

**DISCUSSIONS OF THE INTER-
DENOMINATIONAL CONGRESS IN
THE INTEREST OF CITY
EVANGELIZATION, HELD IN
CINCINNATI, DECEMBER 7-11, 1885**

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Discussions of the Inter-Denominational Congress in the Interest of City Evangelization, Held in Cincinnati, December 7-11, 1885 by Inter-Denominational Congress

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PREFATORY NOTE.

In October, 1885, the following call was issued:

To the Christian Public:

The city, as a menace to our civilization, has begun to arouse thought and call forth discussion. Of the perils which threaten our future, such as socialism, skepticism, the liquor power, the criminal classes, the congestion of wealth and political corruption, each is enhanced and all are focalized in the city. And here, where moral and Christian influences need to be the strongest, they are the weakest. In 1880 there was in the United States one evangelical Church organization to every 516 of the population; in Boston, one to 1,600; in New York, one to 2,468; in St. Louis, one to 2,800. That is, the city, where the forces of evil are massed, is from one-third to one-fifth as well supplied with Churches as the nation at large; and church accommodations in the city are growing more inadequate every year.

Moreover, in the city, where the lawless elements of society are wont to gather, the arm of the law is oftenest paralyzed. As a rule, the larger the city the worse its government. It is, therefore, a matter of most serious concern that our cities are growing much more rapidly than the whole population. From 1790 to 1880 the latter increased twelve-fold; the population of the former eighty-six fold. In 1800 there were only six cities in the United States which had a population of 8,000 or more; in 1880 there were 288. Our urban population in 1800 was 22.5 per cent. of the whole. The time is coming when the city will control the country.

With a view to arousing the public to the significance of these facts, the Congressional Union of Cincinnati hereby issues a call for an INTER-DENOMINATIONAL CONGRESS to meet in this city December 7-11, 1885, in the interest of city evangelization. It is designed to bring together for discussion and suggestion those who have given the deepest study to the various perils with which the cities threaten our civilization, and those who have been most successful in reaching the masses with Christian influence.

It is proposed to publish the papers and addresses of the Congress for a wide circulation, and it is hoped that as a result the Christian public will be aroused and a new impetus given to the work of city evangelization throughout the land.

May not the Congress grow into a triennial gathering, and thus become a permanent source of inestimable good?

JOSIAH STRONG,
JOHN W. SIMPSON,
JOHN B. JOHNSTON,
Committee.

CINCINNATI, O., October 8, 1885.

Facd. N. 1112. 55-29-29

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In accordance with the above call the Inter-denominational Congress convened in the Central Congregational Church, Cincinnati, Monday evening, December 7th, and continued in session until Friday noon. Previous to its final adjournment the Congress appointed its Local Committee to prepare and publish in a suitable volume its discussions and proceedings. After unavoidable delays, for which we have been in no way responsible, the duty imposed upon us has been completed.

THE COMMITTEE.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

INTER-DENOMINATIONAL CONGRESS.

THE INTER-DENOMINATIONAL CONGRESS met in the Central Congregational Church, on Vine Street, in Cincinnati, on Monday evening, December 7, 1885. There was no formal organization, but after devotional exercises an address of welcome was delivered by Rev. Josiah Strong, of Cincinnati, to which an appropriate and eloquent response was made by Rev. C. L. Goodell, D. D. (now deceased), of St. Louis, Mo. (For addresses, see pages 59-68.)

After announcements, the delegates separated to meet in convention on Tuesday morning at the same place.

Tuesday, December 8, 1885.

MORNING SESSION.

REV. JOHN W. SIMPSON:—On behalf of the Committee of Arrangements I will now call the session of the Inter-denominational Congress to order; and we are ready to receive suggestions in regard to the Moderatorship. What is your pleasure?

REV. DR. GLADDEN:—Mr. Chairman, I move that the nominations for presiding officer of this Congress be now the order. I suggest, at least, that presiding officers be chosen from several denominations, and that we have, perhaps, two every day, one to preside at the morning and afternoon sessions, and the other at the evening session, of each day. We regard this as an inter-denominational congress. The program indicates that very clearly, and it seems to me wise to have it indicated by the character of the presiding officers' ecclesiastical relations. I move that the Congress take that order now.

The motion was unanimously agreed to, and Rev. J. P. E. Kumler, D. D. (Presbyterian), of Pittsburg, was chosen Moderator for the forenoon and afternoon.

After a half hour's devotional service, Rev. Lyman Abbott, D. D., of New York, delivered an address on "The Menace of the