

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,

gressing in every respect. During the past year ten young men, graduates of the theological seminary in Bethlehem, Pa., received appointments as ministers, three of whom were called to mission service in Alaska, Nicaragua and the Indian mission in Southern California. The number of communicant members of the Moravian Church in the United States and Alberta, Canada, is 14,553; or a total of 23,345 in connection with the Church. The total communicant membership of the entire Unity is 24,999; that in the foreign mission field, 33,505; or a total of 133,334 connected with the Church.

In the Northern Province in the United States, numbering 11,661 communicants, \$23,373 was contributed for Church enterprises and general Christian objects, and \$106,515 for Church support, making a total of \$129,889 contributed by this province.

In common with other denominations, a deficiency again occurred in the foreign mission work, amounting to upward of \$63,000. Efforts are now being made to liquidate this large amount, and no doubt, as in former years, the Church will not fail to perform its duty.

The late Mr. J. T. Morton, of England, has bequeathed a very large amount for the foreign mission work. Altho about \$80,000 has already been paid by his trustees, the bequest can only be devoted to the establishment of new missions. The Mission Board has taken steps toward the establishment of several new missions in various parts of the world.

The record of the past year has been a very encouraging one in all respects, and the outlook is promising.

NAZARETH, PA..

The Presbyterian and Reformed Bodies.

THE ALLIANCE OF THE REFORMED CHURCHES.

BY WM. HENRY ROBERTS, D.D., LL.D., AMERICAN SECRETARY.

THIS world-wide Alliance includes on the North American Continent nine Presbyterian and Reformed Churches of the United States and the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The number of communicants in the ten Churches is 2,080,541, with a total constituency of seven millions. The several Churches are being drawn closer and closer together year by year. The Alliance as a visible bond of sympathy between them stands for their substantial unity both in doctrine and in church government. The question of a federation between them has often been raised, but as yet without result, and largely for the reason that the Alliance represents as far as the great majority of the Churches are willing at present to go in that direction. Presbyterians generally believe that each Christian denomination has its own individuality, and can serve God and man best along the lines of its own life and development.

A plan of co-operation in home mission work between the Churches of the Alliance has been in existence now for three years, and has borne good fruit. One feature of

the plan was objected to a year ago by the Cumberland Presbyterian Church—viz., that recommending the members of any Presbyterian denomination moving into new communities in which there is no congregation of their own Church to unite for the time being with some other Presbyterian or Reformed Church. The last General Assembly of the Cumberland Church, however, voted by an overwhelming majority to approve this rule, with the provision, however, that members of their own Church going into a new community, previous to connecting themselves with some other Presbyterian Church, should consult the Presbytery having jurisdiction. If such Presbytery reported the organization of a Cumberland Presbyterian church in the new community to be unadvisable, then the members should unite with some one of the other Presbyterian Churches.

Arrangements are extensively under way for the meeting of the seventh General Council of the Alliance, which is to be held in Washington, D. C., September 27th to October 6th, 1899. Many distinguished Euro-

peans and Americans are expected at the Council, having been appointed thereto by their Churches, and in addition there will be representatives from Japan, China, Australia, Persia, South Africa and other parts of the world. The presiding officer will be J. Marshall Lang, D.D., pastor of the Barony Church, Glasgow, Scotland. The chairman of the Committee of Arrangements is Wallace Radcliffe, D.D., pastor of the New York Avenue Church, Washington, D. C., and at present Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

In the intervals between the General Councils the affairs of the Alliance are conducted by the Executive Commission. The American Branch of that body held two interesting and profitable meetings this year, the first in April at Philadelphia, as the guest of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., and the second at St. Louis, Mo., in October, where the host was the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The next meeting of the Commission has been appointed for Richmond, Va., and the host will be the Presbyterian Church, South.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

THE NORTHERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

BY WM. HENRY ROBERTS, D.D., LL.D.,
STATED CLERK.

THE Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. during the year 1898 has made only fair progress. It had been hoped that the cessation of controversy would have resulted in decided gains spiritually and financially. But this has not been the result. The total of additions upon confession of faith in 1897-98, 57,041, was just 30 above the additions of the year 1896-97, and 17,785 less than in the year 1893-94. The total of actual contributions to the Boards, \$2,407,361, was \$12,919 less than the preceding year. The Board of Foreign Missions, fortunately, came to the Assembly of 1898 without debt, but the Board of Home Missions reported an increase of indebtedness of \$20,000, or an aggregate of \$167,839. The debt of the Board of Education was reported as being \$7,720, and of the Board of Missions for Freedmen

\$57,477. The other five boards kept within their incomes. There was a time when the leverage of a debt was believed to be essential to the success of a missionary Board, but that method of raising funds in the Presbyterian Church is no longer acceptable or profitable. It is to be hoped that the Church will clear away the indebtedness of the Home Board, for which object some \$50,000 has been already given, and also the heavy incumbrance upon the work among the Freedmen.

The consolidation of *The Assembly Herald* and *The Church at Home and Abroad*, ordered by the last Assembly, has been accomplished. The office of the new magazine, which bears the name *The Assembly Herald*, is at 156 Fifth avenue, N. Y. City. The Rev. Wm. H. Hubbard, editor of the old *Assembly Herald*, has not accepted the position of editor of the new magazine, to which he was chosen by the Assembly, and for the time being the committee in charge is assisted in the production of the magazine by the Rev. Albert B. Robinson. Mr. Robinson has earned the thanks of the Church by the admirable manner in which he performed for two years the duties of editor of *The Church at Home and Abroad*.

The attention of the last Assembly was called to a book by Prof. Arthur C. McGiffert, entitled "Christianity in the Apostolic Age." The Assembly, by virtue of its power to criticize a book without arraigning the author as a heretic, made a deliverance which in part was as follows: "The General Assembly deplores the renewal of controversy occasioned by the publication of this book at a time when our recent divisions were scarcely healed. It sympathizes with the widespread belief that the utterances of Dr. McGiffert are inconsistent with the teachings of Scripture as interpreted by the Presbyterian Church and by evangelical Christendom. The Assembly, therefore, in the spirit of kindness no less than in devotion to the truth, counsels Dr. McGiffert to reconsider the questionable views set forth in his book, and if he cannot conform his book with the standards of our Church, then peaceably to withdraw from the Presbyterian ministry." Broadly stated, this action of the Assembly means