

# The Independent

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## SURVEY OF THE WORLD.

The treaty which was signed at Paris will be referred in the Senate to the Committee on Foreign Relations, of which Mr. Davis (one of the Peace Commissioners) is chairman, and Mr. Frye, another Commissioner, is a member. It is said that the agreement will be reported promptly, without opposition, and that seventy-one votes in the Senate can already be counted for ratification. Probably there will be an attempt to obtain the passage of a resolution declaring that it is the purpose of the Government to hold the Philippines by military power only until the inhabitants shall be able to set up a stable government of their own. Mr. Bryan expresses the opinion that the treaty should be ratified and that then our Government should treat the Filipinos as it intends to treat the people of Cuba. Those who oppose expansion may agree in support of such a policy, but they appear to be outnumbered greatly by those who are unwilling at present to bind the Government to any clearly defined course of action. Senator Frye has been interviewed on this subject. He argues that it would be folly to turn over the islands to any other power; that we are under a moral obligation to hold them and give them good government, and that the commercial advantages to be gained by holding them will be very great. The following remarks of the Senator have excited much favorable comment: "If we give them a good government there will be little difficulty. We must not send carpet-baggers and political hacks and adventurers there to govern these people." The drift in labor organizations is in opposition to a policy of expansion. To the recent adverse vote of the Federation of Labor have now been added sim-

ilar votes in the Central Labor Unions of New York and Boston. Agoncillo has returned from Paris to Washington, where, with the assistance of three additional commissioners—Gen. Diego de Dios, Dr. Lozada and Señor Juan Luna—he will establish a Filipino Junta.

### Cuba Transferred.

Spain's sovereignty in Cuba and on the whole Western Continent which she once dominated ended at noon on Sunday, January 1st. It was an impressive scene, not only in the salon of the Palace, where the transfer was formally made, but in the Plaza of Arms, where the people gathered in crowds to witness the Spanish ensign descend from Morro Castle, giving place to the Stars and Stripes. The Spaniards did not raise the Palace flag at all, evidently feeling that there was humiliation enough for them. In the salon General Castellanos with his suit, in fatigue dress with no decoration, met General Brooke and his staff, resplendent in full uniform. After a little informal talk both groups formed a crescent, behind which stood a group of Cuban insurgent officers. When the salute from Cabanas and the Spanish ships in the harbor indicated that the hour had come, General Castellanos stepped forward and addressed himself in Spanish to General Wade as President of the American Commission, and was followed by a translation by Captain Hart. The Spaniard spoke with deep feeling, and emphasized the fact that he was obeying the command of his King and the dictates of the Treaty of Paris. General Wade turned to General Brooke, asking him to receive the sovereignty yielded up by Spain, and he in turn spoke briefly,

# THE CHURCHES IN 1898.

## PRINCIPAL EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

### The Adventists.

BY ELDER GEORGE A. IRWIN,

PRESIDENT OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

It is of that branch known to the world as Seventh-day Adventists that I write, as I have neither data nor facts to represent the Advent believers in general.

The past year has not been characterized by any special happening in connection with our work. Perhaps the most noteworthy was the general meeting for Europe, held in Hapsburg, Germany, during the month of July, at which thirteen different nationalities—viz., English, German, Dutch, Danish-Norwegian, Swedish, Livonian, Bohemian, Polish, Russian, French, Spanish, Finnish and Rumanian—were represented. The work in America was represented by the Presidents of the General Conference and the Foreign Mission Board. A conference known as the European Union Conference was formally organized, with Elder O. A. Olsen as President. This Union Conference is composed of six local conferences, and has under its supervision mission work in Iceland, Finland, Russia, Turkey and the countries around the Mediterranean. It comprises one of the three grand divisions into which the General Conference was divided at the session of 1897. A local conference, known as the German Conference, consisting of 45 churches and 1,500 members, was organized at the same meeting. A few days later, at Bath, England, another conference was organized, consisting of 900 members, known as the British Conference, its territory being the British Isles.

Forty-two State and general, and twenty-four local, camp meetings were held during the year. These meetings, from the first one to the last, were characterized by an unusual amount of the presence and blessing of the Holy Spirit. Besides the above, over 400 local tent meetings were held in differ-

ent parts of the United States, Canada, Europe, South Africa and South America.

Seventy-seven evangelical missionaries have gone out under the auspices of the Foreign Mission Board, to the different countries, as follows: Japan, West Indies, South America, South Africa, Finland, Sandwich Islands, Australia, India, Bermuda Islands and the Polynesian Islands. In addition to the foregoing, 25 medical missionaries have gone to foreign fields, under the auspices of the Medical Missionary Board. Our general missionary ship "Pitcairn" sailed from San Francisco in December, on her sixth voyage to the Pacific Islands, loaded with supplies for the missions already established, and carrying a company of missionaries to enter new fields.

A marked increase in tithe, by means of which the laborers are supported, is reported by the State Conferences; and the tithe to the General Conference has increased over \$18,000. We have now 428 ordained ministers and 200 licentiates, a gain of 21 ministers and 11 licentiates.

Twelve additional medical mission and rescue homes combined have been started in that number of different cities in the United States the past year. Our publishing houses are in a flourishing condition, the two principal ones being run day and night. A growing interest in hygienic living and health principles generally has been a marked feature of the year.

The school work has also received more careful consideration and liberal patronage. The courage both of our laborers and laity is good, as they see in the events transpiring in the world around them omens of the soon coming of their Lord.

BATTLE CREEK, MICH.



## THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

BY CHARLES R. HEMPHILL, D.D., LL.D.

THE history of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, sometimes called the Southern Presbyterian Church, for the current year reveals a steady, if not rapid, progress. No part of the field it occupies has been refreshed by copious outpourings of spiritual power, but the dew of grace has not been withheld. The reports for the ecclesiastical year closing March 31st showed a net gain of 5,400 in communicants and a total of 217,000, all the activities of Church life well organized and effective, and the enterprises under the control of the General Assembly able to sustain themselves without debt. Probably the most hopeful work of the Church is its foreign missions. It is wisely administered, issues most admirable publications, and is represented by a fine body of missionaries. Dr. Chester, the secretary, returned some months ago from a visit to the missions conducted by this Church in Japan, China and Corea, and his addresses, in which he sets forth the results of his observations, have done much to deepen interest and promote the work. In the number of additions the field of largest yield and most promise is the Congo Mission, which is manned by both white and black missionaries. From all the fields strong and urgent appeals are made for reinforcements; men and women are waiting to be sent out; but it is feared the necessary increase in contributions will not be provided.

Much interest is felt in the meeting of the Independent Synod of Colored Presbyterians, which is to convene at Chester, S. C., the middle of January. After many delays and with some misgivings, the experiment of a distinct Church for the colored people of Presbyterian faith is to be tried. It is believed that the Southern Church will now enter into this work with warmer sympathy and larger liberality. The white ministers to whom it is to be intrusted, are serving the cause with a zeal and self-denial beyond praise. The number of ministers and churches in the new organization will be small and they are widely scattered, but

they may make a contribution of value to the religious life of the negro.

While in this way eliminating some of its members, the General Assembly would have gladly added to its constituency by union with the Associate Reformed Synod of the South. This is a small, compact, and sturdy body of Presbyterians of the older type. Their Synod gave courteous reception to the Assembly's representatives, but declined any negotiations on this subject.

The doctrinal conservatism of the Southern Church remains unchanged. A few advocates of certain ideas on holiness have arisen and have been somewhat aggressive against the doctrine of sanctification taught in the Westminster standards, but so far as appears they have made no great impression. Two ministers of this type in South Carolina, after conference with their Presbytery, have recently withdrawn from the Presbyterian Church.

An event of importance sufficient to make the year notable was the removal of Union Theological Seminary from Hampden Sidney, Va., where it was founded more than seventy years ago, to its ample grounds and handsome buildings in the City of Richmond. The Seminary began its session in October by the dedication of its new buildings and has the largest enrollment of students in its history. The Southern Church already has four institutions for theological training, and the Synod of Texas is taking steps to establish another beyond the Mississippi. In the four now in existence there are only about 165 students, and to many it would seem wiser to reduce the seminaries to two in number and to equip them thoroughly.

Since this record was made a year ago the losses in the ministry have been heavy both in number and the character of the men. Among these mention may be made particularly of Drs. R. L. Dabney, John L. Girardeau, and T. D. Witherspoon, for long years trusted leaders of the body. Dr. Dabney's writings will perpetuate his influence as a profound thinker and stout advocate of Calvinistic theology. Dr. Girardeau's publications were few, but he left many pages of manuscript which may be given to the public. To Dr. Witherspoon was denied

leisure to use his pen, which was of uncommon grace and force, to gather up the fruits of his scholarship and experience. These eminent servants of the Church were at different times teachers in one or another of the theological seminaries and have left their mark on the ministry.

LOUISVILLE, Ky.

## THE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

BY M. B. DE WITT, D.D.

In the last General Assembly 112 out of 126 Presbyteries were represented by 221 commissioners, 98 of whom were ruling elders, one of whose number, General H. H. Norman, Murfreesboro, Tenn., was Moderator. He is the fourth elder who has been Moderator of the Assembly. Fourteen Presbyteries were unrepresented. Our mission force in Japan and all its churches belong to the "Church of Christ in Japan."

The Assembly's organized work is now directed by seven boards, societies and permanent committees, besides that splendid enterprise, the Woman's Board of Missions. All these are pressing their causes well, making their annual reports.

An effort, yet unsuccessful, is being made for an Assembly commissioners' fund, to secure universal representation. A hopeful action was this year taken for decided improvement of and additions to the periodical Sunday school literature of the Church, the first numbers of which are to appear with January, 1899. Prof. J. V. Stephens, of the Theological Seminary, has in hand a digest of acts of Assembly and charters of boards and schools and of laws concerning them, which will be looked for with interest. R. V. Foster, D.D., Professor of Systematic Theology in our Seminary, has lately published in admirable form a volume of theology as taught by him to our young men, the attendance of whom at the last session was larger than ever before. The Seminary has now eight instructors, a splendid new building, classical and English courses, open to both sexes and laymen, free tuition, with special care given to the English Bible and practical Christian work.

The Theological Seminary has received

\$20,000 from Mrs. A. J. McDaniel, of Hopkinsville, Ky., and Cumberland and Lincoln Universities have added to their endowments.

Our Church was never more alive to the great work of classical, general and Christian education, and especially noteworthy is the fact of so many young men seeking the ministry being afforded school privileges. To our Woman's Board of Missions has been committed the work of Manse Election, and we hope for good results. To that board also we look for special labors among the mountaineers of the Appalachian Range, and a fine beginning has been made. The Assembly's Board of Missions is now encouraged to believe that at the end of this financial year, December 31, its showing will be the best we have ever had. The Synods are more systematically organized for mission service than ever, and a uniform constitution is proposed for the Church Extension Associations. Under this system missions, Sunday schools, Christian Endeavor, Church grouping and all allied work are considered and urged. The Assembly adopted the Sunday school standard called "Ten Points of Excellence," a large advance on the past. Christian Endeavor is now part of the Church's plan of action, and its vitality was expressed at Nashville, 1898, Convention in the largest and most stirring denominational rally of the occasion, with an immense audience and one hundred and fifty of our preachers present. Our Endeavorers have sent the Rev. T. J. Preston missionary to China.

Our Assembly is now by clearer understanding in full accord with Presbyterian Federation, and is integrally connected with the Alliance of Reformed Churches, holding the Presbyterian System also. A new Synod called Indianola has just been formed of Oklahoma and Indian Territory. In statistics, nothing striking occurs. Received 15 ministers from and dismissed 4 to other denominations; received 76 churches; dedicated 43 church houses; erected 20 manses; received 15,646 members; present total of ministers, 1,694; probationers for ministry, 593; churches, 3,021; members, 180,635, with 212 churches unreported, and 79 unorganized churches and missions. Illinois, Kan-