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"A Digest of Constitutional And Synodical Legalisation of the Reformed Church in America"

Edward Tanjore Corwin

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A DIGEST
OF
CONSTITUTIONAL AND
SYNODICAL LEGISLATION

OF THE
Reformed Church in America

[Formerly the Ref. Prot. Dutch Church]

BY
Edward Tanjore Corwin, D.D.

Prepared by Order of General Synod



NEW YORK
THE BOARD OF PUBLICATION
of the Reformed Church in America
1906

Frequent recognitions of his work, as *Report*, '87, 300, etc.; residence built for the Librarian, *Report*, '92, 4; publishes, 1902, a second pamphlet of 30 pages—"Notes Descriptive of the Sage Library," 1902: (1) Founding of the Seminary Library; (2) Founding of the Sage Library; (3) Architecture of the Library; (4) Early Collections of the Library; (5) Buying Books for the Present Library; (6) General Contents of the Library; (7) Incunabula, Codices, Bibles, Theological Books; (8) Philology, Philosophy, Law, History; (9) Fine Arts, Science, Reference Books; (10) Library Catalogues, Portraits, Marbles; (11) Needs of the Library: Books; (12) Needs of the Library: Money; (13) Memorial Alcoves and Windows; (14) Forms of Bequest.

Gives \$500 toward re-cataloguing books in Sage Library, 1903, 321; plan for Memorial Windows, 1903, 325. See Sage Library.

VAN DYKE, LAWRENCE H. Rector of Hertzog Hall, 1876-81.

VAN GIESON, ACOMON P. (Rev. Dr.) President of General Synod, 1873; writes Centennial Discourse on "The Type of Doctrine of R. C. A., 1876; on many important Committees.

VAN HARLINGEN, JOHN M. (Rev.) Elected Prof. of Hebrew and Ecc. Hist., New Brunswick Sem. 1812, (54), 433; his death, 1813, 30, 35.

VAN NEST, ABRAM. Elected to Bd. of Superintendents, Rutgers College, Sept., 1825, 25; chosen member of Bd. of Direction, 1830, 237, 254, and annually thereafter till 1857; chosen President of Bd. of Direction, 1843, 179, and annually till 1857; to be repaid moneys advanced to indigent students, 1827, 70; delegate to Assembly of Presbyt. Ch. 1830, 255; report thereon, 1831, 346; supports, in part, Prof. Beck, Prof. of chemistry in Rutgers College, 1831, 369, 370; again appointed delegate to Assembly of Presbyt. Ch., 1835, 372; gives \$5,000 toward Third Professorship, 1852, 214, 274; declines re-election to Presidency of Bd. of Direction, 1858, 275, 343.

VAN NEST, ABRAHAM R. (Rev. Dr.) President of General Synod, 1879.

VAN NEST, FRANK R. Appointed director and treas. protem, of Bd. of Direction, 1893, 713, 749; elected director and treasurer, 1894, 55 and annually thereafter, until present time, (1906).

VAN NEST HALL. Erected; 1847, 181; Rutgers College Library to be removed into it, 185.

VAN NEST, JOHN. Elected Pres. of Bd. of Direction, 1876, 443; annually thereafter until 1881; elected Treasurer of Bd. of Direction, '82, 53, 63, and annually thereafter, until 1892; his death, '93, 712, 713, 751.

VAN NOSTRAND, GARRET. Elected member of Bd. Direction, 1891, 269; his death, 1892, 468.

VAN PELT, DANIEL, (Rev. Dr.) Appointed Permanent Clerk (for one year) of General Synod, 1886, 10; elected Prof. of Bib. Langs. and Literature in Western Seminary; declines; '86, 25. See name in Manual.

VAN PELT, PHEBE, (Mrs.) Bequeaths \$475 to New Brunswick Seminary, 1893, 713, 721.

VAN RAALTE, ALBERTUS C. (Rev. Dr.) Commended as agent to collect funds for Holland Academy, 1857, 197; his success, '60, 550; deeds land to Synod for Holland Academy, '61, 13; appointed delegate to Evangelical Alliance, at Amsterdam, '66, 44; elected Prof. of Evangelistic Theology in Western Seminary, '69, 648; declines, '70, 116; his name suggested as the name of a Professorship of Theology in the Western Institution, '78, 118; '79, 238, 364.

VAN RENSSELAER, EUGENE. Gives \$5,000 to Permanent Fund, 1875, 208.

P. 2. Dr Charles Scott's address - par
 vice-president - 1878-1880
 interim president 1880-1885
 President 1885-1893 (2nd pres.)
 Inauguration 1886, June 22 - 3rd Ref. ch.

The General Synod's Visit TO HOLLAND.

From the "Holland City News" of June 14, 1884.
Synod meetings in Grand Rapids, Mich.

June 7, 1884

The General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, having accepted the invitation presented to that body by Rev. Thomas Walker Jones, who invited them, in the name of Hope College and the surrounding churches, to pay the institution and our city a visit, arrived at ten o'clock last Saturday morning on a train by the Chicago & West Mich. Ry. They were received at the depot, by the committee on Reception, consisting of Messrs. R. Kanters, I. Cappou, and G. Van Schelven, and a large number of our citizens. Some 200 persons, delegates and a few ladies, headed by the officers of Synod and the committee of arrangements from Grand Rapids, consisting of Rev. P. Moerdyk and Messrs. J. A. S. Verdier, Jas. Van der Sluis, Wm. Moerdyke and Wm. Kotors, then marched by twos down Eighth street to Fish, and down Fish to Ninth, along the south side of this beautiful and shady street to Cedar and from Cedar to the College Campus. The august body was taken across the campus and approached Van Vleck Hall on the west side, getting a good view of the college buildings. They were then taken to the beautiful pine grove, which lies in the north-east corner of the campus. Arriving there everything was in readiness, the

college faculty and students standing in line; the procession passed between them, and was then immediately taken possession of by the floral committee, who presented each person with a beautiful buttonhole bouquet.

A platform had been erected in the grove, on the back of which were hung the flags of the Netherlands and of the United States, and on each side of the platform stood exquisitely arranged floral decorations. At the left of this platform was erected a stage for the choir. The seats for the delegates were constructed in a semi-circle, directly in front of the platform with a place for the students of the college at the right. After the officers of the Synod, President Scott, members of the Faculty, ministers of the Classis of Holland, and the committee of arrangements had taken their places on the platform, and the delegates had been seated, Rev. Dr. Ph. Phelps opened with prayer, after which Hope Church choir, together with the students of the college, sang a song of welcome which had been composed for the occasion by Rev. Henry E. Dosker, of Grand Haven. The following are the verses of the song:

One sound wells up from every lip;
 From every tongue does start
 A song of joy, a song of praise;

Y(10.2)

Joint Archives of Holland

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Thought you might
like to see ref. to VR.

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need p. 3 also

A WELCOME from the heart.
It beams in every glistening eye,
It graces every wall;
Its echoes tremble in the air—
A "welcome" to you all.

HOPE, modest HOPE, extends her arms,
And whispers words of love.
Her aims, her toils, her very life
She freely bids you prove.
With confidence she meets your gaze,
No terrors on her fall,
As, from her smiling lips, she brings
A "welcome" to you all.

We feel the tie, which binds our hearts,
With mutual, lasting power,
No shadow dims the glorious joys
Of this blest meeting-hour.
The storm brought peace; the earthquake, rest;
Its throes no more appal.
The loyal West with one accord,
Brings "welcome" to you all.

Now may the banner of our Church,
Raised on the Eastern hills,
Wave—till the fluttering of its folds
Our blessed country fills.
Come, Holy Spirit, Power Divine,
Make strong our Zion's wall.
Speak Thou in words of matchless grace
A "welcome" to us all.

As the last strains of music died away,
Rev. Dr. Chas. Scott arose from his place
on the platform and advanced to the front
addressing the assemblage as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT, FATHERS AND BRETHREN OF
THE GENERAL SYNOD—Somewhere from the
misty domain of human language, has come to me
a misty saying or proverb, which I never rightly
understood; but, to-day, as I look upon this ec-
clesiastical assembly, and consider what it is, and
whence its members come, what they represent,
and how they bear in blood, and speech, and wor-
ship, and other like surroundings, the proud
Knickerbocker insignia and history of 130 years, it
seems as if the meaning flashed over us in its full
import, like the light of yonder noon-day sun,
"The Dutch have taken Holland." There is no
mistake about it on this occasion. Here is a ver-
itable Holland in waiting for the Dutch army.
And yet, how welcome! They come in the name
of the Lord—a name above every name in this
Christian community, and among these academic
groves—and if they blow the trumpet aloud, as we
trust they do, the notes are not the bugle blasts
of war, but the sweet harmonies of peace. So we
lift up the gates in joy, and bid them enter as a
host of welcomed friends. Yea, go through our
streets, or visit our homes, and even if you hear
the accents, and see the flag that come from
across the seas, you will meet with warm hands
and warm hearts, and greetings which you can
never forget. So much must I say for the citizens
of Holland.

Let me now say something of a special bearing.
A dependent, weakly child, as you know, must
crystallize around it a certain amount of parental
devotion. The General Synod acknowledges such

a child in its nursery at the West, and have jour-
neyed hitherward to see it. However trouble-
some it may have been, they want to see it, and
will surely look upon it with deep and most sin-
cere affection. The city of Holland receives not
one-half of the yearning which you will bestow
upon Hope College; and here is Hope College.
Here are its "classic groves" of sylvan beauty, and
its shady walks, amid trees and swaths, wooing back
as it were the spirit of good old Plato. You have
heard "by the hearing of the ear," and now let the
eye behold it—not the fair print which some of
you have hung up in study or drawing room, with
its artistic surroundings of fancy, but Hope College
as Dame Nature has fitted it for a students' home.
The classic memory will busy itself in this place
"sub tegmine fagi," and catch the song of Virgil's
muse, while the tongue can be inspired to speak
with Attic ease and eloquence in such a forum.
There is nothing of which we boast, at present,
but what a manhood will be revealed to you, and
to the world, when the Synod comes in 1884.

Moreover it is very grateful sometimes to visit
an estate or manor-house of our peculiar posses-
sion. Be it known to you, therefore, brethren,
that you have come into your own domain. Lift
up the eyes and look; these pleasant grounds;
that hill of science where the steps lead upward;
those College buildings and adjuncts, and all up-
on this Campus, belong in fee simple to the Re-
formed Church. They have indeed, a hallowed
use, and a noble consecration, but the future of
them all is crowned with this halo alone, viz that
your signal is upon them, and they are devoted as
a chaplet of jewels in the Kingdom of God. The
possessions of Synod extend beyond this view.
On the shores of yonder waters, over which you
are to sail to-day, be they called Black Lake, or
Macatawa Bay, on either side, are broad acres held
in your name for the Church, and devoted to the
high and holy cause of Christian education.

In 1853, the General Synod held its session in
Philadelphia. Perhaps five or six persons in this
body were then delegates, and there watched
over the interests of Zion. For the first time, the
leader of this Colony, the esteemed and noble
Van Raalte, stood upon the floor of Synod and
pleaded in somewhat broken accents, but with most
manifest eloquence, for the moral and religious
welfare of his people: The pioneer school of Mr.
Taylor had been already started at Holland, and a
proposition was made that this school should be
received under the care of the Synod, and com-
mitted to the charge and pecuniary aid of the
Board of Education. As once in the wilderness,
when the prayer for manna fell, the question was
asked, "what is it?" What means this action and
what is in the future? Dr. Van Raalte arose, and
those who were present can never forget that
earnest appeal to his brethren in the East. Let
me simply say, it was most powerful and per-
sasive. The proposition was accepted. Then

*Van Raalte
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at Synod*

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