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All communications on the work of the Alliance, or respecting its publications, to be addressed to the

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Quarterly Register.

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APOLOGETIC.

OWING to the extreme pressure on our limited space, several articles from valued contributors have to be reserved for our next issue. For the same reason we delay giving any "Notes" of a recent visit to the United States, contenting ourselves with the simplest acknowledgment of thanks for all personal courtesies and favours. Nothing could exceed the kindness received from brethren there, and nothing could be more gratifying than the interest taken in the work of the Alliance. The Rev. Dr. McCosh, as a Delegate from the Western Section, accompanied the writer on his visit to the Assembly at Saratoga, while Dr. Chambers rendered very important service by accompanying him to several of the other Churches.

The Toronto brethren, it may be stated, propose that the next Council of the Alliance meet in their city about September 22nd, 1892.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

THE Synod met in Liverpool on April 28th, when the Rev. John Thompson, M.A., Newcastle, was chosen Moderator. Last year the Synod had appointed deputies to visit the congregations in several parts of the country, and as these reported of their work, it was evident that not only had they been faithful to their instructions, but that Christian life and Christian work are being diligently cared for by many a pastor and congregation, whose names may be known to but a few. The Home Mission Report urged special effort for the organizing of new congregations by the united action of presbyteries, or of contiguous congregations, or of private individuals, and that all mission work should be conducted to this end. The Committee on Christian

Giving reported that a considerable number of Church members were now setting apart, weekly, a certain proportion of their income for Christian purposes. The Foreign Mission Committee presented a gratifying report of their work; three additions had been made to the existing staff, while one gentleman had placed his services at the disposal of the Committee as a non-ministerial agent. Owing to the enlargement of the work, there was a little deficiency in the annual income, but this had been more than covered by a legacy since received. Subsequent to the Lambeth Conference, Dr. Dykes had received from the Archbishop of Canterbury, an "Encyclical Letter" on the subject of Re-union, suggesting as a basis of such the following four Articles:—(a) The Scriptures as the ultimate standard of faith. (b) The Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. (c) The Apostles and the Nicene Creeds as "a sufficient statement of the Christian faith," and (d) The Historic Episcopate. To this letter a reply had been forwarded by Dr. McLeod, the late Moderator. The Committee on Ministerial Support reported that the Sustentation Fund Dividend for the year was again £200, with a small surplus in the treasury, and urged the thirty-six congregations that have not yet joined the Sustentation Fund Scheme to do so. The Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund was reported as having had a small increase of capital, so that the nine annuitants received their grants in full. The Widows' and Orphans' Fund reported a capital of £39,201, with forty-five widows and seventy-one orphans as annuitants. The College Report stated that twenty-eight students had been in attendance during the last Session, eleven of whom were in the graduating class. The vacancy in the Faculty occasioned by the death of Dr. Elmslie was filled by the election by ballot of Rev. John Skinner, A.M., Kelso. The Temperance Committee recommended the

work in particular congregations, and the presbyteries were overtured accordingly.

The Assembly then adjourned to meet in Detroit in May, 1891.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES.

By REV. ROBERT P. KERR, D.D.,
RICHMOND, VA.

THE General Assembly of this branch of American Presbyterianism has recently held its annual sessions in the mountain city of Asheville, North Carolina. The visitors and members were greatly impressed by the splendid scenery in the midst of which Asheville is situated; but more interesting than clear skies and lofty peaks were the deliberations of the Assembly, and the encouraging reports brought in from all quarters. The boundaries of the Church are substantially the same as those of the defunct Southern Confederacy, extending from the Ohio river to the Gulf of Mexico, and from every portion of this great field came in the best of news. The contributions, especially those for Foreign Missions, are in advance of those of any former year, and there were indications of a general advance in the life and work of the Church in every department. The Southern Presbyterian Church has great reason to thank God and take courage.

One of the pleasant features of the Assembly was the hearing of Dr. Mathews, of London, in behalf of the Alliance of Reformed Churches, of which he is the efficient and honoured Secretary. He has done great good by representing ecumenical Presbyterianism in our Churches, and in the General Assemblies of the North and South. The Alliance is probably stronger now than ever before with the American Churches.

Among the many important matters of business transacted at Asheville were the following:—The declination to endorse the theory that the Old Testament tithing system was intended to be perpetual in the Church of the New Dispensation.

A revised Directory of Worship, which had been prepared under the Assembly's orders by an able Committee, not having been accepted by a majority of the Presbyteries, was sent back to the same Committee, enlarged by the addition of three more members, with directions to continue their work in the light of the criticisms elicited

by the discussion. This Committee were directed also to prepare, and submit for adoption next year, liturgical forms for funerals and marriages. The demand for these forms has become well nigh unanimous on the part of ministers and people.

The Rev. W. A. Campbell, D.D., of Richmond, Virginia, was appointed a delegate to bear fraternal greetings and congratulations to the Irish Jubilee Assembly to meet in Belfast during July. He is one of our most useful and honoured ministers and writers. The same gentleman started in the Assembly a movement in the direction of universal peace. At his request an overture was adopted, inviting all Christian Churches to unite in petitioning all civil governments to arrange for courts of arbitration for the settlement of international differences without an appeal to arms. Dr. Campbell was appointed to attend the Peace Congress to meet in London this summer, and was made chairman of a Committee to have charge of the whole scheme so far as it involves the agency of the Southern Presbyterian Church.

The question of revising the Westminster Confession has not come up in any way in the Southern Church. The body is practically unanimous in its opposition to any change in the time-honoured standards which constitute a common bond between all English-speaking Presbyterians.

The Assembly adjourned to meet in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1891.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA.

THE General Assembly met in Buffalo, N.Y., on May 28th, when the Rev. Dr. Watson, Foreign Missionary in Egypt, was elected Moderator.

The Foreign Mission of the Church is confined to India and the Nile Valley; the Church seeking to do well what she undertakes to do. One hundred thousand dollars was expended on these two fields last year, the money being divided equally between them. The Indian Mission suffered somewhat from an invasion into its district by the Church of Rome, and also through a division of territory amicably arranged with the Mission of the Church of Scotland. The work of the missionaries is mainly evangelistic, yet by no means to the neglect