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Report of the Holland Classis Appeared in the Christian Intelligencer

Adrian Zwemer

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19 April 1860

New York, New York

On this date, a report on the Holland Classis appeared in *The Christian Intelligencer*. The meeting was held in Grand Haven Michigan; Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte presided. "The reports of the churches were generally encouraging, though no special revival could be named." Rev. John Van Vleck's membership was transferred to the Classis of Kingston. Elder J. [Van]de Luyster of Zeeland reported that ten families had lost their possessions in the recent fire and Christian sympathy was commended to the congregations who were directed to take offerings for them.

Original in the Joint Archives of Holland at Hope College, Holland, Michigan.

Preaching in Theatres in London.

LORD SHAPPEBURY made some statements in the House of Lords on this subject worthy of note. He said that every step had been taken to procure other buildings sufficiently large for the purpose of prayer and preaching, before hiring the theatres, but without success. He denied, in the most unqualified terms, the assertion that disturbances had occurred, and refreshments been sold during these services; and declared, from personal observation, that a more orderly and decorous set of persons than those who attended these services could not have been met elsewhere. He was ready to admit that these services were abnormal; the condition of the lowest ranks of the working classes, of whom not more than two per cent. attended any place of worship, required an abnormal remedy; and he hoped the propriety and duty of preaching the Gospel among these classes in every place where they could be assembled, would be acknowledged.

The good effects produced by these services, and by previous efforts made by the clergy, were already visible among the working classes, whom, on account of their migratory habits, it was difficult to reach by any other means. It was very well to say that these people ought to come to the appointed places of worship; but if they could not be induced to come to church or chapel, it was necessary to bear with their prejudices, not to leave them to their fate. The character of the services was of the most simple description; and as to the objection which had been made, that the building in which the services took place desecrated the Word of God, he was of opinion that the Word of God consecrated the building. These services had produced a wonderful effect upon some of the more desperate localities, and had not, as had been supposed, diminished the congregations of the neighborhood using churches and chapels, but, as he showed from several letters, had actually augmented them. He considered that the present movement, so far from being prejudicial, would be highly beneficial to the Church of England, as it would bring it into closer contact and connection with the lower classes, and thereby conciliate their good-will and affection.

The Beauty of Holiness.

THE *Churchman* enthusiastically describes the "noble observance" of Easter at Trinity Church. We give an extract, which is very edifying:

The floral decorations were magnificent. On the altar were three bouquets in costly vases. The centre bouquet was a pyramid, nearly two feet high, of the most rare and odoriferous flowers—the great white-Easter lily (calla) forming the apex. The side bouquets were only less noticeable because they were smaller. On the altar-screen was a Latin cross, six feet high, composed of every variety of beautiful and sweet-smelling flowers that could be furnished by the best conservatories of the city and neighborhood. The calla, of course, formed the crown, and terminated the two arms; but roses, camellias of every shade—from pure white to deep red—heliotropes, fuschias, cacti, violets, orange-blossoms, and many others, too numerous to mention, were employed in the construction of this exquisite symbol. In the back of the bronze eagle, whose wings support the lectern, was a wreath of white camellias, roses, orange flowers, and green leaves. The basin of the great stone font was completely filled by a mammoth bouquet, over three feet in diameter, and two feet high. The flowers were of the choicest varieties—the calla in the centre, surrounded by brilliant cactus-blossoms, tinted camellias, fragrant violets, roses, etc. The perfumes from the flowers filled and was perceptible all over the church. Most of the flowers were Easter offerings from lady friends of the Church—some of them having been sent all the way from Tarrytown.

The pulpit-desk and the desks of the clergy in the choir were covered with new white hangings, on which the calla was embroidered in gold. The altar was covered with a fair white linen cloth, the Elements being placed on the credence-table. The morning was wet and gloomy, and the interior of the church was very dark. A number of lighted candles in the brazen candlesticks, however, shed a flood of light over the sanctuary and choir, rendering every detail of the decorations visible to the remotest part of the church.

There was, however, one sad spot in this feast of charity. What do our readers think it was? Alas! the

with God's blessing, the church at Cohoes will soon take rank among the most efficient and prosperous in our entire denomination.

South Classis of Long Island.

THE following is a list of the delegates to the General and Particular Synods from the South Classis of Long Island. To Particular Synod:

Primarii—Revs. Thomas M. Strong, D. D., R. Ormiston Currie, D. D., Elders Henry S. Ditmas, Charles Lott. *Secundi*—Revs. R. D. Van Kleeck, A. J. Labagh, Elders John Schenck, John Eadie.

To General Synod:

Primarii—Revs. R. O. Currie, D. D., A. J. Labagh, R. D. Van Kleeck, Elders Charles Lott, F. J. Hesford, Henry S. Ditmas. *Secundi*—Revs. A. Elmendorf, N. P. Pierce, J. T. M. Davis, Elders John Eadie, G. G. Bergen, John Williamson.

J. WYER, Stated Clerk.

Classis of Monmouth.

THE following are the delegates of the Classis of Monmouth to the Synods:

Particular Synod: Revs. C. W. Collier and A. Van Dewater, and Elders J. S. Nevius and James M. Conover. *Primarii*; Revs. William Reiley, D. D., and J. B. Wilson, and the Elders Peter R. Smock and F. H. Kennedy. *Secundi*.

General Synod: Revs. S. Lockwood, Wm. Reiley, D. D., and A. C. Millsbaugh, and Elders Jos. J. Van Mater, H. H. Rider, and William Spader. *Primarii*; Revs. E. W. Collier, G. C. Schenck, and J. S. Wyckeff, and Elders G. H. Van Mater, John E. Conover, and Tunis Staters. *Secundi*.

A. C. MILLSBAUGH, Stated Clerk.

Classis of Holland.

THE Classis met in regular session on Wednesday, April 4th, in the Reformed Dutch Church of Grand Haven, Mich. The Classical sermon was preached by Rev. G. Van de Wall, from Eph. iv. 11, 12. Rev. A. C. Van Raalte, D. D., presided. Rev. A. Zwemer was nominated Stated Clerk of Classis. The following delegates were appointed to Particular Synod:

Revs. G. Van de Wall, P. J. Oggel, Elders J. de Peyster, J. Dalmar. *Primarii*; Revs. A. Zwemer, G. J. Nykerk, Elders De Waal, P. Van de Berg. *Secundi*.

Delegates to General Synod:

Revs. A. Zwemer, W. H. Houbolt, P. Z. Oggel, Elders G. Wakker, H. Van Bree, G. Walterbink. *Primarii*; Revs. G. J. Nykerk, H. G. Klyn, G. Van de Wall, Elders J. Neerke, J. Labots, F. Van Drielle. *Secundi*.

The reports of the churches were generally encouraging, though no special revival could be named. Rev. J. Van Vleck, formerly teacher and principal of Holland Academy, was dismissed to the Classis of Kingston, N. Y., upon application.

A letter from Elder J. de Luyster, from Zeeland, was read, in which he pointed Classis to the late dealing of Providence, visiting our colony with the rod of affliction by fire, and urging Christian sympathy and help for at least ten sorrowing families, who wholly, or nearly so, were bereaved of all their possessions. In answer to this letter, it was resolved, that the Consistories belonging to the Classis shall labor earnestly in their respective congregations to collect money and provisions for the relief of these families. A Committee was nominated to ascertain the extent of damage, and to distribute collections judiciously among the sufferers. The fall meeting was appointed to be held the last Wednesday of September, in the Church of Kalamazo. The session was closed with a prayer-meeting in the evening of the 4th April, by the members of the Classis.

A. ZWEMER, Stated Clerk.

Union Reformed Dutch Church, Sixth Avenue.

MR. EDITOR:—It was my good fortune to be present, last Sabbath evening, at the Anniversary of the Sabbath-school of the Union Reformed Dutch Church, on the Sixth avenue, of which Brother Datcher is pastor; and I know not when I have been more highly delighted. The building was crowded with an attentive and appreciative audience. Though the exercises were somewhat protracted, the closest attention was shown till the close. The choir opened the services with an appropriate anthem, beautifully performed. Excellent addresses were made by Rev. Dr. Hutton and Mr. Par-

son, and whole-souled movement in their behalf can save them at this crisis from utter extinction. The difficulty heretofore has been, that the work has been only feebly and partially sustained. 'No half-measures will suffice. The example set by the O. S. Presbyterians, in the case of the church in Boston, is worthy of imitation. They found that they could buy a church in that city, worth \$50,000, for \$35,000. They raised the money, bought the church, and thus placed their enterprise there on a firm basis. This is the way, and the only way, in which the work can succeed here. There surely is enough of love for Christ's kingdom, for their own beloved Zion, and enough of liberality among our Dutch brethren, to induce them to go and do likewise for their suffering cause here in Buffalo. The ministers of other evangelical denominations desire to have Mr. See remain here, and would rejoice in the continuance and success of his enterprise. There is room and work enough for a Dutch Church in this city. If the Roman Catholics can build and sustain their cathedral, and nearly twenty churches and chapels here, surely the oldest Protestant Church in the State ought to have, at least, one respectable representative among us.

If Mr. See and his people can be induced to hold on, it is due to them, to the branch of Zion which they serve and represent, to the best good of this city, and to the cause of Christ in this region, that they have a good church-edifice, and a fair chance to live and thrive. If one of the churches referred to above could be purchased for the Dutch congregation, and used for a few years as a trial, there could not be any serious pecuniary loss, even if the undertaking should fail. It does not seem to be quite right that for the lack of a few thousand dollars one of the golden candlesticks of the Lord Jesus should be removed, and its sacred light quenched. The failure of such a work, in such a place, and for such a cause, imposes a serious responsibility somewhere; and it seems proper and reasonable that the venerable fathers and beloved brethren of the Dutch Church, and its wealthy churches and members, should diligently inquire where this responsibility lies.

A. D.

Since the above was written, the writer is informed that Mr. See gave notice, last night, that it had been concluded to continue the work for two weeks more; and during this fortnight can there not be made in behalf of this enterprise a demonstration of interest and of liberality worthy of the occasion, and of the great interests involved? If the prestige and position which the Dutch Church has gained here be now abandoned, it can never be regained. What is done for the church here, must be done quickly.

Revival in Wales.

It will be recollected that, previous to or contemporaneous with the advent of the revival in Ireland, Wales was participating in a similar awakening. From a letter in the *Coleraine Chronicle*, by Rev. Thomas Rees, we observe that the work is still actively progressing. He says:

The revival continues to gain ground in almost every part of the Principality. The Welsh newspapers are filled every week with the cheering reports of the progress and the blessed effects of the mighty movement throughout South and North Wales. The revival is the principal subject of conversation in the markets and fairs, and scarcely a letter passes the post which does not contain something concerning it. In most localities this is the all-absorbing subject. It is a fact worthy to be recorded, that the students in the Congregational colleges at Bala and Brecon are, in a most remarkable measure, baptized with a revival spirit. When the Bala students returned to college, after their summer vacation, several of them arrived warm from the scenes of the most powerful awakenings, and these communicated their earnest spirit to their less revived fellow-students. By degrees, the Church was affected; professors were aroused from their slumbers; prayer-meetings were multiplied, and the whole town is now moved. One of the students says that above forty were then added to the Congregational Church at Bala, that they hold prayer-meetings twice every day, and that the ardency of their feelings is such that they seldom sleep till three or four o'clock in the morning. These young men are going out every Sabbath to supply the congregations in the surrounding country, and the hand of the Lord is with them wherever they go. The Calvinistic Methodists have also a college at Bala, and

there were taken; and some sinners four had been ho. Now another r that God hears a te twenty-five so The daily meetin and another for I in the week, from religious inquire able in the reviv. Lord seems to scenes for the grace. So here tized with the e

A Voice from demian arose, an ing before, but I acknowledge. I bers, when in B here. "We rejoice and the work of conver ward here. I ha a professor of reli say that, though world, I much I have laid up I believe I have I in all my priv "We have trav Chapel—one b A. M., and the are well attend ing; the last is answers to pr. Often a poor si Jesus to-day fo day. And ther to record the v of sinners. At perous than no now been main years, once a d prayer-meeting menocement of "I come," b to this meeting tenance of thi of the interest are cheered by join hands w prayer."

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The Christian Intelligence p. 20 April 19 1850