

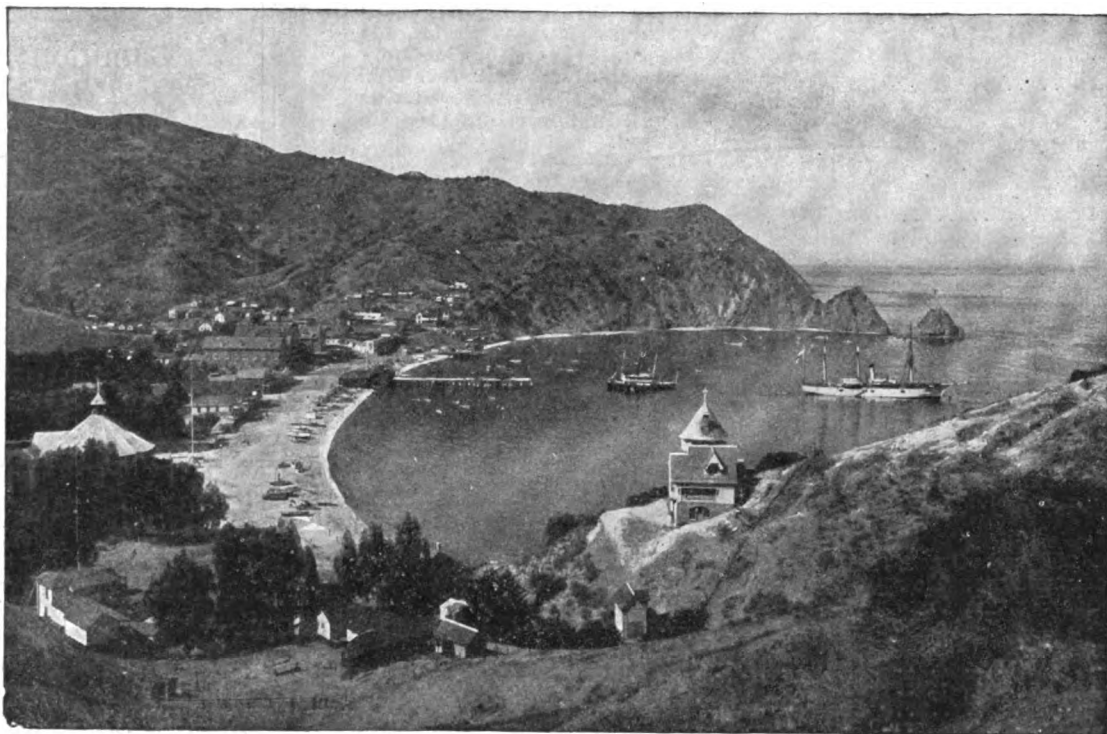
Presbyterian Banner.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Thursday, April 16, 1903.

To the General Assembly at LOS ANGELES, CAL.—MAY 21st TO JUNE 2d.

For the accommodation of the delegates and their friends from the Pittsburg District, and from Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio, and West Virginia, a special party is being arranged.

Briefly the tour is planned as follows—A special train de luxe in all its appointments, and exclusive for our party, will leave the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Depot, Saturday morning May 16th, at 8:00 A. M., Eastern or City time. It will arrive at Chicago at 9:00 P. M. same day, and the party will spend Sabbath in that City. Monday morning at 8:32 A. M. we shall board our special, which will then be waiting at the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway Depot, and by comfortable and comparatively easy stages journey to Los Angeles, arriving there the following Thursday morning at 7:30 A. M. in ample time for the opening of the Convention. The route selected is one famous for its scenic beauty and it has been our idea in selecting this road to offer in addition to luxurious comfort, a splendid opportunity for viewing the country.



AVALON, SANTA CATALINA ISLAND—A Side Trip from Los Angeles.

After the Assembly is over it has been planned to make various short journeys to points of interest all along the homeward way. The "Open Season," as it is called, will be in full bloom at all the famous resorts, and the opportunity for wholesome invigorating enjoyment will be much greater than on the going trip. That you may more fully understand the trip, and gain a very comprehensive knowledge of the route to be traveled, a brochure has been written outlining the tour. This will be sent you by application to any of the undersigned.

The tour will be under the control and management of Rev. W. A. Jones, Knoxville, Pittsburgh, and the following delegates will form the nucleus of our party:

REV. DR. C. P. CHEESEMAN,
REV. DR. G. W. MONTGOMERY,

REV. J. M. GASTON,
REV. J. M. WORK,

REV. J. A. STEVENSON,
REV. W. F. PLUMMER.

The rate for the entire tour will be \$60.50 for the round trip, including Portland the one way rate will be \$11.00 higher, whether via the Colorado or St. Paul gateway. Tickets will be on sale from May 11th to 17th inclusive, and on Morning train of May 3 and 18th. The undersigned will be pleased to look after the detail of your ticketing, reservations, etc., etc.

REV. W. A. JONES, 136 Orchard St., Knoxville, Pittsburgh.

MR. GEO. H. THOMPSON, City P. A. P. & L. E. R. R., 357 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh.

MR. PHIL A. AUER, District Pass. Agent C. R. J. & P. Ry., 415 Park Building, Pittsburg, Pa.

Presbyterian Banner.

Vol. LXXXIX.

PITTSBURGH, THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1903.

No. 44.

Chronicle and Comment.

Political and National.

Various Republican leaders, as President Roosevelt, Secretary Root, and Senator Lodge, have intimated very plainly that the party will favor no tariff revision until

after the next presidential election. In the Democratic ranks there is still considerable diversity of opinion and want of harmony. Mr. Bryan and his enthusiastic followers adhere to their views on national policy and have no hesitation in expressing them as well as their opinions of those who differ from them.—Perhaps the most important point yet gained in anti-trust matters is the decision against the Northern Securities Company. The two defendants were the Northern Pacific Railway Company and the Great Northern Railway Company. They had been competing parallel roads, and it is charged that they not only united but went farther and bought controlling interests in other lines, as the Burlington Company, all for the purpose of destroying competition. The decision of the court was unanimous that their actions were in violation of the national anti-trust laws. The decision is remarkable for its plain, common sense statement and its freedom from legal phraseology. An appeal has been taken. Attorney General Knox and D. T. Watson, Esq., both of Pittsburgh, are largely responsible for the outcome. The opinion is growing that the adverse decision in the case of the Northern Securities Company, while a staggering blow to railroad combinations, will be more far-reaching in its effect. Former Attorney General Griggs, who had previously stated that an adverse decision would taint with illegality unnumbered millions of capital stock and bonds issued upon railroad mergers and consolidations, and that financial chaos would result, apparently had nothing to withdraw from that prophecy in an interview of April 10, in which he stated that the decision was totally unexpected and revolutionary. He holds that the decision covers other railroad consolidations, such as the Pennsylvania's control of the Baltimore & Ohio. Mr. Griggs also intimates that antagonizing the great trusts may be disastrous to the party.

A Strange Story.

The New York Sun has unearthed a story that looks very much like a scandal and reproach to the newspaper and military world, not to mention higher powers. A large part of the news furnished to the country during and after the Cuban war and almost all that was furnished to this country appears to have been prepared by a man who has worn a large number of aliases and is described by the New York Evening Post as "this confidence man, forger, gambler, swindler, and convict." He was sentenced to seven years in the Florida penitentiary for obtaining money under false pretences, and was discharged Dec. 12, 1898, after a service of five years. He has a reputation as a confidence man and genteel swindler in Europe, Australia, India, and Egypt. He has a pretty full record in Inspector Byrnes' "Professional Criminals in America." For nearly two years previous to July, 1902, he has been in the Philippines and China, giving out, says the Post, almost the sole news received by the American people of our colonial venture in those islands. Before leaving Manila last July he received the honor of a public dinner, which was attended by the highest officials in the army, with a large number of other gentlemen distinguished in civil life and business. Governor Taft does not appear to have been present. Since coming to the States he issued a book called, "As It Is in the Philippines." The object of the publication seems to be the depreciation of the work of Governor Taft and the exaltation of General Wood. Byrnes says his real name is Charles Ballentine, not Bellairs, nor Cameron, nor Caelrton, Elaine, all of which he has carried at different times. Shortly after his release from the Florida penitentiary or chain gang he associated himself with Dr. Wood, now General Wood, and nine-tenths of the news which the country absorbed of Gen. Wood's career came from this delectable source, for he

was also agent for the associated press. In Havana he promoted horse racing, gambling and high and fast living, all the while in the favor apparently of the Governor-General. General Wood is now on his way to the Philippines, but the country has a right to an explanation of several things in his career, and not the least strange is his association with this professional criminal.

European Comment.

The President's definition of the Monroe doctrine, given in his speech at Chicago, has already been mentioned as somewhat enlarging that national policy. This extension of our national creed or hobby has been quickly noted by an influential correspondent in the Paris Debats, a semi-official organ, who says the President "has slightly enlarged the doctrine without making precise obscure phrases which are capable of several interpretations." The question is what he meant by "acquisition of any control as really equivalent to territorial aggrandizement."—In Berlin there is a noticeable silence on the part of official organs. However, the Tageblatt says: "It cannot be too often repeated that, whether the Monroe doctrine is a part of international law or not, we recognize it, not only because we must, but as a matter of principle." The Vossische Zeitung: "No logical objections can be raised to the doctrine. It is for North America a matter of national sentiment and national business and any attack on it from this side of the ocean would be mere tilting at windmills. Since France's luckless adventure in Mexico there has been no instance of an attempt to upset the doctrine during the last hundred years. On the contrary, European possessions on the American hemisphere have been steadily dwindling by revolution and sale. The best proof of the disinclination of Europe to acquire territory on the American continent is the fact that there was no attempt to do so when America had no fleet worth mentioning." This is assuring, but the paper could not forbear delivering us a lecture on good manners and making some strictures on the "short sleeves diplomacy of the West." The fact is, America has done diplomacy a vast service by breaking down some of its nonsensical formalities and introducing direct, common sense speech.

Russian Federation.

The Czar's decree that was hailed as a step towards religious freedom does not show up well on close examination. It promises only to strengthen and decree whatever "freedom of creed and worship" has already been in existence, "laid down by the fundamental laws of the Russian empire." Now what does this freedom amount to? That is the question. In Russia there are Mohammedan mosques, Jewish synagogues, Roman Catholic and Protestant churches. They have now, as heretofore, freedom of worship; the decree has not affected them, at least in theory. But the national or State Church, of which the Czar is the head and largely the autocratic ruler, is called the Orthodox. From it no one must depart under heavy penalties. By so doing parents lose control of their minor children. "Their lands, if occupied by Orthodox Christians, shall be put under guardianship and they shall not be permitted to live thereupon," says the Russian penal code. "For inducing an Orthodox Christian to become a member of any other Christian Church, the guilty one shall be deprived of all special, personal and acquired rights, and shall be exiled to Siberia or imprisoned at hard labor, for a period from one year to one year and a half." Missionaries are few in Russia. In case a member of the Orthodox Church marries a Protestant or Roman Catholic the children must be trained in the Orthodox faith, under penalty of imprisonment of the parents for a period of eight to sixteen years. Certainly "freedom of creed and worship" has marked limitations under the Czar. No other country, civilized or semi-civilized, shows less enlightened toleration. The Jewish Exponent, however, thinks the "decree marks a tendency; it indicates a policy; it declares an irrevocable decision with which all subjects are called to co-operate and officials com-

this high order of growth has been due in some measure to the strict exclusion of all saloons.

Here we rested for three weeks, and were fortunate in finding friends, new and old, who made our sojourn a delight. The Rev. Dr. John A. Marquis, lately pastor of the Westminster church of Greensburg, Pa., is pastor of our Presbyterian church in Redlands, and we need not assure those who know him that he has already a very warm place in the affections of the people of his new charge, who feel that they can hardly do enough for him. The fine new church building is filled by an audience any minister may address with satisfaction, and already more than fifty additions have been made to its membership. The debt on the new building has been paid off, and the people contemplate the building of a new chapel for Sabbath school and other meetings. During our visit Dr. and Mrs. Marquis met with the first serious affliction of their married life in the loss of their only son, and were the recipients of very sincere sympathy from the entire community and from a multitude of friends in the East.

THE REVISION OVERTURES.

By Rev. Samuel J. Niccolls.

The recent article by Dr. Warfield concerning the "Diction of the Revision Overtures," demands attention. Any article from so high a source and on so important a matter as the adoption of the overtures, is worthy of consideration. Dr. Warfield writes not only with ability, but with a definite purpose, and in defense of what he believes to be the truth. His purpose in this case is to prevent the adoption of the overtures; and he also believes that there is no necessity for amending the Old Confession. He is distressed by "the remarkable spectacle of substantial unanimity," which the presbyteries have already shown in dealing with the overtures. He hopes to defeat this "substantial unanimity," and gives reasons why the presbyteries should reconsider their action and reject the overtures. It is gratifying to know that among the reasons there is none charging doctrinal unsoundness, or any lack of fidelity to our cherished system of doctrine. At most, he finds "some vagueness or perhaps even some confusion in doctrinal conception." Such a charge is not a serious one, and certainly furnishes no reason for rejecting the overtures on doctrinal grounds. Human creeds will always be more or less imperfect expressions of the great and far-reaching truths of Holy Scriptures. His objections in this respect would apply to all the great historic symbols of doctrine, the Westminster Confession not excepted. His other objections, and those upon which he lays special emphasis, are "perplexity of logical statement, hesitancy of touch, uncertain rhetoric, and doubtful grammar." On account of these things the manifest satisfaction of the great majority of the Church is to be disturbed, the will of the majority defeated, and revision, so urgently desired for the last fifteen years, postponed, or, still better from his point of view, abandoned. This certainly is giving grammar, rhetoric and "perplexity of logical statement," an important position in determining the faith of the Church. If he had said, in view of what he has discovered, "Since the proposed overtures have been so satisfactory to the majority of the presbyteries, in spirit and substance, since no doctrinal unsoundness has been detected in them, and since they relieve the consciences of many brethren, let us adopt them and afterwards correct some verbal infelicities and bad grammar," the proposition would not awaken any opposition. No one could object to its reasonableness. But when the demand is, reject the overtures because of bad grammar and "imperfect logical progress," one cannot help suspecting that the real purpose is to secure delay that the whole movement may be defeated. But it is worth while to consider the objections urged. The most strenuous are those with reference to the chapter on "The Holy Spirit." Objection is made to what are called "vain repetitions in it." To prove this a clause from Section 2, one from Section 3, and one from Section 4 are grouped together; each clause is wrested from its proper connection. The first one is a general definition of the work committed to the Holy Spirit; the second refers to his supreme agency in the application of redemption; the third has reference to his use of the means of grace. And these statements are called "vain repetitions." It is enough to say that this method of adverse criticism is equally applicable to our old Confession, and the selecting of similar clauses from different sections of a chapter would show that there are "vain repetitions" even in that carefully phrased document.

It is further objected to Section 3, that "the words must have been scattered upon the page from a pepper box, and have stuck where they chanced to strike." The clause thus characterized reads as follows: "He convicts men of sin, moves them to repentance, regenerates them by His grace, and persuades and enables them to embrace Jesus Christ by faith." Place alongside of this another statement which the learned professor overlooked. It reads: "Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit whereby convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ and renewing our wills. He doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ freely offered to us in the Gospel." Manifestly, if the pepper box has worked in one case it has also in the other, for the logical progress is the same in both. Dr. Warfield also fails to make a distinction which is plainly made in the overture. He says: "One would like to know what distinction the reader is to make between the act of the Holy Ghost in 'regenerating' the soul, and his subsequent act in 'enabling' the soul to embrace Christ and his still subsequent act in 'uniting' it to Christ." If "the bewildered reader" will look, he will see that the overture does not speak of uniting it, that is the soul, to Christ. In the next clause a different subject is introduced, the union of all believers with Christ, and it reads: "He unites all believers to Christ." Objection is also made to the statement, "Gives to them the Spirit of Adoption and Prayer." This objection is well taken. It is not altogether clear how the capital S came into the text. It was not so, as the writer knows, in the report of the sub-committee. It is undoubtedly true that the Holy Spirit is himself the Spirit of Adoption, in the same sense that he is the Spirit of Prayer. But every one who has studied Romans 8:15 knows that there are two interpretations of that passage: one which makes it refer directly to the Holy Spirit the other to the sense of sonship which the Holy Spirit awakens. One interpretation would require the confessional statement to read: "He is the Spirit of Adoption;" the other would require simply the removal of the capital S from the overture as it now stands. So the valid objections to this overture are all brought down to a stray letter, that in some way crept into the text.

Objection also has been made to the chapter on "The Love of God and Missions." That chapter is taken unchanged from the Report of the Committee of 1892. It is enough to say that it came from Princeton, and that it was carefully prepared by one of the most renowned and scholarly teachers of the Church, Rev. William Henry Green, D. D., of blessed memory.

Some who have objected to the "superabundance" of the chapter on the Holy Spirit, have found fault with that on the Love of God, because it is not full enough. It is hard to satisfy those who are determined to make objections. It is not true that the proposed amendments are hasty productions. They are substantially those that were prepared by the Committee of 1890. They were considered by that committee for two years and they have been before the Church for eleven years. If a closer scrutiny should discover verbal infelicities they can easily be removed without again bringing before the Church the question of Revision. Why prolong the discussion and keep the Church unsettled, when, by the admission of so competent authority as Dr. Warfield himself, the matter at issue is now one of grammar and rhetoric, and a stray capital letter? The Church could easier, for a time, bear the reproach of having some bad grammar in her Confession, rather than to suffer long under the charge that her Confession teaches that some infants dying in infancy are eternally damned; or that God, from all eternity, foreordained that a certain number of men should be lost irrespective of their sins. A small minority can defeat the proposed overtures and so prolong the strife in the Church. It ought to do so if the overtures are at war with our system of doctrine; but since they are not, surely the peace of the Church, the relieving of the burdened consciences of many, and the practical work of the Church, are more important than questions of grammar and rhetoric and even redundant expressions. Why not accept the expressed will of the majority? This is the most moderate Revision ever proposed to the Church. If it is defeated it requires no prophet's vision to declare that the next will be more radical in its character. The wisest conservatism is to accept the overtures now before us.

For the fifth successive year the Board of The Home Board. Home Missions will go to the Assembly free from debt. It gratefully acknowledges the steady support of the Church and the quick response to special appeals which have enabled it to close its books with all obligations met, notwithstanding an advance of \$25,000 for new work was made during the past year. The Board is encouraged to order another advance of \$25,000 for new work for the new year.