

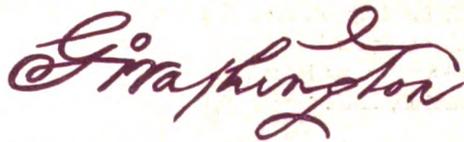
# THE ASSEMBLY HERALD

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.

November  
1908

“It is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey his Will, to be grateful for his Benefits, and humbly to implore his Protection and Favour.”



This signature is a fac-simile of the one written by Gen'l Washington on December 13th, 1799, the day before his death.

# THE ASSEMBLY HERALD

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
A. W. HALSEY, D. D., JOHN DIXON, D. D., WILLIAM H. SCOTT, Committee.

## CONTENTS FOR NOVEMBER, 1908

<b>Thanksgiving</b> —By <i>Richard Sill Holmes</i> .....	483
<b>The Board of Home Missions</b> —November Topic: "Mexicans in the United States".....	484
Our Mexican Work. By the <i>Rev. Hugh A. Cooper</i> .....	484
On the Borders of Old Mexico. By the <i>Rev. George Logie</i> .....	485
First Impressions in the Taos Valley. By <i>Henry C. Thomson, D.D.</i> .....	488
Coming Out of Darkness. By the <i>Rev. John Milton Shields, M.D.</i> .....	490
Bright and Dark Sides of Work Among the Mexicans. By the <i>Rev. Amadeo Maes</i> .....	491
Our Mexicans in Colorado. By the <i>Rev. M. D. J. Sanchez</i> .....	494
Some American Work in New Mexico. By the <i>Rev. James William Henderson and the Rev. John Meeker</i> .....	495
From the Arctic to the Atlantic. By the <i>Rev. Samuel R. Spriggs</i> .....	497
A Real Thanksgiving Day.....	499
A Thank Offering.....	499
An Old-Time Thanksgiving. By the <i>Rev. C. T. McCampbell</i> .....	500
From Under the Juniper Tree.....	500
Young People's Department.....	502
Notes on Literature for 1908-09, Treasurer's Statement.....	504
<b>The Board of Foreign Missions</b> —November Topic: "Korea".....	507
Severance Hospital Medical College. By <i>Dr. O. R. Avison</i> .....	507
Lotus Town Church, Seoul. By <i>Rev. Jas. S. Gale</i> .....	509
Korean Christian Character. By <i>Rev. W. L. Swallen</i> .....	510
Glimpses of Korean Work. By <i>Rev. W. C. Erdman</i> .....	512
Setting Out Stakes at Chong Ju. By <i>Rev. Edwin Kagin</i> .....	514
An Unwritten Page. By <i>Rev. Ernest F. Hall</i> .....	515
Kang Kai. By <i>Rev. Herbert E. Blair</i> .....	517
Shall We Advance or Retreat?.....	518
The Rev. Francis Field Ellinwood, D.D., LL.D.....	520
Obituary—Mrs. John Wherry.....	520
Christmas Program, Leaflets, Monthly Concert.....	521
<b>The Board of Church Erection</b> — <i>Erskine N. White, D.D., Secretary</i> .....	522
<b>The Board of Ministerial Relief</b> — <i>B. L. Agnew, D.D., LL.D., Cor. Secretary</i> .....	526
<b>The College Board</b> — <i>James Stuart Dickson, D.D., Secretary</i> .....	530
<b>The Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work</b> — <i>Alexander Henry, D.D.</i> .....	532
<b>The Board of Education</b> — <i>Joseph Wilson Cochran, D.D., Secretary</i> .....	538
<b>The Board for Freedmen</b> — <i>Edward P. Cowan, D.D., Secretary</i> .....	540
<b>The Permanent Committee on Temperance</b> — <i>John F. Hill, D.D., Chairman</i> .....	543
<b>Officers of the Boards of the Church</b> .....	548

**THE ASSEMBLY HERALD** is the Official Magazine of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., and is published for the purpose of giving information as to the work of the Church carried on by the eight Boards and the Committee on Temperance.

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**ALL LETTERS** should be addressed,

**The Assembly Herald**

Horace P. Camden, Bus. Mgr.

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# The Assembly Herald

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## THANKSGIVING, 1908

By Richard Sill Holmes



ING, oh heart, thy song of gladness for the rounded year unto Him whose love hath showered life with mercy and loving-kindness. Kneel, oh soul, before the altar of devotion, and speak there thy grateful praise for the way in which thy God hath led thee on. Adore, oh life, the God of grace, whose gift of Christ as Saviour of the world has made it possible for thee to be transformed from the image of sin into the image of his Son. Thanksgiving Day draws nigh once more.

Thanksgiving Day draws nigh; let us in all sincerity rejoice, let us welcome its incoming dawn. Let us pause for a little on life's weary road to pray, and sing, and give abundant thanks.

The year has well nigh gone. The old story of life has been told once more. Story of joy and gladness, of sorrow and earthly pangs, of hope and its fruition, of disappointment and weary hands, of gain, of loss, of success, of failure, of victory, of defeat, but in all and through all, of God over all, blessed forever.

Death has been active, but death is only transition. Death for the soul that has rested in Christ is only a passing through the gate of immortality; only breaking of chains, and establishment in the full liberty of sons of God. Constantly going, constantly coming are we, and we thank God that this is His beneficent order. The worker goes, but the work goes on. The great man dies out of the nation, as Senator Allison has died, or out of the Church, as Bishop Potter, but God has some other great heart ready somewhere for this work He must have done. Greatness is never left unsucceeded when the demand for succession is on the world. God knows the wants of the world and He is a great provider.

There are many things to call Church and country to thanksgiving. Pass by the events which can be said to belong to the day's work, the common events which all life must share, whether it be individual or national, the sorrows of families, the pestilence in cities, the accidents by rail or road, by boat or ocean, and the balance in the sum total of happiness and peace on the credit side of life's ledger is very great. There have been great crops. Europe is ever alert, fearing the sudden bursting of the war cloud. Ferment and unrest is in the Orient, but we go our national way under the radiance of the sun of peace. The panic brought on more than a year ago by human greed for gain did not bring ruin, though for a time it entailed woe. But God has watched over all. The cloud is lifting and there will be brighter skies. It is wonderful to think that God foreordains whatsoever cometh to pass.

Then, too, think how our own Church has prospered. Steadily it marches in the van with the forces that mean the bloodless conquest of the world for Jesus. Behold our own mighty domain in every section of which now the blue banner flies. Behold the distant East India, China, Japan. The story of the man Christ is being told in all those kingdoms to ever-increasing multitudes, and the work wrought by the telling cannot be undone. Even in those lands far over the wide oceans will the Christ lifted up from the earth draw all men unto Him.

Church and State, prince and peasant, all classes and conditions have abundant reason to thank God, and so we cry once more:

Sing, oh heart, thy song of gladness for the rounded year unto Him whose love hath showered life with mercy and lovingkindness. Kneel, oh soul, before the altar of devotion, and speak there thy grateful praise for the way in which thy God hath led thee on. Adore, oh life, the God of grace, whose gift of Christ as Saviour of the world has made it possible for thee to be transformed from the image of sin into the image of his Son. Thanksgiving Day draws nigh once more.

# Board for Freedmen

EDWARD P. COWAN, D.D., SECRETARY.

## Why We Are Thankful

**T**HAT we are called to be co-workers with God; that He has given us hearts to sympathize with the burdened, strength to help them and our Lord's example to inspire us; that our labor is not in vain because in the Lord; that Calvary constrains us not to be weary in well doing, and that in due season we shall reap if we faint not; that love never fails, and never shall fail; that "God is in His Heaven," though all is *not* right with the world; that the promises of our Heavenly Father are yea and amen. This is our rejoicing and this is our joy.

SAMUEL J. FISHER.



REV. A. W. VERNER, D.D.  
Newly elected President of Scotia Seminary,  
Concord, N. C.

## Dr. Verner's Acceptance

"DEAR BRETHREN:

The letter of Dr. Cowan, announcing to me officially your action of Monday, September 21st, in the election of me as President of Scotia Seminary was duly received.

It certainly came to me as a very great surprise. I appreciate the honor conferred, and thank you most cordially for your kind consideration.

I know something of the work, and trust I realize its magnitude and importance. I take it that aside from knowledge and teaching ability, executive ability, good judgment and tact and skill are essential requisites to the successful management and efficient prosecution of such a work.

I know also of the excellent record made by Dr. Satterfield, and the high standards maintained by him, and also that the man whose honor it shall be to succeed him, will have no light task in maintaining the same degree of excellency.

I have gone over, with Dr. Cowan, the character and requirements, together with some of the details of the work. I have conferred with my own family and close friends. Mrs. Verner and myself have together carefully canvassed the entire situation, and after