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# MINUTES

OF THE

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

# Presbyterian Church

--IN THE--

# UNITED STATES;

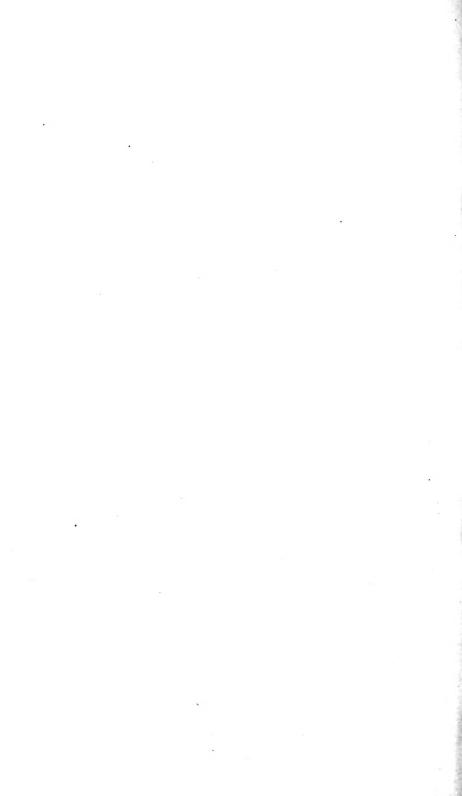
WITH AN APPENDIX.

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1878.



# OFFICERS AND AGENCIES

——OF THE---

# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES.

#### CLERKS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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FOR TWO YEARS—Rev. John Douglas, John L. Brown, Esq., Col. John E. Brown. FOR THREE YEARS—Jesse H. Lindsay, James Hemphill, Esq., Joseph H. Wilson, Esq.

THE SECRETARIES, ex-officio.—Rev. J. Leighton Wilson, D. D., Rev. James K. Hazen, Rev. R. McIlwaine, D. D., Rev. John N. Waddel, D. D.



# MINUTES.

Knoxville, Tennessee, ) May 16, 1878.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States met, agreeably to appointment, in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Knoxville, Tennessee, on the third Thursday, 16th of May, 1878, at 11 o'clock, A. M., and was opened with a sermon by the Moderator, Rev. C. A. Stillman, D. D., on 1 Corinthians, iv, 20: "For the Kingdom of God is not in word, but in power."

After the close of public worship, the Assembly was constituted with prayer by the Moderator.

The Stated Clerk reported that official information had been received of the organization of two additional Presbyteries, viz: the Presbytery of Maryland, by the Synod of Virginia, and the Presbytery of St. Johns, by the Synod of Georgia, and that the Commissioners from these Presbyteries had been regularly enrolled; and that information had been received, but not official, of the dissolution of the Presbytery of Central Ohio, in the Synod of Kentucky.

The Permanent Clerk reported that the following names had been duly enrolled as Commissioners to the General Assembly:

#### I.—SYNOD OF ALABAMA.

PRESBYTERIES.	MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.
1 East Alabama,	F. B. Webb,	J. W. Harp,
2 South Alabama,	W. W. Carothers,	H. L. McKee,
3 Tuskaloosa,	C. A. Stillman, D. D.	, W. P. Webb (2)

#### H.—SYNOD OF ARKANSAS.

4 Arkansas, I. J. Long, D. D., W. P. Campbell, 5 Indian, G. Quachita, M. A. Patterson, T. G. Gillespie.

#### HL-SYNOD OF GEORGIA.

PRESBYTERIES.	MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.
7 Atlanta,	J. H. Martin,	W. A. Moore,
8 Augusta,	G. T. Goetchius,	J. A. Billups,
9 Cherokee,	J. M. M. Caldwell,	J. P. Holt,
10 Florida,	N. M. Long.	T. M. Palmer,
11 Macon,	J. H. Nall, D. D.,	T. W. Fleming,
12 Savannah,	C. B. King,	T. S. Mallard,
13 St. Johns,	J. H. Myers, D. D.,	J. G. Speer

#### IV.—SYNOD OF KENTUCKY.

$14 \; Ebenezer,$	George Summey,	J. A. Howerton.
15 Louisville,	Stuart Robinson, D. I.	0.,J. H. Huber, (2)
	J. K. Hitner,	Joseph Gault,
16 Muhlenburg,	J. L. Caldwell,	M. C. Hay,
17 Paducah,	J. T. Hendrick, D. I.	D.,P. B. McGoodwin,
18 Transylvania,	Wm. M. Crenshaw,	C. H. Rochester,
19 West Lexington,	W. T. Spears,	W. M. Cocke.

#### V.—SYNOD OF MEMPHIS.

20 Chickasaw,	W. A. Gray,	James Rogan,
21 Memphis,	J. H. Rice, D. D.,	J. P. Jarnagin,
22 North Alabama,	Alex Penland,	F. O. Sherrod,
23 North Mississippi,	J. McCampbell, D.	D., J. H. Martin,
24 Western District,		S. R. Latta.

#### VI.—SYNOD OF MISSISSIPPI.

25 Central Mississipp	i, J. Mc. Caldwell,	J. S. Colmery,
26 Louisiana,	W. A. Hall,	J. H. Houston,
27 Mississippi,	A. McCallum,	H. A. Earns, (2)
28 New Orleans,	W. C. Clark,	W. F. Ogden,
29 Red River,	J. Y. Allison,	
30 Tombeckbee.	J. C. Carothers.	R. F. Houston.

#### VII.—SYNOD OF MISSOURI.

31 Lafayette,	J. E. Wheeler,	P. M. Harris.
32 Missouri,	B. T. Lacy, D. D.,	T. B. Gentry, (2)
33 Palmyra,	M. G. Gorin,	J. M. Carroll, (2)
34 Potosi,	A. W. Milster,	R. H. Hatcher,
35 St. Louis,	J. N. Gilbreath,	G. M. McNutt.
36 Upper Missouri,	E. A. Carson,	

#### VIII.—SYNOD OF NASHVILLE.

37 Columbia,	J. H. Alexander,	G. B. Boyles,
38 Holston,	D. F. Smith,	R. D. Rankin,
39 Knoxville,	S. R. Preston,	Wm. Gardner,
40 Nashville,	W. L. Rosser,	H. H. McAlister.

#### IX.—SYNOD OF NORTH CAROLINA.

41 Concord,	J. Rumple,	J. B. Alexander,
42 Fayetteville,	J. P. McPherson,	John Shaw,
43 Mecklenburg,	S. H. Chester,	W. L. T. Prince,
	S. T. Martin,	J. G. Potts,
44 Orange,	H. T. Darnall,	Wm. Hollister,
	E. Hines,	J. A. Houston.
45 Wilmington.	C. M. Payne,	

#### X.—SYNOD OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

PRESBYTERIES.	MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.
46 Bethel,	L. H. Wilson,	A. R. Banks,
47 Charleston,	J. B. Mack, J. D. A. Brown,	E. R. Mills, Thos. Stenhouse,
48 Harmony,	W. J. McKay,	J. C. Burgess,
49 South Carolina,	J. E. Dunlop, R. A. Fair,	W. E. Mills, R. H. Wardlaw,
	C. B. Stewart,	Wm. M. Dorroh.

#### XI.—SYNOD OF TEXAS.

50 Brazos,	R. H. Byers, D. D.,	Josephus Cavitt,
51 Central Texas,	W. S. Johnson,	S. P. Green,
52 Eastern Texas, 53 Western Texas,	C. H. Dobbs, A. P. Smith, J. W. Neil,	Peyton Irving, J. F. Miller.

#### XII.—SYNOD OF VIRGINIA.

54 Abingdon,	J. C. Carson,	A. Painter.
55 Chesapeake,	J. J. Bullock, D. D.,	J. V. A. Shields.
56 East Hanover,	G. D. Armstrong, D.D.	, C. S. Carrington,
	T. L. Preston, D. D.,	W. D. Reynolds,
57 Greenbrier,	W. E. Hill,	J. H. Renick.
58 Lexington,	E. D. Junkin, D. D.,	W. H. Ott,
	C. S. M. See,	E. Geeding,
69 Maryland,	J. G. Hamner, D. D.,	Isaac D. Jones.
60 Montgomery,	P. B. Price,	W. A. Glasgow,
61 Roanoke,	T. E. Peck, D. D.,	T. O. Rogers.
62 Sao Paulo,	. ,	g,
63 West Hanover,	R. L. Dabney, D. D.,	M. W. Wallace.
64 Winchester,	J. R. Graham, D. D.,	J. Kuykendall.

#### CORRESPONDING DELEGATES.

Rev. T. W. Chambers, D. D.; from the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America.

Rev. J. Howard-Smith, D. D; from the General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church.

The Rev. Thomas E. Peck, D. D., a Commissioner from the Presbytery of Roanoke, was then elected Moderator of this General Assembly, and the Rev. Joseph H. Martin, a Commissioner from the Presbytery of Atlanta, was elected Temporary Clerk.

The following resolution, offered by the Rev. Dr. Armstrong was adopted:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed by the Moderator, to whom shall be referred the answers of the Presbyteries to the overture sent down by the last Assembly concerning the Book of Church Order, together with all matters properly connected therewith.

It was resolved that until otherwise ordered the Assembly will meet daily at 9 o'clock A. M; will adjourn at  $12\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock P. M.; meet again at 3 o'clock P. M., and adjourn at 4 o'clock P. M.

The Assembly then adjourned until 3 o'clock this afternoon; closed with prayer by the Moderator.

## Thursday, May 16, 3 o'clock P. M.

The Assembly met and was opened with prayer by the Rev. F. B. Webb.

It was made the order of the day for 10 o'clock to-morrow to hear the annual report of the Executive Committee of Education.

An appeal from a decision of the Synod of Kentucky in the case of the Rev. I W. Canfield, by Rev Stuart Robinson and others in behalf of themselves and of the Presbytery of Louisville, was referred, together with accompanying papers, to the Judicial Committee.

An appeal of E. T. Baird, from a decision of the Synod of Virginia, together with accompanying papers, was referred to the same committee.

Also to the same committee was referred a paper from the Executive Committee of Publication, touching a certain charge against the same.

The annual report of the Executive Committee of Publication was read by the Secretary, Rev. James K. Hazen, and referred to the standing committee on that subject.

The accounts of the Treasurer of Publication were referred to the Auditing Committee.

A complaint of the Rev. R. K. Smoot and others against the Synod of Texas and the Presbytery of Western Texas, was referred to the Judicial Committee.

A report from the delegates to the General Presbyterian Council at Edinburgh, Scotland, was read and referred to the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock; closed with prayer by the Rev. J. T. Hendrick, D. D.

### FRIDAY MORNING, May 17, 9 o'clock

The Assembly met and was opened with prayer by the Rev J G. Hamner, D. D. The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

The following additional Commissioners were announced and enrolled: W. P. Webb, Ruling Elder from the Presbytery of Tuskaloosa; T. B. Gentry, Ruling Elder from the Presbytery of Missouri; H. A. Earns, Ruling Elder from the Presbytery of Mississippi; J. H. Renick, Ruling Flder from the Presbytery of Greenbrier; J. H. Huber, Ruling Elder from the Presbytery of Louisville.

The Moderator announced the following Standing Committees:

BILLS AND OVERTURES.—C. A. Stillman, S. T. Martin, J. M. M. Caldwell, W. M. Crenshaw, A. Penland, W. C. Clark, E. A. Carson, R. D. Rankin, C. S. Carrington, J. F. Miller, J. V. A. Shields, I. D. Jones.

Judicial.—J. H. Rice, R. A. Fair, J. G. Hamner, W. F. Ogden, J. A. Billups, W. P. Webb, Jas. Rogan.

Theological Seminaries.—B. T. Lacy, C. B. Stewart, P. B. Price, R. H. Wardlaw, T. B. Gentry, P. B. McGoodwin.

Foreign Missions.—S. Robinson, T. L. Preston, D. F. Smith, N. M. Long, T. M. Palmer, W. P. Campbell, M. C. Hay, E. Geeding, A. Painter.

Sustentation.—J. T. Hendrick, E. Hines, J. W. Neil, C. S. M. See, J. C. Carothers, J. C. Carson, J. Cavitt, W. L. T. Prince, J. S. Colmery, J. H. Huber.

Publication.—J. B. Mack, W. J. McKay, J. H. Alexander, W. E. Hill, A. R. Banks, S. P. Green, W. H. Ott, J. Kuykendall.

Education.—J. Rumple, R. L. Dabney, J. D. A. Brown, J.C. Burgess, S. R. Latta, H. A. Earns, T. M. Carroll, G. M. McNutt.

Systematic Benevolence.—A. P. Smith, E. D. Junkin, C. M. Payne, S. H. Chester, R. H. Hatcher, F. O. Sherrod, J. P. Holt.

Foreign Correspondence.—J. J. Bullock, R. H. Byers, A. McCallum, W. A. Moore, T. O. Rogers, Jos. Gault.

NARRATIVE.—J. R. Graham, J. L. Caldwell, W. M. Cocke, T. W. Flenning.

Sabbath Schools.—W. A. Hall, W. T. Spears, M. G. Gorin, Wm. Gardner, J. H. Renick.

Auditing.-M. P. Jarnagin, John Shaw, W. D. Reynolds.

DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES.—J. H. Nall, S. R. Preston, G. B. Boyles, H. H. McAlister.

Leave of Absence.—J. E. Dunlop, J. H. Gillespie, W. W. Carothers, J. K. Hitner.

REVISION OF BOOK —G. D. Armstrong, F. B. Webb, I. J. Long, J. H. Martin, G. Summey, W. A. Gray, J. Y. Allison, J. E. Wheeler, J. H. Alexander, J. P. McPherson, L. H. Wilson, R. H. Byers.

#### SYNODICAL RECORDS.

Alabama.—G. T. Goetchius, T. Stenhouse.
Arkansas.—P. B. Price, H. L. McKee.
Georgia.—M. A. Patterson, T. G. Gillespie.
Kentucky.—R. A. Fair, Peyton Irving.
Memphis.—J. P. McPherson, W. A. Glasgow.
Mississippi.—C. B. King, T. S. Mallard.
Missouri.—J. H. Myers, J. G. Speer.
Nashville.—J. McCampbell, Ruling Elder J. H. Martin.
North Carolina.—C. H. Dobbs, H. A. Earns.
South Carolina.—E. Hines, J. A. Houston.
Texas.—H. T. Darnall, W. Hollister.
Virginia.—J. N. Gilbreath, T. B. Gentry.

The annual reports from the Theological Seminary at Columbia, and from Union Theological Seminary, were read and referred to the Standing Committee on Theological Seminaries

The annual report from the Executive Committee of Sustentation was read by one of the Secretaries, Rev. Richard McIlwaine, D. D., and was referred to the Standing Committee on that subject; and the accounts of the Treasurer of Sustentation were referred to the Auditing Committee.

The order of the day was taken up, viz., the hearing of the annual report of the Executive Committee of Education. It was read by the Secretary, Rev. J. N. Waddel, D. D., and was referred to the Standing Committee on Education. The accounts of the Treasurer of Education were referred to the Auditing Committee.

The Rev. Talbot W. Chambers, D. D., delegate from the General Synod of the Reformed (Dutch) Church, was introduced by the Moderator to the General Assembly.

The report of the Trustees of the General Assembly was read, and with the records and other papers, was referred to the Auditing Committee.

A report from the Rev. J. B. Adger, D. D., was read touching his attendance upon the meeting of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, and the diligence of the delegate was approved. The report is as follows:

PENDLETON, S. C., April 27, I878.

Rev. Joseph R. Wilson, D. D., Stated Clerk General Assembly Presbyterian Church in the United States:

REV. AND DEAR BROTHER: I would present through you to the General Assembly the following report of my attendance on the sessions of the General Synod of the Reformed Church, held in the city of New York. The reception given to me as delegate from our Church was as warm and friendly as it was possible to be. I was heard more

than once on the floor of the Synod, and a cordial recommendation was given by Synod to all its Churches to co-operate with our Assembly, especially in the support of the Tuscaloosa Institute
The Rev. Dr. Talbot W. Chambers was appointed the delegate to our

Assembly at Knoxville from the General Synod.

I would report to the Assembly that I attended faithfully every session of the General Synod, from the beginning to the end. Obtaining in this way from the very start the run of their business, I soon found myself perfectly at home and deeply interested in all the questions of importance which came before them. And I think I gained some credit, as your delegate, for my constant and unwearied attendance and attention to every detail of their proceedings. Not a particle of this was due to me, however, for it was hardly possible not to imagine that I was once more sitting in our own Assembly in Dr Palmer's Church, New Orleans. I could not but feel that these Reformed brethren are indeed one with us-one in doctrine, and order, and forms of proceeding; one in interest and one in spirit And standing in peculiar co-operative relations towards us as they do, I hope our Assembly will select this year another delegate who will make a point of punctually and diligently attending all their sessions, exhibiting in this way a due interest in all that concerns them

Having experienced a great deal of personal kindness from the Rev. Dr. Talbot W Chambers, the Reformed Church's delegate to Knoxville, I must be allowed to be speak for him from all our brethren, and from the Assembly, all that attention and respect which his high Christian character and scholarly attainments so eminently entitle him to

Praying that the Master of Assemblies may graciously manifest His presence at Knoxville,

I am, Rev and Dear Brother,

Brother, Very truly yours, JNO B. ADGER

The report of Assembly's Theological Institute for colored ministers, was read by the Secretary, Rev. C. A. Stillman, D. D., and, together with other papers on that subject, was referred to the Standing Committee on Theological Seminaries, except so much as related to the finances of the institution, which was referred to the Auditing Committee.

Various overtures were reported by the Stated Clerk, and were referred to the Committee on Bills and Overtures.

The Rev S. T. Martin offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to consider the expediency of devising some plan for simplifying our ecclesiastical machinery, diminishing the expenses of our benevolent operations, and increasing the contributions from our churches, and that this Committee report to this Assembly.

The following resolution offered by the Rev. W. E. Hill, was referred to the Standing Committee on Sabbath Schools:

Resolved, That the General Assembly call the attention of the Presbyteries to the impulse that may be given to the Sabbath School work, by the holding of Sabbath School Teachers' Institutes and Conventions within their bounds.

It was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock, to hear the delegates from the General Synod of the Reformed (Dutch) Church in America; and the second order to hear the Rev. S. A. Hunt, D. D., a representative of the American Bible Society.

J. M. Carroll, Ruling Elder from the Presbytery of Palmyra, was announced and his name was enrolled as a Commissioner.

It was resolved that the adjournment to-day, at  $12\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock, shall be until to morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

The name of W P. Webb was added to the Judicial Committee, and that of J. H. Renick to the Committee on Sabbath Schools.

The Committee on Devotional Exercises made a report in part, recommending that fifteen minutes shall be spent each day in exercises of worship, under the direction of the Moderator, immediately before the close of the first session. Thereupon, after a time spent in worship, as above determined, the Assembly adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Closed with prayer by the Rev C. S. M. See.

### SATURDAY MORNING, May 18, 9 o'clock.

The Assembly met and was opened with prayer by the Moderator. The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

The Moderator announced the following Committee under the resolution adopted yesterday concerning a plan for greater efficiency and economy in the benevolent work of of the Church, viz: S. T. Martin, R. L. Dabney, E. Hines, W. P. Webb and W. F. Ogden.

The Rev. Dr. Robinson presented a paper relating to the condition and wants of the Waldensian Churches, which, having been read, was referred to the Standing Committee on Foreign Missions.

The Overture from the Presbytery of Central Texas, proposing the combination of "The Earnest Worker" and "The Missionary," was transferred from the Committee of Publication to the Committee appointed to consider a plan for greater efficiency and economy, as above; and the complaint from members of the Presbytery of Louisiana against certain action of said Presbytery in the manner of adopting the Book of Church Order, was transferred from the Committee on the Revised Book to the Judicial Committee.

On motion of Rev. Dr. Armstrong, it was ordered that in the case of failure in receiving official returns from any Presbyt ries concerning the Book of Church Order, the Committee of the Assembly, on that subject, are authorized to receive a written statement from the delegates from such Presbyteries, which statement shall be embodied for information in the report to be made by said Committee.

A communication relating to the death of T. C. Perrin, a former member of the Board of Trustees of the General Assembly, was referred to the Auditing Committee, to whom was referred the report of said Board:

The following report was adopted:

The Committee on Bills and Overtures report on overture No 1, from the Synod of Texas, asking the Assembly to decide that "all overtures, appeals, complaints, &c, should proceed in regular gradation from the Session to the Presbytery, from the Presbytery to the Synod, and from the Synod to the General Assembly, and vice versa, without omitting any of the intermediate courts."

The following reply is recommended:

- 1 As to judicial cases we refer to chap vi, sec iii, article vi, Book of Discipline.
- . 2 That while the General Assembly may recommend that overtures should ordinarily be sent from the Synod, it cannot deny the right of Presbyteries, the constituent elements of the Assembly, nor of individuals, to overture the General Assembly whenever circumstances may require.
- 3. That the General Assembly has the right to send its deliverances directly to the Presbyteries.

Also Overtures Nos. 2 and 3, which were discussed until the hour for the order of the day

The Rev. T. W. Chambers, D. D., delegate from the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, then addressed the Assembly in regard to matters pertaining to his mission to this body; to which the Moderator made an appropriate response.

Also the Rev. S. A. Hunt, D. D., of the American Bible Society, addressed the Assembly concerning the interests of that institution; after which it was resolved to appoint a committee to express the views of this body on the subject thus brought before it. J. T. Hendrick, D. D., Charles S. Carrington and M. P. Jarnagin were appointed said committee.

The unfinished business was then taken up, viz., the report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures, on overtures No. 2 and 3, and the discussion on the same was continued until the time for devotional exercises.

The Committee on Devotional Exercises made a report which was approved; and after a time spent in religious worship, it was resolved that the Assembly adjourn until Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

## Monday Morning, May 20, 9 o'clock.

The General Assembly met and was opened with prayer by the Moderator, and the minutes of Saturday were read and approved.

A communication was received from the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, in session at Atlanta, Georgia, conveying to this Assembly an expression of their cordial christian regard, which was read and referred to the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

Various additional overtures were reported by the Stated Clerk, and referred to the Committee on Bills and Overtures. An overture from the Presbytery of Lexington, concerning a revision of the Directory for Worship, was referred to the Committee on the Book of Church Order.

A report from the Special Committee appointed by the last Assembly to investigate the affairs of the Executive Committee of Publication, was presented, and referred to the Standing Committee on that subject.

It was made the order for to-night at 8 o'clock, to receive the report of the Standing Committee on Foreign Missions; and on Tuesday night at 8 o'clock, to receive the report of the Standing Committee on Sustentation; and the first order for to-morrow afternoon to receive reports on Synodical records.

The Judicial Committee made a report on the complaint of Rev. Stuart Robinson and others, against a decision of the Synod of Kentucky, the conside ation of which was made the order of the day for 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Upon recommendation of the Judicial Committee a paper from the Executive Committee of Publication was transferred to the Standing Committee on that subject.

The Judicial Committee made a report on the complaint of Rev. S. McAlister and Rev. M. B. Shaw, against the Presbytery of Louisiana, which was placed on the docket.

On recommendation of the Committee on Bills and Overtures, the overture from the Presbytery of East Hanover,

concerning the training of colored ministers, was transferred to the Standing Committee on Theological Seminaries; and those from the Synod of Memphis and the Presbytery of Brazos, concerning retrenchment in the expenses of our schemes of benevolence, were transferred to the Special Committee appointed on that subject; also an overture from the Synod of Memphis in regard to the Publishing House, was transferred to the Standing Committee on Publication

An overture from the Presbytery of Arkansas, and another from the Presbytery of Fayetteville, in relation to the Book of Church Order, were referred to the Committee on that subject.

The following report was adopted:

The committee to bring in a minute in reference to the American Bible Society submit the following:

- 1 That the Assembly has heard with pleasure the Rev Dr Hunt, one of the Secretaries of the American Bible Society, and would hereby express our undiminished confidence in the management and aims of that honorable institution.
- 2. That we cordially recommend all our ministers and churches to co-operate with said Society in its most commendable efforts by colporteurs and otherwise to supply the world with the Holy Scriptures.
- 3. That our ministers be requested to present the claims of the American Bible Society to their congregations and take up collections for it or its auxiliaries at such times as may be deemed most suitable.

A report from the Committee on Foreign Correspondence was received, in relation to a correspondence with the "Colored Cumberland General Assembly," which report was adopted, and is as follows:

In reference to a letter certifying the appointment of Rev. J N Hill a corresponding delegate from the Colored Cumberland Presbyterian Church to this Assembly, your committee recommend the following answer:

- 1. We have no knowledge of any such branch of the church in our land, of their doctrinal belief or form of government; and without such information we are not prepared to receive the delegate
- 2 It is the rule of this body to conduct hereafter its correspondence with other branches of the church by letter, and not by delegates; and do respectfully invite those with whom we have correspondence to do the same, except the Reformed Church of America, with whom we have special relations.

It was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock to receive the report of the Executive Committee on Education.

A paper was presented from the Presbyterian Historical Society, which was referred to the Committee on Bills and Overtures.

The unfinished business, viz., overtures Nos. 2 and 3, concerning the proper conduct of religious journals, was then taken up, and, after a protracted discussion, the whole subject was laid on the table.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures made the following report, which was adopted:

The Committee of Bills and Overtures report on overture No. 4, from the Presbytery of Western Texas, asking the Assembly not to adopt the Revised Book of Church Order unless there be a two-third's majority of the Presbyteries in favor of it; and recommend the following reply: According to the Form of Government, chapter vi, article vi, the vote of a majority of the Presbyteries is sufficient to establish any constitutional regulation

Also, on overtures No. 5, 6 and 7, which was adopted:

The Committee of Bills and Overtures report on overtures 5, 6 and 7, from the Presbyteries of Ouachita, Western Texas and Louisiana, asking for a change in our statistical tables, substituting the title Acting Pastor for "Stated Supply," and recommend the following reply, viz, that it is not advisable to make the proposed change, because (1) it would produce confusion, by lessening the distinction of names between these two classes of ministers; and (2) have a tendency to encourage the relation of stated supply in place of the regular pastoral relation.

Also, overture No. 8, from the Synod of Memphis, and another, No. 9, from the Presbytery of Mecklenburg, in relation to the election of the clerks of the Assembly, the subject of which overtures was discussed until the time for devotional exercises.

A further report was made by the Committee on Devotional Exercises, which was approved.

A telegram from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, in session in the city of Pittsburgh, Pa., was received. The communication is as follows:

PITTSBURGH, May 20, 1878.

To the Moderator of the Venerable, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States:

Acting under the instruction of our Assembly, it gives me pleasure to convey to you, and through you to the Assembly over which you preside, our Christian salutations—May the Spirit of God guide your deliberations and rest upon all the churches within your jurisdiction. In the sympathies of our common faith and order,

FRANCIS L PATTON,

Moderator of General Assembly U.S. A.

This paper was referred to the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

After a season spent in devotional worship, the Assembly adjourned, under a resolution passed to meet hereafter at 3 o'clock, and to continue until  $5\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock P. M.

### Monday Afternoon, 3 o'clock.

The Assembly met and was opened with prayer by the Rev. C. B. Stewart.

It was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning, at  $9\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock, to select the place for the meeting of the next General Assembly.

The order of the day, viz., the complaint of the Rev. Stuart Robinson and others against a decision of the Synod of Kentucky, in the case of the Rev. J. W. Canfield, was taken up. The report of the Judicial Committee, declaring said complaint to be in order, and recommending the course to be observed in conducting the case, was read and approved. Thereupon the Moderator reminded the Assembly that they were about to sit in a judicial capacity, and of their solemn duty as judges in a court of the Lord Jesus Christ. After the reading of such documents in the case as were judged necessary, all the parties before the court were heard and retired from the house. The roll was then called for an expression of opinion and a vote on the part of the members of the Assembly, the result being as follows: To sustain the complaint, 106; excused from voting, 2.

Adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock to-night; closed with prayer by the Rev. I. J. Long, D. D.

# Monday Night, 8 o'clock.

The Assembly met and was opened with prayer by the Rev. E. D. Junkin, D. D.

The report of the Standing Committee on Foreign Missions was read by the Chairman, Rev. Dr. Robinson, and after addresses on the subject, a contribution in behalf of Foreign Missions was taken up. The report was then adopted, and is as follows:

# REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Standing Committee on Foreign Missions report to the Assembly that they have attentively considered the report of the Executive Committee on Foreign Missions for 1877-78; also the minutes of the Committee from May 1877 to May 1878, together with exhibits of expenditures for the several missions, for salaries, office expenses, &c The result of this examination is the conviction that the whole work of Foreign Missions during the past ecclesiastical year has been con-

ducted by the Executive Committee with a degree of wisdom, energy, skill and laborious diligence which entitles that Committee, not only to the confidence, but also to the gratitude of the whole Church. The Secretaries have exhibited the same untiring patience, energy and zeal as in past years, and have given additional evidence of their earnest interest in the work, and their sympathy with the Church under the difficulties in the way of supporting the Foreign Missionary work, by voluntarily relinquishing a portion of their salaries, though already a meagre enough compensation for the great amount of labor performed by them.

It should be deemed a cause of profound gratitude to God, that, in the midst of the unprecedented financial depression in the country during the year past, and especially in the portion of country represented by this Assembly, our Church has been able to keep in the Foreign Mission field seventy-five laborers—thirteen of them ordained ministers and twenty assistants, sent from this country, with forty-two natives of the countries in which they labor; ten of these ordained ministers, eight licentiates and twenty-two assistants. which native missionaries those sent out from this country have been enabled in some degree to supply the places of those whom sickness or death has removed from the field. It is further matter for thanksgiving that the labors of the year have resulted in the addition of more than one hundred and fifty communicants to the mission churches. But, on the other hand, it should occasion profound grief and humiliation before God, and great uneasiness about our Church, that, during the whole three years past, not one new laborer has been sent forth, whilst meanwhile the missionary force sent out from this country has been diminished fully one-third—that, all the while, from twelve to fifteen candidates have stood waiting to go forth and relieve their brethren in the field who are struggling under the additional burden which the loss of their fellows imposes upon them—that all the while new fields have been opening, and the Macedonian cry coming over from them with an earnestness and to an extent unknown in former times. In short, in answer to our prayers, the Lord has sent forth laborers for the fields white to the harvest, but the energies of the Church seem paralyzed from want of means to send out more, so eager to go and so loudly called for.

For successive years past, the question continually meeting the Executive Committee and the Standing Committees of the General Assembly has been, not "who will go for us?" or, where shall we find a field for their labors?—for the Lord has provided laborers and opened fields for us—but, how shall means be provided to send forth the laborers? By what skilfully contrived plan may we reach the strength of the Church and bring out the means for sending forth new missionaries, as well as for maintaining those already in the field? So far, the plans devised have in a large degree failed, either to awaken very extensively a higher interest in the Foreign Mission work, or to secure the means needed.

Manifestly there is something wrong. For, after all due allowance is made for financial distress, for the comparative poverty of our Southern Church since the war, and for the urgent necessities of the home field, it is still true that there remains sufficient wealth in the Church, if the strength of the Church were drawn out and its wealth truly consecrated to Christ's service, to sustain and enlarge, year by year, our Foreign Missionary work. Hence the fact that this work seems to be falling, that our missionary force in the field is growing weaker, and that our Executive Committee, for three years past, has not been able to send out a single additional missionary.

This state of things naturally leads to the suggestion that, perhaps, we ought to look a little deeper than to any defects in our plan and the agencies by which the strength of the Church is to be called out to be feared that the germinal fault of our efforts hitherto will be found in the prevalence in the Church-or at least in large portions of it-of defective views and teachings touching the great doctrine of missions as an essential element of the gospel; the doctrine which must underlie all plans, all arguments to enforce the duty of missionary zeal, and all agencies and measures for moving the Church. There can be no doubt that a too common conception of the missionary work of the Church is that Foreign Missions is merely an incidental work, and somewhat supererogatory, to be attended to after the evangelization of our own country has been accomplished, and to be supported merely by such surplus of funds as may remain after the home evangelization has been accomplished,-that the primary and chief end of the Church in christlan lands terminates on itself, and is the evangelization of the home field until it is brought to Christ. When, therefore, any untoward event in the christian country narrows the means of the Church, then her resources should first be applied to sustain the Church at home, and the work of Foreign Missions should be diminished or even suspended, no matter how great the sacrifice, until the return of financial prosperity. Hence so many christians are ready to accept, at least in part, the theory of the Rationalists, that it is a Quixotic fanaticism to send funds needed at home to support the comparatively hopeless work of converting the heathen nations

Now, a diligent study of the word of God will make it manifest that there is no such doctrine taught there, as: the gospel first to the further evangelizing of the lands in which the Church is fully established, and then, after that, with the surplus means, the gospel to the heathen. So far from making it the chief end of the Church, organized and visible in any country, to evangelize that country, the scriptures plainly teach that the Church is made the depositary of divine truth—the gospel of salvation—to the end that it shall, age after age, hold forth the word of life and gather the elect of God out of all nations. The same eternal purpose which provided in the scheme of redemption for saving not merely myriads of sinners, but these sinners as constituting an organized body of which Messiah should be head, provided for the develop-

ment of this purpose in a Church, organized and visible, as the instrument whereby He should gather His elect out of the ages among every kindred and tribe and tongue. "I will declare the decree," saith the Spirit of inspiration, "the Lord hath said unto me, ask of Me, and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." It is not said, here or anywhere else in scripture, that Messiah must gather His inheritance from among the heathen, only when, after the lapse of long ages, the enlightened nations shall first have been fully evangelized. He gathers His inheritance from the heathen nations as from the enlightened nations, as the ages roll on; and the chief end of His Church, organized and visible in any country, does not terminate upon itself and that country. The Church is but a means to another end: the sending out of the gospel to the unenlightened nations, to gather His elect, be they few or many, out of those nations. Accordingly it will be found that, from the first charter of the visible Church, given to Abraham, declaring the end of its organization to be that "in Thee shall all nations of the earth be blessed," on through all the ages of inspiration to the revised charter given to the Church by her adorable Lord at His ascension, "Go, teach all nations, I am with you always"—it will be found that the great end for which was organized this Church, either as the Church of one nation or as the Church of all nations, is declared to be that through it all nations shall be evangelized. There seems to be a tendency in the Church at this day to read the Old Testament in the narrow construction put upon it by the Jews at the era of the incarnation. The end of the Old Testament Church is conceived to be simply, as the visible Church of one nation in covenant with God, to receive blessings for itself. But the entire history of this covenant people goes to show that its end was to be a missionary institution, planted as a light-house on the hills of Canaan, on the highway of the world's commerce, and the military highway of the empires, where all nations should be compelled to notice it. And, when faithless to its great end, and holding forth the false light of idolatry, then, in the very judgments inflicted on her sins, Jehovah sent His Church into captivity in the great centres of empire, and there used it as the intrument whereby His name and His gospel should be made known to the nations. In accordance with this idea of the Church as a means to the end of evangelizing the heathen, is all the inspired teaching of the Church in the Old Testament, as may be seen in its inspired ritual and in the teachings of its prophets. Thus the Old Testament saints were taught to pray: "God be merciful to us, and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us, that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations." Believers were taught to pray for revival—for all spiritual blessings not that they might enjoy the comforts, merely, but that they might thereby have it in their power to bear the blessings of salvation to all nations. So were they taught to conceive of the coming Messiah as the whole world's Evangelist: "He shall have dominion from sea to

sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth," "All nations shall eall Him blessed."-Ps. 72. In like manner the prophet Isaiah: "The Lord hath made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of God." "So shall He sprinkle many nations." And in immediate connection with that glorious prophecy, "the Lord hath anointed me to preach the gospel," &c., we find, "and the Gentiles shall see my righteousness," &c. In full accordance with all the prophecies of which these are but a few specimens, Jesus was announced when entering on His public ministry to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel," as "The Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world," not merely of Israel. He himself put into the mouth of every praying believer the petition, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth." He declared, "The field is the world." And, that His apostles understood the chief end of the Church organized and visible to be the evangelization of all nations and peoples alike, although beginning at Jerusalem, is apparent on every page of the Acts of the Apostles and from every apostolic epistle. In like manner it may be shown that the same principle is true of the individual christian as of the Church. The end had in view in the conversion of a sinner is not merely his own salvation, but to make him an instrument to aid in evangelizing sinners. Thus, in the inspired prayer, "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee." The end for which Saul of Tarsus was converted was declared to be not merely his personal salvation, but, said his Lord, "he is a chosen vessel unto me to bear my name among the Gentiles." These few illustrations, selected out of many, suffice to show that the scriptures declare the organization of the Church and the conversion of individual souls are not mere ends terminating upon the Church and the individual. but the means to another end: the evangelization of the world. The history of the Church in all ages since the Apostles, and especially of the Presbyterian Church, is but a continuous testimony to the fact that, only so long as the spirit of the Church is evangelistic, does it continue to be evangelical, and only while evangelical can it be a true Church of God.

The doctrine of missions is thus seen to be an essential part of the gospel doctrine. It is a doctrine that lies in the depths of the gospel system. The very end for which the Church is organized and made the depositary of the revealed truth of God, is that it may do the work of missions in all nations, and thereby gather in the elect of God, be they few or many, out of every nation, people and tribe, as the ages roll on. There is reason to believe that the deficiency of the Church in regard to Foreign Missions arises, not so much from defects in the plans which have been devised, as from the failure to apprehend in its fullness the doctrine of missions as set forth in the word of God. The grace of giving is communicated by the Holy Ghost, who works upon the soul through the instrumentality of the truth. If the truth on any

subject is not brought out distinctly before the minds and hearts of the people, then the grace that grows out of the application of that truth shall surely languish and fail.

The plan, therefore, whereby the strength of the Church may be called out in support of Foreign Missions, anterior in idea to all measures and agencies, is the clear, strong, earnest inculcation upon the people of God of the great gospel doctrine of missions as the chief end of the Church, and of the call of every believer into the Church of God.

In general accord with the statements here presented, and the views suggested, your committee recommend for adoption by the Assembly of the following minute:

Resolved, 1. That the Assembly express its approval of the wise, energetic and diligent management of the Foreign Missionary work by the Executive Committee and the Secretaries, during the past ecclesiastical year.

2. That it is hereby enjoined upon the corresponding members for Foreign Missions in the several Presbyteries, to make special effort during the coming year to have the claims of the Foreign Missionary work brought before every congregation within their bounds.

3. That the ministers and congregations are hereby urged to restore, wherever it has fallen into disuse, the monthly concert of prayer for missions on the first Sabbath evening of every month, at least so far as to have special reference to missions in the prayer and praise, and to take up a collection for missions.

4. That the congregations be exhorted to encourage the formation of Ladies' Missionary Societies wherever they do not already exist, for the purpose of raising funds for the cause of Foreign Missions.

5. That the ministers of the Church be earnestly exhorted to give special attention, in the instruction of the people to the great doctrine of missions as an essential element of the gospel; and to the christian obligations and duties arising out of that doctrine.

6. That, in the judgment of this General Assembly, the fact that the missionary force sent out by this Church has been diminished by one-third during the past three years, and that no additional laborers have been sent forth within that period, although many candidates have offered, is just ground for serious alarm lest God withdraw the blessings of His grace because of our unfaithfulness to the command, "Go, teach all nations."

7. That the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions for the ensuing year shall consist of the following persons, viz.: Rev. J. Leighton Wilson, D. D., Secretary; Rev. Richard McIlwaine, D. D., Co-ordinate Secretary and Treasurer; Rev. J. G. Hamner, D. D., Rev. John Leyburn, D. D., Rev. J. J. Bullock, D. D., Rev. J. A. Lefevre, D. D., Rev. W. U. Murkland, D. D.. J. A. Inglis, C. F. McCay, J. Harman Brown, G. Ober, J. L. Weeks and G. F. Anderson.

#### STUART ROBINSON, Chairman.

After benediction by the Moderator, the Assembly adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 21, 9 o'clock.

The Assembly met and was opened with prayer by the Moderator. The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

The following Committee was appointed to bring in a minute expressing the view of the Assembly in the judicial case decided yesterday: J. J. Bullock, D. D., J. H. Rice, D. D., I. J. Long, D. D., J. A. Billups, W. A. Glasgow.

The Judicial Committee made a report on the appeal of Rev. R. K. Smoot and others, against a decision of the Synod of Texas, representing said appeal to be in regular order, and recommending the course to be pursued in its hearing. This report was approved and the consideration of the case was made the first order of the day for tomorrow afternoon.

The same Committee presented also a report on the appeal of E. T. Baird, from a decision of the Synod of Virginia, which report was received and laid on the table for the present.

The order of the day was then taken up, and the Second Presbyterian Church, in the city of Louisville, was appointed as the place for the meeting of the next General Assembly.

The Rev. Dr. Lacy, from the Standing Committee on Theological Seminaries, presented a report, which was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee on Theological Seminaries would respectfully submit to the General Assembly the following report, to wit:

#### I.—UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

The report from this Seminary indicates a degree of prosperity and usefulness which demands our profound gratitude to the Head of the Church. In the careful management by its Board of Directors, the ability and devotion of its Professors, and the fidelity of its Students during the past year, as well as in the financial soundness of the institution in times so perilous to every pecuniary interest, we humbly recognize the good hand of Him whose watchful care has been so manifest in the past, and find encouragement to hope and pray that His continued favor may rest upon this beloved institution.

There has been a decrease in the number of students from sixtytwo (62) year before last to fifty-one (51) for the year just closed. Whilst there is so much to give satisfaction in the general condition and prospects of the institution, this falling off is discouraging, especially in view of the wide destitution of our field and the urgent call for laborers.

We regret that so many as six students left the Seminary before the close of the session. All our Presbyteries are familiar with the embarrassments which arise from applications for licensure by this class of students, and we recommend that every possible effort be made to avert the pecuniary difficulties or other causes which sometimes render such absence necessary.

We cordially commend the method of written examinations, combined with oral, adopted at the session of 1875–'76, and rejoice that it "continues to give satisfactory results as an efficient tests of scholarship and an additional stimulus to study." As a proof of the tendency in our Church to exalt the standard of ministerial education and training, this method, and every one directed to the same end, should be constantly fostered and encouraged.

It is gratifying to observe that the library has been increased by an addition of three hundred and twenty-one volumes, making the whole number about eleven thousand volumes.

#### II.—COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

The report from this institution, so deeply imbedded in the affections of the Church and so important in its influence over a large part of our field, presents two features that are peculiarly gratifying and encouraging, viz: first, an improved financial condition; second, an increase of fourteen in the number of students over the previous year, making the whole number of students in attendance thirty-nine.

The methods recommended by the last Assembly, to relieve the Seminary of its pecuniary difficulties, have, by the blessing of God, been so successful that a sufficient amount has been raised to meet the immediate necessities of the Institution and to leave a balance on hand after paying the salaries of the Professors to the 1st of July next.

The financial agency of Rev. C. E. Chichester, by which principally these results have been effected, is commended to all the Churches; they are urged to extend to the Seminary a constant and liberal support, and to give to it freely, not only of their means, but of their confidence, their patronage and their prayers.

It is gratifying to notice that the Board has determined to have more extended and thorough examinations.

The terms of the following Directors expire with the present General Assembly, viz: Rev. D. McQueen, D. D., Rev. A. W. Clisby, Mr. T. B. Frazer and Mr. A. B. Davidson. Rev. Dr. McQueen declines re-election. We recommend that Rev. Mr. Clisby, and Messrs. Frazer and Davidson be re-elected.

In the place of Dr. McQueen we recommend the election of Rev. W. J. McKay.

Mr. James W. Bones has tendered his resignation as a Director, and it has been accepted. We recommend the election, in his place, of Rev. J. B. Mack.

We find, from the records of the Board of Directors, that a complaint has been brought before the Board concerning the teachings of the Professor of Pastoral Theology, &c. The Board, while exonorating the parties bringing the complaint, were satisfied with the explanations of said Professor. But evidence has been presented to this Committee, that their decision is not satisfactory to all parties. We recommend that the whole subject be referred to the Board of Directors, who are the proper persons to act in the matter, if further action be necessary.

B. T. LACY, Chairman.

The Committee appointed to consider the matter of greater economy in the benevolent operations of our Church, presented a report, the consideration of which was made the order of the day for to-morrow at  $10\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock, A. M.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence reported the following paper, which was adopted, and ordered to be forwarded by the Stated Clerk to the Secretary of the body referred to:

Resolved, That this General Assembly acknowledge the reception of the christian salutations of the General Conference of the M. E. Church South, now in session at Atlanta, Georgia. We send to them like greeting of love and good wishes for harmony in their sessions, and prosperity in all their Church enterprises.

Also, the following, which was adopted, and ordered to be sent by telegram:

Knoxville, Tenn., May 21st, 1878.

To the Moderator of the Venerable, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, at Pittsburgh, Pa.:

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States acknowledge the reception of your cordial and courteous christian salutation, and in the same spirit that prompted your message, would return through you to your venerable Assembly, our hearty christian greetings. May the Holy Spirit guide your deliberations and be with you in all your efforts to build up the kingdom of our common Master.

Attest:

Joseph R. Wilson, Stated Clerk. THOMAS E. PECK, Moderator.

The order of the day was taken up and the report of the Standing Committee of Education was read by the Chairman, Rev. Mr. Rumple. This report was received, and after some discussion, was for the present laid on the table.

The following report was received and adopted:

The Standing Committee of Publication, to which was referred the paper adopted by the Executive Committee of Publication, would respectfully report. The said communication is as follows:

The Executive Committee of Publication beg leave to present for the consideration of the General Assembly the following statement:

Immediately before the meeting of the last Assembly, it was publicly asserted, and widely circulated over the Church, concerning our late Secretary, Rev. E. T. Baird, D. D., that he, "as the Secretary, made contracts with himself, as printer, for the printing of the Publication Committee," and that, "these facts were known to all who cared to know them."

Knowing how unjust as well as injurious in its character this charge was to Dr. Baird, by its assertion, and to the Committee by its implication, it was distinctly and fully met in our annual report for 1877, as may be found on page 27. After referring to the circumstances and to a carefully guarded written agreement, under which Dr. Baird was engaged in 1867, to do the printing necessary for the Committee, the following declaration was made, viz: "That the prices were determined by the Committee and not by Dr. Baird, and that, therefore, in no sense did he ever make a contract with himself."

But notwithstanding this explicit denial of the charge, it was repeated and circulated at various times soon after the close of the last Assembly, and it has been quite recently reasserted in a most positive and public manner, and again widely circulated over the Church.

If the alleged "contracts" existed, and were "known to all who cared to know them," they must have been known to the Committee of Publication, and if thus existing and thus known, this Committee is manifestly implicated in a wilful and disreputable connivance at wrong, and in such a deliberate betrayal of its trust—and all this persisted in for years—as would deserve the severest censures of the Church.

But if it be untrue that such "contracts" were made, then this wide-spread allegation referred to is not only exceedingly unjust to Dr. Baird, and to such members of the Committee, individually, as were implicated, but is also an exceedingly injurious imputation upon the Committee as a body, and well suited to impair its usefulness in the work entrusted to it.

Therefore, under the circumstances presented in this statement, your Committee have come to the conclusion, however reluctantly, that it is their duty to place this matter in the hands of the General Assembly for such consideration as may in their wisdom be deemed suitable. If in the judgment of the Assembly the rumors and allegations referred to are calculated to affect the interest of the Publication cause injuriously, the Executive Committee of Publication hereby respectfully suggest the propriety of a careful investigation, affording them an opportunity to submit documentary and other testimony bearing upon the case.

We recommend that this Assembly take steps at once to investigate

this allegation and charge, because it has been widely circulated, is extensively believed, is very damaging to the cause of Publication, and (though explicity denied in the sixteenth annual report of the Executive Committee, made in 1877) it has since been publicly and repeatedly re-asserted.

J. B. MACK, Chairman.

This report was adopted unanimously, and the Standing Committee of Publication was directed to make the investigation referred to.

It was ordered that a part of the report of the Executive Committee of Publication, relating to Sabbath Schools, be referred to the standing committee on that subject.

The unfinished business, relating to the election of clerks, was taken up, and after further discussion, the report of the minority, requiring a change in the present method, was rejected, and then the report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures was adopted. The report is as follows:

The Committee of Bills and Overtures report on overture No. 8, from the Synod of Memphis, asking the Assembly to "consider the advisableness of electing its Clerks every four years, making the elections alternate every two years," and also overture No. 9, from the Presbytery of Mecklenburg, asking the Assembly to "consider the propriety of limiting the terms of office of the Stated and Permanent Clerks to the term of two years, and that the terms be so arranged that they shall expire on alternate years," and recommend the following reply, viz.: That it is the judgment of this Assembly that neither of the proposed changes is advisable.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures presented the following, which was adopted:

The Committee on Bills and Overtures have considered overture No. 10, from the Presbytery of Muhlenburg, which is as follows:

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States—Greeting:

The Presbytery of Muhlenburg being met in Hopkinsville, Ky., the

following overture to the General Assembly was adopted:
WHEREAS, "Lay Evangelists" are appearing here and there in
the bounds of our Assembly, seeking the co-operation of our ministers
in so-called "Gospel Meetings," therefore:

This Presbytery respectfully overtures the General Assembly, to be convened in Knoxville, Tenn., on May 16th, 1878, to make such deliverance on said co-operation, as will control the conduct of some of our ministers, and be a moral support to all in their several communities."

I certify this to be a correct copy of the minute, as adopted April

27th, 1878. Signed,

J. C. TATE,

Stated Clerk and Moderator.

To the above overture the Committee recommend that the following answer be given:

The General Assembly, whilst recognizing the fact that there are spheres of christian labor, which private christians as well as Ruling Elders may profitably and lawfully occupy, yet feels called upon to give its solemn protest against the practice, now becoming general, of men who have never been ordained nor licensed to preach the gospel, engaging in that peculiar function of the Christian Ministry; and earnestly urge all our ministers and people to avoid encouraging the same, whether by active co-operation or otherwise.

The plain teaching of our standards is, that, "The word of God is to be preached only by such as are sufficiently gifted, and also duly approved and called to that office."—Larger Catechism, Q, 158. Indeed, the whole doctrine of our Church as to the ministry, and the regulations under which men are inducted into it, show that in addition to the call of God, the authority of the Church is necessary to call and appoint them to this work, whether as Pastors or Evangelists—and no amount of apparent or even real good which may be connected with the labors of unauthorized preachers or evangelists can justify us in dishonoring the ordinance of Christ, and by this means undermining his Church.

From the same Committee was reported overture No. 11, which was discussed until near the time for devotional exercises.

Official information was received from the Stated Clerk of the Synod of Nashville, that by action of said Synod the boundary line of the Presbytery of Columbia had been changed.

A recess was then taken until 3 o'clock, P. M.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, 3 o'clock.

The Assembly met, and the order of the day being taken up, the following records of Synods were, upon reports from the committees appointed, approved as far as written, viz.: Alabama, Kentucky, Nashville, Arkansas, South Carolina, Memphis, Missouri, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia. The records of the Synod of Mississippi not having been sent forward, the committee was discharged.

The report on the records of the Synod of Texas was made and for the present postponed.

The unfinished business was taken up, viz., the report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures, on overture No. 11, from the Presbytery of Greenbrier, requesting this General Assembly to reverse a decision of the Assembly of 1876, which declares in substance that none but "the Teaching Elder" can properly be elected as Moderator in any of our Church Courts above the Church Session.

The committee recommend the following answer: Whilst the Assembly fully recognize the perfect equality of Ruling Elders with Ministers in all our Church Courts, yet since our Form of Government requires of all the Moderators of all our judicatories, except the session, certain duties which can be performed only by Ministers, we decline to reverse the decision referred to.

This report was adopted.

The following report from the Committee on Bills and Overtures was adopted:

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported on Overture No. 12, from the Presbytery of Augusta, asking the Assembly to change the appointment or recommendation of the day of prayer for Colleges and Schools, from the last Thursday in February to the last Thursday in January;—and recommend the following reply, viz: The General Assembly does not regard the proposed change as desirable.

The report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures in relation to an overture (No. 13) from the Presbytery of Savannah, and a letter from the International Sabbath Association of New York, concerning a concert of christian effort in promoting the observance of the Sabbath, was adopted, recommending that this subject be referred to a Special Committee.

The Rev. R. L. Dabney, D. D., Rev. J. E. Dunlop, with Ruling Elders I. D. Jones and J. A. Billups, were appoint-

ed the Committee provided for in the above report.

Overture No. 14 was reported, and after some discussion was re-committed.

A report was received from the Auditing Committee, which was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee to whom papers were referred touching the death of Hon. T. C. Perrin, would report that he died at his home in Abbeville, S. C., on the 14th inst., in the 73d year of his age. He was a life-long citizen of his native state, whose people knew him well and honored him much. He filled many stations of trust and confidence, was a man of pure character and consistent life, maintaining an unblemished reputation throughout a long and useful career.

He was for a long period the President of the Board of Trustees of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, and as such had frequent mention of his name as a judicious adviser and a faithful officer.

The Committee therefore recommend the adoption of this minute: That his pious life, public virtues and faithful Church service entitle the Hon. T. C. Perrin to a conspicuous place on the roll of our honored dead, and that his family have the fraternal sympathy of this Assembly.

 $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{MILTON P. JARNAGIN,} \\ \text{W. D. REYNOLDS,} \\ \text{JOHN SHAW,} \end{array} \right\} \text{Committee.}$ 

A copy of this minute was ordered to be sent to the family of the late Mr. Perrin.

The report of the Committee on the Book of Church Order was presented by the Rev. Dr. Armstrong, and having been read, its consideration was made the first order of the day for Thursday morning.

The report of the Judicial Committee on the complaint of the Rev. Messrs. McAlister and Shaw against their Presbytery, on account of certain alleged irregularities in its action on the question of adopting the Book of Church Order, was taken up, and the report was adopted, as follows:

The Committee report that the complainants assign no reason for passing by the Synod, and bringing their complaint directly to the General Assembly; and recommend that they have leave to withdraw the complaint and seek their remedy, if any there be, in the Synod of Mississippi.

It was resolved that when the Assembly shall adjourn on Friday next, at 12½ P. M., it will adjourn to meet at 8 o'clock that night.

A recess was then taken to meet to-night at 8 o'clock.

Tuesday Night, 8 o'clock.

The Assembly met, and, after devotional exercises, the order of the day was taken up.

The report of the Standing Committee on Sustentation was read by the Chairman, Rev. Dr. Hendrick, and after discussion of the subject the report was adopted, and is as follows:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON SUSTENTATION.

The Standing Committee on Sustentation beg leave to submit the following report:

Having carefully examined the report of the Executive Committee, with the accompanying papers—including the minutes of the Executive Committee, account of expenditures, &c., we take pleasure in saying that we find them correct, showing the most commendable fidelity, prudence and energy in the five important interests committed to their care.

We regard these departments of Church work as worthy of the most prayerful consideration and efficient co-operation of all the people of God. They are intimately connected with the life of the Church and prosperity of the Kingdom of Christ. What more important interests has the Church than assisting feeble churches in supporting their Ministers, sending out Evangelists or Missionaries to occupy new fields and preach the gospel in regions beyond, giving the gospel to the colored population which Providence has placed within our reach, providing for the support of aged and infirm Ministers, and the relief of the fami-

lies of deceased Ministers? If these do not call forth the prayers, sympathies and contributions of all who love our Lord Jesus Christ, what can?

The success of these departments of Church work will depend upon the efficient co-operation of our Ministers and people. The plans are good, experience has proven them practicable; but the contributions of the churches must be greatly increased to enable the Committee, under God, to carry them out successfully, and meet the calls made upon them.

We are gratified in saying that the Invalid Fund is growing in favor with the churches, as is manifest, by the increased contributions of 123 more churches than last year. The Relief Fund seems to be on a solid foundation, and in a growing and prosperous condition.

We recommend the following resolutions:

- 1. That this Assembly most heartily approves and hereby expresses its entire satisfaction with the wisdom, fidelity and energy with which the Executive Committee of Sustentation has managed the great interests committed to their care during the past year.
- 2. That it be enjoined upon all our ministers to bring the claims of the Sustentation and Evangelistic work before their churches, and make a special effort to obtain at least 50 cents from each communicant, to be divided between these two causes.
- 3. That the special attention of the Committee be called to Texas, as a wide and growing field, demanding and deserving all the aid that can be afforded, consistently with the claims of other parts of the Church. The Assembly would express entire satisfaction with the importance heretofore given by the Executive Committee to this field, and hope it will be still more pronounced, because of the pressing wants, and because the rapidly increasing population will soonest return the money spent upon it with interest, to be distributed in other parts of the Church.
- 4. We recommend the same Committee for the ensuing year, viz: Rev. J. Leighton Wilson, D. D. Secretary; Rev. Richard McIlwaine, D. D., Co-ordinate Secretary and Treasurer; Rev. J. A. Lefevre, D. D., Rev. J. J. Bullock, D. D., Rev. John Leyburn, D. D., Rev. W. U. Murkland, D. D., Rev. J. G. Hanner, D. D., J. H. Brown, J. A. Inglis, G. Ober, G. F. Anderson, J. L. Wecks and C. F. McCay.

  J. T. HENDRICK, Chairman.

The Assembly then adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock; closed with prayer by Rev. Dr. Hendrick.

# WEDNESDAY MORNING, May 22, 9 o'clock.

The Assembly met and was opened with prayer by the Moderator The minutes of yesterday morning and afternoon were read and approved.

A paper, signed by the Rev. Dr. R. K. Smoot and others, asking for an explanation of the minute adopted yesterday in response to the telegraphic message received from the Presbyterian General Assembly at Pittsburgh, was laid

before this Assembly; which paper, together with a resolution offered by Ruling Elder J. Huber, was referred to the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

A communication from Mr. Yates Hickey, Secretary of the International Sabbath Association, was read, and referred to the special committee appointed yesterday on the subject of the Sabbath.

Upon a report from the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, the Rev. B. T. Lacy. D. D., was appointed the principal delegate from this Assembly to the next General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, and the Rev. G. T. Goetchius was appointed as his alternate.

The Committee appointed to bring in a minute in relation to the judicial case touching the Synod of Kentucky, made the following report, which was adopted:

In delivering the judgment sustaining the complaint against the Synod of Kentucky, the Assembly means to declare:

1st. That the Presbytery of Louisville proceeded properly in restraining from the exercise of the functions of the ministry a minister deemed irresponsible for his words and acts, by reason of unsoundness of mind, without the usual forms of judicial process.

2nd. That the Synod of Kentucky erred in rescinding the action of the Presbytery of Louisville so restraining a minister, by mere resolution, without a formal examination of the case either as a question of appeal, complaint or of general review and control, it being incompetent for the Synod to interpose its authority to interfere with the right of a Presbytery to judge of the qualifications of its own ministers.

3rd. That in pronouncing this judgment on the action of the Synod of Kentucky, this Assembly does not intend to pass any censure upon that body or upon any of its members.

The Committee on Theological Seminaries made a report concerning the Tuskaloosa Institute, which was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee on Theological Seminaries respectfully submit the following report on

THE TUSKALOOSA INSTITUTE FOR THE TRAINING OF COLORED MINISTERS.

The Institute is yet in its infancy. The instruction of not more than ten students at once, in the primary departments both of literature and theology, may seem to be a small and insignificant enterprise, but a careful perusal of all the papers submitted to the Committee, and some acquaintance with the growing favor and hopefulness with which efforts in behalf of the colored people are now regarded in our Church, inspire your Committee with confidence in the ultimate success of that which seems to be now in its day of small things.

The management of the institution by its Executive Committee appears to be remarkably judicious and economical. The contributions

have paid all the expenses thus far, and left a balance in the treasury of \$762-94. The services of the Secretary are rendered gratuitously, and all his travelling expenses in its behalf have been paid by himself. The work done by the members of the Executive Committee, whether resident in Tuskaloosa or elsewhere, is a labor of love; and so frugal have they been that the incidental expenses of the Institute are less than \$60. The instructor receives \$1,500, and seems to devote himself to his arduous and peculiar duties with commendable fidelity.

The pupils are in all grades, from the exercises of scholars who have not yet learned to read correctly, to the lessons of those who have begun to study the Greek Testament and Grammar and the first principles of theology. It is obvious that as soon as the increase in the number of students, which we anticipate, shall take place, a necessity will arise for the employment of a teacher to relieve Mr. Dickson of the labors of primary instruction.

In order to secure more students it is absolutely indispensable that there should be a beneficiary fund to aid those who have no pecuniary resources. From fifteen to twenty students, highly recommended for good character, are said to be waiting in our different Presbyteries for such assistance as may enable them to enter the institution. This fact, as well as other wants of the Institute, suggests the importance of general and liberal collections in our churches for this object.

The Institute has no buildings. All its work of instruction is done in a room rented at three dollars per month. It is hardly necessary for your committee to advocate the erection of a suitable edifice, and that contributions for this end be sent forward as rapidly as possible.

A school of manual labor has been recommended in connection with the Institute. Your committee is not prepared to make any recommendation, except that the Executive Committee give it careful consideration.

An overture from the Presbytery of East Hanover has been placed in the hands of the committee. This overture expresses the profound convictions of that Presbytery that "the work of evangelization among the colored population of this country is one of immense extent and importance, of great difficulty, and yet of great promise." This Presbytery recommends that the General Assembly shall be requested to consider the expediency of sending out one or more accredited Agents upon a special mission to Great Britain in its behalf.

We believe that this overture is based upon some personal knowledge of the feeling among the Christian people of that country on this subject. The same recommendation comes up to us from the Executive Committee of the Institute.

We therefore recommend that the Executive Committee, as soon as the way may be clear, take the necessary steps to inaugurate such a mission, and that the Agent whom they select be accredited by the Moderator and Stated Clerk of the Assembly.

There are under instruction at the Institute three candidates for the

ministry, one each from the Presbyteries of Chickasaw, Memphis and East Texas.

We recommend that all our Pastors and Sessions be urged to observe the collection for this Institute on the first Sabbath in December.

The Constitution and By-Laws adopted by the Executive Committee, subject to your ratification, are herewith submitted, to be read to the Assembly.

If this Constitution be a lopted, it will be necessary to elect two additional members to make the complement required for the Executive Committee. We nominate Mr. H. M. Sumerville, of Tuskaloosa, Ala., Rev. D. D. Sanderson, of Eutaw, Ala., and recommend the re-election of the present Corresponding Secretary, Rev. C. A. Stillman, D. D., and of Mr. Wm. P. Webb, Dr. James T. Searey, Dr. R. D. Webb and Mr. Jonathan Bliss to constitute, with Dr. Stillman, the Executive Committee; and that the appointment of Rev. A. F. Dickson, as Instructor, be approved.

, B. T. LACY, Chairman.

Another report from the Committee on Theological Seminaries, embracing some general principle for the guidance of all our Seminaries, was presented, and was laid on the table.

Upon a report from the Committee of Foreign Correspondence, on the report of the delegates to the Presbyterian Council in Edinburgh, the diligence of said delegates was approved, and their report was ordered to be printed in the Appendix. Also, the courtesy of the Rev. G. D. Mathews, a Clerk of the Council, in transmitting a copy of the volume of the proceedings, was duly acknowledged.

The Rev. Dr Dabney offered a paper for adoption, which was discussed until the hour for the order of the day arrived, viz: the consideration of the report on retrenchment of expenses in our benevolent operations. The discussion of this subject was continued until the time for devotional exercises, after the observance of which the Assembly took a recess until 3 o'clock, P. M.

# WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, 3 o'clock.

The Assembly met, and the order of the day was postponed, to receive reports from the Auditing Committee, which were adopted, and are as follows:

# ON ACCOUNTS OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Your Auditing Committee now submit a report upon the accounts of your Trustees, for the year ending April 30, 1878. We have examined the report of the Board, and also the Minutes and Treasurer's

Report and vouchers placed in our hands by your order, and find the balance in the Treasurer's hands at the end of the last year, was sixty-two dollars and eighty-seven cents; (\$62.87,) and that the sum of thirteen dollars and sixty cents (\$13.60) has been expended, for which a proper voucher was produced; leaving forty-nine dollars and twenty-seven cents (\$49.27) in his hands, May 1, 1878.

On the same day he held, on account of the Relief Fund, twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in the bonds mentioned and described on page 19 of printed reports of R. McHwaine, Treasurer of the Relief Fund.

The Treasurer of said Board of Trustees also holds a certificate of five shares of stock in "The Peoples' Savings Bank," of Mobile, of twenty-five dollars (\$25 00) each, for the use of "Foreign Missions," donated by Miss Horton, of Mobile, to be held for that purpose.

He also holds fifty dollars (\$50 00) for Foreign Missions and Sustentation, received from Geo. B. Wetmore, Executor of David C. Turner, deceased, of Rowan County, N. C.

He also holds the receipt of R. McIlwaine, for one thousand dollars, (\$1,000,) amount of a legacy left to the Sustentation cause by Robt. A. Reed, deceased, of Augusta, Ga.

Respectfully submitted,

MILTON P. JARNAGIN, W. D. REYNOLDS, JOHN SHAW,

### ON ACCOUNTS OF TREASURER OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Auditing Committee report that they have examined the books of accounts and the vouchers of Rev. Richard McIlwaine, Treasurer of the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions, and find that the books have been well and accurately kept; that the disbursements have been properly made; that they are sustained by proper vouchers, and that the balances are correctly stated. The balance due the Treasurer is nine thousand two hundred and fifty-one dollars and four cents (\$9,251,04.)

Respectfully submitted,

MILTON P. JARNAGIN, W. D. REYNOLDS, Committee. JOHN SHAW,

#### ON ACCOUNTS OF TREASURER OF EDUCATION.

The Auditing Committee have examined the books and accounts of G. W. Macrae, Treasurer of the Education Committee, and now report that the disbursements were properly made, and sufficient vouchers have been submitted to our inspection. The balance in the Treasury is correctly stated at one hundred and twenty-three dollars and fity-eight cents, (\$123-58) on the 30th April, 1878

Respectfully submitted,

MILTON P. JARNAGIN, W. D. REYNOLDS, JOHN SHAW, Committee.

### ON ACCOUNTS OF TREASURER OF SUSTENTATION.

The Auditing Committee to whom was referred the accounts of the Treasurer of Sustentation, now report that they have made a careful examination, and find the books and accounts to have been plainly and carefully kept; that all disbursements have been properly made and they are sustained by proper vouchers. The balances are correctly stated and are as follows:

Sustentation.—Balance in Treasury, April 1, 1878, twelve hundred and ninety-two dollars and sixty-six cents. (\$1,292-66.)

Evangelistic Fund.—Balance in Treasury, April 1, 1878, thirteen hundred and ninety-seven dollars and sixty-three cents. (§1,397-63.)

Colored Evangelistic Fund.—Balance, April 1, 1878, against this fund, amounting to six hundred and fifty-nine dollars and sixty-eight cents, (\$659-68,) was closed by charging this sum to Sustentation account.

Invalid Fund.—Balance due Treasurer, 1st April, 1878, one thousand and thirty-seven dollars and fifty-four cents. (\$1,037-54.)

Relief Fund.—Balance in Treasury, 1st April, 1878, five hundred and fifty-six dollars and seventy-three cents, (\$556-73.)

Respectfully submitted,

MILTON P. JARNAGIN, W. D. REYNOLDS, JOHN SHAW, Committee.

The judicial case, namely, the complaint of Rev. R. K. Smoot and others against the Synod of Texas, was taken up. The papers belonging to the case were read, and the argument was entered upon and continued until near the hour for recess.

The paper offered this morning by the Rev. Dr. Dabney was made the second order of the day for to-morrow morning.

Ruling Elder W. A. Glasgow was appointed on the committee to examine the records of the Synod of Texas.

A recess was taken until 8 o'clock to-night.

## Wednesday Night, 8 o'clock.

The Assembly met, and it was made the first order for Friday morning to receive the report of the Standing Committee on Publication; and the second order for that day to receive the report of the Standing Committee on Sabbath Schools.

A minority report from members of the Committee on the Book of Church Order was read, which was laid upon the table, to be taken up in connection with the report of the Committee on that subject.

The order for the evening, the report of the special committee on retrenchment, was postponed and made the order for to-morrow night at 8 o'clock.

The judicial case was then resumed, and the argument by the parties to the complaint was continued.

The Rev. J. Howard-Smith, D. D., a delegate from the Reformed Episcopal Church, was introduced, and it was made the order of the day for 10 o'clock to-morrow morning to hear his address to the Assembly.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock; closed with prayer by the Moderator.

## THURSDAY MORNING, May 23, 9 o'clock.

The Assembly met and was opened with prayer by the Rev. P. B Price, and the minutes for Tuesday night and of yesterday were read and approved.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence reported the following paper, which was adopted:

In reply to the overture of R. K. Smoot and others, in reference to the answer sent, on the 21st, to the Christian salutations of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, now in session at Pittsburgh, to this Assembly: your Committee recommend the following answer:

There is not a word in the reply of the General Assembly about Fraternal Correspondence or any other kind of correspondence. All that was intended was simply christian salutation or greeting from this

Assembly to the one at Pittsburgh.

Respectfully submitted,

#### J. J. BULLOCK, Chairman.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures made a report on an overture which had been re-committed. This report, having been amended, was adopted and is as follows:

Overture No. 14, from the Presbytery of Potosi, asking: "Is it agreeable to the faith and practice of the Presbyterian Church for a minister of the gospel to administer the sacrament of baptism to an adult, in extremis, in case said person professes faith in Christ, without being received into church membership?"

To this inquiry it is answered:

1. That the Assembly does not question the right of pastors to administer the ordinance of baptism to any who make a credible profession of faith in Christ, but advises the exercise of great care and

prudence in teaching such adult applicants as are in extreme illness the true use and meaning of this ordinance, in order that no countenance be given to the doctrine of baptismal regeneration

2. As to use of baptism in admitting such persons into the Church, see Larger Catechism, Q. 165, 166, especially the clause "whereby the parties baptized are solemly admitted into the visible Church," and "Baptism is not to be administered to any out of the visible Church."

The same Committee on Bills and Overtures reported on Nos. 15 and 16. The reports were adopted, and are as follows:

The Committee on Bills and Overtures to whom was referred the Annual Report of the Presbyterian Historical Society at Philadelphia, report that they examined the same, and recommend that the Assembly express its satisfaction with the progress made by said Society in the collection of various documents and a large library, as contributions to the general history of the Presbyterian Church, and also the provision of a fire-proof building for their preservation.

The Committee also report on overture No. 16, from the Synod of Texas, asking that steps be taken for gathering up and preserving the past and current history of the Southern Presbyterian Church, and recommend that the Assembly urge upon all our ministers and judicatories to take all necessary steps for the early preparation and collection of materials for the history of our Church and their careful preservation until the Assembly shall arrange for their safe keeping.

Also Nos. 17 and 18; the reports on which were adopted and are as follows:

The Committee of Bills and Overtures report on overture No. 17, from the Presbytery of Lexington, asking the Assembly "to make a deliverance with reference to the duties of Sessions in regard to members of the Church under their care engaged in the retail of ardent spirits," and recommend as our reply a reference to the action of the General Assembly in 1842, viz.:

"Resolved, That the records (of the Synod of Pittsburgh) be approved, except so far as they seem to establish a general rule in regard to the use and sale of ardent spirits as a beverage, which use and sale are generally to be decidedly disapproved, but each case must be decided in view of all the attendant circumstances that go to modify and give character to the same."

Also on overture No. 18, from the Presbytery of Lexington, asking the Assembly to "omit the word 'children' from the heading of the column in the statistical reports, so as to read 'No. in Sabbath Schools and Bible classes.'" The Committee recommend that the Assembly order the change proposed.

Also overture No. 19, which was placed on the docket.

Also overture No. 20, which was likewise placed on the docket.

Also overture No. 21, the report on which was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee on Bills and Overtures report on overture No. 21, from Rev. W. B. Bingham on behalf of Mrs. E. E. Inslee, asking the Assembly to appoint and authorize a committee to change the form of invest-

ment of the fund called the Inslee Fund, raised under the direction of the General Assembly of 1871, for the support and education of the family of Rev. E. B. Inslee, so as to make it available for that purpose -Mrs. Inslee approving this overture—and recommend that the foregoing request be granted, and that Messrs. S. T. Rogers, A. Mangold and J. A. Horne be that Committee, to carry out the wishes of Mrs. Inslee.

The first order of the day, viz., the consideration of the Book of Church Order, was passed by to hear the delegate from the Reformed Episcopal Church.

The following letter, addressed to the Stated Clerk, from the Rev. J. D. Wilson, the other delegate appointed, was

PEORIA, HLL., May 13, 1878.

Rev. and Dear Brother:

I regret that I shall not have the honor of presenting my credentials in person, and of conveying by word of mouth the salutations of her younger sister to the grand and queenly Presbyterian Church.

The Reformed Episcopal Church, driven by the assumptions of prelacy and the impositions of sacerdotalism and sacramentalism to assert and maintain a separate existence, finds itself in warm syn. pathy with all those Reformed Churches which through similar stress have trod a similar course. It gladly marks their footsteps and walks in the way already smoothed by the foilsome and heroic pilgrimages of the great reformers who have gone before. It rejoices especially that all these footprints are following the steps of the one Leader—Christ Jesus.

The agitation begun by your fathers at Hampton Court and Savoy is renewed in us, and our path of duty is as theirs was, *separation* rather than schism in the body. You have entered into the fruits of your sires' We who maintain a similar struggle for similar principles

ask your sympathy and prayers.

For the steady maintenance of Christ's truth, which has ever characterized the Presbyterian Church, we with all Christian men are glad. and we bless God for your existence and prosperity.

Receive our cordial Christian greeting. JOSEPH D. WILSON.

Delegate from Reformed E. Church.

REV. JOSEPH R. WILSON, D. D., Stated Clerk.

The Rev. Dr. Howard-Smith then addressed the Assembly on the subject of missions, to which the Moderator made a suitable response.

The following paper was adopted, viz.:

Resolved, That the Moderator of this General Assembly be appointed to address a special communication to the proper ecclesiastical body of the Reformed Episcopal Church, conveying to that Church the hearty sympathies of the Southern Presbyterian Church in the position it occupies and the great work in which it is engaged.

The order of the day was taken up, viz., the consideration of the Book of Church Order. The report of the majority of the Committee was read, and on a motion for its adoption, the report of the minority (asking "that the work of revision be discontinued, and the whole subject of the Book of Church Order be indefinitely postponed,") was offered as a substitute. After discussion, the vote upon this substitute was taken by ayes and noes, as follows:

AYES.—J. H. Martin (minister), W. A. Gray, J. H. Gillespie, M. G. Gorin, E. A. Carson, S. R. Preston, W. L. Rosser, E. Hines R. H. Byers, J. G. Hamner, P. B. Price, R. L. Dabney, J. R. Graham, J. W. Harp, C. H. Rochester, James Rogan, J. H. Martin (ruling elder), T. B. Gentry, T. M. Carroll, G. M. McNutt, G. B. Boyles, R. D. Rankin, H. H. McAlister, W. L. T. Prince, J. A. Houston, Josephus Cavitt, A. Painter, W. A. Glasgow—28.

Noes.—F. B. Webb, W. W. Carothers, I. J. Long, M. A. Patterson, G. T. Goetchius, J. M. M. Caldwell, N. M. Long, J. H. Nall, C. B. King, J. H. Myers, G. Summey, J. K. Hltner, S. Robinson, J. T. Hendrick, W. T. Spears, J. H. Rice, J. McCampbell, A. Penland, W. A. Hall, A. McCallum, W. C. Clark, J. Y. Allison, J. C. Carothers, J. E. Wheeler, B. T. Lacy, A. W. Milster, J. N. Gilbreath, J. H. Alexander, D. F. Smith, J. Rumple, J. P. McPherson, S. H. Chester, S. T. Martin, H. T. Darnall, C. M. Payne, L. H. Wilson, J. B. Mack, J. D. A. Brown, W. J. McKay, J. E. Dunlop, R. A. Fair, C. B. Stuart, W. S. Johnson, C. H. Dobbs, A. P. Smith, J. W. Neil, J. C. Carson, J. J. Bullock, G. D. Armstrong, T. L. Preston, W. E. Hill, E. D. Junkin, C. S. M. See, T. E. Peck, J. Mc. Caldwell, H. L. McKee, W. P. Webb, W. P. Campbell, T. G. Gillespie, J. A. Billups, T. M. Palmer, T. W. Fleming, T. S. Mallard, J. G. Speer, J. A. Howerton, J. H. Huber, Jos. Gault, P. B. McGoodwin, W. M. Cocke, M. P. Jarnagin, F. O. Sherrod, J. S. Colmery, W. F. Ogden, R. F. Houston, P. M. Harris, R. H. Hatcher, J. B. Alexander, John Shaw, E. R. Mills, A. R. Banks, Thomas Stenhouse, J. C. Burgess, W. E. Mills, R. H. Wardlaw, W. M. Dorroh, S. P. Green, Peyton Irving, J. F. Miller, J. V. A. Shields, C. S. Carringfon, W. D. Reynolds, E. Geeding, Isaac D. Jones, T. O. Rogers, M. W. Wallace, J. Kuykendall—96.

So the substitute was rejected.

After a season of devotional exercises a recess was taken until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON, 3 o'clock.

The Assembly met, and it was resolved that the judical case be postponed, to proceed with the consideration of the report on the Book of Church Order, which report, after discussion, was adopted, by a vote of ninety six (96) to twenty (20). This report is as follows:

# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON "THE BOOK OF CHURCH ORDER."

Your Committee report:

That they have carefully examined the papers put into their hands, and herewith present, as a part of their report, a statement in tabular form of the votes of the Presbyteries on "the Book as a whole," and on the several articles submitted by the last Assembly for a "separate vote." This statement has been prepared with great care, and is believed to be correct:

# Tabular Statement of the Votes of Presbyteries on the Book of Church Order, 1878.

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<sup>\*</sup>For 3d Form.

From an examination of the statement it will be seen: (1.) that the Revised "Book of Church Order" has not been adopted, "as a whole," by the vote of a majority of the Presbyteries. (2.) That of the articles submitted for a "separate vote," those marked in the Assembly's overture as II, III, VI, VII, VIII, the third form of IV and the first form of V, have been adopted by the vote of a majority of all the Presbyteries;—that the one marked Art X, Ch. VIII, submitted by a Committee of the last Assembly under circumstances a statement of which was appended to the overture, was not voted upon by several Presbyteries which voted upon all the others; but was adopted by the Presbyteries actually voting, the vote being, aye 28, no 17:—that the article marked I was lost, the vote being aye 26, no 27.

It will be recollected that the overture of the last Assembly submitting these articles for a separate vote, did not submit them as independent propositions overtured to the Presbyteries, but as "parts of the Book." By this was meant that their adoption by the Presbyteries should make them, not parts of the organic law of the Church, but parts of the Revised Book.

1st. Your Committee therefore recommend that this Assembly declare such of them as have been adopted by the Presbyteries to be parts of the Revised Book, and direct that such of them as have failed to be adopted be stricken out of said Book.

2d. That the Assembly order that the following errata be corrected in the "Book of Order" as printed in Richmond in 1877, and now in the possession of the Presbyteries, viz:

On page 9, line 25, for "His people" read, the people.

On page 25, Art. II., strike out the first part of said Art., down to the words, "since the government," &c.

On page 32, line 4 from bottom, for "installation," read ordination.

3d. That the Revised Book, as thus amended, be sent down to the Presbyteries with the direction that they vote age or no upon its adoption, and make report of their vote to the next General Assembly.\*

4th. That the Presbyteries be enjoined to see to it that a properly authenticated record of their votes on the Book of Church Order be sent up to the next General Assembly:—suggesting that they order two copies of the record to be made out by their Stated Clerks before the adjournment of the Presbytery which votes; one copy to be immediately forwarded by mail to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, the other to be sent up in the usual way.

5th. That the Stated Clerk of the Assembly be directed to preserve all the papers concerning the Book of Church Order sent up to this Assembly, at least until after the adjournment of the next General Assembly.

<sup>\*</sup>Note.—If those having copies of the Book of Order printed in Richmond in 1877, will strike out Art. II, p. 19, and number the following articles of the section accordingly, the 1st and 2d forms of Art. IV, p. 26, the 2d form of Art. I, p. 41, and correct the errata noted above, they will have the Book in the form in which it is now submitted to the Presbyteries.

6th. That the Committee of Publication be directed to publish an edition of the Book of Church Order, as now submitted to the vote of the Presbyteries; to send a copy of the same to the Stated Clerk of each Presbytery, and to keep the remainder on sale at such price as will cover the cost of publication.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. D. ARMSTRONG, Chairman.

The report of the Committee on Devotional Exercises made on yesterday, was reconsidered, and then said report was laid on the table.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence made a report, which was adopted, and is as follows:

The General Assemby of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, now in session in the city of Knoxville, Tennessee, through its Committee on Foreign Correspondence, sends cordial fraternal salutations to the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, now in session in Lebanon, Tennessee: may peace, harmony and good will characterize your sessions; may the Holy Spirit guide you in all your deliberations; may the common Lord and Head of the Church bless you in all your Church enterprises, to extend His kingdom and build up His people in the faith.

This Assembly acknowledges with devout gratitude the many manifestations of the divine favor, in giving us an encouraging degree of prosperity throughout our borders and in our Church enterprises, in enlarged additions to our communion, in giving us so full a representation in this Assembly, and in the peace, harmony and good will that have characterized our sessions, and prevail throughout our communion.

And now, brethren, repeating our fraternal greeting, we commend you to God and the word of his power, that is able to make you fruitful in all good things. Amen.

The judicial case was resumed, and all the parties having been heard, they retired from the house. The roll was then called for the expression of opinion and a vote on the part of members of the Assembly. The result of the vote was: To sustain the complaint, seventy-three (73); to sustain in part, thirty-two (32); not to sustain, six (6). Messrs. J. H. Alexander, W. W. Carothers, S. R. Preston and J. E. Wheeler were excused from voting.

A committee, consisting of C. A. Stillman, D. D., J. J. Bullock, D. D., A. McCallum, W. M. Cocke and A. Painter, was appointed to bring in a minute expressing the views of the Assembly on this decision.

The Committee to examine the records of the Synod of Texas reported, recommending their approval as far as written, with the following exceptions:

1st. That on page 95 the Synod took the following action: "That in order to preserve the true relations of the correlative rights and obligations of our several Ecclesiastical Courts, it is the judgment of this Synod that all overtures, appeals and complaints, &c., should proceed in regular gradation, rising from the Session to the Presbytery, from the Presbytery to the Synod, and from the Synod to the General Assembly, and vice versa, without omitting or passing over any of the intermediate courts, from the lowest to the highest."

2nd. On the same page (95) that the Synod, considering the report of its Committee on the records of Presbytery of West Texas, permitted the members of that Presbytery to vote on their own records, contrary to Book of Discipline ch. 7., sec. 4, par. 7, and to the uniform action of the Assembly, Digest pp. 119 and 146.

Respectfully submitted.

H. T. DARNALL, Committee. W. A. GLASGOW,

The paper offered on Wednesday morning by the Rev. Dr. Dabney was taken up, and the question being upon its adoption, a motion to lay on the table was made, which motion, upon a count of the house, was carried by a vote of sixty-nine (69) to forty-one (41).

A recess was taken until 8 o'clock to-night.

## Thursday Night, 8 o'clock.

The Assembly met, and the order of the day, viz., the consideration of the report of the Committee on retrenchment of expenses, was taken up. It was ordered that after the speech of the Chairman of the Committee, the remarks of other members shall be limited to eight minutes each. The Chairman, Rev. S. T. Martin, addressed the Assembly at length. Upon the conclusion of his remarks a motion was made to lay the report on the table, and this motion, upon a count of the house, was carried by a vote of fifty-six (56) to forty-nine (49).

Against this decision Rev. Mr. Martin gave notice of his intention to enter a protest.

The following paper was adopted:

#### IN RELATION TO THE SABBATH.

The Committee to which was referred a certain overture of Savannah Presbytery, and letter of the International Sabbath Association of New York, touching a concert of christian effort to abate or remove the violations of the holy Sabbath by Sunday railroad trains, steamers, mails, &c., report:

That they find the evil named wide-spread and formidable, and, accordingly, exceedingly difficult to control. Some enquiry shows that

the legislation of the civil commonwealths is in most cases wholesome, as it affects private citizens, and as, according to the equity, and even the letter of the laws, it should affect Sabbath-breaking corporations. But the wealthy power and recklessness of these bodies in all the states, except, perhaps, Georgia, practically set at defiance these righteous laws, which all other citizens are required to obey. And it seems very obvious that any ordinary protest of any one body of christians would be slighted by these privileged law-breakers, before whose will the majesty of the commonwealth and the statute law is sometimes effectually palsied and silenced. The sense of power and irresponsibility, the numbers employed and salaried by them, and the greed of the vast commercial interests which these corporations profess to serve as carriers, seemingly mock at a restraining public opinion, as at the laws of the land.

The evil results of these abuses are wide and deplorable. The consequence, which is of least moral weight, but which is most likely to influence the transgressors, is a material one, viz.: That by resolving to desecrate systematically God's holy day, these corporations virtually resolve to banish from their service every man who truly fears God, or whose body and spirit enjoy the healthful and calming influences of home, sabbath and sanctuary; and to commit their valuable machinery and the property and lives of their patrons only to such men as are willing to defy the commandments of Almighty God, to forego all the elevating and soothing influences of the domestic Sabbath's rest, and to carry to their tasks a spirit debauched, and a set of nerves fevered by this habitual violation of nature's law, and by the spending of the holy hours of rest amidst the clangor of machinery and profanity. The result is easily foreseen, in murderous collisions of trains, neglect of official trusts, waste of employers' property, and fierce outbreaks of arson and riot.

But our concern is with the moral results. Among these must be counted the influence of an evil example almost as wide as the land, and the seduction of temptation and opportunity to profane the Sabbath, offered to weak consciences. The armies of officials and servants employed by these corporations are seduced into a common neglect of the sanctuary, and of the duties of the christian family. The quiet and order to which even the civil law entitles all citizens is, in a multitude of our towns and villages, invaded by noise and turmoil. And last, the pretext of associated and incorporate action sophisticates the consciences of the transgressors, making them bold in actions which as private individuals they would blush to perpetrate. And this is one instance of that tendency, attending the growth of such corporations, which is one of the gravest dangers of modern civilization.

Seeing that there is no remedy in the reach of christians, except the power of a widely combined and universal public opinion, your Committee recommend the following action:

I. That a permanent Sabbath Committee of three members, residing near enough to each other for concert and vigorous action, be appointed, to serve until the next Assembly and report to them, and to proceed forthwith in the following duties, viz.: To correspond and concert action with all such ecclesiastical and other bodies as are willing to act with them for this good cause; to assist in the production and circulation of suitable publications to instruct the people; and to procure such moneys as may be raised by voluntary contribution to defray this expense.

Besides the Prelates, Councils, Conventions, Assemblies, Synods and Conferences of the different christian denominations of the land, this Committee should enter into correspondence, for this special work only, with such Sabbath Associations as may be found in Baltimore, New York and other cities, and with the General Council of the Young Men's Christian Association of the United States, to combine the exertions of these voluntary associations for Sabbath reform, under the eatholic principles of Christ's Church visible.

II. This Assembly faithfully admonishes all its pastors, officers and people against overt breaches of the Sabbath law ordained by the Lord Jesus Christ for all dispensations and times; and especially: That it is their positive and personal duty to clear their own skirts of all complicity with these sins, by refraining from Sunday travel upon Sabbathbreaking railroad trains, steamers, &c., and to refrain, as far as their knowledge may enable them, from committing to them any goods or commodities for transport on the Lord's day.

R. L. DABNEY, ISAAC D. JONES, JAS. E. DUNLOP, J. H. NALL, J. A. BILLUPS,

The Committee provided for in the above paper was appointed, to consist of the Rev. James Stacy, D. D., Newnan, Ga.; Rev. Donald Frazer, Decatur, Ga.; William A. Moore, Ruling Elder, Atlanta, Ga., and Thomas Q. Cassells, Ruling Elder, Atlanta, Ga.

The report of the Standing Committee on Education was taken up, and, having been read, was adopted, and is as follows:

### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The Committee to whom were referred the Annual Report and the Records of the Executive Committee of Education, respectfully report to the General Assembly that they have carefully examined the documents placed in their hands, and have found that the work has been done faithfully, prudently and economically, and according to the rules prescribed by the Assembly. The able Secretary has given his valuable services for a salary 40 per cent. less than the sum formerly appropriated, and has dispensed with a hired office. The Treasurer, likewise,

has given his own services gratuitously, receiving only enough to pay the charges of a skilful book-keeper. By this means the Committee has been able to supply all the reasonable claims of our beneficiary candidates, and to conduct the work successfully in the face of embarrassing circumstances. They have had to struggle with a debt of about three thousand dollars (\$3,000), entailed upon them by the former Committee, requiring to be liquidated as rapidly as possible, and that under a financial pressure growing annually more heavy and distressing. By means of the proceeds of a legacy appropriated to this purpose by the General Assembly, this debt has been reduced to eight hundred dollars (\$800), with the prospect of its entire extinction by the proceeds of the legacy during the coming year, and leaving a surplus to go into the general treasury.

Your Committee desire to call attention to the fact that the annual contributions to the cause of Education in the last four years have declined from \$15,000 to \$11,000, or at the average rate of six per cent. annually. This deline does not, however, appear to arise from any lack of interest in this cause, or loss of confidence in the management. On the contrary, the accounts reveal the fact that the number of contributing churches has been increased from 612 to 756, or nearly 24 per cent., while the decrease in the whole amount is less in proportion than the decrease in the amounts contributed to Foreign Missions and Sustentation. The decline to these two causes the past year has been about 14 per cent., while Education has suffered an average loss of about six per cent. for the last four years. These figures suggest rather a growing confidence and increasing interest on the part of our people in the work of beneficiary education.

The attention of the Assembly is further and specially called to one great practical difficulty in the operations of the Executive Committee of Education, and its wisdom is invoked to determine upon a satisfactory solution. The difficulty lies in the want of some satisfactory plan for closing up its financial operations each year, without leaving on hand a debt of greater or less magnitude, that will eat into the contributions of the succeeding year. Only two practical methods of solving the difficulty have occurred to your Committee. One of these is to make all pledges to candidates conditional, thus leaving them in a state of uncertainty as to the amounts they will receive, till the close of the year. Such a course, it is believed, would embarrass our candidates, and perhaps tempt them to incur debts, which, at the last moment, they might find themselves unable to discharge, and so prove unfaithful to their financial obligations.

The other alternative is to make all these pledges to candidates at the beginning of the year absolute and unconditional, but of such amounts as to leave no reasonable doubt of the Committee's ability to pay them. This course would doubtless be somewhat embarrassing to the young men in the beginning of the year, but they would have the advantage of knowing at once the extent of their resources, and could regulate

their outlay accordingly. This plan seems upon the whole the preferable one, and is recommended by your Committee.

If, in addition to this, the Executive Committee can manage to accumulate a small cash working balance, from which they could draw to meet exigencies arising from unforeseen increase of candidates, or falling off in contributions, the system would be complete, and the Executive Committee would be free from those painful embarrassments that sometimes arise.

Availing ourselves of the results of the study bestowed upon this subject by the Executive Committee, the following resolutions have been agreed upon, and are respectfully recommended to the Assembly for adoption:

Resolved, 1. That it is a fundamental principle that the Executive Committee should never incur a debt.

- 2. That inasmuch as the churches and people of God are the sole resources whence funds for Education can be drawn, the Executive Committee is not under obligation to pay more, or pledge more, than is furnished by the churches.
- 3 That each ecclesiastical year should close up its own financial matters, and that it is inexpedient to levy contributions on a succeeding year to meet the deficiencies of a previous year.
- 4. That it appears best, on the whole, that the appropriations made by the Assembly's Committee to each student, whether more or less ample, be positive; and therefore the Assembly recommends to the Committee so to regulate its pledges and expenditures for the ensuing year as to secure by the end thereof a cash working balance, such as will enable it, along with the annual collections, to make positive pledges to the candidates in the future.
- 5. That the Executive Committee be instructed to use every legitimate effort to raise the largest amounts from the churches for this object, and that all Ministers and Church Sessions be urged to call special attention to this feature, and the importance of securing the above named working balance.
- 6. That in view of the gratifying results arising from the efficient action of the Evangelist of Brazos Presbytery, all our Evangelists be directed to use their influence to secure contributions from all the vacant churches.
- 7. That the General Assembly approve the diligence, faithfulness and prudence of the Executive Committee, and the efficient Secretary, and is gratified with their skill and success under circumstances of peculiar trial and discouragement.
- 8. That this General Assembly recommend to all our churches the observance of the Concert of Prayer on the last Thursday of February, for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the youth of our churches, and all our institutions of learning, and for God's blessing on our cause of Education.
- 9. That the following be the officers and members of the Executive Committee of Education for the ensuing year, viz.:

Secretary, Rev. Jno. N. Waddel, D. D.; Treasurer, G. W. Macrae; Committee, Rev. A. H. Kerr, D. D., Rev. Wm. E. Boggs, D. D., Rev. R. R. Evans, Rev. Eugene Daniel, Rev. Jno. S. Park, B. M. Estes, Esq., M. P. Jarnagin, Esq., James Elder, Esq., and A. F. Dod.

Respectfully submitted.

Information having been received that the appeal of E T. Baird could not be prosecuted by himself in person, owing to his absence, by reason of sickness, it was ordered that the report on this case be taken up in accordance with the wish of the appellant, and re committed to the Judicial Committee.

The Assembly adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Closed with prayer by Ruling Elder Wm. D. Reynolds.

# FRIDAY MORNING, May 24, 9 o'clock.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer by the Moderator. The minutes of yesterday, were read and approved.

The order of the day was taken up, and the report of the Standing Committee on Publication was read, and after discussion was adopted, and is as follows:

### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION.

The Standing Committee on Publication, to which was referred the seventeenth Annual Report of the Executive Committee of Publication; records of said Committee during the past year; an overture from the Synod of Memphis, with reference to the sale of the "Publishing House;" together with the report of the Committee of investigation, appointed by the last General Assembly; having carefully examined these papers, would report as follows:

We find that there has been a complete change made in the business affairs of Publication. The whole work of printing and selling is now done by contract. The printing of the "Earnest Worker" and "Children's Friend," is done by Whittet & Shepperson, who pay to the Executive Committee a fixed amount for every subscriber and a certain per cent on the gross receipts for advertising. The printing and selling of books is done by the St. Louis Presbyterian Publishing Company, who pay a royalty on their sales. The wisdom of this plan is clearly seen in the fact that the income from the contract with Whittet & Shepperson is even now sufficient to pay about one-half of the expenses of the Committee, and if the subscription to these two periodicals was doubled, the income would be sufficient to pay all expenses of the Executive Committee, leaving the income from the other contract to be used for the benevolent work of the Church.

The Executive Committee have entered upon the work of retrenchment with commendable zeal; besides cutting down the salaries of the Secretary and Treasurer, the change made in their business affairs has entirely relieved them from the expense of house rent, and also

from salaries of the Business Agent and Clerks. Their expenses have thus been reduced from about \$10,000 to \$3,350. This work of retrenchment can and should be carried further by dispensing with the office of Treasurer, the present incumbent of which has long and faithfully served in that position, but whose work has, by the change in the business plan of the Committee, been so greatly reduced, that it can be more easily and properly performed by the Secretary.

The Committee are in debt, both for the "Publishing House" and for the old business; the one amounting to \$31,000 and the other to over \$7,000 above available assets. The former debt can and should be settled by the sale of the "Publishing House," and the latter should be paid by the increased contributions of our churches.

We also find that the Committee have given special attention to the important, vital work, of Colportage; have changed the form and plan of the "Earnest Worker;" have begun the publishing of a Primary Lesson Paper; and have done fully as much in supplying destitute Sabbath Schools and churches as their limited means would permit; all of which we heartily approve; though we cannot say this much of their continuing a special Agent for the collection of funds.

We would respectfully recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

- 1. That all those Presbyteries that have not entered upon the work of Colportage, be directed to consider the propriety of doing so.
- 2. That all our Presbyteries be directed to take measures for increasing the circulation of the Earnest Worker and Children's Friend, within their bounds.
- 3. That all our churches be directed to make an annual collection for the cause of Publication, and be urged to contribute liberally in order to cancel the debt now resting on the legitimate work of the Committee.
- 4. That the Executive Committee be directed to dispose of the "Publishing House" as soon as this can be done without unnecessary sacrifice of value.
- 5. That the Executive Committee be directed to discontinue the employment of a special Agent to collect funds for the business work of the Committee.
- 6. That the work of the Treasurer be transferred to the Secretary, who shall be designated as the Secretary and Treasurer of Publication.
- 7. That in order to relieve the Committee of Publication of the expense of furnishing, free of charge, Presbyterial and other blanks, as directed by a former Assembly, the Secretary of Publication be directed to send annually these blanks, (accompanied with the bill for the same at cost,) to the Stated Clerks of Presbyteries, without further order.

The following persons are recommended as members of the Executive Committee, to serve for the ensuing year, viz: Rev. J. K. Hazen, Secretary and Treasurer; M. D. Hoge, D. D., W. Brown, D. D., C. H. Read, D. D., T. L. Preston, D. D., Rev. W. A. Campbell, W. F. Taylor, Charles Gennet, B. R. Wellford, E. H. Fitzhugh, R. Ould, Charles D. Hill and M. M. Gilliam.

Respectfully submitted,

From the same Committee was presented a report on the subject referred to them for investigation in regard to the Executive Committee of Publication. After discussion the report of the Committee was adopted, and is as follows:

The Standing Committee on Publication, which was directed to investigate and find out whether the allegation is correct, that the Committee of Publication permitted Rev. E. T. Baird, D. D., as Secretary to make contracts with himself as printer, would respectfully report, viz:

The following facts will give a correct history of this matter.

- 1. In 1867 the Executive Committee of Publication were compelled to send their printing to another city, or to have inferior work done in Richmond at higher prices than what were charged in New York and Philadelphia.
- 2. About September 16th, 1867, Dr. Baird "purchased on his own account a press, believed to be of a superior kind," and proposed to do their work "at the New York and Philadelphia prices."
- 3. The Executive Committee accepted his proposition and made a general contract with him, expressly stipulating "that the printing done in Dr. Baird's office shall be ordered by the Committee, and his bills be made payable only on the approval of an Auditing Committee appointed for that purpose."
- 4. Not long after this, the opinion began to prevail in some parts of the Church that the Executive Committee of Publication permitted their Secretary to make contracts with himself as printer. This opinion was, without doubt, due to ignorance of the real nature of the contract made between Dr. Baird and the Executive Committee.
- 5 Soon after the sad revelation of March, 1877, it was publicly alleged that Dr. Baird, "as the Secretary, made contracts with himself, as printer, for the printing of the Publication Committee." This allegation was widely circulated, extensively believed and very damaging to the cause of Publication.
- 6. To remedy this matter the Executive Committee, in their sixteenth annual report to the General Assemby, in 1877, made the following statement: "As a wrong impression has been made upon the minds of some concerning the relations of the Committee to the printing office owned by Dr. Baird, the Committee desire to state, that a carefully prepared paper, relating to this subject, is to be found on our minutes, (which are transmitted for the inspection of the Assembly,) for September 16th, 1867, from which the following facts are made to appear: 1st. That with the purchase of the printing office the Committee had nothing to do; it was made by Dr. Baird on his own account; but, as the Committee believed, through a desire to facilitate the Publication work. 2d. That it was never the purpose or policy of the Committee in conducting the Publication business to purchase or to employ printing presses of its own; but the relation of

the Committee to the whole matter was simply a business transaction, whereby a contract was made with Dr. Baird on advantageous terms, and this contract defines the character of the approval of the Committee to that arrangement. 3d. That the prices were determined by the Committee and not by Dr. Baird, and that, therefore, in no sense did he ever make a contract with himself."

- 7. This statement, not correcting the "wrong impression," nor stopping the allegation from being again made, the Executive Committee has called the attention of the General Assembly to this matter, who directed the Standing Committee on Publication to investigate it.
- 8. After earefully examining documentary and other evidence, we find nothing to substantiate the said allegation. In order, therefore, to correct the wrong and injurious impression, we recommend that the papers containing the contract be published in the appendix to the minutes.\*

The Rev. Dr. R. L. Dabney gave notice of a dissent and protest against the action of the Assembly yesterday, by which a certain paper offered by him was laid on the table.

The order of the day was taken up and the report of the Standing Committee on the subject of Sabbath Schools was read by the Chairman, Rev. W. A. Hall. This report was adopted, and is as follows:

# REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee respectfully reports to the General Assembly that from the Presbyterial reports placed in our hands we gather the following facts:

ing acts:	
1877—Number of Presbyteries reporting	56
1878— " "	53
1877—Number of schools reported	911
1878— " " "	986
Increase of schools	75
1877—Total contributions	\$31,417
1878— " "	24,555
1877—Number of teachers reported	8,138
1878— " "	

<sup>\*</sup>RICHMOND, VA., May 3, 1878.

I hereby certify, that from the time of my appointment as Business Agent for the Committee of Publication, until April 1877, all bills for printing passed under my supervision and were approved by me. Also, that the schedule rates were based upon New York and Philadelphia prices.

J. D. K. SLEIGHT.

1877—Number of scholars reported	63,167
1878— " "	61,273
1877—Average attendance of teachers	6,119
1878— " "	5,960
1877—Average attendance of scholars	38,867
1878— " " "	36,636
1878—Decrease of teachers	148
" scholars	1.894
Teachers added to the Church	$\frac{1,894}{208}$
Scholars " "	1,555

This statement does not include some 40 or 50 Union schools scattered through six Presbyteries, concerning which no details are given. It includes 3 colored schools—5 less than were reported last year. Reports have not been received from the following ten Presbyteries, viz.: Indian, Muhlenburg, Transylvania, North Mississippi, Central Mississippi, Lafayette, Missouri, Knoxville, Brazos and Sao Paulo.

Of all our churches, numbering over 1,830, it would seem that nearly one-half have not rendered reports.

There appears, as compared with last year, a total decrease of 148 teachers, and of scholars a decrease, in total, of 1,894, and in average attendance of 2,231; although there is a reported increase of 75 schools. Last year there was an *increase* of 142 teachers and 1,387 scholars, and this fell short of the *increase* in 1876. Last year 272 teachers were added to the Church and i,604 scholars; this year 208 teachers and 1,555 scholars. Altogether there seems to have been a falling off in this vital interest of the Church during the year just past, as compared with the two preceding years.

That a more satisfactory view could not be given is partly owing to the great lack of reports and partly to the fact that some of the reports are deficient in the usual tabular information, and many of them stil<sup>1</sup> more so in that general information which goes so far towards showing the condition of the Sabbath School in much that is vital. In fully one half of the reports laid before us, not one of the questions printed in the form for sessional reports is answered. Special religious interest is reported in 19 schools. Two Presbyteries report such interest in many of their schools without specifying the number; two others mention a growing interest in the work within their bounds, and several others report in similar general terms. May not your Committee suggest that it would be deeply interesting to know also in how far the pupils of the schools are encouraged and trained to attend public worship on the Lord's day or are allowed to consider their attendance on the Sabbath School as filling up the measure of duty on that day. Whatever be the causes, this department of christian effort does not show that measure of efficiency and fruitfulness which ought to appear, in view of the nature and objects of the work itself, and of the larger results which under the Divine blessing it ought to yield.

In view of these facts, your Committee would recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. That the Presbyteries be again enjoined to use greater diligence in

securing full and accurate reports from the Churches under their care and forwarding the results to the General Assembly.

- 2. That they be directed to urge upon the Pastors and Churches under their care the duty of greater devotion and activity in the work of Sabbath School instruction, of the forming of Bible Classes with some special reference to the training of teachers; of preaching to the children by their Pastors; of affectionately training the members of the Sabbath School in the duty of contributing to all the benevolent operations of the Church; and of increasing, as far as possible, the circulation and the use of the Earnest Worker, the Children's Friend and the Lesson Papers of our own Church in preference to all others.
- 3. That Presbyteries be recommended to spend a certain portion of their time in the consideration of the Sabbath School interest in their respective bounds.
- 4. That your Committee, having considered the resolution of Rev. W. E. Hill, and also that part of the report of the Executive Committee of Publication referred to them by the Assembly, recommend that the general oversight of all the Sabbath School interests of our Church and the advancement of the work in all practicable ways be laid upon the Executive Committee of Publication.

W. A. HALL, Chairman.

After a time spent in devotional exercises, the Assembly took a recess until 8 o'clock to-night.

## FRIDAY, 8 o'clock P. M.

The Assembly met. A resolution was adopted in relation to a concert for prayer on the last Thursday of February, and was ordered to be appended to the resolutions of the report of the Standing Committee on Education.

The Rev. G. D. Armstrong, D. D., and Ruling Elder Wm. D. Reynolds were appointed a Committee to prepare the Book of Church Order, as now amended, for publication.

The following report was adopted:

The Committee on the Book of Church Order, to whom was referred an overture from Lexington Presbytery, asking that the Assembly take steps to prepare a revised Directory for Worship, report, recommending that the Assembly return as answer to said overture that it is inexpedient, at the present time, to move in this matter.

The report on overture No. 19 was taken from the docket and adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee on Bills and Overtures report on overture No. 19, from the Presbytery of Louisiana, asking the Assembly to "so change the meetings of our ecclesiastical courts as to allow the General Assembly to meet bi-ennially," and "the Presbyteries to hold annual instead of semi-annual sessions," and recommend the following reply, viz.:

A change from annual to bi-ennial sessions of the General Assembly

A change from annual to bi-ennial sessions of the General Assembly would require a change in the Constitution, and this is not deemed advisable to propose to the Presbyteries. The Presbyteries, however, are permitted by the Constitution as it is to hold their sessions annually if they desire to do so.

Also the report on overture No. 20, which was adopted, and is as follows:

On overture No. 20, from the Presbytery of Fayetteville, as to "the propriety of omitting in the future publications of our Church the phrase in the creed, "He descended into hell," and recommend the following reply, viz.:

lowing reply, viz.:

The Assembly does not regard this change as necessary, since the phrase objected to as liable to misrepresentation is satisfactorily explained, as published by us, in a foot note, by a quotation from the answer to

the 50th question of the Larger Catechism.

The Rev. Dr. Smith, from the Standing Committee on Systematic Benevolence, made a report, which was adopted, and is as follows:

# REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SYSTEMATIC BENEVOLENCE.

The Committee on Systematic Benevolence would respectfully offer the following report to the General Assembly:

We have received reports from some of the Presbyteries in all the Synods, but several of these are so imperfectly made out as to be useless to the Committee; and others, again, are so confused in their statements as to add greatly to our labors. We have been enabled, however, so to arrange the most of them as to approximate, at least, the amount of their collections.

Of the 65 Presbyteries, 54 have transmitted their reports as compared with 51 last year. There is, however, even in this a manifest improvement over the last reports, for out of the 51 then reporting only 46 were in such a shape as to be used, whereas this year we have 54 out of the 65.

In consequence of the informality of many, we are compelled to tabulate them according to Synods and Presbyteries, instead of the more preferable way by churches:

From the Synod of Alabama, all the Presbyteries reporting, showing collections as follows: For Sustentation, \$1,287; Evangelistic, \$534; Invalid Fund, \$463; Foreign Missions, \$1,876; Education, \$2,413; Publication, \$797.

Synod of Arkansas, two Presbyteries reporting, showing: For Sustentation, \$495; Evangelistic, \$223; Invalid Fund, \$240; Foreign Misslons, \$679; Education, \$1,014; Publication, \$294.

Synod of Georgia, all the Presbyteries reporting, showing: For Sustentation, \$2,883; Evangelistic, \$810; Invalid Fund, \$600; Foreign Missions, \$1,794; Education, \$2,601; Publication, \$2,368.

Synod of Kentucky, three Presbyteries reporting, showing: For Sustentation, \$1,303; Evangelistic, \$1,071; Invalid Fund, \$562; Foreign Missions, \$2,382; Education, \$886; Publication, \$378.

Synod of Memphis, three Presbyteries reporting, showing: For Sustentation, \$864; Evangelistic, \$303; Invalid Fund, \$393; Foreign Missions, \$948; Education, \$910; Publication, \$555.

Synod of Mississippi, three Presbyteries reporting, showing: For Sustentation, \$325; Evangelistic, \$261; Invalid Fund, \$190; Foreign Missions, \$542; Education, \$445; Publication, \$567.

Synod of Missouri, five Presbyteries reporting, showing: For Sustentation, \$897; Evangelistic, \$299; Invalid Fund, \$192; Foreign Missions, \$1,184; Education, \$602; Publication, \$168.

Synod of North Carolina, five Presbyteries reporting, showing: For Sustentation, \$2,475; Evangelistic, \$1,324; Invalid Fund, \$790; Foreign Missions, \$3,964; Education, \$3,794; Publication, \$695.

Synod of South Carolina, four Presbyteries reporting, showing: For Sustentation, \$2,484; Evangelistic, \$926; Invalid Fund, \$468; Foreign Missions, \$3,110; Education, \$4,067; Publication, \$435.

Synod of Nashville, two Presbyteries reporting, showing: For Sustentation, \$215; Evangelistic, \$136; Invalid Fund, \$146; Foreign Missions, \$293; Education, \$235; Publication, \$131.

Synod of Texas, four Presbyteries reporting, showing: For Sustentation, \$893; Evangelistic, \$534; Invalid Fund, \$386; Foreign Missions, \$805; Education, \$906; Publication, \$297.

Synod of Virginia, ten Presbyteries reporting, showing: For Sustentation, \$8,371; Evangelistic, \$3,117; Invalid Fund, \$2,707; Foreign Missions, \$12,217; Education, \$7,340; Publication, \$9,347.

From the above list it will be seen that several Presbyteries have either neglected to send up reports, or that the reports were so meagre or informal as not to be available to the committee, viz.: Louisville, Muhlenburg, Transylvania, Chickasaw, North Mississippi, Central Mississippi, New Orleans, Red River, Knoxville, Fayetteville, Sao Paulo.

In view of the facts above presented, your committee would recommend that Presbyteries be instructed to exercise greater care in making out these reports, and that they require more accurate statements from the churches under their care.

By order of the Committee,

A. P. SMITH, Chairman.

## The following report was adopted:

The Special Committee appointed to prepare a minute expressing the judgment of the Assembly in the case of the complaint of Rev. R. K. Smoot and others, against the action of the Synod of Texas upon the records of the Presbytery of Western Texas in the matter of H. F. Williams, report as follows, viz.:

The General Assembly sustains the complaint of Rev. R. K. Smoot and others against the Synod of Texas on these grounds, viz.:
First. The Synod of Texas allowed the Presbytery of Western Texas to vote upon the review of their own records, against the decision of the Moderator and in opposition to the spirit of our Constitution and to the established precedents of our Church-which course we regard as both irregular and unjust.

Second. By refusing to condemn the proceedings of the Presbytery of Western Texas in the matter of H. F. Williams, the Synod did endorse and encourage what is known as "Lay Evangelism"—a system which is irregular and contrary to the order of the Church with reference to the christian ministry, and calculated to produce confusion and many other evils, sooner or later.

In expressing this judgment the Assembly does not mean to impugn the christian or ministerial character nor the motives of any of the members of the Synod, but hereby declares its confidence in them and its sympathy with them in view of the peculiar circumstances of their needy field of labor.

The following Protest was read and was ordered to be admitted to record without answer:

We, the undersigned, respectfully protest against the action of the General Assembly taken to-night, in laying on the table the report of the Committee on Retrenchment and Reform, immediately after the explanation of the report by the chairman, and before any opportunity was afforded for considering the information and discussing the suggestions of the Committee. Our reasons are:

- 1. Because we conceive it to be the duty of the Assembly to give careful scrutiny to all the enterprises it undertakes to conduct, and this duty is the more imperative whenever any question is raised as to the wisdom and efficiency of the plan on which those enterprises are conducted. This question was raised, not only by your Committee, but also by respectful overtures sent up from the lower judicatories.
- 2. That by this act of a bare majority, (the vote being 56 to 49,) the rights of commissioners to represent their Presbyteries in this body in reference to these matters were denied.
- 3. We do not protest against the failure of the Assembly to adopt any of the recommendations of the Committee, but we do protest against its refusal to give them faithful and impartial consideration. As there was no change of circumstances since the Assembly raised the Committee and devolved on them the labor of investigating these subjects and suggesting elements of reform, we fear that its refusal to consider them will compromise the Assembly in the eyes of those who observe its aetion, and will diminish confidence in our benevolent operations and in the Assembly's faithfulness in guarding the trusts committed to it; and we use this protest to show that we are not responsible for this neglect.

## Respectfully submitted,

(Signed:) S. Taylor Martin, R. L. Dabney, W. F. Ogden, S. R. Preston, J. B. Mack, J. W. Neil, L. H. Wilson, W. J. McKay, P. B. Price, S. P. Green, Chas. H. Dobbs, J. E. Dunlop, S. H. Chester, A. R. Banks, E. R. Mills, T. O. Rogers, W. L. T. Prince, W. E. Hill, J. L. Caldwell, H. T. Darnall, J. C. Carson, George Summey, J. Y. Allison, C. M. Payne, Isaac J. Long, Wm. E. Mills, J. B. Alexander, R. H. Byers, W. M. Crenshaw, J. W. Harp, C. H. Rochester, W. S. Johnson.

The Auditing Committee made the following report, which was adopted, and is as follows:

The Auditing Committee have examined the accounts of the Treasurer of the Institute for training colored Ministers, and now report that they have been correctly kept. The statement begins with 1st June, 1877, and includes payment of \$601 00 on account of salary due Prof A F. Dickson, for the year ending 1st October, 1877, and \$750 00

due for six months ending 1st April, 1878. Proper vouchers were produced for his disbursements, and the balance in the Treasury, 1st April, 1878, is seven hundred and sixty-two dollars and ninety-four cents. (\$762-94.)

 $\left. \begin{array}{c} \text{Respectfully submitted,} \\ \text{MILTON P. JARNAGIN,} \\ \text{W. D. REYNOLDS,} \\ \text{JOHN SHAW,} \end{array} \right\} \text{Committee.}$ 

Upon recommendation of the Standing Committee on Publication, it was ordered that the report of the Committee appointed by the last General Assembly to investigate the affairs of the Executive Committee of Publication, shall be published in the Appendix to the minutes of this Assembly; and the diligence of said Committee of investigation was approved.

The Assembly adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Closed with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Myers.

SATURDAY MORNING, May 25, 9 o'clock.

The Assembly met and was opened with prayer by the Moderator. The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

The Rev. J R. Graham, D. D., from the Committee on the Narrative, made a report, which was approved and ordered to be printed in the Appendix.

The Rev. Dr. Dabney, on behalf of himself and others, read a dissent and protest, which was ordered to be admitted to record; and a committee, consisting of the Rev. G. D. Armstrong, D. D., Rev. T. L. Preston, D. D., Rev. J. J. Bullock, D. D., I. D. Jones and C. A. Carrington, were appointed to prepare an answer, to be confined to the first reason assigned in the protest.

The Judicial Committee presented a report on the appeal of E. T. Baird against a decision of the Synod of Virginia, and a motion was made for its adoption. A report from a minority of said committee was presented, and its adoption as a substitute for the report of the committee was moved. This motion, after considerable discussion, prevailed, and it was resolved that the Assembly proceed according to the course prescribed in said paper. Thereupon the Moderator, being a member of the Synod of Virginia, called the Rev. C. A. Stillman, D. D., the last Moderator, to the chair.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence presented the following report, which was adopted:

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence, to whose consideration was referred an appeal in behalf of the Pastors of the Waldensian church in Italy, report, recommending:

1. That this Assembly extend its heartiest sympathies to this ancient

and impoverished Church.

2. That the Assembly affectionately urge upon all believers under its care, who are able to do so, to forward money, in smaller or larger sums, to the Rev. G. D. Mathews, of New York, to be sent on by him, as the Agent in America of the recent General Presbyterian Council, to the proper authorities of the Vaudois Church.

The Auditing Committee presented the following report, which was adopted:

The Auditing Committee have examined the accounts of the Rev. Dr. Wilson, Treasurer of Assembly, and report that his disbursements were for proper objects, and were accompanied with proper vouchers. The balance in his hands, May 1st, 1878, was seven hundred and fiftyone dollars and twenty-six cents (\$751-26).

Respectfully submitted,
MILTON P. JARNAGIN,
W. D. REYNOLDS,

Committee.

The Committee on Devotional Exercises made a report which was approved; and after some time spent in religious worship, the Assembly took a recess until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON, 3 o'clock.

The Assembly met. The Rev. Dr. Preston read an answer to the protest offered by Rev. Dr. Dabney and others, which was adopted. The protest and answer are as follows:

## DISSENT AND PROTEST OF R. L. DABNEY, A. P. SMITH AND OTHERS.

The undersigned dissent from the action of the Assembly laying on the table, without debate, the following resolutions, viz.:

Resolved, That this Assembly, in view of the full and equal rights and courtesies extended to the Commissioners of the Assembly of 1877, in the first General Council of the Presbyterian Alliance in the city of Edinburg, doth, in behalf of the Presbyterian Church in the United States which we represent, hereby return our hearty thanks to the several Presbyterian Churches of the world represented in that Council, and to their Commissioners; to the Scotch Committee of Arrangements, and to those christian people of Britain and Ireland, and especially to those of Edinburg, whose distinguished and liberal hospitalities were extended to the Commissioners of our Church.

Resolved, also, That we recognize these happy events as constituting a virtual and distinct reconciliation with us of all the Churches which joined in this cordial and courteous extension of equal rights in that Council and Alliance to the Commissioners of our Church, upon that scriptural basis of truth always held by our Church, touching the essentials of those subjects of difference which had unhappily interrupted the full communion of sundry of those Churches with us. And this pleasing

conclusion we draw from the following facts and truths, viz.:

1. That the civic institution of African slavery was introduced into the commonwealths in which our Church is, while colonics, by the despotic power of the British Government and the cupidity of subjects of Great Britain and sundry of her colonics, without the agency of our own governments, and against the continued protest of some of them.

2. That our Church, and the (Old School) Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, from which we came, have always consistently held the following position as to African slavery, viz.: Censuring all inhuman usages and laws inconsistent with the rights, welfare and spiritual interests of the bondsmen; disclaiming all fitle to legislate for or against this or any other civic institution not contrary to God's revealed will; but uniformly refusing to pronounce the relation of master and bondsman sin per se, or a bar to christian communion; and declaring that relation, when duly ordained by the civil government over such part of mankind as by their ignorance and vice required the restraints thereof, and when its duties were duly performed, according to God's revealed law, legitimate and righteous in the sense of the other social and civic relations and restraints ordained by God between fallen and sinful men and for their common good. (See minutes of Assembly of 1845, p. 16, Assembly of 1861, (Southern) Address to all the Churches;

Assembly of 1865: Pastoral letter, & III.)

3. That the citizens of certain States in 1861 did, through their constitutional State governments, withdraw their commonwealths from the confederation known as the United States, for eauses judged by them sufficient; whereupon the government of the remaining United States did demand the allegiance and obedience of every citizen, severally and collectively, in the States so withdrawn, as against their own commonwealths and the State governments thereof; and did proceed to enforce that demand by force and arms; which unhappy difference was judged by the Assemblies of our Church to be one historical and constitutional, and touching only a question of civic rights and competing civic jurisdictions; and our Assemblies, while disclaiming all right to legislate in any matter except things spiritual or ecclesiastical, or to intrude into this sphere of secular jurisdiction; and while deploring the divisions, strifes and calamities arising out of this political issue, did steadfastly vindicate, for christians of all political opinions, their spiritual liberty of judging concerning these questions of secular allegiance, in the fear of God, according to their rights of conscience granted them by God himself. And when, in the orderings of Divine Providence, the States in which our members live did for a time set up over themselves a federal government known as "The Confederate States of America," our Assemblies did instruct their members, according to the express word of Scripture, to submit to the power *de facto* set over them as the dispensation of God for the time, and to yield due obedience, in the Lord, to this power.

4. But that sundry of the Churches now embracing us in this Presbyterian Alliance [viz.: The Presbyterian Church of Canada, the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, the Established Presbyterian Church of Scotland, the Free Church of Scotland, the Assembly [New School] of the Presbyterian Church in America, and the Assembly [Old School] of the Presbyterian Church in America, (now reunited)] did formally adopt and declare against us the opposite opinions, viz.: That slaveholding is itself a sin; that slaveholders are in fact men-stealers, and are classed in scripture with murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers; that it forms a dark and deadly stain on the escutcheon of evangelical Presbyterianism; that immediate emancipation is an inevitable duty in all cases; that the doctrine of our Assemblies touching the relation is heretical and blasphemous, and that no Minister of our Church should be admitted to christian or ministerial communion without an express confessing and forsaking of such sins. [See Letter of Presbyterian Church, Canada, to Assembly (Old School) of 1846; Princeton Rev., 1846, p. 423, &c.; Irish Gen. Ass., 1847, in Pr. Rev. 1847, p. 428; Estab. Ch. of Scotland, in do. p. 429; Irish Gen. Ass., 1848; New School Ass., 1862 Minutes; 1865 Minutes; Old School Ass., 1865, pp. 562-3; 1866 Pastoral Letter, pp. 87-88.]

5. That the New and Old School Assemblies, now re-united in the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, did also declare the doctrine of our Assemblies concerning the spiritual rights of conscience of our members over their secular allegiance, to be heretical and rebellious, and all acts of individual members performed in the exercise of that scriptural liberty, the sin of treason and rebellion, well deserving of capital punishment on the gallows; and one at least of these Assemblies did exhort and incite the conquering secular power to punish capitally some of the members of our churches. [See Min. Old Sch. Ass. 1864, p. 342; Pastoral Letter, 1866, pp. 87, 88 and post-script; New School Ass. Min., 1864, 1865, 1866.]

Resolved further, That the recital of these unhappy differences is not now made for purposes of recrimination, but on the contrary, of

Resolved further, That the recital of these unhappy differences is not now made for purposes of recrimination, but on the contrary, of fraternal congratulation, and as evincing the grounds of our pleasing conclusion that all these dissensions are now reconciled upon the moderate, just and scriptural basis of revealed truth, as always held and expounded by our Assemblies, of which happy conclusion, the grounds

are the following:

That our Assembly of 1866 (see Pastoral Letter, & iii ) did expressly declare that the military and political events, permitted in the chastening providence of God, while requiring the peaceful submission of our members to the powers that be, which are ordained of God, and the surrender of their lawful property in the labour of their bondsmen, did not change any right or truth before God, or in the spiritual teach-So that, had slaveholding and secession been ings of His Church. sins per se, our church courts and Christian people, though no longer obnoxious, by continued, overt, acts of commission, to the penalties of civil or military power, must have remained, in the sight of God, who judgeth the heart, and of his Church, whose eeclesiastical jurisdiction is didactic and spiritual, as fully guilty and defiled by these sins as Hence, for us to claim the recognition and communion hitherto justly withheld from us by purer Churches, merely on the ground that we were now estopped by material force from the overt commission of these our late sins, while still cleaving to and justifying them in our hearts, would be a proceeding so unjust as to be imprudent and profligate. And for us to impute to our brethren of the Presbyterian Alliance a connivance at, and complicity in such moral obliquity, would be an unchristian insult to them, and an ungrateful requital for the Christian hospitalities and equal courtesies recently experienced at their hands by our Commissioners. And we find ourselves the more positively shut up from such construction of their act, by this further fact, viz: That the great American Presbyterian Church, the largest constituent of the Presbyterian Alliance, has most distinctly adverted (See Past. Letter of 1866, Old School; Min. 1865, N. S.) to this very point, as presented by our Past. Letter of 1865, declared the pollution and iniquity of such deceitful compromises, and firmly asserted the correct principle, that if a Church of Christ has indeed taught and committed sins of heresy, treason and blasphemy, it cannot be restored to the communion of sister churches, except upon public confession of hearty repentance.

Such having been the recent state of facts, we now find ourselves, in 1875, courteously invited to participate as equals, in the formation of a constitution for the Presbyterian Alliance, and, in 1877, invited to and received into the full and equal rights and privileges of the first Council in Edinburg, without any, the faintest, demand, from any quarter, of any confession of wrong or repudiation of the publicly de-

clared principles of our Assemblies.

In view of all which, this Assembly doth resolve, finally:

That this happy and unconditional recognition of the Church we represent, through its Commissioners in the Presbyterian Alliance, is to be construed by us as a graceful, virtual and distinct withdrawal on

the part of the brethren lately in separation from us, of all condemnatory doctrines and declarations, and a hearty and peaceful reconciliation upon the scriptural position we have occupied and still occupy; leaving each branch of the Presbyterian Churches, as well as ourselves, to hold, without reproach, its own opinions on all non-essentials of church and civil order. And it is on this understanding, as hereby assumed by us, and in act conceded to us, that our Church holds its place as a constituent of the General Presbyterian Alliance.

Resolved. That it shall be the duty of the Stated Clerk to transmit certified copies of these resolutions to the Business Committee of the last Council, and to the Moderator of that Council, appointed for 1880

in the city of Philadelphia.

The Assembly was moved to adopt the same, or some such like statement, of its position touching its intercourse in the Presbyterian Alliance, with Churches accusing our Church of disgraceful immoralities.

The undersigned dissent from this action:

I. Because the vote against which we protest was, in effect if not in form, out of order, and injurious to the rights of the minority. The Moderator pronounced our resolutions in order; whereupon the mover, after waiting for more than five minutes for discussion, obtained the floor, the privilege of which he used to waive all debate on behalf of himself and friends, in order to have an immediate vote on the resolutions themselves: declaring that "he interpreted the silence of the house as evincing its readiness for that action," and he then moved such vote on the merits of the resolutions. Whereupon, not this orderly motion, but a motion to lay on the table (admitting no debate) was immediately put and carried by a vote of 69 ayes to 41 noes. Our claim of right is that the mover had the floor for every other purpose than for the immediate vote on the merits of his resolutions, for which he so liberally and courteously yielded it; and that the motion to lay on the table was made and put in derogation of this right. Rules of Order, No. 27, state that the motion to lay on the table is in order "when a question is under debate." This question was not "under debate;" for the majority refused their privilege of debate, and the minority generously waived theirs, to secure a direct vote. So that virtually the motion to lay on the table was carried while a member was entitled to the floor, or else while another orderly motion was in the act of being put to the

II. The undersigned dissent from this action because it places the Assembly and our beloved Church in a painfully equivocal position before the world and assailants. The Assembly was respectfully asked to declare what was the real position it occupied in appearing by its Commissioners in the Council of the Presbyterian Alliance, in "fraternal relations" with an aggregate body, four-fifths of which (excepting ourselves) is composed of Churches which accused, and so far as now appears, still accuse us of disgraceful immoralities. But our Church has always declined to regard charges so grave and unjust as capable of adjustment, without some frank admission of our innocence; saying with the Apostle, Acts xvi: "They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust

us out privily? Nay, verily!" And the undersigned tendered that answer which seemed the only respectful one to impute, viz., that the Assembly did deem the invitation to, and equal reception in, that Council, as such withdrawal, and was present there only on that construction. But the majority by this vote refuse to accept this answer, or to give their own; thus leaving the position of the Church we honor obnoxious to plausible and odious misconstructions of its accusers. Our brethren of the majority, while refusing to confer with us in debate on this matter of our beloved Church's good name, when we fraternally invited such conference, yet in many cases assigned the reason in conversation. of the action from which we dissent. This expedient of theirs compels us to refer to such statements made off the floor, as our only means of explaining their action. And, as expressed by many persons, it appears to be this: That they do not avow what they hold, with us, to be the Church's true position; lest it should provoke an express repetition of the accusations which constituted our grievance, and by the same parties. Now, although the majority refuse to explain the position in which their action places our beloved Church, yet we do not impute to them any unworthy position. We only point out the nature of that position suggested by these informal statements (the only suggestion they leave us): That our Church's good name, which it is our sacred duty to defend, is to be left in an equivocal position for fear former unjust assailants, whose present pacific attitude they suppose wholly deceptive, may take occasion of our righteous defence to renew their slanders; precisely the same slanders, namely, against which we have constantly affirmed the duty of resistance. Such a treatment of the Church's sacred honor by its appointed defenders we will not venture to characterize.

Again: Inasmuch as the presence of our Church in the Alliance must bear one of the two alternative constructions: this refusal of the majority to avouch the one, cannot fail to encourage accusers to advance the other as virtually accepted by this Assembly, in this action. Certain that such will be the result, we deplore this refusal of the majority either to accept our construction (so honorable to them and to the truth) or to give us their own construction. The accusers of our Zion will say, and with how deplorable a plausibility! "That the Southern Assembly appeared in the Alliance knowing the constant and unrepealed testimony of the seven Churches composing the whole weight of the Alliance, against the sin of slavery as man-stealing; that their appearance in just such fraternal relations as they had hitherto so stoutly refused, with the purer (anti-slavery) Churches, without a particle of concession on the part of the latter, is to be fairly interpreted as an indirect, but virtual confessing and forsaking of the sin of their former pro-slavery attitude; that their anti-slavery accusers, at once generous and righteous, sympathizing with their mortification in at last making the submission so proudly rejected by the Southern Church before, admitted this indirect confession; and that the very presence of the Southern Commissioners there was the utterance of a *Peccavimus* for themselves and their Church." Now, we believe this odious imputation to be unfair to our brethren of the majority, as it is most injurious to our respected Commissioners in the Alliance. We are unwilling that any accuser should ascribe to these latter so outrageous a misrepresentation of the Church which sent them. Hence we humbly desired our brethren of the majority, if not satisfied with that construction of their attitude, which we supposed the honorable one to them, to give us their own construction, and protect the truth and our good name from such innuendos.

And we are distressed by their refusal, especially because the two constructions of their attitude seem to exhaust the alternatives. A third has indeed been suggested, (not indeed by them, for they have refused to council with us on this grave matter): "That the Southern Church, and its late accusers, are to be supposed to have met in fraternal relations in the Alliance, without either party's conceding its former position: That in this case, they do as christians have often done, "agreeing to differ," while yet recognizing each other in intimate communion. But alas, in this case, the nature of the difference and its history, seem to make this explanation absolutely impossible. For, first: Both parties deliberately defined the issue as one too antagonistic and too grave to be thus pacified. It involves a positive contradiction: the one party honestly asserting actions to be innocent, which the other party with equal positiveness assert to be criminal ("the sin of man-stealing," "heresy," "felony" and "blasphemy,") and so criminal, that the offenders cannot be received into communion without polution, until they declare repentance. (See Past. Letter O. S. Ass, 1866. Distinctive Prin., p. 120.) And our Church has deliberately held, up to this time, that this judgment of the other party was not only unjust, but so injurious, that truth and self-defence forbid our acceptance of cordial relations, until the enormous charge is expressly withdrawn. Such are the facts of this unhappy case. Now then, should our accusers signalize their inconsistency by offering us that form of fraternity, which they had hitherto refused us on the ground of our asserted criminality, they still regarding us as being as guilty as ever of that sin; such pretended fraternity would be of a nature that we could not accept, on those insulting terms, without both self-stultification and degradation; and precisely such as we have steadily asserted hitherto, we could not accept. It would, moreover, disclose such moral obliquity in our proposed allies, as should effectually extinguish a desire for closer relations. Let it be observed, that it is not we, who ascribe such an attitude to our brethren, or to former accusers. We only argue thus, that this case is not one on which either truth or righteousness or our good name permits us "to agree to differ."

And here we solemnly declare to our brethren of the majority our firm conviction, that should they tacitly except this third untenable position, permitting this critical and fortunate juncture to be lost, the result will be, that in future history our Church will be apprehended, to all time, as having here virtually fallen from its testimony, fatigued with

the labour and insulation, and as having tacitly accepted the charge of criminality fixed on it by the major number of voices. History will doubtless represent the loud and conquering voice of the vast, unscriptural majority, as triumphing here; and our voice as silenced, our testimony as surrendered, and the condemnation of christendom as submitted to by us. If we are silent now, we shall never again have a hearing at the bar of history.

In conclusion it may be asked: "On this ground, must not the strife continue indefinitely?" We reply, first: we would not have any strife for an hour; we would not render railing for railing; but having laid down our righteous protest, stand silently and meekly in our defensive attitude, until it shall please God to heal the breach in sincerity. Second: we are not responsible for the continuance of any painful results flowing from the unjust accusation, and our necessary resistance to it. Third: having deliberately and conscientiously taken this defensive position, in the interest of truth and justice, it is the will of God made known to us in His providence and word, that we shall patiently endure whatever of insulation or reproach may result, until He shall please righteously to end our task by the re-establishment of His truth and our christian rights.

All which is respectfully submitted, and we ask, in accordance with our constitutional rights, that it be recorded.

R. L. Dabney, A. P. Smith, W. F. Ogden, W. C. Clark, C. H. Rochester, W. M. Crenshaw, S. P. Green, W. S. Johnson, J. B. Alexander, S. H. Chester, W. L. T. Prince, I. J. Long, W. W. Carothers, J. H. Myers, W. P. Campbell, A. R. Banks, E. R. Mills, S. T. Martin, P. B. Price, J. L. Caldwell, F. B. Webb, George Summey, J. C. Carson, Wm. P. Webb, J. W. Harp, C. H. Dobbs, Peyton Irving, W. A. Glasgow, J. D. A. Brown.

## ANSWER TO PROTEST AND DISSENT OF R. L. DABNEY, A. P. SMITH AND OTHERS.

The Committee appointed to answer the protest of Dr. Dabney and others, with special instructions to confine their answer to the first reason of the protest, offer the following report:

The protest says, "The vote against which we protest was, in effect, if not in form, out of order and injurious to the rights of the minority. The Moderator pronounced our resolutions in order; whereupon the mover, after waiting for more than five minutes for discussion, obtained the floor, the privilege of which he used to waive all debate on behalf of himself and friends, in order to have an immediate vote on the resolutions, themselves: declaring that 'he interpreted the silence of the house as evincing its readiness for that action,' and he then moved such vote on the merits of the resolutions. Whereupon, not this orderly motion, but a motion to lay on the table (admitting no debate) was immediately put and carried by a vote of 69 ayes to 41 noes. Our claim of right is that the mover had the floor for every other purpose than for the immediate vote on the merits of his resolutions, for which he so

liberally and courteously yielded it; and that the motion to lay on the table was made and put in derogation of this right. Rules of Order, No. 27, state that the motion to lay on the table is in order 'when a question is under debate.' This question was not 'under debate;' for the majority refused their privilege of debate, and the minority generously waived theirs, to secure a direct vote. So that virtually the motion to lay on the table was carried while a member was entitled to the floor, or else while another orderly motion was in the act of being put to the house.''

We answer—that when the mover of the resolutions (which were seconded) had taken his seat he had no longer a right to the floor, but that any member who chose to take it was at perfect liberty to do so; that he did not in any sense waive a right which he had already used in order to bring his resolutions before the house; and that it was not his right to have an immediate vote upon his resolutions unless the house so willed. Further, that when the mover "interpreted the silence of the house as evincing its readiness for that action," his interpretation was in no sense a bar to doing what the house always has a right to do, viz., dispose of the resolutions offered as it may see best, and in point of fact the interpretation was a wrong one, as shown by the action subsequently taken. The claim of right, therefore, which the author of the protest sets up, that he was entitled to the floor for every other purpose than for the immediate vote on the merits of his resolutions, is manifestly unfounded, and the vote taken to lay the resolutions on the table was in no sense in derogation of his right, but only in opposition to his wish.

We affirm, therefore, that the motion made to lay the resolutions on the table was in itself an orderly one, that it was made in an orderly manner, and did not in any sense infringe upon the rights of any. If the motion to lay on the table was out of order, the protestants had their remedy at the time.

This answer we deem complete, inasmuch as the action of the house, laying the resolutions on the table, clearly evinced the will of the Assembly that the subject matter of the resolutions should not be discussed.

GEO. D. ARMSTRONG, Chairman.

The Assembly then proceeded with the judicial case, the Moderator having previously reminded the members of the Assembly of their solemn duty as judges in a court of Jesus Christ.

Ruling Elder Isaac D. Jones appeared, by request of the appellant, to conduct the appeal in his behalf.

The papers in the case were read in the order prescribed, and the several parties being heard, retired from the house. The roll was then called for an expression of opinion and a vote. The result was: To sustain, eight (8); to sustain in part, nineteen (19); not to sustain, forty-two (42).

A Committee, consisting of Messrs. J. Rumple, G. T. Goetchius, W. L. T. Prince, was appointed to bring in a minute expressing the views of the Assembly in its decision.

A recess was taken until 8 o'clock this evening.

## SATURDAY EVENING, 8 o'clock.

The Assembly met. The following report was received and approved:

#### REPORT FROM THE AUDITING COMMITTEE.

The Auditing Committee beg leave to make their report upon the accounts of the Committee of Publication: The contributions from the churches are set forth intelligibly by the Treasurer, and his footings are correct.

The state of the accounts between the Secretary and Treasurer was easily verified, and the latter produced proper vouchers for disbursements, viz., the orders of the Secretary. The balance in the Treasurer's hands, April 1st, 1878, was twenty-two hundred and eighty-two dollars and eighty-three cents (2,282–83), as stated by him.

We have been informed by the Secretary that a separate bank or eash account was kept by the Committee and another by the Treasurer; that the receipts at the store were used for current purposes, as needed; that at the end of each month an account of sales was rendered to the Treasurer, and any balance of eash on hand paid over to him; and that when money was needed at the store, the Secretary drew for it. This, and perhaps other features, elicited a statement from the Auditing Committee of last year, that a more simple method of book-keeping was advisable, (see Minutes, p. 436). It seems that no change was made. The same books and mode of keeping the accounts of the Committee have been observed.

Our examination of the merchandise department of the Committee enables us to say that satisfactory vouchers are produced for all of the disbursements, with the following exceptions: Under the head of bills payable there is one item of \$4,539 44, money paid by the Treasurer upon the Secretary's orders. The Committee furnish us no vouchers for the disbursement of this amount. We found, however, an entry on the Committee's minute book, a statement of bills paid, which corresponds in amount, and the Secretary assures us that such payments were actually made.

Again: The Treasurer's statement shows an item of \$1,061 28, representing donations of books, made by the Committee. No vouchers are furnished. We do not find any charge or charges by the Treasurer showing how or when this amount has been entered against himself. We infer, and the Secretary assures us, that it was charged as merchandise sold, in sundry items. This would balance the account. These

matters having been passed upon and approved by the Committee of Publication, we are content to pass favorably on the correctness of the result; but we disapprove of this very unsatisfactory mode of keeping and exhibiting the accounts of that Committee. We say generally that whilst the order of the Secretary may be a sufficient authority for paying money out of the Treasury, yet it is imperatively necessary that the Committee should furnish a distinct voucher, showing the note, bill or account for the payment of which the money was drawn.

We find the account of the Publishing House balanced by a transfer of \$4,840-37 from the merchandise account, which pays the balance of \$3,016-39, shown to have been due the Treasurer by the last report, as also certain other items of indebtedness.

Respectfully submitted,

 $\begin{array}{l} \text{MHLTON P. JARNAGIN,} \\ \text{W. D. REYNOLDS,} \end{array} \} \\ \text{Committee.} \end{array}$ 

The following paper was adopted in the judicial case this day decided:

The Committee appointed to bring in a minute expressing the sense of the General Assembly in regard to the appeal of Dr. E. T. Baird against the decision of the Synod of Virginia, respectfully recommend the following as the judgment of the General Assembly, viz.:

That inasmuch as the appeal is not sustained, the natural effect is to remand the case to the Presbytery of East Hanover, to institute proceedings and conduct a new trial according to the order of the Synod of Virginia.

Respectfully submitted,

J. RUMPLE GEO. T. GOETCHIUS, Committee. W. L. T. PRINCE,

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported on Overture No. 23. The report was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee on Bills and Overtures report on Overture No. 20, from the Synod of Texas, calling the attention of the Assembly to the failure to change the blanks for Presbyterial Reports in compliance with the order of the Assembly of 1875, and recommend

That the Committee of Publication be directed to prepare blanks for Presbyterial Reports in accordance with the action of the Assembly in 1875, found on page 20 of the minutes, and that the Stated Clerk be directed to frame the blank form in the Appendix to the minutes accordingly.

Also on No. 24, from S. T. Martin, S. H. Chester, W. L. T. Prince, R. K. Smoot, Milton P. Jarnagin, C. E. Chichester, W. E. Hill, J. B. Alexander, L. H. Wilson, J. O. Lindsay and R. C. Read: asking,

- 1. Has any General Assembly the right to limit the liberty of a succeeding Assembly in the choice of its officers?
- 2. Has every Assembly the inherent right to chose its own officers—Moderator and Clerks?

The Committee recommend the following reply:

The Assembly refers, for answer, to Form of Government, chap. xix, sec. iii: "The Moderator of the General Assembly shall be chosen at each meeting." Also, to chap. xx: "Every judicatory shall chose a Clerk to record their transactions, whose continuance shall be during pleasure."

## The following report was received and approved:

The Committee on Leave of Absence report that they have granted leave of absence, for various reasons, all of which seemed to them sufficient, to the following Commissioners to the General Assembly: After session of Tuesday: Elder W. Hollister, Presbytery of Orange. After sessions of Wednesday: Elder J. G. Potts, Presbytery of Mecklenburg, and Elder W. A. Moore, Presbytery of Atlanta. After the sessions of Thursday night: Rev. C. M. Payne, Presbytery of Wilmington; T. B. Gentry, Presbytery of Missouri; Rev. Edward Hines, Presbytery of Orange; Elder S. R. Latta, Presbytery of Western District: Elder J. M. Carroll, Presbytery of Palmyra; Elder E. Geeding, Presbytery of Lexington; Rev. Dr. Hendrick, and Elder P. B. Me-Goodwin, Presbytery of Paducah; Elder H. L. McKee, Presbytery of South Alabama; Elder Jos. A. Houston, Presbytery of Orange; Rev. Dr. S. Robinson, Presbytery of Louisville; Elder W. M. Cocke, Presbytery of West Lexington; Elder M. C. Hay, Presbytery of Muhlenberg; Elder J. P. Holt, Presbytery of Cherokee, and Elder Jas. H. Renick. After the session of Friday night: Elder C. H. Rochester, Presbytery of Transylvania; Elder Wm. H. Ott, Presbytery of Lexington; Elder John Shaw, Presbytery of Fayetteville; Rev. J. E. Dunlop, Elder J. C. Burgess and Elder W. E. Mills, Presbytery of Harmony; Rev. S. T. Martin, Presbytery of Mecklenburg; Rev. J. M. M. Caldwell, Presbytery of Cherokee; Rev. J. L. Caldwell, Presbytery of Muhlenberg; Elder J. H. Huber, Presbytery of Louisville, and Rev. Geo. Summey, Presbytery of Ebenezer. After the session of Saturday afternoon: Elder A. Painter, Presbytery of Abingdon; Elder R. F. Houston, Presbytery of Tombeckbee; Elder Jas. H. Houston, Presbytery of Louisiana, and Rev. Jas. H. Gillespie, Presbytery of Western District.

The Committee would also state that we are constrained to believe that some, whose names we are not able to give, *did leave*, without appearing before the Committee and giving reasons, and that such are worthy of reprehension for violating the obligations which they owed to their respective Presbyteries,

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. DUNLOP, J. H. GILLESPIE, W. W. CAROTHERS, J. K. HITNER, The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved. That the thanks of the Assembly be cordially tendered to the citizens of Knoxville, for their generous and elegant hospitality; to the lines of Rail Roads for their accommodation, and also to the different churches which we have been invited to occupy.

It was then, on motion, resolved that this General Assembly be now dissolved, whereupon the moderator in due form declared it dissolved, and that another General Assembly chosen in like manner is required to assemble in the Second Presbyterian Church, in the city Louisville, Kentucky, on the third Thursday of May, 1879, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Closed with singing, prayer and the apostolic benediction.

WILLIAM Brown, Permanent Clerk.

Joseph R. Wilson, Stated Clerk.

# APPENDIX.



### NARRATIVE OF THE STATE OF RELIGION.

Your Committee having carefully examined the narratives sent up to this General Assembly, take pleasure in reporting that they find in them abundant ground for thanksgiving to God, in the evidence they furnish of substantial growth in the Church. They do not all, indeed, speak one voice. While some express thankfulness for the rich blessings vouchsafed by the Great Head of the Church, others deplore the absence of the Holy Spirit in His converting and sanctifying power. But even those which recount most of the wonders of divine grace mingle lamentations with their songs of praise. Not one of these narratives fails to evince the fact, that the Church has not yet come to "the rest and the refreshing with which God will cause His weary to rest." She is still in the desert: her progress is marked by conflict, and her experience is

largely that of trial.

The almost unprecedented financial pressure of the last year; which has prostrated to such a deplorable extent the business of the country, and brought ruin upon so many fortunes and families, has been felt disastrously in almost every portion of the Church. Bankruptcy has overtaken many of her staunchest friends, and in consequence her resources have been crippled, and all her enterprises seriously embarrassed. In the past history of the Church it has very generally been found that times of great public distress have been times of great religious awakenings and of marked spiritual prosperity. But now when the hand of the Lord is pressing so heavily upon His people, and their idols are falling around them and the precious fruits of their industry are passing away from their possession, we look in vain for any remarkable evidence of His favor, or for any wide-spread refreshing from His presence. A few of the Presbyteries, it is true, report that some of their churches have been blessed with precious seasons of grace. One Presbytery (Ebenezer) even reports "a larger number of marked revivals" than was ever known within its bounds before. And another (Abingdon) reports "large additions" to its churches—the fruits of "many gracious revivals." And from a review of the whole field there is ground for the cheering hope that while for several years past the aggregate of additions has been steadily diminishing, the reports of this year will show a gratifying advance upon the last, in the number added upon profession of their faith.

But while encouraged by the hope that this result will be realized when the reports from all the charches shall be published, your Committee nevertheless has been sadly impressed with the tone of despondency which pervades so many of the narratives. Some painful facts are disclosed as to the spiritual condition of the churches and the evils which beset them. The spirit of worldliness which taints the profession of so many, the greed of gain which everywhere confronts the friend of Zion, the prevalence of intemperance and its kindred vices, from which professing christians themselves are not all free, the deplorable desceration of the Sabbath, the neglect of the prayer meeting, of family worship and of household training, the lack of the grace of giving, the mad race for wealth, the persistent indulgence in demoralizing amusements, and the marked decline of spirituality and zeal for Christ, have -not everywhere-but in far too many portions of the Church, grievously saddened the hearts of God's friends, and hindered their efforts

for the advancement of His kingdom.

But on the other hand, and as a pleasing offset to this gloomy picture, the cheering report comes up from almost every quarter that the Lord is in the midst of His Church—not always, indeed, in the powerful outpouring of His Spirit in the awakening and conversion of sinners; not always in the signal triumphs of His grace in the overthrow of error,

and the capture of the strongholds of sin; not always even in the visible enlargement and progress of His Church; but always in the unswerving fidelity to truth and duty of those whom He has placed as watchmen upon her walls; in the steadfast devotion, even amid abounding temptation, of those who have been appointed to uphold the hands of these leaders of the sacramental hosts, and in the consecrated spirit of the godly men and saintly women composing her membership; who, having given themselves to God, withhold nothing of means, or effort, or time, or prayer, or sacrifice, that will minister to His glory in the growth, purity, stability and prosperity of His kingdom. The faithfulness and zeal of these officers and members are evinced not only in their unflinching opposition to error and maintainance of "the truth as it is in Jesus," but also in their successful endeavors to sustain the ordinances of religion and extend to the perishing the means of grace. testimony which they bear against every form of sin, the gratifying fact is emphasized in many of these reports, and distinctly stated or implied in them all, that all the outward and ordinary means which God has appointed to be used in His Church, and which He has been pleased to bless to her growth and purity, have everywhere been faithfully ad-With comparatively few exceptions all our churches are ministered. supplied, more or less frequently, with the ordinances of God's house. Parents, more generally than heretofore, have been faithful in presenting their children for baptism. Attendance upon the services of the sanctuary is represented as improving. Efforts for the evangelization of the colored people have been made wherever a disposition has been manifested to receive the ministration of the word from us. A growing interest in Sabbath Schools is reported by many Presbyteries; and this important nursery of the Church is not only organized in almost every place where it is practicable, but is industriously worked, and with gratifying results; one Presbytery (Augusta) reporting that a large proportion of those added to the rolls of its churches during the year were received from the Sabbath School. These schools are for the most part under the control of the Session, and in all of them, so far as reported, the Shorter Catechism is taught.

Notwithstanding the stringency of the times, and the consequent diminished contributions for current and benevolent purposes, we yet record it to the praise of divine grace that in many of our churches, in their great trial of affliction, the deep poverty of God's people has abounded unto the riches of their liberality. Struggling to maintain the gospel among themselves, grace has yet enabled them to contribute of their scanty means to send the living teacher and the word of life to others.

In a candid review, therefore, of the whole field in the light of the facts furnished by the narratives of the fifty-six Presbyteries reporting, whilst boasting is excluded, and whilst there is much to be lamented and amended, and that ought to humble us in the dust, there is also very much to inspire us with devout gratitude to the Great Head of the Church for His manifold goodness and unspeakable grace. We thank

God and take courage.

And now in entering upon another year of labor, and trial, and triamph, we summon the churches, for whose interests we have been consulting and whose highest spiritual welfare we desire to promote, to come up with us "to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty." We are living in times not only of sore trials, but of anxious solicitude and fearful peril. Fatal heresies are boldly lifting up their heads in the Church of Christ. Grievous defections from the truth are taking place around us. Our own borders, if not invaded, are threatened, and we know not how soon we may be called to contend in deadly conflict for the faith once delivered to the saints. Our hope in the impending struggle is in God, and to Him we must look for help. Deeply sensible, therefore, of our weakness, and in felt dependence upon the grace of that blessed Spirit who helpeth all our infirmities, let us

unite our hearts in the humble supplication, "Spare Thy people, O Lord, and give not Thy heritage to reproach." "O, Lord, revive Thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy."

J. R. GRAHAM, Chairman.

# ABSTRACT OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF SUSTENTATION.

The work has been conducted with entire harmony of view and feeling between your Committee and the Presbyterial agencies; the Chairmen of Presbyterial Committees have generally been earnest in promoting the interests of the cause; the gospel has been preached and its ordinances administered in hundreds of feeble congregations, in part through aid administered from your treasury; many outlying and un-occupied regions have been visited; bands of Presbyterians have been gathered together, and a number of hopeful churches organized by the labors of Evangelists who derive their support in large part from your fund; a number of the weaker Presbyteries have been encouraged, and feeble churches have been strengthened; more than a score of aged and infirm ministers, and several scores of families of deceased ministers have been comforted and cheered, and some of them saved from actual want by the aid bestowed upon them, and in several instances the way of God's servants, as they passed down to the tomb, has been made brighter and more hopeful by the tokens of regard they have received in their declining days from the Church which they loved, and in whose service they had lived and labored. In a review, therefore, of what has been done, whilst there is ground for serious regret that the means at the disposal of your Committee were not more ample, there is surely occasion for thanksgiving to the great Head of the Church that so much has been accomplished for the comfort and edification of Zion.

#### COLLECTIONS.

The total number of churches which have contributed to the general Sustentation work is 981; to the Evangelistic Fund, 678; and to the Invalid Fudd, 895. This shows a falling off of 59 collections for Sustentation, and an increase of 64 to the Evangelistic Fund, and 123 to the Invalid Fund. The decrease in the number of contributing churches is doubtless to be accounted for, to a considerable degree, by the very inclement weather which prevailed throughout a large part of the South during the months of January and February, which in many cases prevented congregations in the country from assembling at their places of worship during this whole time. This is much to be deplored, but it is hoped that the experience of the past winter will lead Church Sessions to adopt some method of gathering the oblations of God's people not so entirely dependent upon the state of the weather. If it were understood by christians that when they are detained from divine worship on the day of collection an opportunity would be afforded them at the next succeeding service to contribute; or if the deacons, or, in their absence, the elders, would as far as practicable see the members who are absent on these occasions and present these causes for their benevolent assistance, it can hardly be doubted that a large increase of funds would be Both these simple methods have been used with very gratifying success, and it is much to be desired that they shall become more general.

The increase in the number of collections for the Evangelistic and Invalid Funds is a cause of congratulation, both because additional support has thus been brought to these important departments of labor, and because it seems to show that the sympathies of God's people are

more generally enlisted in their behalf.

The number of collections received for the Sustentation Fund from the whole Church is 53 per cent, of all the churches. The churches in the Synod of Alabama have reached the highest point, 85 per cent. of them having contributed. The Presbytery of South Alabama, with 35 churches, has reported 35 collections, and the Presbytery of Tuskaloosa, with 28 churches, is credited with 27 collections. The churches in the The churches in the Synod of Virginia stand next in this respect, 78 per cent. of the whole (leaving out the Presbytery of East Hanover) having contributed to In each of the Presbyteries of West Hanover and Roanoke the number of collections received is only one less than the number of The churches in the Synod of Texas come next, 62 per cent. of their whole number having contributed. The number of contributing churches in the last named Synod has increased in five years 22 per cent. It is not deemed necessary to make a detailed comparison in regard to collections for the Evangelistic and Invalid Funds. From only the Synods of Kentucky and Nashville have more collections been received for the Evangelistic Fund, and from only the Synods of Arkansas, Nashville, North Carolina and Virginia have more been received for the Invalid Fund than for Sustentation.

It is gratifying to state that contributions have been received from ninety-three Sabbath Schools and from nineteen Ladies' Societies for some branch of the work, and from most of them for Sustentation. a few cases Sabbath Schools have contributed to each one of the objects represented by the Committee. One Sabbath School gave as much as \$100 to Sustentation. A single class in another raised as much as \$80 While in most cases the contributions were small, it is for this cause not doubted that in many of them they were both liberal and cheerful, considering the means of those who gave them. Seventy-seven more Sabbath Schools contributed the present than last year, and seven more Ladies' Societies. This increase has been the result of an effort at the time of the Sustentation collection to enlist these agencies in its support, and it is both gratifying and hopeful. In the opinion of the Executive Committee it is necessary that all classes of our people shall be brought into sympathy and co-operation with the efforts of the General Assembly and the Presbyteries to sustain the gospel and to evangelize our own land. Specially is this true of the young, upon whom, in a few years, must devolve the responsibility of carrying on the work of Christ in all its departments, and who ought therefore to be trained in their youth to sympathize with and make sacrifices for the upbuilding and extension of the Church. It is the purpose of your Committee to put forth further and still greater efforts to accomplish this desirable end, the General Assembly having on repeated occasions already approved of it as necessary and proper.

#### FINANCE.

The total receipts for all the funds in this department during the year (including \$9,000 for reinvestment under the Relief Fund) have been \$49,134 51, which added to \$4,497 23, the balance in hand at the last report, gives \$53,631 74 as the amount which has been under the control of the Committee. The balance on hand on April 1st was \$2,209 58, so that the actual amount administered under the direction of the Committee, and for which an account has now to be rendered to the General Assembly, was \$51,432 16. The expenditures of the office have been as economical as appeared to be consistent with efficiency. These will be found itemized in the Treasurer's Report, and a memorandum of payments from the books, which gives in detail every item of expenditure of every sort to be presented along with this report for the examination of your Standing Committee. It has been found possible some-

what to reduce the expenditures of the office by a small curtailment of the Secretaries' salaries and by a considerable dimunition in the allowance for clerk hire. The cost of administering this department is about nine per cent. of the receipts, not reckoning the amount reinvested under the Relief Fund or the small amount received in the Colored Evangelistic Fund. It is believed after diligent inquiry that this will compare favorably with the administration of any similar association having under its charge like work, involving like responsibilities and demanding an equal amount of labor.

The Treasurer's Report and the table appended which shows the receipts from and payments to each Presbytery for each object, afford full information in regard to the financial condition of this department. It is therefore necessary that only a brief summing up shall be made here.

Sustentation —The receipts from all sources have been \$16,652 43, less by \$2,835 12 than the previous year. This decrease is general throughout the Church, the Synods of North Carolina and Texas being the only ones in which the churches have given more than last year,

and in the latter there is a difference of only a few dollars.

The total payments to the Presbyteries have been \$15,042 47, which is \$5,517 04 less than last year. Notwithstanding this heavy curtailment, the balance on hand on April 1st was only \$1,292 66, less by \$667 18 than it was the previous year. It is very much to be desired that the churches which have failed to contribute at or since the last annual collection, shall do so at an early day, in order that there may be funds in hand to meet the second instalments of appropriations in October.

EVANGELISTIC FUND.—The receipts for Evangelistic work have been \$936 16 less than during the year previous. The decrease here is, however, altogether in miscellaneous sources, the churches having given somewhat more than last year. The payments to Presbyteries have been \$549 82 less than last year, but they have been considerably in excess of the receipts of the fund, so that the balance in hand on April 1st, was reduced \$1,397 63. This sum is far below what will be necessary to enable the Committee to meet the second instalments of appropriation in July, but it appeared better to endure a pressure at that time, and, if absolutely necessary, to continue the gradual contraction of the work the next year, rather than to make such a sudden curtailment of appropriations as would derange Presbyterial plans, and bring hardship to ministers earnestly engaged in the service of the Church. There are, however, such signs of increased interest in this department in several quarters, as induce the hope that funds will be furnished to carry forward the work without diminution.

Colored Evangelistic Fund.—The total receipts have been \$775-90, \$359-25 of which was given by churches of the Reformed (Dutch) Church, and according to request, was paid over together with a small contribution acknowledged in the last Annual Report of \$26-33, to the Institute for the Education of Colored men at Tuskaloosa. Of the remaining \$416-65, \$351 were derived from miscellaneous sources. Payments to the Presbyteries have been made to the amount of \$1,050—which is \$175 more than last year—and a balance of \$659-68 standing against the fund on April 1st, has been charged to the Sustentation Fund, in accordance with the action of previous General Assemblies

INVALID FUND.—The receipts have been \$383 95 more than last year, and the payments to Presbyteries \$2,500 less than last year, and the balance due the Treasurer on April 1st, has been reduced from

\$1,906 32 to \$1,037 44.

Relief Fund.—A reinvestment of \$9,000 matured bonds and a new investment of \$4,000 have been made during the year, so that the securities belonging to this fund now amount to \$25,000, a descriptive list of which is attached to the Treasurer's Report. Annuities have been paid during the year, amounting to \$1,600 to the families of five deceased ministers.

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS.

Table Showing the Amounts Contributed by each Presbytery to Sustentation, Evangelistic and Invalid Funds, and amount Received by each from these funds from April 1st, 1877, to April 1st, 1878.

	SUSTENTATION EVANGELISTIC FUND,			INVALID FUND.		
PRESBYTERIES.	Contributed by Churches.	Rec'd from the Fund.	Contributed by Churches.	Rec'd from the Fund.	Contributed by Churches,	Rec'd from the Fund.
Pres, of East Alabama " South Alabama " Tuskaloosa	283 86 416 00 265 20	125 00 483 33 87 59	17 40 87 50 160 70	258 33 259 00	61 45 177 30 174 45	50 00 150 00
Synod of Alabama	965-06	695 83	265 60	508-33	418 20	200 00
Pres, of Arkansas "—Indian "—Ouachita	265 01 18 05 99 00	125 00 362 50		259 00	119 59 22 70 98 70	175 00 75 00 225 00
Synod of Arkansas,	382 06	187 50	231-11	250 00	240 90	475 00
Pres. of Atlanta	71 13 83 85 138 15 212 69 259 20 141 64	291 66 350 09 200 00 282 59	51.09	350 00	78 98 411 35 98 70 98 85 90 20 75 29	100 00 50 00 125 00 250 00
Synod of Georgia	906 57	1274 16	449 20	849 99	856 37	525 00
Pres, of Central Ohio  "Ebenezer  "Louisville  "Muhlenburg  "Paducah  "Transylvania  "West Lexington	285 21 651 85 10 00 161 43 160 90 319 46	59 00 175 00 100 00 225 00 116 33	177 88 264 83 111 46 399 75 349 21	125 00 100 00 150 00 590 00 591 66	146 36 262 27 98 53 97 10 329 68	100 00 100 00
Synod of Kentucky	1568-85	666 33	1303 13	1466 66	933 94	200 00
Pres, of Chickasaw	60 74 524 03 99 70 94 10 132 15	300 00 392 70 130 00 150 00 250 00	2.50 225 00 35 65 67 45	700 00	27 05 226 20 50 10 69 25 78 40	150 00 75 00 325 00 100 00 100 00
Synod of Memphis	910 72	1222 - 70	330 60	875 00	151 00	750 00
Pres, of Central Mississippi	132 25 92 00 185 20 578 40 160 96 102 60	200 00 450 00 200 00 525 00 250 00	80 40 53 10 90 50 110 27 31 25 5 00	283 33	117 25 3I 80 101 25 428 25 110 15 34 80	205 00 300 00 100 00
Synod of Mississippi	1251 41	1725 00	370 52	683 33	826 50	605 00
Pres, of Lafayette	153 90 126 20 72 11 92 40 260 80	18 75 125 00 390 00 75 00	29 90 106 90 61 95 59 05 89 80	400 00 233 33 75 00	52 85 55 85 51 60 83 95 81 28	150 00
" St. Louis	124 68	270 83	62 60		59 50	
Synod of Missouri	830 04	789 58	410 20	708 33	335 03	200 00

	SUSTENTATION		EVANGELISTIC FUND.		INVALID FUND.	
PRESBYTERIES.	Contributed by Churches.	Ree'd from the Fund.	Contributed by Churches.	Rec'd from the Fund.	Contributed by Churches,	Rec'd from the Fund.
Pres, of Columbia.  "Holstèn  "Knoxville  "Nashville	99 50 60 25 106 84 20 45	150 00 50 00 356 38	114 71 72 17 69 13	300 60 133 33 200 00	73 25 74 60 107 48 440 35	50 00 220 00
Synod of Nashville	287 - 04	556 38	256 01	633-33	695 68	270 00
Pres, of Concord.  "Fayetteville	45 00 264 38 408 34 388 53 50 00	450 00 206 25	9 00 101 99 13 29 7 00		58 22 146 87 217 38 240 39 138 97	120 00 250 00 210 00 100 00
Synod of North Carolina	1156 25	656 25	131 28		801 83	680 00
Pres, of Bethel. " Charleston. " Harmony. " South Carolina.	195 00 172 81 264 44 282 66	200 00 475 00	48 65 5 88 201 63 158 57	75 00	47 20 121 02 188 40 175 92	280 00 155 00 470 00 330 00
Synod of South Carolina	914 91	675 00	414 73	75 00	532 54	1235 00
Pres, of Brazos  " Central Texas  " Eastern Texas.  " Western Texas.	228 32 205 65 155 90 211 65	450 00 725 00 385 41 475 00	139 20 98 65 87 73 147 65		98 45 103 15 96 15 115 25	150 00 100 00 175 00
Synod of Texas	801 52	2035 41	473 23	1412 50	413 00	425 0
Pres, of Abingdon.  " Chesapeake.  " East Hanover.  " Greenbrier.  " Lexington.  " Montgomery.  " Roanoke.	392 61	336 67 1616 66 462 50 375 00 300 03 497 50	182 94 683 46 201 26 146 01 451 04 264 24 150 90	100 00 550 00 250 00	112 30 689 04 434 63 153 43 336 31 206 53 141 08	150 00 600 00 350 00 150 00 150 00 230 00
" Sao Paulo " West Hanover. " Winchester	6 53 390 83	412 50 257 50	5 45 214 33 355 54		218 60 347 50	100 0 150 0 350 0
Synod of Virginia	4098-76	4258 33	2655 17	2050 00	2612 42	2230 6
Miscellaneous, Colored Evangelistic Fund, Balance on hand April 1, 1877,	2579 21 1959 84	1617 46 659 68	223 00 4106 64		514 60	913 13
	18612 27	17319 61	11620 42	10223 79	10664 45	9627 0
Balance on hand April 1, 1878	1292 66		1397 63			1037 4

# ABSTRACT OF THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

#### ENCOURAGING FEATURES OF THE WORK.

Prominently among these should be mentioned the care which God has been pleased to exercise over the lives and health of our missionary brethren in all their various fields of labor; in permitting them to prosecute their work in peace and quietness, and especially in enabling them to maintain in vigorous operation all the more important departments of their work, notwithstanding the reduction in their number and the severe financial restrictions that have been imposed upon their labors. It is not less a cause of gratitude that our missionary brethren, at a time when they were reduced to great straits from the want of laborers, were enabled to bring into the field so many efficient native helpers, without whose aid many important departments of the work would have been entirely abandoned. Nor must we fail to mention as among the encouraging features of the work the great and important fact, that during the year more than one hundred and fifty persons have been united upon profession of faith to the churches at our various stations. Here is not only abundant cause for sincere and heartfelt gratitude to Almighty God, but ample and convincing proof that the great Head of the Church is with us, and thus showing that we are, in the prosecution of this great enterprise, walking in the path that He has marked out for us.

#### DISCOURAGING FEATURES,

Among these may be mentioned the painful, if not the humiliating fact, that during the year two of our missions—one to the Cherokee Indians and the other to the United States of Colombia—have been discontinued, if not wholly yet mainly, because the Committee had not the means either to sustain or reinforce them. Another still more distressing fact, already known to the Church at large, is that while others of our missions—and some of them too upon which the Saviour has bestowed the most precious tokens of His favor—are in imminent peril of dissolution, inasmuch as the Committee have not the means to send the reinforcements necessary to avert the threatened catastrophe. For three years, as is already generally known, not one new missionary has been sent abroad. During the same period twelve or fifteen candidates for the work, and all of them very highly recommended, have come forward and said, "Here are we, send us," but to all of whom the Committee have been compelled with deep sorrow of heart to say, "We have not the means to send you." Nor is this solemn crisis passed. At the present moment there are four young men who have been formally received under the care of the Committee—and all of them young men of great promise—who are now anxiously and prayerfully waiting to know whether they can be sent. Your missionary laborers, in different parts of the unevangelized world and many of them almost ready to sink beneath the burdens that have been accumulating upon their shoulders for years past, are waiting to hear what utterance in relation to this solemn matter shall go forth from this Assembly. The Executive Committee, upon whom you have devolved the responsibility of conducting this work, have done all that seemed possible to them in endeavoring to stir the churches to greater liberality, curtailing expenses both at home and abroad, and yet they do not feel free to send out these waiting brethren, urgently as they are needed, without having the means in hand to do so.

#### THE WHOLE MISSIONARY FORCE.

The whole force now engaged in the work, and depending upon the funds of the treasury for their support, consist of seventy-five persons, of whom thirty-three have been sent from this country, and forty-two

are natives of the different countries where they labor. Of the thirtythree sent from this country thirteen are ordained ministers, and twenty are assistant missionary laborers. Of the forty-two native laborers, ten are ordained ministers, eight are licentiates, and twenty-two are variously employed as colporteurs or teachers. It is a cause of gratitude to God, as well as a source of great encouragement to those who love the missionary work, that our brethren in the field, when their number became so much depleted by sickness and death, and when it was impossible for the Committee to send them reinforcements from this country, were enabled to bring so many native laborers to their assistance, and that these have proved to be so efficient in maintaining the work. This shows the necessity and importance of training native laborers in all of our missions. In some respects a native laborer, when otherwise duly qualified for the work, has great advantages over the Foreign Missionary. He is not under the necessity of acquiring a foreign language; he has an instinctive insight into the character of the people with whom he has to deal; he is already inured to the climate in which he lives; and as a general thing he can live on a much less salary than is necessary for a foreigner.

#### FINANCE.

The entire receipts for the year amount to \$47,225-15. Of this sum, \$31,125-23 were given by churches and individuals: \$10,107-54 by Ladies Missionary Associations; \$5,992 38 by Sabbath Schools. The aggregate of receipts is less by \$7,896 than it was the last year, and \$14,048 12 less than it was the year previous to that. The falling off in the receipts of the year just closed is mainly with the churches and individuals; their contributious being \$7,572.08 less than they were the previous year. The contributions from the Sabbath Schools are also less by \$805.68 than they were last year. On the other hand, the contributions from Ladies' Missionary Associations are \$481 76 in advance of those of last year. The whole number of churches that have contributed is 1,085, which is more by 32 than contributed the previous year. This shows, nevertheless, that there are still 745 churches that have contributed nothing to this great enterprise. The number of Sabbath Schools that have contributed is 237, which is less by 25 than contributed the year before. The number of Ladies' Associations that have contributed is 176, being 4 more than contributed last year. From these statements it will be seen that the decline in the contributions of churches and of individuals is about twenty per cent., and that of Sabbath Schools about fifteen per cent., whilst those of Ladies' Missionary Associations have advanced somewhat on the contributions of the previous year. The steadiness and earnestness of our christian women in these times of trial are worthy of all praise

The total payments made by the Treasurer during the year, including office expenses, cost of the *Missionary*, interest on the general debt, and \$1,837-32 paid on the Campinas debt, amount to \$52,649-92. This exceeds the receipts by \$5,424-88, which, added to the previous debt of

\$4,826 27, makes the entire indebtedness \$9,251 59

In January, 1876, the receipts the previous spring having exceeded \$61,000, the Committee reduced their appropriations, nevertheless, to something like \$50,000, with the view of cancelling the debt, which then amounted to something more than \$14,000. The contributions of the churches, instead of coming up to the mark of the previous year, fell behind about \$7,000. The debt, instead of being cancelled, was only reduced to something less than \$5,000. In January, 1877, the appropriations were further reduced to \$45,000 or thereabouts, with the view, first, of cancelling the remainder of the debt, and second, to secure the means necessary to send out a few of the missionary laborers who were so urgently needed in the mission fields. Of course this curtailment of the appropriations could not be made without serious detriment to the general work, but it was thought better to do this than to keep back the

laborers who were so much needed. But again the contributions fell behind, not only increasing the debt, but making it impossible, without a special effort, to send out the missionaries who are not only waiting to go, but unless they do, some of our missions must soon become extinct. A few more backward steps and this whole missionary work, there is reason to fear, will be involved in serious embarrassment, if not in irretrievable ruin. The question now before the Church is not, where does the blame of these difficulties lie, if indeed there is any, but what can be done to rescue this precious cause from the dangers which environ it, and restore to it the prosperity which it enjoyed in former years.

#### THE CAUSES WHICH HAVE LED TO THE DEFICIENCY IN THE RECEIPTS.

The general scarcity of money in the country is undoubtedly the main cause of this deficiency. This may be inferred from the fact that the falling off in the contributions is not confined to the churches in any one particular section of the country, but equally to those in all portions of it. Still, however, if the churches had been thoroughly awake to the emergency that was upon us, and had put forth the energy that the women of the Church did in connection with their Missionary Associations, there would have been no serious deficiency in the general contributions; the debt would have been cancelled, and the missionaries, some of them at least, would have been on their way

to the foreign field.

Another occasion for the diminution of the receipts is to be found in the fact, that the claims of this great cause are so frequently displaced by others of a local character. It often happens that any urgent home claim is regarded as a sufficient reason for omitting the collection for Foreign Missions altogether. A single church, under the pressure of some urgent home claim, is very apt to suppose that the omission of its contribution for Foreign Missions for one year or so, will not effect materially the general contribution to this great cause. But when eases of this kind are greatly multiplied, as is almost sure to be the case in times like the present, the injury to the foreign work is disastrous. It also frequently happens that contributions raised in the Sabbath Schools for Foreign Missions are, under some special pressure, diverted into other channels to the detriment of the foreign cause. This undoubtedly is one, if not the chief, cause of the falling off of their receipts during the past year. Now it must be obvious to reflection, that the Foreign Missionary cause cannot be placed upon a solid foundation, until our Christian people at large come to the solemn and prayerful conclusion, that they are not only bound to give liberally of their substance for its support, but at the same time determine that their offerings for this cause shall be diverted into no other channels however urgent or special their claims may be.

Another cause of the insufficiency of our Foreign Missionary receipts is to be found in the fact that the great body of our christian people have never yet attained to adequate views of the nature or the extent of its claims. By many it is regarded simply as one of a half dozen other schemes of benevolence, and which is to be treated accordingly. The fact is overlooked that this one scheme comprises within itself, so far as the great unevangelized world is concerned, almost every department of benevolence recognized by the Church in its home work. It provides for fitting out and sending missionaries to foreign lands; of securing residences for them when they reach their fields of labor; provides support for them from year to year; furnishes the means to educate natives for the work of teaching and preaching; it provides for the expense of printing and circulating religious intelligence; it must, in the first instance at least, erect chapels for religious worship; explore regions of country whose condition is still unknown to the christian world, and various other expenses too numerous even to be

This general statement, brief as it is, shows that the misspecified. sionary work, when prosecuted to any considerable extent, is necessarily and unavoidably expensive. This the blessed Redeemer distinctly foresaw when he uttered the command to preach the Gospel to every creature upon the face of the earth. He saw how much self-denial would have to be practiced and how much peril would have to be encountered by those who would undertake to carry the command into execution; and He foresaw not less distinctly all the self-denial and self-sacrifice that would be required of those who would be called upon to furnish the means necessary for carrying on the work. And there is no way by which the Church can bring herself into closer sympathy with her great Head, or more effectually secure His blessing upon her various schemes for promoting the spiritual welfare of those immediately around, than by the faithful discharge of her duties to those multitudes of the human race who still sit in the region and shadow of death.

WHAT IS NOW THE TRUE STATE OF THE CASE, AND WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

The fact is already known that during the three years now passed we have lost from various causes full one-third of the whole missionary force sent from this country, whilst not one new missionary has been sent abroad to fill up the breaches that have been occasioned by these losses. Three of our missions, during the same period, have been discontinued, not wholly, but mainly for the want of means to reinforce them. Several other missions, and those too of more than ordinary promise, are in imminent peril of the same fate. The mission at Hangchow, for example, was planned with reference to the employment of three ordained and one unordained missionary, and up to a comparatively recent period it has been sustained by that number. But now there are only two on the ground, not only carrying the burthen of four men, but neither of them in firm health. The Greek mission is without a single American missionary. The mission at Pernambuco, one of great interest and promise, has been sustained for two years by the sole labors of Rev. J. Rockwell Smith. Rev. John W. Dabney, of the Campinas mission, who returned to this country two years ago to recruit his health and to complete his theological studies, is ready to go back, and is urgently needed, but it is not certain that he can be sent back. Three other young brethren, and all of them young men of great promise, have placed themselves at the disposal of the Committee to carry on this great work, and are ready, yea, anxiously waiting for the command to go forward. And now what is to be done? What answer shall this Assembly give through its Committee to these waiting brethren? What message shall we have to send to our missionary brethren abroad, who are almost ready to sink beneath the burden of labors that have been accumulating upon their shoulders for years past? What shall we have to say to the multitudes of heathen around our various missionary stations, many of whom have been partially aroused to a sense of their lost condition, and many also are anxiously waiting to be more fully instructed in relation to the way of life? What response shall be made to Him who has not only shed His blood for the salvation of these multitudes, but who sits upon the Mediatorial throne and bids us go forward? How shall we answer to our own consciences, if we shall prove remiss in this solemn-emergency?

Now to send out these four brethren and their companions, to provide their outfit, pay their passage and support them for one year will require \$10,000 or thereabouts. Of this amount about one-fourth has been guaranteed by the munificence of individual Christians, and which is not to interfere with their ordinary contributions to this great cause. What other Christian friends may be moved to do when these solemn facts come to be generally known, we cannot of course foresee.

It may be safely stated, however, that if the general contributions of the churches can be increased as much as twenty-five per cent—and this would carry them only a little beyond what was given the previous year—the urgent necessities of the case would be met, and the whole work would assume its former aspect of cheer and encouragement. With these statements the whole matter is left in the hands of the Assembly.

# ABSTRACT OF THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION.

The Contraction

The whole number of Candidates whose names have been enrolled as applicants for assistance, from the beginning of the year, on regular recommendation by the various Presbyteries, comprises seventy-nine in all stages of preparation. Forty-one of this number were represented

as designing to pursue strictly Theological Studies.

The Committee, since the last Annual Report, has been enabled to make some progress toward the extinguishment of the indebtedness to students of the year 1875-76, or, as it should with more propriety be called, the deficiency which occurred under the administration of the Committee of which this Committee is the successor. The amount reported as due in May last was \$1,789. Since that time, by collections remitted to our Treasury, this sum has been reduced to the amount of \$803-50, all of which is due to twenty-seven students. Of these six are graduates and twenty-one still in Seminaries and Colleges. There remains of the legacy still due to the cause of Education more than \$1,000, which is regarded by Judge Watson as entirely secure, and the greater part of it may be realized in the course of the ensuing ecclesiastical year.

It is surely a source of gratification to the Committee, and calls for gratitude to God, that during all these years of annually increasing private financial pressure, and painful stringency in the money markets of the entire country, there has been a steady enlargement of territory over which the Committee's operations have extended, and a regular annual increase of the number of contributing churches throughout our entire limits. The number of our churches which during the year 1874-75 co-operated with your Committee was 612; and we now report that during the year just closed we have been receiving contributions from 756 churches. So that the Committee recognizes gratefully the fact that the number of contributing churches to the cause of Beneficiary Education since the year 1874, at which time this Committee assumed the superintendence of the work, shows a clear increase of one hundred and forty-four. The Committee make this statement in full view of the fact, which, of course, is not so gratifying, viz., that the amounts received from individual churches have been in the majority of instances diminished, making the receipts from all the churches smaller in the aggregate. Yet the Committee have no hesitation in expressing the opinion that this decrease in the sums contributed is to be accounted for readily upon the consideration that the resources of the entire country have been reduced to a condition of unexampled embarrassment and distress, and it is but natural to suppose that churches have suffered in their proportion just as all institutions and individuals have suffered. In the meantime, it is a matter of no small comfort to the Committee that since the last annual report was submitted to the Assembly four of our Presbyteries formerly non-co-operative with the Assembly's scheme, have signified their adhesion and are now regarded

as formally in sympathy with this Committee. This enables us to report to the Assembly, that of the entire number of sixty-five Presbyteries under care of the Assembly, tifty-seven are in full co-operation with the Committee; five which do not ask any assistance from the Committee, but which send to our treasury the surplus of their contributions, and three which have neither asked aid of the Committee nor remitted funds to the treasury. Nor would the Committee omit to mentlon as a matter of encouragement at least, the many kind and cheering expressions of interest in reference to this great fundamental cause given them by honored and influential brethren in various parts of the Church, who also tender their prayers for the success of the Committee in its work, and lastly the Committee would be very far from undervaluing the oft occurring utterances of the feebler churches in remitting their contributions, in the form of earnest wishes that the amount sent were manifold larger than the sum remitted. On the review of the year's entire operations, the Committee would report to the Assembly that in the midst of all the surrounding circumstances, and in view of the unpleasant fact that appropriations made to the students have not been fully paid up, this year, as they were last year previous to the meeting of the General Assembly, there is no ground of serious discouragement in the work. The appropriations to the students of the Theological Seminaries have been paid up entirely, and the indebtedness of the Committee is to students in their Collegiate or preliminary course of study, amounting at this time to a sum comparatively inconsiderable. It was very much to be desired that the amounts due on appropriations to both classes of students should have been met, as last year, by this time, but pursuing the rule adopted by the Assembly at its session in Memphis in 1866, that where the amount of money in the treasury at any time should be insufficient to pay all the students, those who were the nearest the end of their course of study should be preferred creditors, the Committee has paid all that was due the students at Union, Columbia and Princeton Seminaries and nearly all due to the Collegiate students, hoping to be enabled to close up the balance due them on or before the close of the sessions of the Institutions where they are pursuing their studies. The allusion to this circumstance very naturally brings to the notice of the Assembly the action of the Executive Committee on a very important subject connected with the work entrusted to them, and which, by order of the Committee, is herein presented to the Assembly for its consideration and decision. The subject of devising some plan whereby the Committee should be enabled to close up its financial operations without incurring indebtedness to the students has been discussed more than once by the Committee, and it was suggested to the General Assembly in the Annual Report at the session of 1876 in Savannah. No action was taken at that time, and the Committee has been pursuing the accustomed method, of making absolute, and not contingent or conditional appropriations to students, and in cases which have been occurring for several years where the close of the year found the treasury deficient in funds needed to pay up all the students, the claims of the students were met out of the contributions of the churches for the year following. By the blessing of God upon the labors of the Committee during the year which closed 30th April, 1877, every claim was fully met, and the Committee had the great gratification of reporting to the Assembly of 1877 no deficiency. But the experience of the Committee teaches them that it is not safe to rely upon the hope or expectation that this result will invariably be realized. bring the matter properly before the Assembly, a sub-committee was appointed to consider and report upon the whole subject to the Executive Committee, and this having been done, the report was adopted and ordered to be laid before this venerable Court, to be acted upon finally for the guidance of the Executive Committee in settling this much vexed question.

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF EDU-CATION ON APPROPRIATIONS TO STUDENTS, ADOPTED, AND PROPOSED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION.

"The Committee appointed at your last meeting for the purpose of considering the question of the propriety and wisdom of making the appropriations to Beneficiaries absolute, or of making only a prorata distribution to them of the amount of all funds contributed by the churches to our treasury, hereby present to the Executive Committee of Education the following report, as the result of their deliberations:

1. The Committee are unanimous in the fundamental proposition

that the Executive Committee should never incur a debt.

2. It is also their judgment that inasmuch as the churches, and people of God, are the sole resources whence the funds for education can be drawn, the Executive Committee is not under obligation to pay more, or to pledge more, than is furnished by the churches.

3. Furthermore, the Committee hold the opinion that each ecclesiastical year should close up its own financial matters, and that it is inexpedient to levy contributions on a succeeding year to meet the

deficiencies of a previous year.

4. That it is the duty of the Executive Committee to use every legitimate effort to raise the largest amounts from the churches for this object, so as to make as near an approach as possible to the limit of pecuniary aid established by the General Assembly for our beneficiaries, and that at the close of the ecclesiastical year, having made an equitable distribution to these beneficiaries of all moneys in the treasury, each student on the list shall be considered as paid up in full and the pecuniary obligations of the Executive Committee should be considered as fully discharged.

5. While the Committee hold these propositions to be beyond controversy, at the same time they do not feel justified in recommending that this system be put into immediate operation, for the obvious reason that the system of absolute pledges having been the policy of the Executive Committee during all former periods, and the present year having been allowed to reach this late period without any intimation, on our part, of a change, the young men have a right to expect that they shall receive, as heretofore, the amounts appropriated, and have made all their arrangements in accordance with such well-found-

ed expectations.

6. Finally, your Committee recommend the adoption of the foregoing system, to take effect from the beginning of the next ecclesias-

tical year, subject to the approval of the General Assembly."

The general statement of the Presbyterial Committees as to the prospect of an increase of candidates is, on the whole, somewhat discouraging, and this fact should quicken the Church to a lively sense of her duty to pray the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth laborers into His harvest, and that He would, by His Holy Spirit, stir up the people of God everywhere to a greater degree of liberality in furnishing the requisite means to aid young men in fitting themselves for this arduous calling.

The Executive Committee has turned its attention to the securing of the greatly to be desired object of having this cause laid before every church in our connection, and to this end the Secretary has issued on postal cards, at two successive periods, separate appeals to each minister whose name appeared in the minutes of the Assembly, and also to the session of every vacant church whose postoffice address could be ascertained, and, doubtless, this method has been attended with gratifying

success.

We have on our roll, according to the printed minutes of the Assembly of 1877, eighteen hundred and thirty churches. Of these two

hundred and fifty-three are under the care of Presbyteries not cooperating with the Executive Committee of Education, leaving fifteen hundred and seventy-seven churches belonging to Presbyteries understood to be in full sympathy with the Committee, commending to its care their candidates, and supposed, of course, to entrust it with their educational funds. But when it is understood that not quite so many as one-half of this number have thus far been contributors to the treasury of Education, it will go far toward accounting for the deficiency which is reported for the year closing 30th April. For if the remaining non-contributing churches had remitted to the treasury only two dollars each, there would have been no deficiency to be reported, and if they had contributed in the same proportion as the other churches have done, we should have had a surplus on hand.— Nor would this surplus have been superfluous at all. For as the session of one of our Theological Seminaries begins in August, there is a need of funds, and application has been made more than once for money to enable candidates residing at a distance to travel to the Seminary, which application we have been obliged to decline for want of funds. Indeed, all the Institutions where we have candidates begin, at latest, two months before the committee can avail itself of the contributions of the churches to make the first remmittance to students. So that even upon the supposition that there should be found a surplus in the treasury over and above all demands, this would result in no disadvantage to the work, but would often meet a great want. It is not doubted, however, that were all the churches to contribute to this cause according to their ability, this provision of the requisite funds would encourage many young brethren to enter upon a course of study for the ministry, who now turn sadly away for want of the means of paying their expenses. Thus it is seen that there is no sort of danger of funds contributed to the cause of Education lying idle, or unem-

There is pressing need of bringing into close connection and full harmonious co-operation with the Assembly's schemes of Benevolence, every one of our churches. It is needed to make these schemes successful. It is needed to cultivate a spirit of christian liberality. It is needed to cherish in every heart the principle of the communion of saints, and to intensify that sympathy among the members of Christ's body, which is indeed inseparable from the relation subsisting

between them.

The problem as to the best method of attaining this consummation so devoutly to be wished, has not yet been solved.

# ABSTRACT OF THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF PUBLICATION.

INSTRUCTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 1877.

At the meeting of the General Assembly, in May last, the Committee of Publication received certain instructions, involving a radical change in its methods of business. It will be the first object of this report to state fully the action of the Committee under these instructions.

Article 2nd of the report of the standing committee, which was

adopted by the General Assembly, is as follows:

"2. That the Executive Committee be instructed to carry on the sale as well as the publishing of books by contract, if it be found practicable to effect such contract."

In accordance with this order, the Executive Committee sought information as to the method and the success of similar schemes, for the conduct of the Publication work, and, with this purpose in view, the Secretary visited Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, and made careful investigation, the result being an increased confidence in the practicability of the plan in the minds of some at least of the Committee.

Early in July the Committee advertised for proposals for the publication of the papers, viz: the Earnest Worker, the Children's Friend, and the Lesson Papers, and for the publication and sale of books and tracts. As the result of this advertisement, two propositions were received for the whole business, including both the publication of the papers, and the sale and publication of books, and three propositions were received for the publication of the papers alone.

It was not until late in October that the Committee were able to act conclusively upon these propositions. The proposition of Messrs. Whittet & Shepperson, of Richmond, for the publication of our Sabbath-school papers was accepted, and the proposition of the St. Louis Presbyterian Publishing Company, of St. Louis, Mo., for the publica-

tion and sale of books.

#### SALE OF THE PUBLISHING HOUSE.

The third article of the report of the Standing Committee of Publication, also adopted by the General Assembly of 1877, is as follows:

"3. That the Committee be instructed to dispose of the Publishing House as soon as this can be done without unnecessary sacrifice of value, unless means be raised within a reasonable time to liquidate the debt

now resting upon it."

In obedience to these instructions, the property was placed in the hands of responsible real estate agents for sale, in June last, and in August, in order that everything possible might be done to carry out the order of the General Assembly, the agents were instructed to offer it at public sale; but the offers made being unsatisfactory it was withdrawn. The highest offer that has thus far been made is \$31,000; but as this, in the judgment of the Committee, as well as that of many of the best real estate agents in Richmond, would be "a sacrifice of value,"—the property having been valued at the time of its purchase at \$45,000,—the Committee have believed that the General Assembly would justify them in delaying the sale until more favorable terms could be obtained. The property is still in the hands of the agents, with instructions to sell as soon as fair value can be obtained, and there is reason to expect that at an early day the sale will be effected. In the meantime, such arrangements have been made as to give an income from the building nearly sufficient to cover all expenses of interest on the debt, insurance, and taxes. The first floor, occupied by the Committee as a store until November 15th, has been rented for \$1,800, and the rents from other portions of the building amount to nearly as much more. There are still three offices unrented. If we are able to secure tenants for these, as we hope, our rent roll will be about sufficient to provide for all expenses. In view of the dullness of the times, and the fact that many buildings are not rented, the Committee feel that it is a cause of congratulation that they have been able to make arrangements so favorable. With an improved condition of business affairs the building would afford an income considerably above the expenses upon it.

The following table gives the receipts and expenditures on account of

Publication House:

Rents. RECEIPTS -	\$3,285	00
EXPENDITURES.  Interest on \$31,000, at 8½ per cent	) ) 5	
Excess of expenditures,	. \$271	75

In addition to this, it must be borne in mind that the Committee of Publication has its office in the building, the rent of which elsewhere would be at least \$100.

There are generally some slight expenses each year for repairs; but as the building is in excellent order, the amount required for this purpose is very small.

#### RETRENCHMENT.

The Executive Committee addressed itself to the work of retrenchment as early as possible after the meeting of the General Assembly. A reduction in the force employed in the store was made at once; but as the business was continued in the hands of the Committee until November 15th, and as the subscription lists and accounts of the Sabbath-school papers remained in their hands until January 1st, the statement of expenses for the last ecclesiastical year, which is now offered, does not show the scale of expenses under the new system.

A reduction was also made in the salaries of the Secretary and Treasurer. Under our present arrangement these, together with necessary travelling expenses, postage, and stationery, will constitute the

annual expenses of the Committee.

It will be seen from what has thus far been presented, that the Executive Committee have sought faithfully to carry out the instructions of the General Assembly, and their effort has been attended with a good degree of success.

#### FINANCES.

Before entering upon any statement of the present condition of our financial affairs it is deemed necessary to refer to statements that were laid before the General Assembly in New Orleans. In the painful disclosures that were made to that Assembly, it was stated that there was a deficiency or loss of not less than \$22,000. Subsequently other claims were brought to light, increasing the amount to nearly \$24,000. It was further stated that it had been found imperatively necessary to raise \$15,000 at once, to meet obligations that were pressing, and the effort to do this had been so far successful that \$12,500 had been actually raised, and the remaining \$2,500 had been promised. It was further stated that it was the confident expectation of the Committee that of the remainder of the deficiency \$5,000 or \$6,000 would be realized from the assets of the late Secretary. It must now be stated that the \$2,500 referred to above, as promised, has not been realized, and of the \$12,500 reported as actually raised \$350 has not been found available, and that the Committee has no reasonable prospect of securing any considerable amount from the late Secretary's assets. This statement is made here to guard against any misapprehension of our financial condition growing out of those statements.

A reference is also necessary to the statement of the assets and liabilities contained in the report of the Investigating Committee in October last, lest there should be supposed to be any discrepancy be-

tween that and the statement we now offer.

Included in the assets presented in that report is the stock of books on hand at one-half the retail price, which was regarded as a fair valuation in case the business remained in the hands of the Committee; but in the sale to the St. Louis Presbyterian Publishing Company, the stock was put at two-fifths the retail or catalogue price, as being about the cost; so that the Committee actually realized about \$2,000 less for this stock than it was valued at by the Investigating Committee.

#### PRESENT CONDITION.

It is deemed important to supplement the Treasurer's report, which is submitted herewith, by a statement showing approximately the financial status of the Committee, April 1, and the present condition.

Bills Receivable

This statement cannot be made absolutely accurate, as there are open accounts subject to settlement, whose exact value cannot be determined until such settlement is effected.

The following is believed to be substantially correct:

ASSE	TIS	AP.	KIL	IST.	

89 790 89

Open Accounts. Notes and Subscriptions in hands of Agent. Sundries—Rents, Bond, City Lot, Organ, &c Cash.	3,713 4,324 1,200 2,282	00 00 00	10-65
LIABILITIES.			
Open Accounts			(9 01
		\$30,1-	£5 81
Excess of Liabilities	•••••	\$8,85	
ASSETS MAY 1ST.			
Bills Receivable  Open Accounts Duc Committee  Notes and Subscriptions in hands of Agent  Cash  Sundries—Rents, Bond, City Lot, Organ, &c	3,590 4,954 500 1,200	90 90 00	81 82
		4.1.7,17	or Om

### LIABILITIES.

	\$26,318 53
Excess of Liabilities	\$ 7.283 71
	, ,,====

It has been believed until recently that the open accounts due the Committee would be collected with but slight discount; but recent experience has led us to fear that there may be a considerable percentage of loss on that portion of our assets. It is hoped that the work of realizing on these assets may be completed during the present year, and our liabilities cancelled as far as the means thus afforded will avail. When this work is complete there will remain as the assets of the Committee their stereotype plates and copyrights.

It will be borne in mind that the above statement has no reference to the Publishing House account. As the house is good for the debt upon it, it does not need to be considered in this connection, except as we have the hope of realizing from the sale of the house something more than is needed to pay the debt, which will be available toward the debts

of the business.

It is deemed proper to say that Mr. S. H. Hawes, who was appointed by the last General Assembly a member of the Executive Committee, declined to accept the position; the Committee therefore appointed in his place Mr. Charles D. Hill, a Ruling Elder of Grace Street church, Richmond.

#### THE WORK BEFORE US.

It is imperative that we complete the payment of the debt at the earliest practicable moment. So long as any portion of it remains unpaid, it not only discredits our Church in some measure, but is a hindrance to the active prosecution of the work that needs to be done. It is hoped that we shall be able in the course of the coming ecclesiastical

year to realize on all our available assets, and the proceeds will be applied to the payment of the debt so far as they will suffice. If the General Assembly shall authorize the prosecution of the agency already in operation, there should be enough raised to complete the work by the next March collection, so that the amount then raised can be applied to the prosecution of the benevolent work of the Committee, viz.: The supply of destitute fields of labor with Sabbath School and other christian literature

There are three most important spheres of effort that seem to properly belong to the Publication work, apart from the publication of books and their distribution. How largely this Publication work will be prosecuted under the new system will remain for the future to decide; but apart from that, and in a measure independent of that, there are three

lines of effort that we cannot as a Church safely neglect.

### FIRST, THE SABBATH SCHOOL WORK.

The preparation of suitable papers for the aid of our teachers and scholars in the prosecution of Bible study should receive the most careful attention. Our own Church has felt very largely the impulse that has been given to this work during the past few years by the introduction of the International series of lessons. Many of our schools, dissatisfied with our own publications, have sought the helps furnished by others, and the only remedy for this defection is the improvement of our papers until they shall be entirely acceptable to all our people.

Inasmuch as the Sabbath School work in our Church has, so far as its literature is concerned, been entrusted to the Committee of Publication, it is suggested as worthy of the careful inquiry of the General Assembly, whether the further duty of a general oversight of all the Sabbath School interests of the Church, and the promotion of the work in all practicable

ways, should not also be laid upon them.

#### SECOND, COLPORTAGE.

New interest in this work has already been awakened, and it is hoped and believed that in nearly every portion of our Church something will be done to supply our people with a sound religious literature. Many portions of our Church have been for years without any effort of the kind, and only a very small portion has received the benefit of any thorough systematic effort.

THIRD, BENEVOLENT WORK-IN SUPPLYING DESTITUTE SABBATH

#### SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES.

This has always been recognized as a most important feature of the Publication enterprise, and it is greatly to be regretted that this work

should have been in any measure suspended.

The calls for help from mission Sabbath Schools and from feeble churches are constant and urgent. There might be far more distributed profitably in response to these calls than has ever been given by the Church for this purpose.

We cannot afford as a Church to leave the needy fields to be cared for by others. Others are ready to take up the work that we neglect, and

they will reap the fruits of it.

In most cases this form of benevolence is simply putting the means of mission work in the hands of those in the mission field whose hearts are moved to labor for Christ. It is therefore one of the most effective

methods of home mission work.

With such a work as this upon our hands, and with these important lines of christian labor inviting our effort, we are hampered, not only by the burden of debt resulting from the disasters of the past, but in some degree by the want of a full measure of confidence on the part of our people.

That there should be distrust and suspicion in the minds of some, under the circumstances, is not strange; that this should result in a lack of hearty co-operation, and a withholding of pecuniary help on the part of many, was to be feared; but must this continue? Shall not the Church rather, as with one mind, lay aside all distrust and doubt, and re-establish this important enterprise upon a firm foundation?

With the blessing of the Great Head of the Church this is possible,

and the future of the Publication work may be greatly fruitful, in the

growth of the Church, and in blessing to the souls of men,

## REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE AFFAIRS OF PUBLICATION, APPOINTED MAY, 1877.

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, convened in the city of Knoxville, Tennessec:

The Committee appointed, by the General Assembly which met in the City of New Orleans, La., on the 17th day of May, 1877, "to repair to Richmond at as early a day as practicable, for the purpose of making a thorough examination into the affairs of the Committee of Publication, and report the result to the public through the newspapers, and to the next Assembly," respectfully report:

That they met in the city of Richmond at the earliest practicable day, to-wit, the 27th day of September, 1877, made the examination directed by the Assembly and reported "the result to the public through the newspapers," a copy of which publication is herewith submitted, as containing the results of said examination, and prayed to be taken as part of this report; the reductions in expenses and other changes in the management of the business of Publication, indicated in that paper, being considered to be to a great extent within the knowledge of the Assembly, and appearing fully and at large, doubtless, in other reports to be submitted.

The representations of this published statement must be viewed as of October 1st, 1877, the date at which said statement was prepared.

Having performed to the best of their ability the duty assigned them, your Committee ask thereof to be discharged.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

L. CHARLES INGLIS, G. W. MACRAE.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF INVESTIGATION.

The General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church which met in the city of New Orleans on the 17th day of May, 1877, appointed. by resolution, a committee of three "to repair to Richmond at as early a day as practicable, for the purpose of making a thorough examination into the affairs of the Committee of Publication, and report the result to the public through the newspapers, and to the next Assembly."

In pursuance of this resolution the undersigned, constituting a working quorum of this committee of three, met in the city of Richmond on the 27th day of September, 18:7, and proceeded to make the examination directed by the Assembly.

They had before them the record of the transactions of the Publication Committee in all the departments of its business, from the earliest date at which any regular record of such transactions appears to have been made, to-wit: November 1st, 1866, to October 1st, 1877, except one book of original entry which disappeared about the time the late Secretary left the city of Richmond, and has not since been found. examined carefully all the books and papers bearing in any way upon these matters, they sought information and explanation from persons connected with the business, they invited communication on the subject matter of their examination, and in every way endeavored to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the business methods and practical working of the Publication Committee, while obtaining the statistical information desired by the Assembly. They encountered many and serious difficulties in the prosecution of their inquiry, difficulties arising mainly, as they are convinced, from irregularities in the conduct of the business, from a want of system in the book keeping, from the lack of vouchers for many of the disbursements of the Publication House, and from the mixing up, by the late Secretary, of his own private business with his official business. While these causes of difficulty have not appeared to them to proceed from any wrong or unworthy motive, the result has been such as to render it extremely difficult, if not impracticable, to obtain any positively accurate statement of the condition of the affairs at any given period. A proper set of books, properly kept and frequently balanced, would show with perfect accuracy, almost at a glance, the condition as to solvency and prosperity, or otherwise, of the business. The books of the Publication House, instead of being balanced once a month or oftener as they should have been, were allowed to remain for long periods of time unbalanced, and it is highly improbable that the persons conducting the business could themselves have had at any particular period a just idea of the financial con-The lack of a regular and competent book-keeper, dition of the House. having sole charge of the books, is a fruitful sourse of confusion: but the Committee are clearly of the opinion that even if this source of difficulty had never existed, the irregular business practices of the late Secretary, and his arbitrary interference with the regular course of affairs, constitute a cause sufficient to account for any amount of confusion. The Committee have succeeded to a great extent, as they think, in overcoming these difficulties, by patient, earnest and unremitting effort during eight consecutive working days, and while they have found themselves, at the close of their examination, unable to attain a result that in point of accuracy is entirely satisfactory, they present herewith "to the public through the newspapers" a statement which they believe to contain a fair and substantially correct exhibit of the "affairs of the Committee of Publication," with special reference to the

administration of them in the past, their present aspect, and the outlook for the future.

The Committee desire at this point to state that, throughout the whole of their investigation, from the beginning to the end, they have had the hearty co-operation and assistance, so far as requested, of the members of the Executive Committee of Publication, and of those connected in any way with the business affairs of the Publication House; they have had free access to the books and papers of the concern, and any information or explanation desired in order to a full and accurate understanding of the business, has been readily and freely given by all upon whom they have had occasion to call. So that if the Committee shall be considered to have failed to any extent, however small, in the accomplishment of the object of their examination, such failure should not be attributed to any opposition, or even luke-warmness, on the part of any one connected with the Publication business, but rather to the difficulties herein before mentioned, and to such want of ability or capacity as may exist on the part of the undersigned.

By going carefully over the books in which the original entries were made by the Treasurer of Publication, the Committee found that the Executive Committee of Publication acknowledge to have received for the cause of Publication generally, by contributions from all sources, since November 1st, 1866, the sum of \$125,641 01. This amount, supplemented by a sufficient sum from the proceeds of sales, they find to have been disbursed as follows:

For expenses of conducting the Publication business, such as	i	
rent, taxes, interest, discounts, insurance, &c		
Freight on Merchandise purchased	3,913	09
Postage on letters and on donations of books, &c., sent through		
the mail	7,415	57
Advertising	1,634	31
Salaries of Secretary and other employees	70,229	31
Traveling expenses of Secretary and others on official busi-	,	
ness	2,696	42
Commissions to Colporteurs on sales by them	4,505	27
Donations to Churches and Sabbath Schools	45,956	77
Total	163,540	80

It will appear from this, that the entire amount contributed by the Church to the cause of Publication has been expended in furtherance of objects which come within the sphere of the legitimate operations of the Publication Committee.

The Committee also find that a statement of receipts and disbursements on account of the *Children's Friend* and *Earnest Worker*, shows that they have not been a source of loss to the Church. The receipts of the *Children's Friend*, from subscriptions and other sources, during the ten years of its publication to October 1st, 1877, have been \$49,787 11, and the disbursements for running expenses, \$44,373 33, showing a balance of \$5,413 78 in favor of receipts during that period.

The receipts, from subscriptions and other sources, of the *Earnest Worker* and *Lesson Papers* combined, during the whole period of their

publication to October 1st, 1877, have been \$23,628-64, and the disbursements on account of running expenses during the same period, \$23,626-64, showing a balance of \$2.00—in favor of receipts during the seven years of their existence.

It is proper to say, that in order to get a fair statement of the results of the publication of these papers, the Committee have deemed it necessary to credit the papers respectively with the value of the donations of them, ordered by proper authority and actually made, just as if there had been subscriptions to that amount actually paid.

They also find that there has been received on account of the "Building Fund," \$19,462-77, out of which sum a payment of \$10,731-34 has been made on the Publication House, and the remainder has been expended for repairs to the building, for store fixtures, and other legitimate charges on that Fund.

The Committee sincerely rejoice that they are able to say to "the public," as one of the results of their examination, that, while the management of the affairs of Publication in the past has been marked by an apparently reckless disregard of some of the ordinary rules of business prudence, the funds contributed by the Church for the cause of Publication have not been perverted into other channels and to other uses.

The statement of the condition of the "affairs of the Publication Committee" on the 1st of October, 1877, which is given below, is based upon an inventory, which the undersigned caused to be made, of the stock on hand at that date, and a statement, from the books, of bills receivable and payable. The valuation put upon the stock of books is the exact wholesale value of the stock, taken from the trade circulars, and that put upon the stereotype plates is considered low enough to be safe, though representing rather the value of the plates to any concern which proposes to continue the publication of our literature, than the market value of the goods if offered for sale to publishers generally. The stereotypes of the Psalms and Hymns, and of the Confession of Faith would doubtless sell readily in open market at the valuation put upon them, while for some of the other plates there would probably be no sale at all, if offered to the trade generally.

Statement Showing the Financial Condition of the Publication Committee on the 1st day of October, 1877.

#### ASSETS.

The Committee's own publications on hand, valued at n	iet	
prices $-\frac{1}{2}$ off	\$15,638	71
Publications of other houses, purchased by the Committ	.ee	
and on hand, valued at net prices—1 off		87
Net goods, i. e., stock in the safe of which there is no redu	l <i>c</i> -	
tion made in price for any reason	3,972	95
Stereotype plates of different books and illustrations—ar		
store fixtures	24,539	79
Bills receivable—notes and open accounts considered good.	5,834	85
Total available assets.	\$53.466	17

#### LIABILITIES.

Bills payable—Notes	\$29,223 12 10,770 49
Total liabilities outstanding	
Evans of assate	\$13,479,59

It will appear from this statement of assets and liabilities, which the Committee believes to be fair and just, that if the business of publishing is continued, either in the hands of the Committee as now, or by contract with some outside party as is proposed, the Publication Committee is perfectly solvent, even if not one cent is ever realized from any assets there may be of the late Secretary, towards making up the amount of his defalcation. No part of this indebtedness of the late Secretary, which amounts to \$23,000—as now ascertained, is included among the assets in the above statement, though all those obligations given by him which are considered binding, either legally or morally, on the Publication Committee are included among the liabilities. So that whatever portion, if any, of this defalcation shall be hereafter made up from any assets of his, will increase to that extent the above stated excess of assets.

In presenting these results of their examination, and in such discussion of them as they have felt called upon to make, the desire of the Committee has been neither to extenuate in anything, nor to set down aught in malice, but they have sought to obtain and to lay before the Church, in obedience to its behest, the facts which shall enable it to deal intelligently with the matter of Publication in the present and near future. That there has been serious mismanagement of the business department of Publication in the past is very evident. The expenditure of an average amount of nearly \$9,000 a year, for eleven years, on account of salaries, rent, taxes, interest, discounts and insurance, in carrying on a business which has employed an average capital of only \$12,000 a year for the same period, is sufficient of itself to condemn the management.

Reference to these matters of the past is, however, only of value in enforcing the lessons of wisdom which experience teaches. The evil of excessive expense in conducting the business has, under the present management, already been to a great extent corrected, and more is in contemplation in the same direction. The current expenses have been actually reduced \$2,750 a year, chiefly by the reduction of salaries, and if the lower or main floor of the building is rented out, and the business transferred to one of the upper floors, as is proposed, there will be a still further saving in rent of from \$1,600 to \$1,800 a year.

A strong and earnest effort is being made, with fair prospects of success, to sell the house for an amount in cash that will pay off all the debt, and leave several thousand dollars for the general work of the Committee, and negotiations are now pending for the publication of our literature and papers by contract. If these negotiations and

the effort to sell the house prove successful, accommodations sufficient for the business that will remain can readily be obtained near the present location at a still further reduction of rent.

The energetic, orderly and business-like management at present existing is making itself felt in all departments, and if the contemplated reductions in expense shall be made in addition to those already effected, the business will soon reach the point of paying its own expenses, with a safe margin each year for losses and other contingencies, thus leaving all the contributions of the Church to Publication to be devoted to the strictly benevolent work of disseminating religious literature among the destitute portions of our people.

In order to the full and speedy accomplishment of this object it is highly important, if not absolutely necessary, that the hands of the Executive Committee should be strengthened at once, and the undersigned see no reason, in view of the results of their examination, why the confidence of the Church, alienated to a considerable extent by the errors of the past, should not be fully restored in the present management, and its contributions flow liberally as of old in this important channel of christian beneficence.

L. CHARLES INGLIS, G. W. MACRAE.

CONTRACT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF PUBLICATION WITH E.

T. BAIRD, D. D.

The following are extracts from the Minutes of the Committee of Publication. Vol. 1st, pp. 133-142.

SEPTEMBER 16th, 1867.

The following Committee was appointed to consider the expediency of locating in the house of the Committee of Publication, to be used by the Committee, a printing press lately purchased by the Secretary on his own account, viz.: Messrs. Wm. Brown, P. B. Price and C. Gennet.

SEPTEMBER 19th, 1867.

The committee appointed to enquire into the expediency of renting a part of the premises held by the Committee to Rev. Dr. Baird to be used for a printing press made a report, which was on motion accepted and adopted as the action of the Committee upon said subject, and is as follows:

To your committee was referred the question of renting a part of the premises held by the Committee of Publication, to the Rev. Dr. E. T. Baird to be used for a printing press, and if need be, for the purpose of a compositors' room also.

After eareful consideration of the subject, the following report is presented:

They have looked at the matter simply as a business transaction, and are of the opinion that it will be expedient to rent two ends of the base-

ment story to Dr. Baird; the eastern to be used for a printing press, and the western for a compositors' room, for which he shall pay to the Committee of Publication \$200.

Dr. Baird has purchased, on his own account, a press believed to be of a very superior kind, and expects to procure a sufficient supply of type to execute such printing as the *Children's Friend*, and such tracts and books as we may ourselves order. If it should hereafter appear to the Committee that the work can be advantageously executed, it seems to your committee that there would be cogent reasons for having an arrangement of this kind.

- 1. It can be done immediately under the Secretary's eye, and if he employs competent workmen, without more, if indeed as much time as he now consumes in attending to the contracts made with parties in this city.
- 2. It will be a reduction of at least \$250 upon the printing of the *Children's Friend* alone, and of one-half on the price heretofore paid for the book work which we have had done in this city.
- 3. It will be a reduction of \$200 in our rent, and without in the least incommoding us in regard to room.
- 4. We should not be compelled to have whole editions of books bound at once, but could store the sheets and have them bound as needed, making an important economy in the use of our funds.

Your committee are satisfied that such are the prices charged for press work here, not to speak of the inferior character of it at present, that it will be expedient to make this experiment proposed, and if it shall succeed, it may be continued under such regulations as may hereafter be found best.

Should the General Assembly think it proper for the Committee to become the owner of this printing office, Dr. Baird agrees to transfer the whole. It is at present to be regarded simply as an expedient and an experiment which we hope will result greatly to our advantage, without interfering with the time and service of the Secretary in the discharge of his regular duty to the Church.

Should this arrangement be adopted, it will be proper that the printing done in Dr. Baird's office, shall be ordered by the Committee, and his bills be made payable only on the approval of an auditing committee appointed for that purpose.

For the basis of this report we refer to a paper presented by Dr. Baird, which contains the facts and stipulations here indicated.

On behalf of the sub-committee,

WM. Brown, Chairman.

The paper of Dr. Baird was directed to be recorded, and is as follows:

Messrs. William Brown, D. D., Rev. P. B. Price and Charles Gennet,

Committee:

GENTLEMEN: As stated to the Executive Committee of Publication, at the time of your appointment, I have determined to purchase on my

own account a press and sufficient type to do our ordinary work, if it meets the approbation of the Committee, and I desire to lease from the Committee, at the rent of \$200 per year, so much room in the front and rear of the basement room of our leased building as will answer these ends. The Committee are aware of the annoyances to which I have been subjected in getting our work done, and also of the fact that it has never been done to suit us. I refer to the work done in this city.

The advantages which this arrangement will secure to the Committee are such as the following, viz.:

- 1. Our work will be done under my own eye and direction, causing a great saving of my time, which has been much divided between my office, the printing offices, and press rooms where our work is done, and has caused me several trips to New York and Philadelphia.
- 2. I will do the work of the Committee at the New York and Philadelphia prices, which are the same, thus enabling us to have our books printed at the lowest figures, and our sheets stowed, to be bound in quantities as needed, whereas now we are obliged to have whole editions bound at once. This will cause us much saving by making our capital go farther.
- 3. The Philadelphia and New York price for printing the *Children's Priend* is \$1 50 per token of the double sheet; at what we are now paying, viz., 75 cents a token for a single sheet, it costs us just the same. Until the first of January, I will do the work at \$1 50 per token for the double sheet, but after that I will reduce the charge 20 per cent., and do the work on the double sheet at \$1 20 per token. This will save the Committee in our present edition about \$252.
- 4. I will pay the Committee \$200 rent, which will be a clear saving of just that much without in the least incommoding us.
- 5. My press will work forms of a double size. I will do this work at the Philadelphia prices, which are lower than those of this city, and I can take a sheet of twice the size of those heretofore worked. For example the Book of Church Order was worked in 12 forms at 75 cents a token; my press will work it in 6 forms, and at the same price (75 cents) making a saving of one-half in this kind of work. I will also say that in case the Committee agree to my proposition, I would be unwilling to draw money from the treasury in payment of my bills on my own order; and would request the Committee to appoint an auditor to examine my accounts, on whose endorsement my bills are to be paid by the treasurer.

Should the next Assembly order it, I am ready to transfer the whole matter into this Committee's hands. Could I have seen the least prospect of the Committee being able, for some time to come, to spare the capital for this purpose, I should not have anticipated the action of the Assembly, but besides this difficulty it is well known there are others. By the action of the Assembly I shall abide.

Respectfully submitted,

#### CERTIFICATE.

[The date of Mr. Sleight's appointment was September 3d, 1868, covering the whole time in which Dr. Baird executed the printing for the Committee, except about one year.]

RICHMOND, VA., May 3, 1878.

I hereby certify that from the time of my appointment as Business Agent for the Committee of Publication until April, 1877, all bills for for printing passed under my supervision, and were approved by me. Also, that the schedule rates were based upon New York and Philadelphia prices. J. D. K. Sleight.

### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON COLORED INSTITUTE.

The Executive Committee for the training of a Colored Ministry,

present to the General Assembly, their first annual report:
This Committee was created by the General Assembly in May 1877, and entrusted with the organization and management of the Institute for the Training of Colored Ministers, authorized and established by the preceding Assembly under the general supervision of the present Corresponding Secretary of this Committee, and which had commenced its labors in October, 1876, at Tuskaloosa, Ala.

This Committee held its first meeting in July 1877, and organized by the adoption of a Constitution and By-Laws for its own government and that of the Institute, which is herewith submitted for your approval, and also by the election of Dr. James T. Searcy as Treasurer.

The Rev. A. F. Dickson was elected Professor and Instructor in the

Institute, at a salary of fifteen hundred dollars per annum. He has performed faithfully all the labor of instruction from the beginning of the session in October till the present time; and although the number of students has continued very small, that labor has been arduous and trying, in consequence of the variety of studies necessary to be taught and the want of previous preparation on the part of the students.

We have had in all, from the beginning, ten students; several of them remaining only a short time, either intending to secure the necessary preparation in the elementary branches at home, where it could be done at the least expense; or else entirely disheartened at the prospect of even the minimum of hard study necessary to any real advancement in our course of training. These were connected with other denominations, except one, who, formerly a Presbyterian and who was sent to us by one of our Presbyteries, found a nearer path to the ministry in another branch of the Church. A pleasing exception to this general statement, is the fact, that a colored Methodist minister has continued a diligent student in the Institute until very recently, when he was removed to another field.

There are now in the Institute three candidates under the care of Presbyteries of our Church, viz: George Rogers from the Presbytery of Chickasaw, R. R. McKie from the Presbytery of Memphis, and Alexander Turner from the Presbytery of Eastern Texas. Professor Dickson's report will inform you of their progress and general deportment, as well as of his whole plan of instruction, so far as not described in his statement submitted to the last General Assembly.

The small number of students in the Institute does not, by any means, prove that there are but very few colored men seeking the ministry in the Presbyterian (hurch. We have learned of quite a number who desire to be educated for this work, and have received letters from nearly all our Synods informing us of such cases, and of a desire to have them in our Institute; but in most cases application is made for the means of support. This we were unable to furnish and did not think it safe or right to promise, except to a very limited extent. It is only within a few weeks that our income justified any appropriation for that object; and we imediately offered aid to the

most needy applicants.

This we regard as the most serious difficulty in this undertaking. If it were removed, we have no doubt, we would be able to send out a body of colored ministers, not only with an encouraging amount of real preparation for the work, but in numbers bearing a fair proportion to our strength as a Church. We earnestly invoke the attention of the Assembly to this serious difficulty. We do not regard it as insurmountable. The vast importance of the object we seek and the solemn responsibility that rests upon us to do all we can to secure it demand our earnest thought and effort in the development of some practicable plan for the support of students.

Several plans have been considered by the Executive Committee:

1st. That the Assembly take earnest action to secure a more general and liberal contribution from our churches.

2d. Some method of connecting manual labor with study, as a means of partial support and for the promotion of health and industrious habits.

3d. The sending out an accredited agent by the Assembly to solicit

donations

In concluding our report, we feel that we have strong ground for encouragement in prosecuting this great enterprise:

1. We have visited the Institute and we are satisfied from inquiry

and observation of the capacity and progress of the students.

2. We have gratifying evidence that this undertaking is growing in the confidence and sympathy of our people and of the christian public generally.

We would call the attention of the Assembly to the second article of our Constitution which provides for the increase of our number from five to seven members, in order that a quorum may be easily secured.

Respectfully submitted by order of the Committee,

C. A. STILLMAN,

Tuskaloosa, Ala., May 1st, 1878.

Corresponding Secretary.

#### REV. A., F. DICKSON'S REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

In making this first Annual Report of work done and doing in the Assembly's Colored Theological Institute, I give you first a schedule of studies pursued. The letter F appended indicates that we have finished with it; A., that (for some reason) we have suspended work on it, without finishing:

#### I.—SENIOR STUDENT.

Bible reading, with special reference to pulpit reading; Greek Testament and Grammar; Natural Theology—Lectures and Questions (F); Analysis of Larger Catechism, collated with the Confession (F); Alexander's Moral Science, read and studied (F); Alexander's Evidences of Christianity, read (A); Lectures on Homiletics; English Composition—Skeletons, &c.; Hodge's Commentary on Confession of Faith, lately begun; Pastoral Theology, with Pilgrim's Progress read; Exercises in Reading and Recitation of Hymns.

#### II.-JUNIOR STUDENTS.

Bible Reading, as above; Arithmetic, written and mental; Writing; English Grammar; Spelling and Defining; Catechisms, Larger and Shorter; Alexander's Moral Science, read alound (F); Alexander's Evidences, read aloud (A); Exercises in Reading and Recitation; Pilgrim's Progress, read aloud with view to Pastoral Theology.

(I am giving them lessons in reading music, but this is an experi-

ment, and at night, out of class hours.)

The class meets at about half-past 9 and remains with me until 1. This seems to be as much time as can be utilized in that way. I propose to lengthen the class-time whenever, and as much as it will benefit them.

It is not proposed to make Greek a regular part of the course now,

but only to take it up as occasion arises.

The above list of studies is not to be taken for a fixed and digested scheme. It is simply what we have, in fact, been able to attempt, in view of the grievous deficiency of preparation on the part of our students.

#### THE STUDENTS.

Of these we have had but three of our own Church, during the year: R. R. McKie, licentiate of Presbytery of Memphis; Alexander Turner, Presbytery of Central Texas; George A. Rogers, ordained, Presbytery of Chickasaw. The first of these is finishing his second year here, the first not having been a full Institute year; the other two have been with us but a part of this year.

Their deportment has been unexceptionably good, in the class-room; and everywhere, so far as I have been able to learn. They have worked hard—I may say, bravely, considering how great are their discouragements, growing out of their untrained and unfurnished minds. And though, for that reason, the results are not all that could be wished,

they are nevertheless making real progress.

But it seems to be my duty to state, as emphatically as I can, the absolute impossibility of doing satisfactory work under present circum-The students come here entirely unprepared for education as stances. ministers. Some, on entering, can barely stumble through the simpler verses of the Bible. They know nothing of writing, nothing of arith-

metic, nothing of grammar.

This, of course, would not be a fatal difficulty if they were entering upon a regular course of five, or even three years, but they come either provisionally, certain of only a few months, or at the utmost, for two years; whereas, two full years spent upon academic studies would be but a scanty preparation for their proper theological course. This must explain and justify the incongruous and fragmentary list of studies pursued.

In addition to our own students, three Methodist ministers entered the Institute. Of these, two soon withdrew, one to pursue his elementary studies at home through the summer and return in the fall, the other under the pressure of difficulties which he could not surmount. The other continued with us through most of the year, and was then

providentially removed.

There are three ministers of this denomination known to me who

purpose to join our classes next September.

I trust it will prove possible, by that time, to provide some valuable works of reference—Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Maps, &c., of which at present we have none.

Respectfully submitted,

Tuskaloosa, Ala., May 9th, 1878. A. F. DICKSON, Instructor.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT COLUMBIA.

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, to meet at Knoxville, Tenn., on the 16th day of May, 1878:

The Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia ask leave to submit their annual report.

The exercises of the Seminary have been carried on regularly and

faithfully during the year.

The number of students in attendance during the session has been thirty-nine.

The amounts contributed by the churches towards the support of the

Institution have been larger than usual.

The Board has elected Kev. C. E. Chichester Financial Agent of the Seminary, and he has been in the field several months. We are gratified to state that he has succeeded in making collections sufficient, with the contributions from the churches, to meet the immediate necessities of the Institution and to leave a balance on hand after paying the salaries of the Professors to 1st July next; but from the uncertainty of pecuniary matters, he has been able to do but little towards the permanent endowment.

The Board has determined to have more extended and thorough ex-

aminations than heretofore.

Mr. James W. Bones has tendered his resignation as Director, and it

has been accepted.

The terms of the following Directors will expire at the ensuing meeting of the General Assembly, viz.: Rev. D. McQueen, D. D., Rev. A. W. Clisby, Mr. T. B. Fraser and Mr. A. B. Davidson.

Dr. McQueen, on account of ill health, declines a re-election.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES HEMPHILL, Chairman.

MAY STH, 1878.

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FACULTY OF THE THEOLOGI-CAL SEMINARY AT COLUMBIA.

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, to meet at Knoxville, Tenn., on the third Thursday, the 16th day of May, 1878.

The Faculty of the Theological Seminary at Columbia, respectfully report, that there have been thirty-nine students in attendance upon our instructions during the last year, whose names are as follows:

#### RESIDENT LICENTIATE.

J. L. Stevens, of Charleston, S. C., student of the University of Virginia and licentiate of the Presbytery of Charleston.

#### SENIOR CLASS.

J. L. Brownlee, of Due West, S. C., graduate of Erskine College and licentiate of the Presbytery of South Carolina; W. S. P. Bryan, of Columbia, S. C., graduate of Davidson College and licentiate of the Presbytery of Harmony; D. Irvin Craig, of Hillsboro', N. C., student of Davidson College and candidate of the Presbytery of Orange; H. G. Gilland, of Canton, Miss., graduate of the S. W. Presbyterian University and licentiate of the Presbytery of Harmony; Z. B. Graves,

of Lexington, Mo., graduate of the University of Mississippi and candidate of the Presbytery of Lafayette; Thos. P. Hay, of Camden, S. C., student of Hampden Sidney College and licentiate of the Presbytery of Harmony; T. M. Lowry, of York, S. C., graduate of Erskine College and licentiate of the Presbytery of Bethel; J. C. McMullen, of Pleasent Ridge, Ala., graduate of Davidson College and candidate of the Presbytery of Tuskaloosa; A. E. Norris, of Anderson, S. C., student of Davidson College and licentiate of the Presbytery of South Carolina; J. L. Williamson, of Laneaster, S. C., graduate of Davidson College and licentiate of the Presbytery of Bethel.

#### MIDDLE CLASS.

Clarence V. Cavitt, of Bryan, Texas, graduate of Roanoke College and candidate of the Presbytery of Brazos; H. C. Fennel, of Chester, S. C., graduate of Erskine College and licentiate of the Presbytery of Bethel; H. W. Flinn, of Holly Springs, Miss., graduate of the University of Miss., and candidate of the Presbytery of Concord; C. W. Robinson, of Concord, N. C., graduate of Davidson College and licentiate of the Presbytery of Concord; J. D. Rowe, of Newton, N. C., graduate of the University of Va., and candidate of the Presbytery of Concord; E. G. Smith, of Winnsboro', S. C., graduate of Davidson College and licentiate of the Presbytery of Harmony; W. G. Woodbridge, of Newton, Miss., student of Princeton College and candidate of the Presbytery of Tombeckbee.

#### JUNIOR CLASS.

S. E. Bishop, of Darlington, S. C., graduate of Davidson College and candidate of the Presbytery of Harmony; F. J. Brooke, of Richmond, Va., graduate of Davidson College and candidate of the Presbytery of South Alabama; J. R. C. Brown, Jr., of Salem, Va., graduate of Roanoke College and candidate of the Presbytery of Charleston; T. B. Craig, of Laurens, S. C., graduate of Davidson College and candidate of the Presbytery of South Carolina; A. M. Fraser, of Sunter, S. C., graduate of Davidson College and candidate of the Presbytery of Harmony; D. E. Frierson, of Anderson, S. C., student of Davidson College and candidate of the Presbytery of South Carolina; Baxter D. D. Greer, of New Harmony, Ala., graduate of Davidson College; J. L. D. Houston, of Batesville, Ark., graduate of Davidson College and candidate of the Presbytery of Arkansas; R. A. Lapsley, of Selma, Ala., graduate of Davidson College and candidate of the Presbytery of South Alabama; Thomas J. Lee, of Richmond, Ky., graduate of Central University, Ky.; J. F. Mayne, of Gadsden, Ala., graduate of Davidson College and candidate of the Presbytery of South Alabama; J. A. McLees, of Anderson, S. C., graduate of Davidson College and candidate of the Presbytery of South Carolina; J. T. Plunkett, of Nashville, Tenn., graduate of S. W. Presbyterian University and candidate of the Presbytery of Nashville; L. H. Robinson, of Craigsville, S. C., graduate of Erskine College and candidate of the Presbytery of South Carolina; C. M. Shepherd, of Memphis, Tenn., candidate of the Presbytery of South Carolina; G. M. Shepherd, of Memphis, Tenn., candidate of the Presbytery of South Carolina; R. A. Webb, of Nashville, Tenn., graduate of Davidson College and candidate of the Presbytery of South Carolina; R. A. Webb, of Nashville, Tenn., graduate of S. W. Presbyterian University and candidate of the Presbytery of Nashville; A. Webb, of Nashville, Tenn., graduate of S. W. Presbyterian University and candidate of the Presbytery of Nashville; Tenn., graduate of Nashville; S. L.

From Alabama, 4; from Arkansas, 2; from Georgia, 1; from Kentucky, 1; from Missouri, 1; from Mississippi, 3; from North Carolina, 3; from South Carolina, 18; from Tennessee, 3; from Texas, 1; from Virginia, 2.

Mr. Z. B. Graves, of the Senior Class, and Mr. J. R. C. Brown, Jr, of the Junior Class, have been dismissed from the Seminary, at their own request, on the ground of ill health, and have signified their intention of withdrawing from further study preparatory to the ministry.

Mr. W. H. Wycough, of the Junior Class, left the Seminary some weeks before the close of the session without permission.

The deportment of the students as christian men has been without reproach, so far as we know. Their health, with a few exceptions, has been good; and their faithfulness and ardor in study have been gratifying to their instructors.

May the Lord of the harvest raise up many more, qualify them for their work, and send them forth, bearing precious seed, that they may

return with rejoicing, bringing their sheaves with them.

Respectfully submitted, by order of the Faculty,

GEORGE HOWE, Chairman,

#### UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

Annual Report of the Trustees to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, and to the Synods of Virginia and North Carolina, for the year ending April, 1878.

The annual meeting of the Trustees and Directors was held on the 9th and 10th of April, 1878, and the following report is submitted to

the Assembly and to the Synods:

The attendance of Trustees was full, only three being absent.—
Messrs. B. F. Marable and W. Murdock, of North Carolina, who had
been appointed Directors by the Synod of North Carolina, were elected Trustees and enrolled. The whole number of students during the
year 1877–78, was fitty-one, twenty-four of whom were Seniors, eleven in the Middle class, and sixteen in the Junior class. Six students left the Seminary before the close of the session. The reasons assigned were deficiency of means, and openings for procuring remunerative work during the spring and summer, with the necessity, in one or two cases, of attending meetings of Presbyteries held before the close of the term.

Certificates of having completed the full course of study prescribed by our Constitution, after satisfactory examinations, were awarded to oy our Constitution, after satisfactory examinations, were awarded to the following Seniors, viz: I. S. Anderson, Tennessee; J. G. Anderson, Virginia; R. S. Burwell, North Carolina; A. B. Coit, North Carolina; J. C. Coldwell, Tennessee; B. Goode, Virginia; J. E. Latham, Missouri; E. W. McCorkle, Virginia; W. M. McPhecters, Virginia; H. C. Moore, Virginia; R. K. Moseley, Virginia; J. A. Preston, Virginia; J. C. Senger, North Carolina; L. O. Spencer, Kentucky; A. Sprunt, North Carolina.

The report of the Examining Committee indicates a high degree of

fidelity and success on the part of the students.

No general sickness has at any time prevailed, and the health of the

students has been uniformly good.

The financial statement, hereto appended by the Secretary and Treasurer, will show that the Seminary has no debt, with sufficient available resources to meet its current and necessary expenses.

The method of written examinations, combined with oral, adopted at the session of 1875-776, continues to give satisfactory results as an effi-

cient test of scholarship and additional stimulus to study.

Three hundred and twenty-one volumes have been added to the Library during the year, making the whole number about eleven thousand volumes.

We desire gratefully to recognize the tokens of favor and blessing hitherto vouchsafed to the Seminary, humbly praying the Head of the Church to continue to prosper it, according to His gracious will.

Respectfully submitted,

C. H. READ, President.

F. N. WATKINS, Secretary.

#### APPENDIX.

The investments of Union Theological Seminary, as at 1st April, 1878, are as follows, viz.:

State of Virginia, Registered debt	\$116,995 20,700
Georgia	12,000
Richmond & Danville Railroad	10,000
Individual bond	30,000
South Side Railroad	5,000
Nashville	1,000
St. Louis & Iron Mountain Railread.	1,000
Salem, Virginia, bonds	2,000
Riehmond eity	8,000
Orange & Alexandria Railroad	4,700
Bank of Brooklyn	350
-	
8	\$211,745
Suspended debt: N. C. bonds\$ 4,147	
In liquidation	
Des Moines V. R. R	
Montgomery, Alabama	
Virginia Central Railroad	
Virginia Central Railroad         6,000           J. R. & K. bonds         12,500	
Individual bond	
	39,897

\$251,642

The Ann Davidson Scholarship has been fully established during 1877-'78, and will be yielding revenue in 1878-'79. The above amount includes the Scholarships, Library Building Fund, and Library Fund, aggregating about \$60,000.

The officers for 1878–779 are as follows: Rev. Dr. C. H. Read, Virginia, President; Rev. Dr. J. H. Smith, North Carolina, (1st) and J. Harman Brown, Maryland, (2d) Vice-President; F. N. Watkins, Secretary and Treasurer, Farmville, Virginia.

Executive Committee.—Rev. Dr. William Brown, Revs. W. T. Richardson and C. White; Messrs. E. M. Armstrong and E. N. Hutchison.

Auditors.—Rev. H. G. Hill, and Messrs. E. M. Armstrong and E. N. Hutchison.

Professors.—Rev. Drs. B. M. Smith, R. L. Dabney, T. E. Peck, and H. C. Alexander.

The post-office address of the Professors and students is "Hampden Sidney, Va.," that of the Treasurer and Secretary is "Farmville, Va."

F. N. WATKINS, Secretary.

FARMVILLE, VA., April 12, 1878.

## REPORT OF DELEGATES TO THE GENERAL PRESBY-TERIAN COUNCIL.

Immediately after the close of the General Presbyterian Council in Edinburgh, a meeting was held of the delegates from the Southern Presbyterian Church. At this meeting a cordial and unanimous agreement was expressed in regard to the remarkable spirit of christian harmony pervading the entire proceedings, and the salutary effects they were suited to produce throughout all the Presbyterian bodies thus brought into conference concerning important interests which pertain to our "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above, and through all, and in us all." The undersigned were then appointed a committee on behalf of the meeting to prepare a suitable report to that effect, which should be presented to the General Assembly at this time.

The delegates from our Church, who in the providence of God were

enabled to attend the Council, were as follows:

Rev. W. S. Plumer, D. D., Columbia, S. C.; Rev. S. A. King, Waco, Texas; Rev. Stuart Robinson, D. D., Louisville, Ky.; Rev. J. H. Bryson, Columbia, S. C.; Rev. J. W. Lupton, Clarksville, Tenn.; Rev. Robert Irvine, D. D., Augusta, Ga.; Rev. R. G. Brank, D. D., St. Louis, Mo.; Rev. Moses D. Hoge, D. D., Richmond, Va; Rev. Wm. Brown, D. D., Richmond, Va.; Rev. Thos. R. Welsh, D. D., Little Rock, Ark.; Rev. G. H. W. Petrie, D. D., Montgomery, Ala; Rev. Jno. W. Neil, San Antonio, Texas; Ruling Elder Henry Merrel, Campden, Ark.; Ruling Elder Jno. F. Philips, Sedalia, Mo.

Also, under a provision in the Constitution, the following brethren were invited to sit as associates: Rev. Rutherford Douglas, Versailles, Ky.; Rev. Albert Shotwell, St. Louis, Mo.; Rev. F. L Ewing, Tala-

dego, Ala.

The Council was composed of about three hundred members, gathered from the continent of Europe, the British Kingdom, the United States, the British Colonies and fields of Foreign Missions.

They represented fifty Presbyterian organizations, and not less than

twenty thousand congregations in various parts of the world.

The meeting was opened on the third day of July, 1877, and was closed on the evening of the tenth.

A full report of the proceedings has been embodied in a volume of great interest and value, a copy of which is herewith submitted for the

inspection of this Assembly.

While it cannot be claimed that these proceedings, any more than those of ecclesiastical bodies generally, were altogether free from defects, or that everything uttered therein is to be approved, yet it is believed that when judged in a spirit of christian candor, this great Presbyterian convocation is an occasion for devout thanksgiving to the Father of all Within the limits suitable for this report nothing more can be attempted than a mere reference to some of the points deserving attention.

1. It was in itself a great event to bring together in personal conference, representatives of Presbyterian Churches from all points of the world; some from great and powerful organizations, others from those which are feeble, and sometimes sorely oppressed. Herein is an example of that beautiful grace enjoined in the 26th chapter of our Confession: "Saints by profession are bound to maintain an holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God, and in performing such other spiritual services as tend to their mutual edification; as also in relieving each other in outward things, according to their several abilities and necessities, which communion, as God offereth opportunity, is to be extended unto all those who, in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus."

2. It has afforded a great opportunity for an effectual, though unobtrusive, testimony in favor of that separation of the Church from the

State, on which the Churches in this country are founded. It has also afforded an opportunity for presenting impressively before all men testimony to that invaluable degree of christian unity which obtains among all Presbyterian organizations over the world which are recognized as Reformed Churches.

3. It combines a powerful influence for aiding, comforting and protecting depressed, and sometimes persecuted brethren, living under governments indifferent or hostile to the faith which they profess.

4. It opens a way for an efficient combination of talent and influence

against the deadly evils of Romanism and Rationalism.

5. It promises happy results in such co-operation on Foreign Mis-

sions as prudence and experience may show to be practicable.

6. It is believed that the papers presented and the addresses delivered in the Council, contain matters of great value. We may also refer to the copious statistics in the appendix. No where else has the same amount of information concerning Presbyterianism been brought

together.

7. The spirit of christian harmony under which the whole proceedings were conducted, calls for a distinct and grateful acknowledgment to the God of all grace. And to this it may be appropriate to add, in a single word, that the hospitality and kindness of the people of Edinburgh and elsewhere, could not be surpassed in any part of the world, and was such as to leave an indelible and delightful remembrance upon all hearts. The interest of the entire occasion to your delegates was enhanced to the highest degree as they found themselves surrounded at every step in that beautiful city, by associations among the most momentous and thrilling in the annals of "the faith once delivered to the saints."

It only remains to inform the General Assembly that the next Council is appointed to be held in the city of Philadelphia in 1880, on such a day as may be agreed upon by the Local Committee of Arrangements.

STUART ROBINSON, MOSES D. HOGE, WILLIAM BROWN.

## PRAYER FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Whereas, The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States fully recognizes the efficacy of the prayers of God's people, and the necessity for Divine guidance in its own deliberations;

therefore,

Resolved, 1. That the General Assembly recommend to all the churches under its care to offer special prayer during the devotions of the Sabbath preceding the meeting of the General Assembly in each year, that God would of great mercy so give the General Assembly the wisdom that cometh from above, and so direct all its plans, discussions and decisions, as to promote His own glory and advance the kingdom of Jesus in the earth.

Resolved, 2. That the above preamble and resolution be printed an-

nually in the Appendix to the Minutes of the Assembly.



## STATISTICAL REPORTS

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POST OFFICES.	Palmyra, Mo	Potosi, Mo
MINISTERS, Erc.	W. H. Clagett, W. C	Robert Morrison, S. S. S. C. W. Alexander, T. Carr Barret, S. S. C. W. Alexander, T. William McCartty, S. S. M. W. Milster, S. S. C. W. Milster, S. S. Choes McCluer, Bran. Geo. W. Harlan, S. S. John B. Rubey, S. S. S. John B. Rubey, S. S. S. John B. Rubey, S. S. S. S. John B. Rubey, S.

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MINISTERS, Erc.	E. A. Campbell, D. D., P. E. A. Carson, S. S. S. S. E. M. Vantis, S.	Synod of Nashville.  1. Pres. of Columbia.  J. S. Frierson, P. S. W. Mitchell, P. S. W. Mitchell, P. J. A. Woods, P.	J. II. Alexander, S. S

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MINISTERS, Erc.	Licentiates—2. Candidates—8.		3. Pres. of Knoxeille. J. W. Bachman	H. T. Morton	T. H. McCallie.	D. Munroe.	W. W. Morrison	James A, Wallare	S. R. Preston	W. A. Harrison
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763	STATISTICAL REPO	DRTS. [A, D,
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S. W. Watkins, D. M. D. C. Irwin, P. J. R. Bowman, P. E. D. Junkin, D. D., P. C. S. M. See, P. E. C. Walker, W. C. F. F. Mullahi, D. D., P. F. F. Mullahi, D. D., P. James Murray, P. James Murray, P. Win, T. Price, P.	J. A. Waddell, S. S., Prof H. Gilmore, S. S	A. Jones. G. L. Brown, P. J. W. Rosebro, P. Frank McCutchon, P. A.F. Lilldt, P. D. L. Wilson, P.	(d. L. Cook, in trans. A. H. Hamilton, P. C. W. Humphries, P. S. McCune, P. C. L. Hogue, P. A. S. Moffelt, P.	H. 1	

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POST OFFICES.	Buchanan, Va
MINISTERS, ETC.	6. Pres. of Montgomery. J. G. Shepperson, D. B. S. James M. Rice, P. J. G. Shepperson, D. B. S. James M. Rice, P. Charles A. Miller, P. Parid W. Shantis, P. Parid W. Shantis, P. Philip B. Price, P. Philip B. Price, P. Philip B. Price, P. Philip B. Price, P. Philip B. A. Graybill, Fo. Miss. A. C. Stuart, in transitu. A. T. Graybill, For. Miss. A. H. Price, Evan. and S. S. A. H. Price, Evan. and S. S. C. M. Howard, Evan. John E. Triplett, P. James W. Rawlings, P. John Ruff, P. John Ruff, P. S. S. John Ruff, P. S. S. Licentiates—J.

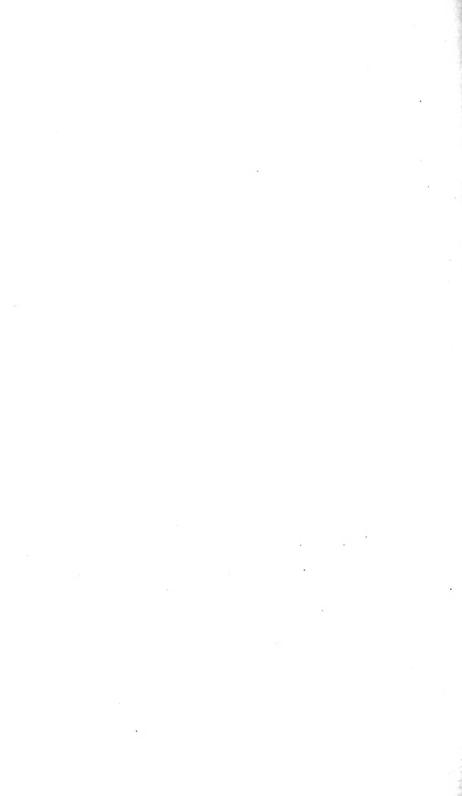
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MINISTERS, ETC.	A. B. Carrington, S. S	9. Pres. of West Hanner. B. M. Smith D. D. Prof.	R. L. Dabmey, D. D., Prof. W. S. Thompson, P. D., P. J. M. P. Arkinson, D. D., P. B. M. Watles, P. Edgar Woods, P. E. H. P. R. McCoy, P. David Tecse, S. S. L. B. Johnston, P.

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Sabot Island, Va Scottsville, " Scottsville, " Orlando, " GreenwoodDepot, Va Worsham, Buckingham C.H." Branwille, " Appomatiox C. H." Charlottesville, " Rochesville, " Covingston, " Rice's Depot, " Station, " Station, "			Martinsburg, W. Va. Martinsburg, P  Winchester, Va. Martinsburg, P Berkeley Spax, W. Va Berkeley Spring, Dudlieds, W. Va Oakland, Md Winchester, Va Winchester, Va Fetersburg, W. Va Burlington, "Amorefield, P Moorefield, "Moorefield, P
H. H. Hawes, P. T. D. Rell, Evan. T. S. Witherow, W. C. Hugh Henry, P. Charles White, P. Edward D. Washburn, P. E. Wm. Stoddert, D. D., P. Isaae N. Campboll, P. George L. Petrie, P. E.	John C. Dinwiddie ——39  Licentiates—6. J. C. Benger. J. E. Booker. J. E. Booker. J. E. Goode. T. R. Goode. T. R. Sampson.	,	10. Prvs. of Wachester. Silas Billings, T Edward H. Cumpston, P John A. Scott, P James R. Graham, D. D., P John Johnston, W. C John Johnston, W. C John Johnston, W. C George Win, Woodworth, S. S.

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Miscellancous.	용공교는 김 왕당철 공고요공	\$707
Congregational.	8888	\$6805
Pastors' Salary Paid.	5	\$12192
Presbyterial.	SEx Rid water will such sides and a	
Publication,	용공사원공 <u>고무용</u> 경소구봉정하고수정소 이 <b>교</b> 이브	\$402 \$291
Education.	월프+F글 의교의현품에 X호=B호의현프 글 에 의	\$595
Foreign Missions.	왕국+일도 adio은왕왕의왕다adio급egioge 14	\$870
Invalid Fund.	19 x 2 1 + 1 + 2 3 x x 8 x 4 x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x	\$331
Evangelistic.	일당+본당 & WELST-451월~ & 글 & WEL 10	\$327
Sustentation,	설교교육일 1910x 호텔r 연구요요xr-요급 10 급000	\$481
Number in S. S. and Bible Classes,	9825월 왕동왕왕동조조조왕왕사왕왕 왕 왕	2013
Number Baptized Non-Com,	a 8 8 8 5 2 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 3 4 4 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	113
Infants Baptized.	10 5 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	[월
Adults Baptized.		9
Total of Communi-	왕홍롱본뿔 : '궁용짓王롱군요롱&왕윤구양란륁쪽궁 : '동공래	2485
tion. Added on Certificate.		101
Added on Examina-	1-01-00	
Deacons.	Highert-	181 18
Elders.	l	편
CHURCHES.	M. Hope, P. M. Hope, P. M. Hope, P. P. Charlestown, P. Loudoun Set, P. Loudoun Set, P. Loudoun Set, P. M. Hope, P. M. M. Hope, P. M. Hope,	
POST OFFICES.	Kernstown, Va. Keyser, W. Va. Pichmester, Va. Wharlester, Va. Wharlester, Va. Capon Bridge, W. Va Bloomery, Kapon Bridge, W. Va Bronney, Kapon Bridge, W. Va Repringfield, Karneysville, Woodstock, Va. Woodstock, Va. While Post, Kenroysville, Kenroysville, While Post, Kenroysville, K	
MINISTERS, Erc.	William A. Crawford, S. S. John M. Clymer, P. Henry C. Hopkins, P. Henry C. Brown, S. S. George L. Leyburn, S. E. Joseph W. Walkup, Evan. George W. Finley, P. George W. Finley, P. Edwin L. Wilson, P. Bobert H. Fleming, P. James A. Armstrong, S. S. Carson W. Hollis, P. E. Licentiates—I. W. Johnston, T. J. K. Harris, infirm. W. Johnston, T. J. L. Sherrard, P. W. Johnston, T. W. Johnston, T. J. L. Sherrard, P. W. Johnston, T. J. L. Sherrard, P. W. H. Woods, P. E. Condidates—5.	

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													-	_	_	-	-	_	11. Pres. of Sao Paulo.	



## SUMMARY VIEW

PRESBYTERIES.

STATED CLERKS.	F. B. Webb. T. R. Raymond, C. A. Stillman, T. R. Webb. A. Stillman, T. R. Webb. A. Mann Wright, James Stacy, C. W. Lance, C. W. Lance, M. J. McCornick. A. W. Jaker, A. W. Glisby, W. T. Lance, J. C. Tate, J. C. Davidson, W. Chow, J. C. Tate, J. C. Davidson, J. C. Pavidson, J. C. Pavidson, J. R. Lorance, J. B. Lorance, J. S. Gundphell, A. H. Mecklin, M. B. Shaw, Wiley Burges, W. W. Trawick, J. J. W. Wallace, J. W. W. Trawick, J. W. Wallace, J. W. Wallace, J. W. Wallace, J. W. Wallace, J. W. W. Shuith, George W. Harlan,
Miscellancous,	1
Congregational.	11
Pastors' Salary Paid.	200
Presbyterial.	三器型器 医足足多牙型 计显置 尼巴耳瓦拉克地名西北西耳古里多洲印塞名
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Education.	第日皇後     三日皇帝
Foreign Missions,	돌림문돌의필경홍크면봇로소도로 말한분인한만된모산업으로 발표되었다.
Invalid Fund.	다음년일 위로 등 등 등 등 등 등 등 등 등 등 등 등 등 등 등 등 등 등
Evangelistic Fund.	
Sustentation.	80.48年至25月25日 25月25日 2
Zumber in S. S. and Bible Classes.	
Xumber of Baptized Xon-Cone	多元保证基本主要提股限。表示第一部投资的第一大条本中的发达可以提出的 智能等等保收应量工程表。
Infants Baptized.	
Adults Baptized.	######################################
Total of Communi-	1
Added on Certificate.	2004-1-1-20-20-4-20-4-4-4-1-1-20-20-4-2-4-1-1-20-20-4-2-4-1-1-20-20-4-2-4-1-1-20-20-4-4-4-1-1-20-20-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4-4
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Elders,	<u>888                                 </u>
Candidates, Churches,	@
Ministers. Licentiates.	
PRESBYTERIES.	East Alabama South Alabama Arkaloosa Arkansas Adamia Augusta Augusta Augusta Augusta Augusta Augusta Beberezer Ebenezer Louis Yille Muhohurg Paducah Yanayakani

		11
2116 J. P. Foreman, 234 G. Foster, Williams, 1888 J. Albert Wallace, 2575 W. Bryce Thompson, 223 J. P. McPherson, 773 K. J. P. McPherson, 773 K. J. Ohnston, 186 F. H. Johnston, 186 J. H. Johnston, 186 J. H. Johnston, 257 W. A. Gregg, 257 W. A. Gregg, 257 W. A. Gregg, 257 W. A. Gregg, 257 W. H. Vernor, 257 W. H. Vernor, 257 W. H. Vernor, 257 W. H. Vernor, 257 W. A. Campbell, 258 S. F. Tenney, 257 Josephus Johnson, 154 E. H. Barnett, 258 M. L. Lacy, 258 M. L. Lacy, 259 M. L. Lacy, 250 R. L. McMurran, 251 R. D. McMurran, 251 R. M. McMurran, 251 R. M. H. McMurran, 251 R. M. H. McMurran, 251 R. M. H. H. B. Price, 1918 H. M. H. Heev, 251 R. D. H. McMurran, 251 R. M. H. McMurran, 251 R. M. H. H. B. Price, 1918 H. M. H. Heev, 1918 H. M. H. Heev, 1918 H. M. H. Heev, 1918 H. M. Hree, 1918 H. M. Hree,	242 Edgar Woods. 707 J. R. Graham.	\$50258
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Upper Missouri Columbia Holston Knoxville Nashville Syctechelle Rycteckleburg Orange Wilmington Wilmington Wilmington Bethel Scarolina Braxes Karolina E. Texas Colrespoare E. Texas Abingdon Cilespoare E. Hamover Gireenbrier E. Lexhgton Maryland Maryland Maryland Maryland Maryland	Sao Paulo	

A GENERAL VIEW OF SYNODS, FROM REPORTS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 1878.

TIME OF NEXT MEETING. OF STATED CLERKS.	<ul> <li>5920 Livingston, Ala</li></ul>
	Oct
PLACE OF NEXT MEETING.	5920       Livingston, Ala       Oct. 39, 7½ г. м.         3301       Batesville, Ark       Oct. 23, 7½ г. м.         5980       Atlanta, Ga       Oct. 23, 7½ г. м.         9457       Bardstown, Ky       Oct. 9, 7½ г. м.         6068       Florence, Ala       Nov. 8, 11 a. м.         8992       Monroe, La       Nov. 27, 7 г. м.         8992       Morristown, Tenn       Oct. 16, 7½ г. м.         8104       Morristown, Tenn       Oct. 16, 7½ г. м.         8551       Marshall, Texas       Oct. 23, 7½ г. м.         8553       Abingdon, V.a       Oct. 1, 7½ г. м.
Zo. of Communicants.	47         1113         50.20           380         80         3801           92         177         8090           81         139         9457           60         142         6063           78         169         8992           78         118         7823           63         117         8104           111         217         17046           95         161         10757           81         142         5351           216         289         23265           1044         1878         114578
No. of Churches.	850 177 177 189 169 177 177 177 187 187 187 187 187 187 187
No. of Ministers.	20 82 83 84 85 87 87 87 87 87 87 87 87 87 87
RESPECTIVE PRESBYTERIES.	Alabama ——————————————————————————————————
SYNODS.	Alabama

# GENERAL VIEW OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

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Synods	12
Presbyteries	64
Ministers and Licentiates	1,117
Candidates	145
Churches	1,878
Licensures	41
Ordinations	55
Installations	71
Pastoral relations dissolved	49
Churches organized	47
Churches dissolved	24
Churches received from other denominations	2
Churches dismissed to other denominations	3
Ministers received from other denominations	7
Ministers dismissed to other denominations	5
Number of Ruling Elders	5,428
Number of Deacons	3,452
Members added on examination	6,375
Members added on certificate	3,471
Whole number of communicants	114,578
Adults baptized	2,135
Infants baptized	4,561
Number of baptized non-communicants	24,968
Children in Sabbath Schools and Bible Classes	68,121
CONTRIBUTIONS.	
Sustentation	\$ 27,327
Evangelistic Fund	12,689
Invalid Fund	9,042
Foreign Missions	34,939
Education	34,028
Publication	14,226
Presbyterial	12,146
Pastors' Salaries	532,502
Congregational	303,814
Miscellaneous	50,258
	** *** ***

# DEATHS.

<del>----</del>0-<del>----</del>

The following named Ministers are mentioned in the Presbyterial Reports as having died during the past year:—

S. S. Davis, D. D.,Pre	sbytery of	Augusta.
W. J. Lowry, D. D.,	"	Louisville.
J. V. Cosby,	"	"
L. P. Yandell,	"	4.6
J. DeWitt Duncan,	"	* *
A. M. Mooney,	"	Chickasaw.
A. W. Young,	"	Memphis.
Wm. A. Hall,		"
L. B. Gaston,	"	"
T. C. Johnson,	"	North Mississippi.
T. H. Cleland,	"	Red River.
J. H. Thompson,	"	Tombeckbee.
J. B. Mathews,	"	Palmyra.
C. A. Wylie	4.6	Upper Missouri.
W. G. Baird,	"	Orange.
Jacob Doll,	44	"
John L. Kennedy,	"	South Carolina,
E. T. Buist, D. D.,	11	4.6
J. R. Hutchinson, D. D.,	"	Brazos.
Robert Bell,	"	Eastern Texas,
Robert C. Graham,	"	Abingdon.
J. D. Mitchell, D. D.,	"	Chesapeake.
R. T. Berry,	4.	4.6
T. B. Balch,	4.5	"

# SUCCESSION OF MODERATORS AND CLERKS. 1861-1878.

PRESBYTERY. A. D. NAME. PLACE. 1861. Rev. Benj. M. Palmer, D. D., N. Orleans. Augusta. 1862. Rev. John L. Kirkpatrick, D. D., Concord. Montgomery. Tombeckbee, Columbia 1863. Rev. James A. Lyon, D. D., Flint River. Charlotte. 1864. Rev. John S. Wilson, D. D.,\* Charleston. 1865. Rev. George Howe, D. D., Macon. 1866. Rev. Andrew Hart Kerr, D. D, Memphis. Memphis. 1867. Rev. Thomas Verner Moore, D. D., \* E. Hanover. Nashville. Chickasaw. Baltimore. 1868. Rev. John N. Waddel, D. D., 1869. Rev. Stuart Robinson, D. D., Louisville. Mobile. W. Hanover, Louisville, 1870. Rev. Bob't L. Dábney, D. D., 1871. Rev. Wm. S. Plumer, D. D., Harmony. Huntsville. Richmond. 1872. Rev. Thomas R. Welch, D. D., Arkansas. 1873. Rev. Henry Martyn Smith, D. D., N. Orleans. Little Rock. Charleston. Columbus. 1874. Rev. John L. Girardeau, D. D., 1875. Rev. Moses D. Hoge, D. D., E. Hanover. St. Louis. 1876. Rev. Benjamin M. Smith, D. D., W. Hanover. Savannalı. 1877. Rev. C. A. Stillman, D. D., Tuskaloosa. New Orleans. Roanoke. Knoxville. 1878. Rev. T. E. Peck, D. D.,

STATED CLERKS FROM 1861 TO 1878.

1861. Rev. John N. Waddel, D. D.
 1865. Rev. Joseph R. Wilson, D. D.

PERMANENT CLERKS FROM 1861 TO 1878.

1861. Rev. Joseph R. Wilson, D. D.1865. Rev. William Brown, D. D.\*Deceased.

### STATED CLERKS OF PRESBYTERIES

ARE EARNESTLY REQUESTED

- 1. To make their Annual Reports to the Assembly. If they have no printed blanks, let the reports be made after the form on the opposite page. Blanks can always be obtained on application to the Executive Committee of Publication, at cost price.
- 2. To make their Reports in fair, distinct writing, especially the columns of figures.
- 3. To make them as accurate and as full as possible. If, in any instance, churches do not report to Presbyteries, it is desirable that their number of communicants should be inserted from their last report.
  - 4. To report no fractions in the money columns.
  - 5. To add up each column of figures with care.
- 6. To append to the statistics of Presbyteries a brief account of the changes which have occurred during the year, such as the *number* of licensures, ordinations, installations, dismissions of pastors, organizations of new churches and the names of ministers deceased.
- 7. To transmit their reports to the Stated Clerk, either at the meeting of the Assembly, or at Wilmington, N. C., not later than the 20th day of May.

Blank forms for Sessional Reports, or for any other purposes, are not furnished by the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, but by the Executive Committee of Publication, at cost price, by order of the Assemblies of 1867 and 1878.

## TO THE STATED CLERKS OF THE SYNODS.

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It is the duty of these officers to send up to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly an Annual Report, stating the number of Presbyteries, Ministers, Churches, Licentiates and Candidates within their bounds; and particularly all changes which have been made in the arrangement of Presbyteries. It is also their duty to transmit to the Stated Clerk of the Assembly a notice of the time and place of the ensuing meetings of their respective Synods.

# FORM OF PRESBYTERIAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Churches, and has under its care Ministers, and eports to the General Assembly that it comprises

The Presbytery of

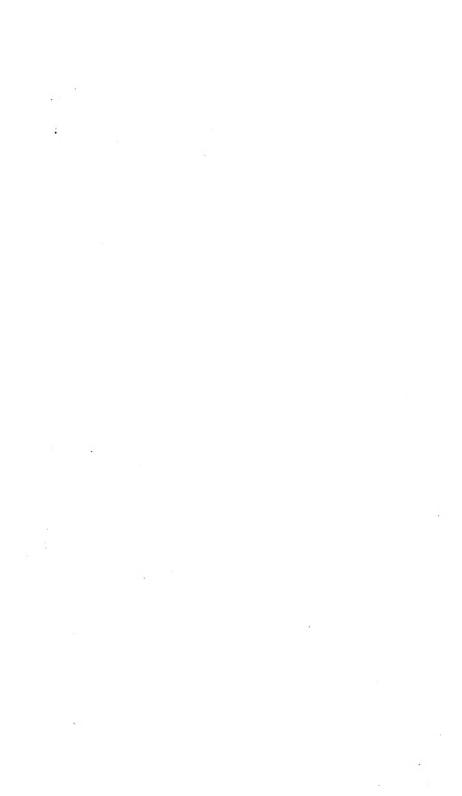
Miscellameous. Congregational, actually paid. Funds Collected Presbyterial. Publication. Education. Foreign Miss. Invalid Fund, Evangelistic. Sustentation, in S. S. ai Classes. Number Bible of Bapt. Com. Officers. | Communicants, |Baptized Candidates, viz starta! silubA Total Added on Certif. удды он Ехяш icentiates, and реасоиз. Elders. Add up. omitting fractions. CHURCHES POST OFFICES. LICENTIATES, CANDIDATES. Candidates—5. MINISTERS, Licentiates-3. AND Ä

us-Follow the above with a statement of licensures, ordinations, installations, pastoral relations dissolved, churches organized or dissolved, or -, Stated Clerk. received or dismissed to other denominations, ministers received or dismissed to other denominations, or removed by death since last Report. Signed, Dated,

Teachers, T. to Agents, Ag.: to Editors, Ed. To churches which have pastors, annex P.; to those which have stated supplies, S. S.; and to those which are vacant V. Put the Post Office of each minister, immediately configuous to his name, and when the Post Office of the church served by him is the Give the names of licentiates, but only the number of candidates, without names. It is earnestly requested that the above order of columns may be strictly followed, and that the columns may all be carefully added up. To ministers who are pastors, annex P.; to stated supplies, S. S.; to Domestic Missionaries, D. M.; to Foreign Missionaries, F. M.; to Presidents of Colleges, Pres.; to Professors in Colleges or Theological Seminaries, Prof.; to same with his own, put the name of the Post Office between that of the minister and the church. The Post Office of every church should be given.

No minister's name should be opposite a vacant church.

\$3-NoTE.—All collections for Home Missions ought to be placed under the head of "Sustentation." "Presbyterial" includes all moneys collected for Commissioners' and Contingent Fund, and for all other purposes strictly connected with the current expenses of Presbyteries. Contributions in the congregations for Subbath Schools should be put under "Congregational."



### ALPHABETICAL LIST

OF

# MINISTERS AND LICENTIATES,

### EMBRACED IN THE PRECEDING TABLES.

Note.—The Postoffice addresses in this List in a few cases differ from those given in the Tables, the List having been prepared to correspond with recent changes. The figures denote the page of the Tables on which the name may be found,

Adams, Robert, Eatonton, Ga., 716 Adams, W. H., Charleston, S. C., 751 Adger, D. D., J. B., Pendleton, S. C., 753 Alexander, C. W., Jackson, Mo., 737 Alexander, D. D., H. C., Hampden Sid-ney, Va., 766 Alexander, H. S., Culpepper C. H., Va., 761 Alexander, Jas. C., Greensboro, N. C., 747 Alexander, Jas. H., Cornersville, Tenn., 720

739

Alexander, J. H., Koskiusko, Miss., 730 Alexander, S. C., Wadesboro, N. C., 746 Allison, J Y., Monroe, La., 733 Allison, T. J., Rockingham, N. C., 748 Anderson, E., Summerfield, Ala., 710 Anderson, H. M., Providence Forge, Va.,

762 Anderson, John, Clarksville, Tex., 758

Anderson, J. G., ——, 768 Anderson, J. G., ——, 768 Anderson, J. M., Mebaneville, N. C., 748 Anderson, R. B., Morganton, N. C., 748 Anderson, R. C., Martinsville, Va., 767 Anderson, W. J., Trenton, Tenn., 728 Arbuthnot, D. D., J. S., Gallatin, Tenn., 749

742Archer, Stephenson, Greenville, Miss.,

Armstrong, D. D., Geo. D., Norfolk, Va.,

Armstrong, Jas. A., Shepherdstown, W. Va., 769 Arrowood, W. B., King's Mountain, N.

Atkinson, D. D., C. M., Morgan City, La.,

Atkinson, Jos. M., Raleigh, N. C., 747 Atkinson, D. D., J. M. P., Hampden Sid-

ney, Va., 767 Atkinson, W. R. Raleigh, N. C., 748 Axson, D. D., I. S. K., Savannah, Ga., 719 Axson, Samuel E., Rome, Ga., 717

Bachman, J. W., Chattanooga, Tenn., 741 Baier, Leo, Shelbina, Mo., 736 Bailey, J. S. Unionville, S. C., 750 Baird, Jas. H. Baltimore, Md.

Baird, Jas. R., Santa Barbara, S. A., 770 Baird, D. D., S. J., Richmond, Va., 761 Baird, Isaac, Greenville, Ky., 722 Baker, Archibald, Shoe Heel, N. C., 744

Balfa, Isaac, Greenville, Ky., 722
Baker, Archibald, Shoe Heel, N. C., 744
Baker, B. L., Monticello, Fla., 718
Baker, C. A., Opelika, Ala., 769
Baker, John F., Ashley, Mo., 733
Baker, J. W., Marletta, Ga., 717
Baker, R. M., Lafayette, Ga., 717
Baker, R. M., Lafayette, Ga., 717
Baker, R. Q., St. Mary's, Ga., 720
Baker, W. E., Staunton, Va., 764
Banks, Alex, R., Rocky Mount, La., 732
Banks, H. H., Asheville, N. C., 746
Barbee, Joshua, Marshall, Mo., 755
Barbour, L. G., Richmond, Ky., 724
Rurdwell, D. D., Jos., Meridian, Miss., 734
Barks, J. V., Perry, Mo., 736
Barnett, F. H., Abingdon, Va., 759
Barrett, E. H., Abingdon, Va., 769
Barrett, T. Cavr, Cape Girardeau, Mo., 737
Bartlett, J. L., Sumter, S. C., 752
Bartlett, J. L., Sumter, S. C., 752
Bartlett, D. D., W. F. V., Lexington, Ky., 724

Bayley, W. L., Crittenden, Kv., 720 Beach, Charles, Sykesville, Md., 766 Bealt, B. L., Lenoir, N. C., 542 Bean, W. S., Washington, Ga., 746 Beattie, James, New Orleans, La., 732 Bedinger, E. W., Greenwood Lake, Ky.,

721Bell, Robert, Lovelady, Tex. Bell, Robert S., Washington, Va., 761 Bell, S. H., (not reported.) Bell, T. D., Scottsville, Va., 768 Bell, T. D., Samuel R., Port Gibson, Miss.,

731 Betts, Barbee, Sharpsburg, Ky., 720

Beveridge, J., ——719 Billings, Silas, Winchester, Va., 768 Bingham, Samuel J., Moss Point, Miss.,

Bingham, W. B., Hazelhurst, Miss., 731 Bishop, Wm. F., Ashland, Va., 762 Bittinger, M. H., Indian Creck, W. Va.,

Black, Duncan B., Burgaw, N. C., 749
Black, J. S., Baldwyn, Miss., 725
Blackburn, J. C., Athens, Ala., 727
Blain, Daniel, Christiansburg, Va., 765
Blain, Sanuel W., Louisville, Ky., 722
Blake, J. H., Vicksburg, Miss.
Blanton, L. H., Paris, Ky., 721
Blaney, John B., Sulphur Springs, Ohio, Boggs, D. C., Bentonville, Ark., 712
Boggs, G. W., Oxford, Ala., 710
Boggs, Samuel D., Covington, Tenn., 726
Boggs, D. D., Wu. E., Memphis, Tenn., 726 726 Bogle, J. A., Hustonville, Ky., 724 Bomberger, C. C., Crocker's Station, Mo., Booker, J. E.,——, 768 Booth, Henry A., Mill Spring, Mo., 738 Boude, H. B., Paris, Texas, 757 Boude, H. B., Paris, Texas, 757
Bourne, M. L., Onot reported.)
Bowden, Nathan T., Morven, N. C., 744
Bowen, L. P., Newtown, Md., 736
Bownan, J. Rice, Harrisonburg, Va., 764
Boyd, Wm., Industry, Texas, 756
Boyd, T. M., Mt. Meridian, Va., 761
Boyd, S., Wheetling, W. V., 722
Boyd, R. W., Wood Leaf, N. C., 713
Boyle, John, Campinas, S. A., 721
Brackett, D. D., G. R., Charleston, S. C., 751 Brackett, D. D., C. R., Charleston, S. C., 751
Bradley, Robert, Tiller's Ferry, S. C., 752
Bradshaw, James N., Covington, Ga., 715
Branch, Henry, Hamilton, Va., 769
Brank, D. D., R. G., St. Louis, Mo., 738
Brantly, E. T., Nashville, Tenm., 742
Brantly E. Lowryville, S. C., 750
Brearrley, B. M., Shoe Heel, N. C., 752
Brearley, William, Darlington, S. C., 752
Breek, D. D., R. L., Richmond, Ky., 724
Brewer, Elijah, Doaksville, C. N., 713
Briscoe, J. P., Blountville, Tenn., 749
Briggs, E. H., Palatka, Fla., 720
Bright, D. D., J. E., Jackson, Tenn., 728
Brinm, W. W., Fort Worth, Texas, 756
Britt, M. C., Atlanta, Ga., 716
Brown, Henry, Moffett's Creek, Va., 763
Brown, H. C., Darnestown, Md., 766
Brown, J. Colyin, Emparts, 766
Brown, J. Oseph, Clear Water Harbor, Fla., 729
Brown, J. Colyin, Emparts, Salines, W. 720Brown, J. Calvin, Kanawha Salines, W. Va., 762 Va., 62 Brown, J. D. A., Orangeburg, S. C., 751 Brown, J. M., Relf's Bluff, Ark., 714 Brown, J. W., Baltimore, Md., 766 Brown, L. C., Hillsville, Va., 756 Brown, Paul F., Mossingford, Va., 767 Brown, Samuel, Millboro' Springs, Va., Brown, S. S., Canton, Miss., 729
Brown, Thomas, Abingdon, Va., 759
Brown, D. D., Wm., Richmond, Va., 761
Brownlee, A. L., Belton, S. C., 754
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Bryson, J. H., Shelbyville, Tenn., 751
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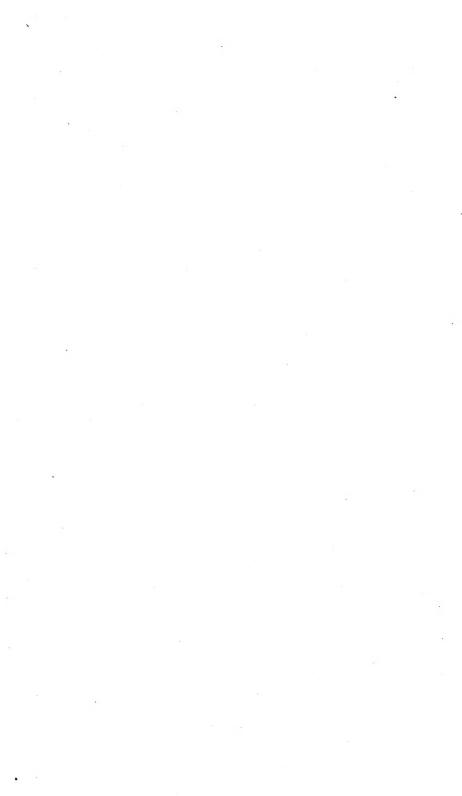
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