. From Sabbath to knew that it was disavowed by me. An ex-Sabbath he addressed a cultivated audience. planation is in order. (d) one of his most ardent admirers. Three of He was attended by Legislators, Judges, Barhis sons were ministers. The eldest, from risters, and Merchants. His kirk was on Columbus in Ohio, was pointed out to me at Shockoe hill, said to be the most agreeable from your articles what your opinion is. a distance at the General Assembly which in part of the city. He was not so tall as 1847 met in Richmond. His son, named we either of his brothers, but still he made an suppose after President Davies, was tall and excellent appearance in the pulpit. As he spare. Before leaving the State he minis. advanced in his subject he became more and could tell whether it was "going North er tered in Culpeper county. He was an in- more animated, fluent, elequent and imteresting preacher, and a gentleman of taste pressive to the close of his discourse. But death had received his mandate, and to the grief of his admiring people he bade them

> FOR THE CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN. LETTER OF REV. MR. SHANKS.

FALLING SPRING MANSE, Jan. 31, '78.

Rev. Wm. Brown, D. D. : Dear Sir,-A few words more will cove all I have to say on the inherent power of church courts. In your argument you laid great stress on the substantial concurrence of our Assembly in the voluminous statement of doctrine and constitutional principles contained in the letter of the Synod of Kentucky. In reply I endeavored to fairly ascertain the value of this document as a deliverance of the Church. I showed that the circumstances were unfriendly to deliberait, and advocated the doctrine of inherent to remain invisible." "Oh," I remarked, power in the Presbyteries. And now I in-"He was in a brown study about the orangou- vite your attention to another fact. In the cided in this case was that "a memorial or Assembly at Savannah the Committee on petition cannot bring a case before a supe-Bills and Overtures, to which was referred rior court for a judicial hearing." (f) for consideration and report the subject of representation in the Pan-Presbyterian Coun cil, presented a unanimous report: "That the proposed confederation is not contrary to the Constitution of our Church and it is advisable to appoint delegates." This too in the face of a demand by Dr. Adger, to be shown a warrant for this measure in the Constitution or "the Bible, which is a part, and the very foundation part of a jure divino Presbyterian Constitution." (Good doctrine by the way.) Here now we see "gravely propounded" the theory of non-contradiction. and expediency-in other words that the General Assembly has power to perform any ecclesiastical act not forbidden in the Con-W. M. Tredway; the author of that letter of son, and Dr. Moses Hoge, chairman. Why, and forbear "withstanding Dr. Hoge to the face," and "planting your feet upon the time Drs. Robinson and Hoge is not mine. I have referred to it to show the estimate placed on

We have another illustration of this las the clusters of which supply the tables of the remark, in the fact that the same Assembly wealthy and invite the hook of the peasant. of 1837, which by a committee uttered the There are the Lusanne hills, the Jura chain propositions of restricted power which you brightened by summer suns, and Mont Blanc set out with, did eat its own words, and beburdened with unmelted snow." "True," I fore the close of its sessions propounded the remarked, "And it seems strange that the theory of inherent power. Baird's Digest, p. enemies of Revelation should have desecrated 150, edition of 1856. The truth is your such a hollow of the earth by their presence. Istest theory has never been enunciated with Who were they? It may be asked. Vol even a quasi official authority except in a taire, Rosseau, Gibbon, the atheist Shelley, moment of fright or frenzy, and the whole and the dissolute Byron. Pandemonium current of every day usage of the Church is would have suited them better than such a against it. But you are not troubled with it. If one theory does not suit you have another. In the summer of 1818, the writer was on At one time the "Presbyteries are the Contion could have pleased me better; for what you put your hand on him he is not there .-

the action of our Assembly in that house-

warming at Nashville, and to evince the utter

You apparently both affirm and deny. Your me." (k) discussion reminds me of the snake that "wired in and wired out," so that no one coming South." Will you please tell us how you voted in the Synod of Virginia in 1845 upon the motion to censure Lexington Pres bytery for appointing a judicial Commission And just here I would state that that Commission, with Dr. B. M Smith at its head was clothed with plenary power, to try and issue the case. This may be the explanation of the Synod's vote condemning it. (e)

3. You cite with a great flourish of trumets, and array of influential names, the case of this will give brother Shanks a long pause." This is an instance of a "big cry and little wool." The case has not the strength of a spider's web. It has nothing to do with Com missions, and it is amazing you should have produced it. You must be counting upon my "ignerance." The facts are these: Mr. Fraser, disregarding the forms of carrying a by a simple petition to put his case before tion, that in point of fact it was only partial- the Assembly. The judicial committee rely read to the Assembly, that at the best the ported, and the Assembly approved, that Assembly expressed only a substantial con- there was no case before the Assembly, in currence, that many in the Synod of Virginia either of the ways prescribed in the Constirepudiated in the Ruffner case the theory of tution, and so the Assembly could not prothat paper, and that you explicitly disowned perly take cognizance of his case. If you

> 4. I beg to remind you of the numerous precedents referred to by me, and especially the cases of the Camberland Presbytery and Peoria church, which you have found it convenient to overlook on this point. (g)

> 5. I contend that the facts of the case warrant the statement that the Assembly of 1847 did endorse Commissions. Dr. Hodge states that the action of the Assembly was at the instance of the friends of his reportthat the Assembly by its action refused to deny this right to our primary courts, and that a decided majority approved the power. And this last statement is confirmed by the statement of Dr Thornwell, who was present, that "the right to appoint Commissions was universally conceded," and that the only question was "as to the powers with which they might be legitimately invested." (h)

6. Dr. Thornwell explicitly approved Com missions. This you admit, but endeavor to break its force by the statement that he was comparatively a young man." When his imagined opinion suits you he is every inch a man-but when his unambiguous judgment is against you, then he is nothing. It may clear up the matter a little to remind you that when that opinion was given he was President of South Carolina College, and one of the most influential men in the Church. and had been Moderator of the Assembly of 1847, in which the report of Dr. Hodge on Commissions was elaborately discussed. (i)

and others, against the proceedings and judgments of Louisville Presbytery, in our Assembly of 1875, a motion was made by Dr. J. R. Wilson for the appointment of a Commission. The majority of those who debated the point admitted the lawfulness of Commissions. Dr. Girardeau endorsed Commissions with plenary power-and even our very constitutional brother, Dr. Lefevre, conceded that a Commission with limited powers, was lawful. The motion was tabled. I believe, upon the ground of inexpediency. may be summed up thus: The Church has in numerous instances endorsed and employed judicial Commissions, and so far as I know, the right has never been discredited save in the single instance of the Synod of Virginia, and in this case the Commission was clothed with plenary power to try and issue the case. minister preached on one occasion before a the county court all appeals from a Justice's

1. That when you say "Mr. Shanks lays so conspicuous, and affects to be a guide to brought before the Synod by complaint this well-settled policy down the sweeping proposition that anything the blind, to be as unasable as a weather- and appeal, and the Synod took it for trial. The next day we started for Bedford .- which a Church court can itself perform, it cock is pitiable, and then to have his "old The principle settled here is that a Synod in Hills on hills. They reminded us of the pas- may also perform by a Commission," you do clothes" aired in the Central, this is too bad. a judicial case may retry the case (r) sage in Jeremiah—"In vain is salvation me another unjustice. It is true this senti- I have compassion, but public interests, you (b) The Cumberland Presbytery case allooked for from the hills." "What does it ment was expressed in my letter as printed. know, must be supreme. And you really ready commented on by me. In this case mean?" asked my companion. "Why, Is- But after that letter was mailed and one thought of proposing a cestation of hostili the Synod having obtained jurisdiction on gry with his people." On our way we met weeks before you penned that criticism, I witnessed when a boy. A big bully was without trial and on the ground that the of "learning is a danger with Dr. Matthews. We interchanged a few wrote you stating that this sentence was in- challenging everybody on the Court green for Presbytery was incompetent to try him .words. A venerable man. He died in In- complete and requesting you to amend it to a fight. Presently he crossed a little fellow Much more could they have done this after ly our opinion then was we the Presbytery. arated, but the little fellow, who had just determined to retry him. Mr. Davis appealbegun to warm to his work, shot an angry ed and the Assembly decided that the Synod 2. You seem to be preparing for a retreat glance at the bully, and in almost mortal erred "in deciding to try Mr. Davis when on this question. It is impossible to say agony he cried out, "Hold him! hold him! there was no reference nor appeal in his case It will take two to hold him-one can hold before them." The implication is that it

> There are two things which will surprise appeal. (t) everybody: One is, that you have expended to much time and space in refuting "nonsense;" | qualified for any reason for trying a case, the other is, that you should denounce in the Assembly says, "the Presbytery is the stitution." That is enough to give "a long such unmeasured terms an opinion which in competent court, and it is their duty to cite its extremest form you publicly advocated the offender before them and proceed to issue two years ago. Now keep cool, Doctor. I the case." The principle settled here is that have not sought this discussion. I have not the incompetency of the lower court gives to alluded to the merits of this case, but you the superior court jurisdiction for trial of and others know my opinion; and I have not the case. And it matters not whether the assailed anything save the law as expounded superior court obtains information of this by you. And now surely matters have come incompetency by common fame, review and to a pretty pass in our Church, if a minister control, reference, complaint or appeal. (u) cannot respectfully but fearlessly dissent from Rev. A G. Fraser, and remark, "We think the Synod of Virginia. I am not to be turned Synod because there may be cases when the aside by your proverbe, or your threats; but "fair and impartial trial" required by the in this closing letter I am going straight to Book cannot be had, and unless the Syncd the heart of this matter. The great princi- interpose, the accused may be left to the tenple, I repeat, involved here is, "The power der mercies of a court "organized for his of the Church to prevent a prejudiced verdict | condemnation." (v) and secure to the meanest member of her fold the inalienable right of trial by an impartial and disinterested jury of his breth case before a superior judicatory, attempted ren." This principle you have not dared to

assail directly. (1) And now what is the precise question in January 23 - "Process against a minister; ets: then turn to what is said under the corres to whom belongs the right of instituting it?" ponding letter in the reply; and so to the end. to whom belongs the right of instituting it?

(a) Nothing could more clearly show this theois misleading. This is not the question, but
ry of reserved power to be in articulo mortis than And on this I remark-

was a new, and so unconstitutional courtthat the allegation that it was only a Com mittee of Presbytery was incorrect because the pertinency of this case ? (m)

2. The imagined case of the General As sembly claiming power to suspend a member from the city of Elinburgh. of Falling Spring church is irrelevant, becan retry a case regularly before it by appeal-not whether it can institute process and take original jurisdiction. The latitude, argument for a Pan Presbyterian Council, would satisfy the most flagrant ambition, and even justify the Assembly in such a

the Presbytery exclusively the power to en- for "sporadic." ter process against a minister, and that the Synod cannot retry a case upon appeal, because a new trial must begin de novo by entering process, tabling charges, &c. The graph would be spoiled by any comments. book expressly provides for a new trial by (c) Assembly in St. Louis of 1866. We are far the Synod in case of an appeal, where there is new testimony. Now does the Synod in this case begin de novo, or simply take it up where the Presbytery left it, the accused being already by his appeal under its jurisdiction? Let the reader refer to what I have said on this entering of process. (0)

4. You affirm that the Book expressly says, the Synod "may remit the cause for a new trial," and so virtually denies to it the power to retry it. You are mistaken. Here is the passage, and I beg you to note the punctuation: "The decision may be either But need I say more? The whole matter trial." The "for a new trial" is not connected with the word remit-but the punctuation shows that in isuing the appeal the Synod may decide for a new trial-but by whom is not said. (p)

And now I will briefly set down some arguments in favor of my position. The analogy of the civil law favors it. You call it a noble science and it deserves all the praise terly failed to discredit Commissions. Your Shanks pleads for in the Church?" Well ously denied by others;" and that "in point of ed to disprove—that what he so characterised was of Martinsburg church was to preach at his Hodge's report I committed myself to the Methodist Conference and did his best. Afcountry church called "Falling Waters," a theory of that "Assembly of violent men" ter the benediction, a good brother asked judgment, decree or order of a country church called "Falling Waters," a theory of that "Assembly of violent men" ter the benediction, a good brother asked judgment, decree or order of a country church called "Falling Waters," a theory of that "Assembly of violent men" place which attained to some notoriety in our in St. Louis in 1866, is as unworthy of you one of the fathers how he liked the young is reversed by the Circuit Court the cause as A B C—that in the early history of our Church fort him in all his tribulation. But on this point place which attained to some notoriety in our in St. Louis in 1866, is as unworthy of you late war. The service was devolved on the service was devolved on the writer, but we would have preferred the to the memory of those good and great men writer. The service was devolved on the service was devolved on the writer writer, but we would have preferred the to the memory of those good and great men with the client to the interest now ne liked the young is reversed by the Circuit Court the cause of the chiefly, we suppose, because of the extremely sparse population, and the immense territory coverage of the circuit Court and the forgets how many times he himself has had to chiefly, we suppose, because of the extremely sparse population, and the immense territory coverage of the circuit Court and the forgets how many times he himself has had to chiefly, we suppose, because of the extremely sparse population, and the immense territory coverage of the circuit Court and the chiefly we suppose, because of the extremely sparse population, and the immense territory coverage of the circuit Court and the court and the court and the court and the chiefly we suppose, because of the extremely sparse population, and the immense territory coverage of the circuit Court and the chiefly we suppose the forgets how many times he himself has had to chiefly we are accepted to the forgets how many times he himself has had to chiefly we suppose, because of the extremely sparse population, and the immense territory coverage of the circuit Court and the court hearing of a luminous discourse from the Drs. McFarland and Thornwell, both of whom of the horn?" Yes. "Keep Cool.." During a long life it may be that ered by a Presbytery or Synod. But it is evident we have sometimes lost an argument; but never pastor of the church. "Falling Waters!" endorsed that report. The first was a mem- young brother did not quite get out." (j) or good cause shown, the appellate court di that the Church early became cautious, not to say for a moment felt that was any reason why we We liked the name. It kept us talking ber of Dr. Hodge's committee. They were The Central of January 30th has just rects otherwise." There is an "expression suspicious, of them; and the fact that they have should lose our temper. And so much is the comabout the fall of Fyers, a subject pleasing to not called upon to state all the limitations reached me. I am truly sorry that I have of the common sense and wisdom of men, of about the fall of Fyers, a subject pleasing to mot called upon to state all the limitations reached me. I am truly sorry that I have of the common sense and wisdom of men, and I might quote more about the power of the assertion we made at the first. If it ever was have upon the doctrine, and no one knows better whom it may concern.

The Supreme Court to "prevent a failure of the Supreme Court to "prevent a failure of the Supreme Court to "Threats." No threats were made or meant; Moses, and to the sounding of the many contended for in that report bears no like- "old clothes" have troubled you, have they? justice," but this will be enough to "give der the Constitutional power to appoint commit- we meant exactly what was said- no more, no less, waters in the Apocalypse. Where is the ness to the doctrine of consolidation ad- Well, you know I predicted that you would you a long pause." "A little learning is a tees. If our opinion on the merits of the question and its chief application was aimed at the "far and

(c) The ease of W. C. Davis. Mr. Davis would have been proper if there had been an

(d) Whou the elders of a session are

Lastly. This power must belong to the

Very truly, &c., D. W. SHANKS.

REPLY TO REV. MR. SHANKS.

In replying to this closing article the same meth debate? The heading of your editorial of Mr. Shanks' says down to the letter (a) in brack-

this: Can a Synod, having obtained juris- the attempt to galvanize it into life by reference to appeal lawfully, as its final decision upon sorting to other considerations there is a single the appeal, and by reason of matter in the and others strenuously argued that the Presbytefact which completely breaks its neck. Dr. Adger record, determine to take it for new trial? rian Council was another Church Court, and there-1. The case of Lowry, cited by you, has was met by a resolution adopted with but one disno bearing upon either Commissions or the senting voice declaring that "it is not to be repoint now debated. The Assembly decided garded as another and higher court, but as an asthat Mr. Lowry ought to have been tried by churches which they represent, for the purpose of the courts instituted by the Constitution- joint conference and report, and for such action that the Session constitued by the Presbytery only as belongs to our association of delegates thus it possessed the power peculiar to a Session, with committees appointed by other Presbyterian and that the Presbytery could not delegate churches, is unauthorized by any power already in to a committee such powers. Where now is the Constitution, and can only be defended by the

cause the case in hand is whether the Synod | tion of the Digest (1858) and not 1856, we know over and over declare its measures to be authorized them declaring (a second time,) " We believe that his side. our powers, as a judicatory, are limited and prescribed by the Constitution of the Presbyterian

classical and original illustration closing the para- as Dr. Hodge advocated, a "Church court."

is that it is, if possible, worse, (d) The explanation is easy: When Mr. Shanks sent his second communication it was followed by a private note the next day, January 16th, requestto-: or to remit the cause for the purpose It would have given us pleasure to do any thing

"Certain!" But the certain are left so uncertain,

as a piece of chalk. er will find it clearly and fully stated in this paper stance of which is that "while the power (to try a | no help for it, except to look and wonder. fact the theory finds no encouragement in any precisely the theory of Church power (the silent practice within our knowledge under our present theory) which he himself advocates. revised Constitution." That is all for which we groan, but I thought you would do it in a dangerous thing. (4)

Again: I refer for authority (a) to the member or minister and suspend or depose him be accounted for in the same way Dr. Speece used given it a bow of peace by the power of re- I will now give attention briefly to the pitcous wails in public. You could not have Peoria Church case. This it is true was not provisionally (which might be for a whole year,) to apologise for the scaring of his horse—"weak the ministers of it, be made to look wild or

always allowed ourself some room to grow, and recommend a similar liberal policy to some of on

herefore that could hardly be the ground of the

(f) "Flourish of trumpets" - Case of Fraser. We published the Assembly's minute in full: it declares (wo things. (1) that "According to the five. (2) Mr. Fraser had asked for a judicial they cannot do so "without a violation of the Conpause." without any "flourish of trumpets."

sent Constitution. (2) The Syncd took hold of it, not by virtue of "reserved powers," but under an rule 6 (3) The Commission appointed by the Synlatest and most complete history of the Presbyteble expedient.' (4) Much of the conflict arose two out of the three delegates to the Assembly of the Assembly Dr. Green, Messrs. Janeway, Cath- But [2] we expressly referred to the "Court of while Drs. Miller, Woodhull, J. P. Wilson and with us. The lower courts to which-Mr. Shanks Speece were strenuous in opposition. The debate was keen and spirited. The prevalent opinion was that the Presbytery had erred, but that the Synod od could not proceed against individual members members to account; that for Synod to suspend ordained ministers, especially by a Commission, was ranscending its powers." [See Gillett's History] of Presbyterian Church, Vol. 2, p. 166] Some regarded the very appointment of the Commission as "unconstitutional." The Assembly of 1807 'at least of questionable regularity;" but the As- sembly. tained the Synod with unanimity. This can be the Synod retried that case at all. understood, without supposing they agreed to every thing done; the case was difficult, in a remote frontier, and gross errors had undoubtedly

ginia censured the Presbytery of Lexington for tee. (3) The Assembly of 1847, after a long discussion, refused to adopt the report of Dr. Hodge approving Commissions, and indefinitely postponed missions, the brother may make the most of it. Dr. Thornwell. He did concede the right to appoint Commissions, and who ever disputed it?

mistaken when he said that "the right" (to ap-

point such Commissions) "was never questioned

by any branch of the Presbyterian Church until

A Commission is, per se, nothing but a committee. But when you come to the question of its "powers," that is precisely where the rub comes, and there, Dr. Thornwell says truly, was the debate. He considered them lawful when invested with plenary by the Constitution; see the two Pastoral Letters we have elsewhere fally given his own words .however, claimed for the Assembly in your prepared by Drs. Alexander and Breckinridge. If This shows that he was as far as can be from adso, they did not put their action upon the slippery vocating such a Commission as Mr. Shanks is after, footing of "reserved powers." Moreover, we find and therefore the weight of that name is not on

eminent man, but that did not prove that he was 3. You have said that the Book gives to Church." But that too, we suppose, must pass not "comparatively a young man," and no one can reasonably suppose that, ten years after, or at any since the revision of the Constitution in 1821! The of the judicial Commissions ever appointed, or such

(j) Our Assembly at St. Louis in 1875. After considerable debate, which disclosed exactly what from charging or supposing that Mr. Shanks, or we said in the outset of this discussion, viz : some any of the great and good men he mentions, would strenuously asserting and others denying the lawhave approved those acts. Dr. Hodge, however, falness of such a measure, (even with the modified solidation theory." But this we know, that those jected by a large majority. How many thought it enormities were defended also on the ground of unlawful Mr. Shanks is not authorized to say-as 'inherent powers," the very theory to which Mr. | there was no test vote. Nearly all seemed to agree Shanks has committed himself. The chief point that it was inexpedient, which also shows just what in which it differs from the "consolidation" view we asserted at first that in point of fact such Commissions have not been encouraged in any practice under our revised Constitution. That instrument expressly provides in two cases, for a "Commisately attended to. That is the only communications give judicial powers was important and lawful, it is ion of the kind of which we have any knowledge. simply incredible that they should have omitted to of amending the record-; or for a new in that way, and we new cheerfully do all in our foisting it in as "a reserved power." Further, power to print his emended edition correctly by Mr. Shanks has been called upon to show, if he can, in Baird's Digest a single instance in which tself can do, that same thing under certain limi- such a Commission has been appointed since 1821. He is as dumb as an oyster. Under this state of the case he is welcome to the big end of the horn. that the whole "limitation" is precisely as large or something helpful in making a sound-vox et

twice, November 28, and January 16; the sub- enough to give one a little paralysis. We can see

(n) The Pan-Presbyterian Council has

(o) An entire mistake. Discipline, chap, 9, uses the term "new trial" in rules 1, 3, 5, always and new trial." The Synod then, in the case supposed, and cannot take the case for a "new trial."

[p] We think, upon further examination, that Mr. Shanks is right about the punctuation, and back with the first clause, "The decision may be," etc., and so far as that is concerned, it is left undesustained apart from this.

807, from the Syncd of Kentucky itself. (6) "In that it might be regarded as somewhat "uncertain." eart and Linn agreed with him, (Cameron, of Ky.) Appeals" alone, and there the analogy is wholly had been too rigorous. It was argued that a Syn- always is, nor solely upon copies of the testimony of a Presbytery except in case of appeal; that only be obtained. No case is ever taken in our Court lawyer, of whom inquiry was made-not having ourself, even "a little learning" that way. Perhans our brother, who is also "learned in the law," may pronounce the Richmond lawyer as merely pronounced some of the acts of the Commission "sporadic," and no better than the General As-

[s] The Cumberland Presbutery we have dis-

posed of already. [t] W. C. Davis. The Synod, acting upon the

crept in. All this shows how far Mr. Shanks is idea of "inherent power," went right over the head of the Presbytery and instituted process .-Against this he appealed, and the point decided by the Assembly was that the Synod had no right to try him in the absence of an appeal. Of course the implication is that if there had been they could have tried him upon that appeal -that is upon the

One general remark upon this matter: It is passing strange, if such a power, to take a case on intended, that in a Book making minute provisions concerning judicial process, a point so vital should have been overlooked. And, moreover, there is not a single approved example of such a roceeding to be found in all the history of the

Presbyterian Church. Upon a review of this discussion, we come to the tollowing conclusions:

those here brought up, were used in the early history of our Church, but it soon became jealous of them, and since the revision in 1821, they have Church, but the contrary-and wisely.

[2 | The silent therefore lawfu! o far as any existence in cerned. Our various Chy than those contained in the Constituti fore our brother from Rockbridge will have to keep his "reserved powers" in his own reservoir; neither the Synod of Virginia nor any other part of the

Church having any use for them. [3] The idea that the Synod can take a case or it ever found a lodging in a mind from which better might be so reasonably expected, is not easily ecounted for, unless some light is thrown upon the marvel by the fact that the good man has for these many years been getting his letters and papers from a post office called Fancy Hill. If this solution be at least to put it along side with most of his positions and arguments in this discussion.

And now we say in conclusion, that as far more space has been devoted to this matter than is

insert it. That single fact condemns the idea of Dr. Baird. This we do not publish. A former this point. To this we made a brief reply, stating that it was done with reluctance, and why. It is by the good sense of our Presbyterian community -that the competence of East Hanover Presbytery to sit in judgment upon the case referred to, ught to be, as far as practicable, held in abeyance, inasmuch as that is the chief point of an appeal to the General Assembly. We have no fear in meeting any and all the questions belonging to the whole case; but everything in its season. We have no wish to forestall official judgment, or to have anything done which is not perfectly fair, lawful and proper. Questions of Constitutional law have been amply, perhaps excessively debated; and with this we think all reasonable people will How af- say the matter ought to end at present so far as

> IF WE have the testimony of our consciences, that we are accepted of God, we need not much concern ourselves bout wha the good opinion of othe

WHENEVER God gives to of being useful to others, he expects we should improve it according to our capacity

THE Christian religion is a sober and reasonable thing in itself, and should not, by