

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

At the beginning of the year a controversy arose over statements made

**A  
Religious  
Summary  
for 1905**

by Prof. H. V. Hilprecht, of the University of Pennsylvania, concerning certain tablets which he reported as having been discovered by him at Nippur. The Rev. Dr. John P. Peters, of New York, formerly a professor in the same university, affirmed that some of these tablets were not found by Dr. Hilprecht and were not from Nippur. An investigation by the university authorities exculpated Dr. Hilprecht, but the statements against him were not withdrawn, and much dissatisfaction was expressed at the findings of the university. Dr. Hilprecht resigned and returned to Germany.

Advance has been made by the churches in their effort to come nearer to the interests represented by labor organizations. The Rev. Charles Stelzle has been appointed to represent Presbyterians as an intermediary between that body and the workingmen's unions, under the auspices of a department of church and labor created by that denomination. The Congregationalists and some other bodies have appointed representatives with similar functions.

An agitation that began in March and is not yet wholly abated arose out of the gift of \$100,000 to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions by Mr. John D. Rockefeller. A protesting committee demanded the return of the gift, on the ground that Mr. Rockefeller's methods of getting

money are under public condemnation. Dr. Washington Gladden became the leader of the protesting forces, and introduced a resolution at the meeting of the Board at Seattle, in October, committing the Board against soliciting such gifts in the future. The resolution was tabled, but Dr. Gladden announced in November that members of the Board had, in fact, given assurances that the principle he contended for would govern them for the future in soliciting gifts.

Prizes were awarded in March for the Helen Miller Gould essays on the Authorized and Douay versions of the Bible. There were two hundred and fifty-six essays submitted. The first prize went to an English Baptist, Rev. T. W. Whitley, of Preston; the second to a Congregationalist, Dr. Gerald H. Beard, of New Haven, Conn.; the third to an Episcopalian, the Rev. Charles B. Dalton, of Trinity Parish, New York City. The essays were published in book form.

In April Dr. Donald Sage Mackay, of New York, was charged with heresy by the Iowa classis of the Reformed Church. While the matter became subject of much discussion, nothing resulted from the charges.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie, in May, gave \$10,000,000 to pension college instructors, excluding from this philanthropy all denominational institutions. This exception occasioned considerable public discussion of the value of denominational colleges.

The death of John Hay, on July 1, elicited many pulpit eulogies, and the

# CHURCH TECHNIQUE

## THE MADISON SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BY THE PASTOR, CHARLES H. PARKHURST, D.D.

ARCHITECTURALLY viewed, the Madison Square Presbyterian Church, on Twenty-fourth Street and Madison Avenue, is heretical; but, theologically considered, there will be no more heresy under the dome than there has been under the old Gothic spire which the dome replaces.

This change in the style of edifice is necessitated by our environment. While we think that ethically we are as near the sky as the Metropolitan Insurance Company or any other company that is in the insurance business, yet the sky-line of their building we can not compete with, and the problem that the architects had to solve was to put up a church that should still maintain an attitude of conscious dignity, even tho overtopped by one hundred feet of adjacent white marble. This difficult conundrum was submitted to Messrs. McKim, Mead & White, with the conviction that if they could not solve it nobody could, and the result certifies to the wisdom of our choice. With Mr. White as architect, Mr. Wills as builder, and Mr. Tiffany as decorator, we have had a combination of talent that challenges competition.

The chancel, on the east end, has been arranged for the accommodation of the organ and a chorus choir. The organ (built by Hutchings-Votey Company) is a divided one, one-half at either end of the chancel, with an echo organ in the west gallery, all operated from a single consol by electric connections, the total cost of the instrument being \$25,000.

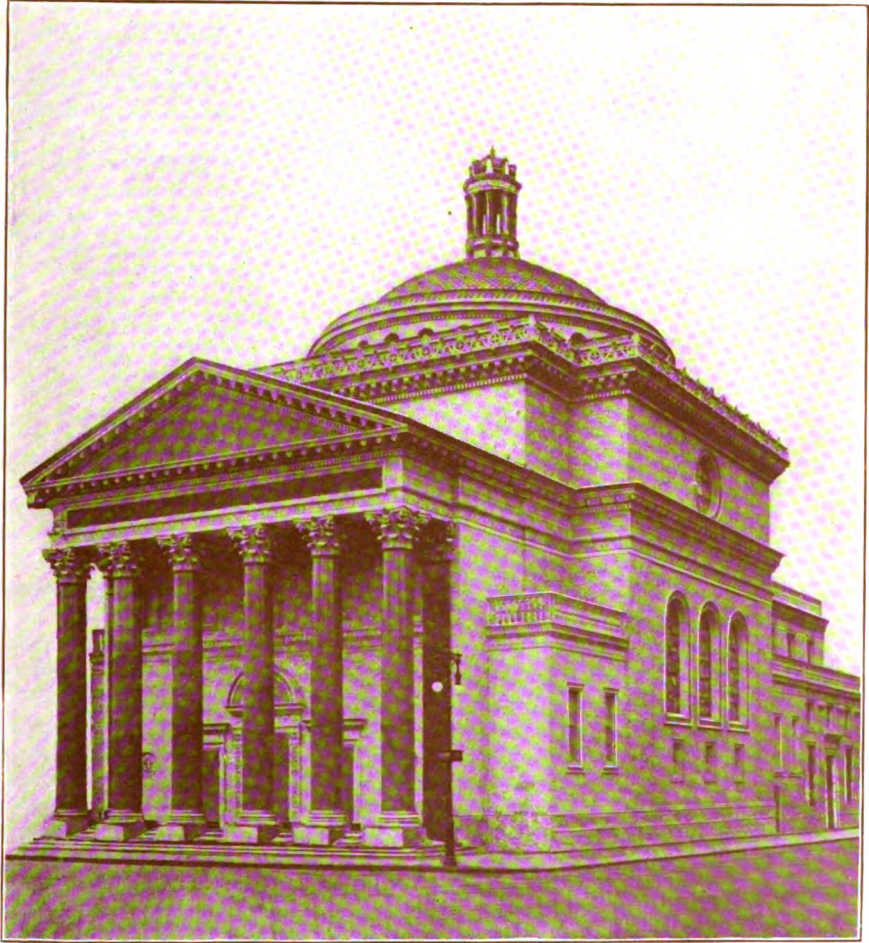
The space occupied by the new church is almost exactly the same as that covered by the old one, but in the new a little more room has been yielded to the parish house. It has been the feeling of our building committee that we ought in this matter to act with reference not only to our present requirements, but also with reference to what will be the requirements thirty or fifty years hence, of a church situated in that part of the town, when certain appurtenances will be needed that are not so much demanded by our present constituency.

We are particularly gratified at the fact that we have built a fine new church on down-town ground. I am proud to say that

the Madison Square Church has never shown any sympathy with the idea of floating their edifice up town on the northerly current of highly cultivated and well-to-do people, and leave behind them the crowd of less fortunate to shift for themselves both in this world and the world to come. There has been no disposition whatever among us to move off from Madison Square, and this conviction we have accentuated and underscored by keeping our church on Twenty-fourth Street, and putting upon it an endowment that shall help secure its local permanency.

The following particulars regarding this new church edifice, from an article by Charles De Kay in the *New York Times*, may be of interest to our readers:

It is a little Pantheon constructed of pale yellow brick and terra cotta, with a shallow porch supported by six large columns of dark, polished granite, each formed of three drums with light-colored terra cotta capitals in a rich Corinthian style. The high portico is for ornament, not for use. Friezes of terra cotta, with green, yellow, and blue grounds defining their raised ornaments, accentuate the lines of the building and frame windows and doors. A Byzantine effect suggestive of Venice and Ravenna is strengthened by a screen in the late Roman Empire fashion, which is prominently displayed on the facade near the entrance. The front above the colonnade and the low dome over the auditorium are enriched with terra-cotta crosses and other decorations, while the corners of the square main structure on which the dome rests have cherubs' heads in terra cotta nestling in their wings. What is surprising, next to the colors introduced into the terra-cotta adornments, is the repetition of the cross, which has come, in this country at least, to indicate a Roman Catholic church, or one belonging to the ritualists among Episcopalians. It is very unexpected in a church belonging to Dr. Parkhurst's denomination. Perhaps it indicates that Christians are at length discovering the fact that such differences as divided them into sects in the past look feeble and attenuated when regarded in the light of modern times.



**MADISON SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Charles H. Parkhurst, D.D., Pastor