

THE ASSEMBLY HERALD

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A. W. HALSEY, D. D., JOHN DIXON, D. D., WILLIAM H. SCOTT, Committee.

...CONTENTS...

The College Board — <i>E. C. Ray, D. D., Acting Secretary</i>	51
Introducing the New Secretary	51
A Word From the Secretary-elect	51
The Board: Personal Touches. <i>By Edward O. Emerson</i>	55
The Work of The College Board and Missions. <i>By J. Ross Stevenson, D. D.</i>	56
A Banker on Investments. <i>By Elisha H. Perkins</i>	57
Foreign Missions —February Topic: China	58
China.—Suggestions, Facts, and Incidents.....	58
Why China Cannot Do Without Christ. <i>By Prof. M. K. Chow</i>	61
Hunan of To-day. <i>By the Rev. George L. Gelwicks</i>	62
The Point Breeze High School at Wei Hsien. <i>By Prof. Ralph C. Wells</i>	65
The Story of Sin Sha Chapel. <i>By the Rev. Andrew Beattie, Ph. D.</i>	66
The McIlvaine Hospital, Chinanfu, China. <i>By James Boyd Neal, M. D.</i>	68
The Story of a Chinese Boy. <i>By J. M. W. Farnham, D. D.</i>	69
Forward Movement Notes	71
Practical Problems in Mission Study. <i>By T. H. P. Sailer</i>	72
A Missionary's Welcome. <i>By the Rev. J. E. Adams</i>	73
Book Notes.....	74
Mission Topics, Leaflets, Etc.....	76
Treasurer's Statement.....	76
Home Missions —February Topic: The Indian.....	77
Water For The Pimas. <i>By Chas. L. Thompson, D. D.</i>	77
Our Needy Navajos	78
Solving the Indian "Problem." <i>By the Rev. John Mordy</i>	80
Lights and Shadows Among the Mojaves.....	82
A Thanksgiving Among the Seminoles. <i>By the Rev. A. F. Romig</i>	83
Opportunity Among the Omahas. <i>By the Rev. Clarence E. Dickason</i>	84
Among the Umatillas. <i>By the Rev. James M. Cornelison</i>	85
Overthrow of Heathenism Among the Dakotas. <i>By John P. Williamson, D. D.</i>	87
An Indian Summer Conference	88
Labor Rewarded Among the Iroquois. <i>By the Rev. Morton F. Trippe</i>	89
The Presbyterian Indian Churches, Sabbath-schools and Mission Schools.....	92
Young People's Department.....	93
Missionary Topic, Leaflets, Treasurer's Statement, Etc.....	94
The Board of Church Erection — <i>Erskine N. White, D. D., Secretary</i>	95
Publication and Sabbath-School Work —.....	97
The Board of Ministerial Relief — <i>B. L. Agnew, D. D., Corresponding Secretary</i> . 99	
The Board of Education — <i>Edward B. Hodge, D. D., Secretary</i>	101
The Permanent Com. on Young People's Societies — <i>Rev. H. B. MacCauley</i> ..	103
The Board for Freedmen — <i>Edward P. Cowan, D. D., Secretary</i>	105
The Permanent Committee on Temperance .— <i>John F. Hill, D. D., Chairman</i> . 108	

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The College Board.

Introducing the New Secretary.

The College Board, at a meeting held December 15, 1904, accepted the report of its Committee on Secretary, unanimously nominating the Rev. James Stuart Dickson, of Philadelphia, for the office. He was then elected by ballot without a dissenting vote. Interesting statements by those who know

him appear below. He will soon begin his work with The College Board. He has kindly consented to contribute an article to these pages, and readers are invited to note his words, to look upon his face presented to them, and to consider also the interesting statements by various members of this Board.

A Word from the Secretary-elect.

The Secretary-elect of The College Board will not enter upon his new duties until March 1st. Most willingly, however, he acts in accordance with the suggestion of those who are to be his associates, and takes this early opportunity of sending greeting to the Church, and of making earnest appeal for that Church's strong coöperation. The Secretary has the deepest conviction of the supreme importance of the work that lies before him: of its essential relation to the evangelization of the land and of the world. There can be no sufficient supply of pastors, or of missionaries, or of any other sort of Christian leaders and workers without the highest type of a definitely Christian education.

The work of The College Board is founded upon a belief that the Church has always held, and to which some of its great leaders gave strong emphasis; but which, even in our day, does not receive the universal acceptance that it deserves. It is the belief that without an education that is entirely controlled by the spirit and teachings of Jesus Christ, the work of the Church for the salvation of the world cannot possibly be done.

The present attitude of the Presbyterian Church toward this whole matter suggests three definite questions, for which the Secretary must find as definite answers.

The first has to do with the work that has been accomplished by the "Board of Aid for Colleges." What lessons does it teach? For twenty-two years, under the wisest leaders, and through most faithful secretaries, it has been persuading the Church of its high privilege and leading it toward the fulfilment of its duty. Under the Board's fostering care, many institutions have been developed into great and abiding usefulness. Upon what lines has their success been attained? This is the first question that must be answered: and it is perfectly manifest that a wise policy of the Board must rest largely upon the answer.

A second question has to do with the purpose of the Church, as expressed by the act of its last General Assembly, in reorganizing the "Board of Aid for Colleges" and in removing it, under a somewhat modified name, to New York. Reorganization implies a change either of purpose or of method. What was the real



MINISTERIAL RELIEF

"Forsake
not the Levite
as long as thou
lives upon
the earth"

B. L. AGNEW, D. D., CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

The New Scheme of the Assembly.

By B. L. Agnew, D.D.

The Assembly's Committee has apportioned among the churches what they considered the *least amounts* the various churches should contribute to the Board of Relief. The equality and fairness of the Scheme is clear to all.

If any church has taken its collection for this fiscal year and the amount contributed has not reached the amount apportioned, will not the session of that church consider the ways and means of increasing the contribution to at least the amount the Assembly's Committee thinks the church should raise?

We have in the past been *only relieving* the great distress of our ministerial households that in the old days of the ministers are cut off from all income. We should give those families a *decent support* approximating in some more liberal degree the generous support given to aged ministers and their families by the Presbyterian Churches of Great Britain. We have no right to say, it cannot be done. It can be done, if our people have a mind to work for this blessed result. We are the richest nation on the earth, and Presbyterians have their fair share of this wealth, and we cannot say before God that we are doing all that we can do to provide a comfortable support for those who have freely given themselves and their all to the Church we love.

We are giving scant encouragement to young men to enter the ministry and to be proud of their Church when we make such scant provision for the coming days of inevitable disability. Let us do better.

Letters expressing Gratitude for Relief.

"Presbyterian Board of Relief,
Dear Brethren,

Never was there a more appropriate name than the above, for who can be more relieved than myself and family at this time. I thank and praise the Lord who has come to my

assistance through your noble Board. It is truly the work of Christ. If the good people who contribute this money could but realize what a *blessing* they confer, how unspeakably happy would they be. May God bless them and you is my prayer. And may God raise up more and more of those who shall enlarge this fund and multiply blessings on the giver and the receiver.

Fraternally and Profoundly Grateful,
I am Yours in Christ."

"Dear Brother,

If you have any items of interest, or recent statistics, that will be helpful to me in making up my report to Presbytery on Ministerial Relief, I should like to have you send them, with any suggestions you choose to make. It may be you have fresh literature that might be distributed to advantage. I realize more fully than ever before the importance and the value of the great work you are doing. I bless the Lord that he has given to our Church the disposition and the ability to meet, in part at least, the wants of her disabled and aged ministers. Like myself, many a minister in old age finds himself without any adequate means of support. At such a time, the comparatively small help, rendered by the Board, becomes a very great help. It goes far towards saving one from that awful depression of spirit, which almost invariably comes with the consciousness of utter lack of material help. It is, indeed, a great relief. Were it not for the assistance already rendered, I do not know what I should have done. Were it not for the hope of help, the future, humanly speaking, would be dark. With my increasing infirmities and no prospect of lucrative employment, it is a great comfort to feel that the Church cares for and sympathizes with her infirm and aged servants.

If our younger ministers could look at this matter, as they surely will look at it when they come to old age and disability, they would be more earnest in presenting the claims of the Board to their people. There is a certain delicacy of feeling, experienced by ministers, that prevents them from making very urgent calls for this Board. The fear, too often, is that it will look like begging for self. The feeling ought not to exist. How can it be removed?"