



MINUTES

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

Presbyterian Church

IN THE

United States;

WITH AN APPENDIX.

VOL. IV.

A. D. 1877.

WILMINGTON, N. C.:

JACKSON & BELL, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.

1877.



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OF THE

Aresbyterian Church in the Anited States.

CLERKS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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MINUTES.

New Orleans, Louisiana, May 17, 1877.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States met, according to appointment, in the First Presbyterian Church of New Orleans, Louisiana, on Thursday, the 17th day of May, 1877, at 11 o'clock, A. M., and was opened with a sermon by the Moderator, Rev. B. M. Smith, D. D., on Luke xi. 13: "If ye then being evil know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall [your] for the] Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him."

And John xvi. 8-11: "And when He is come He will reprove [convince] the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment; of sin because [that] they believe not on me; of righteousness because [that] I go to the Father and ye see me no more; of judgment because [that] the prince of this

world is judged.

After the close of public worship, the Assembly was con-

stituted with prayer by the Moderator.

The Permanent Clerk reported that the following commissioners had been duly enrolled as members of this General Assembly:

L-SYNOD OF ALABAMA.

PRESBYTERIES.	MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.		
1 East Alabama, 2 South Alabama, 3 Tuskaloosa,	J. K. Hazen, F. L. Ewing, C. A. Stillman, D. D.,	J. Grier, D. C. Anderson, S. H. Sprott.		
II.—SYNOD OF ARKANSAS.				
4 Arkansas,	T. R. Welch, D. D.,	J. P. Coffin,		
5 Indian, 6 Ouachita,	F. M. Howell,	J. W. Hannah.		

Note.—The figure annexed to a name indicates the day on which the member was enrolled.

III.—SYNOD OF GEORGIA.

III.—STROD OF GEORGIA.					
	PRESBYTERIES.	MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.		
7	Atlanta,	F. McMurray,	F. D. McConnell,		
- 8	Augusta.	F. McMurray, J. Woodrow, D. D.,	J. A. Billups, W. J. Manly, S. W. Wilson, J. W. Wheatley, J. O. Varnedoe.		
9	Cherokee,	J. E. Jones,	W. J. Manly,		
10	Florida,	W. H. Dodge,	S. W. Wilson,		
11	Cherokee, Florida, Macon, Savannah,	J. E. Jones, W. H. Dodge, J. T. McBryde,	\mathbf{j} . W. Wheatley,		
12	Savannah,	J. W. Montgomery,	J. O. Varnedoe.		
	IV	SYNOD OF KENTU	CKY.		
13	Central Ohio,				
14	Central Ohio, Ebenezer,	E. W. Bedinger, W. J. Lowry, D. D., S. M. Neel, J. C. Tate, W. D. Morton, Wm. Crow,	G. W. Blatterman,		
15	Louis ville,	W. J. Lowry, D. D.,	J. W. Aikin, T. Sanders,		
		S. M. Neel,	T. Sanders,		
16	Muhlenburg,	J. C. Tate,	J. W. McPherson, J. R. Hughes,		
10	Paaucan,	W. D. Morton,	J. R. Hugnes,		
10	Muhlenburg, Paducah, Transylvania, West Lexington,	E. O. Guerrant,	J. Paxton, I. C. Vanmeter.		
ΙĐ					
		-SYNOD OF MEMP	HIS.		
20	Chickasaw,	J. H. Gaillard,	m + 61 :		
21	Memphis,	Eugene Daniel, D. W. Humphreys, J. S. Frierson, R. M. Farris	T. A. Currie, F. W. Merrin, R. M. Patton,		
99	North Mississippi, North Alabama,	I S Friegen	P. W. Merrin,		
9.1	Western District,	B. M. Farris,	J. L. H. Tomlin.		
41		· ·			
		-SYNOD OF MISSISS			
25	Central Mississippi,	J. R. Gilland,	W. H. Simpson,		
26	Louisiana,	James Stratton,	S. P. Greves, J. Carson,		
27	Mississippi,	C. W. Grafton,	J. Carson,		
20 90	Ped Piver	A. R. Banke	T H Morris		
30	Mississippi, New Orleans, Red River, Tombeckbee,	J. C. Graham, A. R. Banks, A. H. Barkley,	E. S. Keep, T. H. Morris, J. A. Minniece.		
0.0		.—SYNOD OF MISSO			
0.1		· - · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
31	Lajayette,	J. Montgomery, D. D., B. H. Charles,	, G. C. Heard,		
99	Dalama	I. Poice	W H Clarentt		
21	Potosi	G. W. Harlan	W. H. Claggett,		
85	Missouri, Palmyra, Potosi, St. Louis,	L. Baier, G. W. Harlan, E. H. Rutherford, D. D.	.I. M. Veitch.		
36	Upper Missouri,	R. S. Campbell, D. D.,	,,2,, 2,2, , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
VIII.—SYNOD OF NASHVILLE.					
.,-					
90	$Columbia, \ Holston,$	C. Foster Williams,	T. Frierson,		
39	Knorville,	J. R. King, T. H. McCallie,	C. R. Vance, J. A. Caldwell,		
40	Nashville,	A. Cowan,	D. N. Kennedy.		
		·	,		
IX.—SYNOD OF NORTH CAROLINA.					
+1	Concord,	J. H. Thornwell,	R. L. Beall, J. P. Hodge,		
12	Fayetteville, Mecklenburg,	Wm. S. Lacy,	W. I. W. Prinas		
TO	meentenoury,	H H Banks	W. L. T. Prince. J. P. Alexander,		
11	Orange,	L. C. Vass.	Geo. Allen,		
1 4	o, ango,	D. E. Jordan,	L. B. Spencer.		
45	Wilmington,	Wm. S. Laey, W. H. Davis, H. H. Banks, L. C. Vass, D. E. Jordan, S. H. Isler,	L. B. Spencer, B. G. Worth		
X.—SYNOD OF SOUTH CAROLINA.					
46	Bethel,		W. H. Stewart.		
47	Charleston,	T. W. Erwin, Geo. Howe, D. D.,	A. R. Stillman.		
45	Harmony,	U. P. Unichester.	A. R. Stillman, W. D. Johnson, T. B. Fraser,		
	0 /	J. S. Cozby,	T. B. Fraser,		
4.0	C: 17 (1):	John P. Adeer D. D.	A P TOWER		
1.1	South Carolina,	John D. Auger, D. D.,	A. D. Ion Cin.		
1.7	South Carolina,	J. S. Cozby, John B. Adger, D. D., A. P. Nicholson,	Wm. Wright.		

XI.—SYNOD OF TEXAS.

PRESBYTERIES.	MINISTERS.	RULING ELDERS.			
50 Brazos,	W. H. Vernor,	J. Sorley,			
51 Central Texas,	A. J. Loughridge,	E. H. Carter,			
52 Eastern Texas,	W. N. Dickey,	L. C. Reed,			
53 Western Texas,	W. E. Caldwell,	A. Turner.			
XII.—SYNOD OF VIRGINIA.					
54 Abingdon,	E. H. Barnett,	Isaac Hudson,			
55 Chesapeake,	R. T. Berry,	J. V. Brooke,			
- '	J. F. Cannon,	L. C. Inglis,			
56 East Hanover,	G. D. Armstrong, D. D.	, J. L. Marye, (4)			
,	M. D. Hoge, D. D., (2)				
57 Greenbrier,	S. R. Houston, D. D.,	James Mann,			
58 Lexington,	S. W. Watkins,	J. L. Campbell,			
0 /	J. W. Rosebro,	W. M. McAllister,			
59 Montgomery,	R. R. Houston,	G. P. Terrill,			
60 Roanoke,	J. S. Watkins.	T. S. Henry,			
61 Sao Paulo,		·			
62 West Hanover,	B. M. Smith, D. D.,	L. R. Railey,			
63 Winchester,	G. W. Finley,	Geo. Glass.			

CORRESPONDING DELEGATES.

From the General Synod of the Reformed Church—Rev. Jacob Chamberlain.

From the Associate Reformed Synod of the South—Rev. John Miller, D. D.

From the Reformed Episcopal Church—Rev. Benjamin Johnson.

The Assembly then proceeded to the election of officers, when the Rev. C. A. Stillman, D. D., of the Presbytery of Tuskaloosa, was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Wm. S. Lacy, of the Presbytery of Fayetteville, was chosen Temporary Clerk.

It was appointed, as the first orders of the day for tomorrow morning, to hear the annual reports of the Executive Committees of Publication, Sustentation, Foreign Missions and Education, in the order in which they are here named.

It was 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 ordered that the daily sessions of the Assembly, until otherwise appointed, shall be from 9 o'clock A. M. until 3 o'clock P. M.

It was resolved that a committee be appointed, consisting of one member from each Synod, to nominate suitable persons to fill vacancies occasioned by the failure of certain delegates, who were appointed by the last Assembly to attend the General Presbyterian Council, to be held in Edinburgh, Scotland, in July, 1877.

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

FRIDAY MORNING, May 18, 9 o'clock.

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

The following Standing Committees were announced by the Moderator:

BILLS AND OVERTURES.—B. M. Smith, D. D., J. H. McCallie, D. E. Jordan, R. T. Berry, J. H. Thornwell, B. G. Worth, W. L. T. Prince, T. D. Fraser, L. R. Railey, F. W. Merrin, I. C. Vanmeter.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE.—James Woodrow, D. D., A. R. Banks, B. H. Charles, E. H. Barnett, W. E. Caldwell, J. A. Billups, D. C. Anderson, I. M. Veitch, W. D. Johnson.

Theological Seminaries.—W. J. Lowry, D. D., W. H. Dickey, J. R. Gilland, C. W. Grafton, C. E. Chichester, S. H. Sprott, J. P. Coffin, J. O. Varnedoe, J. W. McPherson.

Foreign Missions.—S. R. Houston, D. D., F. McMurray, W. D. Morton, J. S. Frierson, E. O. Guerrant, W. H. Claggett, A. R. Stillman, A. Turner, J. Grier.

Sustentation.—E. H. Rutherford, D. D., E. Daniel, W. H. Vernor, F. M. Howell, D. W. Humphries, Geo. Allen, L. C. Reed, R. M. Patton, J. W. Wheatley.

Publication.—T. R. Welen, D. D., J. K. Hazen, W. S. Lacy, A. P. Nicholson, J. W. Rosebro, D. N. Kennedy, J. L. Campbell, J. W. Aikin, W. H. Simpson.

Education.—Geo. Howe, D. D., J. C. Tate, J. H. Gaillard, F. D. McConnell, G. W. Blatterman, T. A. Currie.

Systematic Benevolence.—R. S. Campbell, D. D., S. M. Neel, J. T. McBryde, H. H. Banks, A. J. Loughridge, B. M. Farris, I. Hudson, W. W. Wright, L. B. Spencer, T. Sanders, J. L. H. Tomlin.

Foreign Correspondence.—J. B. Adger, D. D., E. H. Rutherford, D. D., E. Daniel, B. M. Smith, D. D., W. J. Lowry, D. D., J. A. Caldwell, G. W. Harlan, G. W. Finley, J. V. Brooke, J. P. Hodges, W. J. Manly, J. Paxton.

Narrative.—J. S. Cozby, W. H. Dodge, J. W. Hannah.

Saeeath Schools.—L. C. Vass, E. W. Bedinger, W. Crow, J. R. King, L. Baier, S. W. Wilson, J. T. Brown, C. R. Vance, J. R. Hughes.

AUDITING COMMITTEE.—L. C. Ingles, J. Sorley, J. A. Minniece.

DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES.—A. H. Barkley, J. C. Graham, E. S. Keep.

Leave of Absence.—C. Foster Williams, S. H. Isler, S. W. Watkins, J. Mann, A. B. Towers.

SYNODICAL RECORDS.

Alabama.—R. T. Berry, T. S. Henry, Arkansas.—J. E. Jones, T. H. Morris. Georgia.—W. D. Morton, G. C. Heard. Kentucky.—F. M. Howell, J. A. Carson. Memphis.—F. L. Ewing, G. P. Terrill. Mississisppi.—J. S. Cozby, W. H. Stuart. Missouri.—C. E. Chichester, S. H. Sprott. Nashville.—D. E. Jordan, J. Sorley. North Carolina.—T. W. Erwin, L. R. Railey. South Carolina.—B. H. Charles, D. O. Anderson. Texas.—J. F. Cannon, Goo. Allen. Virginia.—J. H. Thornwell, S. P. Greves.

Also, as Special Committees ordered on yesterday:

ON THE BOOK OF CHURCH ORDER.—George D. Armstrong, D. D., J. B. Adger, D. D., A. Cowan, J. R. King, W. H. Davis, T. W. Erwin, R. R. Houston, S. P. Greves, J. Carson, T. Frierson, R. L. Beall.

TO FILL VACANCIES IN DELEGATES APPOINTED BY THE LAST ASSEMBLY TO THE PRESBYTERIAN ALLIANCE IN EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND.—J. K. Hazen, T. R. Welch, D. D., J. Woodrow, D. D., S. M. Neel, R. M. Patton, A. R. Banks, J. A. Carson, T. H. McCallie, B. G. Worth, J. B. Adger, D. D., E. H. Carter, Geo. Glass.

A complaint of the Rev. Sam'l J. Baird, D. D., against a decision of the Presbytery of East Hanover, in the case of the Rev. E. T. Baird, D. D., was presented by the Stated Clerk; also, a complaint of the Rev. J. W. Caufield against a decision of the Synod of Kentucky; which papers were placed in the hands of the Judicial Committee.

The report of the Executive Committee on Publication not being on hand, the reports of the Executive Committees on Sustentation and of Foreign Missions were read by one of the Secretaries, the Rev. Richard McIlwaine, D. D., which reports, together with the minutes of said Committees, were referred to the Standing Committees on those subjects. The reports of the Treasurer were referred to the Auditing Committee.

The report of the Executive Committee on Education was read by the Secretary, Rev. J. N. Waddel, D. D., and, with accompanying papers, was referred to the Standing Committee on that subject.

Certain communications, pertaining to the resignation of delegates appointed to attend the Presbyterian Council, were received and referred to the Committee appointed on that subject.

The Rev. Mr. Chamberlain, delegate from the Reformed Church, and the Rev. John Miller, D. D., delegate from the Associate Reformed Synod of the South, were introduced to the Moderator by the Stated Clerk, and by the Moderator to the Assembly.

Certain papers from Presbyteries, on the subject of "Fraternal Relations," were presented by the Stated Clerk; also, a communication from the Stated Clerk of the Northern General Assembly, transmitting a copy of a paper passed by said Assembly last year, touching the same subject. These papers were referred to the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

After a recess of twenty minutes, the Assembly resumed its business, when the Annual Report of the Directors of the Theological Seminary at Columbia, and the Annual Report of the Directors and Trustees of Union Theological Seminary, were read and referred to the Standing Committee on that subject.

A memorial, relating to the subject of Publication, was read by ruling Elder W. L. T. Prince, and referred to the Standing Committee on that subject.

The Rev. C. A. Stillman, D. D., presented the Annual Report from the "Institute for the Education of Colored Ministers," which report, after having been read, was referred to the Standing Committee on Theological Seminaries.

The consideration of the report on Theological Education, which was presented to the last Assembly, and by it referred to the Assembly of this year, was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

A communication was received from the Rev. N. J. Fox, delegate from the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, which was ordered to be placed on record, and is as follows:

Louisville, Miss., May 14, 1877.

To the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, in Session in the City of New Orleans, La.:

DEAR SIR, AND, THROUGH YOU, THE DEAR FATHERS AND BRETH-REN OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:—Enclosed, please find my creden-tials as Corresponding Delegate from the General Assembly of the

Cumberland Presbyterian Church to your reverend body.

For a time I entertained the hope that affairs with me might take such turn that I could enjoy the unspeakable pleasure of bearing to you, in person, the Christian salutations and courtesies of our General Assembly. Events have directed otherwise. In due time I forwarded the commission to my alternative, Dr. Stainback, of Memphis; but he returned it with urgent solicitation that I should attend your meeting. And now I avail myself of this method, as the only alternative, to discharge this sacred responsibility.

I would prove recreant to this high trust, and recreant to my own feelings, were I to fail to reassure you of the tender regards of our Church toward yours.

We hall with delight the auspicious day that has dawned upon the Church, in which there is a strong and increasing tendency toward that great idea inculcated by the apostles, of "endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace."

I flatter myself that the fraternal correspondence which has been inaugurated is not a mere name—not an empty sound—but a stern reality; is Christianity "in earnest," and underlies the grand ideal of

co-operation so characteristic of the present age.

It would be unnatural if we should fail to cherish a deep interest in your welfare and in your operations. Much that is common to us both in history, in ancestry, in name, in forms of worship and in work, demands of us what we cheerfully accord. We rejoice in your prosperity; we feel oppressed in your adversity; we honor you for your work's sake; we love you for the Master's sake.

In conclusion, permit me to ask that this expression of our Christian regards may be accepted as the continuance of fraternal correspondence on our part, though it is but a very meagre expression of what my heart feels, and of what I would try to say, if permitted to say it,

face to face with you.

May the Lord of the Harvest grant you abundance of success in your labors, and peace and prosperity in all your borders. And, finally, when the reapers shall shout home the harvest of the world, we hope to share with you the Lountiful refreshments provided for the faithful laborers.

May the God of peace and love and of all grace have you all, dear fathers and brethren, in His own everlasting keeping for His dear

Son's sake. Amen.

Fraternally yours,

N. J. FOX.

The Stated Clerk, in pursuance of an order of the last Assembly, presented a series of questions to be observed by the Presbyteries in preparing their annual narratives on the state of religion. This report was referred to a committee consisting of E. Daniel, J. S. Cozby, W. S. Lacy, I. M. Veitch, I. C. Vanmeter.

The next General Assembly was appointed to be held in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Knoxville, Tennessee.

Certain papers on the subject of Ecclesiastical Correspondence, which had been placed in the hands of the Committee on Bills and Overtures, were transferred to the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

A communication from the Rev. Stuart Robinson, D. D., in relation to the filling of vacancies in the list of delegates to the Presbyterian Alliance, was referred to the Committee appointed on that subject.

The Rev. M. D. Hoge, D. D. appeared as a commissioner from the Presbytery of East Hanover, and his name was enrolled.

The Assembly adjourned until to morrow morning, 9 o'clock; closed with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Adger.

SATURDAY MORNING, May 19, 9 o'clock.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer by the Rev. E. H. Rutherford, D. D. The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

An overture from the Presbytery of Florida was presented and referred to the Committee on Bills and Overtures.

It was made the order of the day for 1 o'clock to-day to hear the delegates from corresponding bodies to this Assembly.

It was ordered, upon the report of the Committee on that subject, that a season of devotional exercises shall be observed, for half an hour each morning, immediately after the opening of the Assembly.

The Annual Report of the Executive Committee of Pub-

lication was read, and, with the accompanying books and papers, was referred to the Standing Committee on that subject, except the Treasurer's accounts, which were referred to the Auditing Committee.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported Overture No. 1, from the Presbytery of Nashville, and recommended that it be referred to the Committee on Sabbath Schools. This report was adopted.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported Overtures 8 and 10, from the Synods of Alabama and Memphis, which, after some discussion, were recommitted. After a recess taken by the Assembly, the same Committee presented an amended report, which was adopted, and is as follows:

The General Assembly respectfully declines complying with the requests of the Synods of Memphis and Alabama, white cordially commending their zeal in the great work of promoting the circulation of the word of God.

Yet the Assembly most earnestly commends to all our people a hearty and liberal co-operation in sustaining the operations of the American Bible Society and its auxiliaries in their present organization for most efficiently promoting the great objects had in view; and the Assembly farther enjoins on our Presbyteries to take such order as to them seems best to secure the efficient co-operation of our people.

The order of the day was taken up, when the Rev. Jacob Chamberlain, delegate from the General Synod of the Reformed Church, and the Rev. John Miller, D. D., delegate from the Associate Reformed Synod of the South, addressed the Assembly, presenting the cordial Christian salutations of their respective Churches. To each of these addresses the Moderator made a suitable response.

The Rev. James Woodrow, D. D., and Ruling Elder W. L. T. Prince, were added to the Standing Committee on Publication; and a memorial, with the signature of James Miller, Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church of Ashland, Va., was referred, without reading, to the same Committee.

The Assembly then adjourned until Monday morning, 9 o'clock; closed with prayer by the Moderator.

Monday Morning, May 21, 9 o'clock.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer, followed with other devotional exercises. The minutes of Saturday were read and approved. J. L. Marye, Ruling Elder, was reported as a commissioner from the Presbytery of East Hanover, and was enrolled.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported on

Overture No. 14, from the Presbytery of New Orleans, recommending the printing in the Appendix, to the minutes of this year, the

report of the Committee concerning the General Presbyterian Alliance presented to the Assembly of 1876, and also the report of the Rev. Stuart Robinson, D. D., delegate to the preliminary meeting held in London.

The Committee recommend that said overture be answered in the affirmative, and that the request be granted. Adopted.

Also, on

Overture No. 15, from the Presbytery of Tuskaloosa, respecting measures for the support of the Colored School for Training Ministers, at Tuskaloosa.

The Committee recommend the reference of said Overtureto the Committee on Theological Seminaries. Adopted.

Also, on

Overture No. 9, from the Synod of Alabama, requesting a definition of the duties of the Deacons and Sessions respecting the collection, keeping and disbursing church funds.

The following reply was adopted:

The duties of the Deacons, as servants (Ministers) of the Church, are to execute the orders of the Session (or Parochial Presbytery) as rulers of the Church. Therefore, it is the duty of the Deacons to collect and appropriate all funds for church purposes, whether for local purposes, support of a pastor, aid to the poor, and expenses of the church, or for objects of Christian benevolence recognized in the action of the courts of the Church, under the direction of the Church Session.

Also, Overture No. 13, concerning theological education. In answer to this overture, the Committee recommended the adoption of a paper, which elicited a protracted discussion.

The consideration of this subject was continued until near the hour of adjournment, when it was suspended to receive a report from the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

The first part of this report was adopted with almost entire unanimity. The last part was recommitted, and the Assembly adjourned until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock; closed with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Hoge.

Tuesday Morning, May 22, 9 o'clock.

The Assembly met, and engaged in devotional exercises. The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

A communication was received from the commander of the steamer Robert E. Lee, tendering to the Assembly an excursion, this afternoon, at 5 o'clock.

The Assembly, in accepting this offer, accompanied it with a cordial and thankful acknowledgment of the courtesy.

The Auditing Committee presented reports, which were adopted, and are as follows:

The Auditing Committee beg leave to report that they have examined the books and accounts of the Treasurer of Foreign Missions; they find the books well and accurately kept, the disbursements sustained by proper vouchers and the balances correctly stated. The balance due the Treasurer, April 1, 1877, is four thousand, eight hundred, twenty-six dollars and twenty-seven cents (84,826-27.)

Respectfully submitted,

omitted,
L. CHARLES INGLIS,
JAMES SORLEY,
JNO. A. MINNIECE,
Committee.

The Auditing Committee, to whom was referred the accounts of the Treasurer of Sustentation, beg leave to report that they have made a careful examination and find the books and accounts plainly and carefully kept, all disbursements sustained by proper vouchers and the balances correctly stated.

They would commend to the thanks of the General Assembly the great industry and fidelity of the Treasurer, (Rev. Dr. McIlwaine.)

The balances are as follows:

Sustentation.—Balance in Treasury, April 1, 1877, nineteen hundred, fifty-nine dollars and eighty-four cents (\$1,959 84.)

EVANGELISTIC FUND.—Balance in Treasury, April 1, 1877, four thousand one hundred and six dollars and sixty four cents (\$4,106 64.)

Colored Evangelistic Fund.—Balance charged to Sustantation Fund.

Invalid Fund.—Balance due Treasurer, April 1, 1877, nineteen hundred and six dollars and thirty-two cents (\$1,906 32.)

Relief Fund.—Balance in Treasury, April 1, 1877, three hundred and thirty-seven dollars and seven cents (\$337.07.)

Respectfully submitted,

S. CHARLES INGLIS, JAMES SORLEY, JNO. A. MINNIECE,

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported on

OVERTURE No. 7, from the Presbytery of Atlanta, asking the Assembly to interpret the law of the Church concerning worldy amusements, as set forth in the deliverances of the Assemblies of 1865 and 1869, in the following particulars:

- I. Does the law forbid card-playing for purposes of amusement, or for purposes of gambling merely?
 - II. Does it forbid dancing, or only promiseuous dancing?
- III. If the latter only, to what accident of the dance does the word "promiscuous" refer? Does the law forbid round dances merely, as distinguished from the square? or dancing at a public ball, as distinguished from dancing in a private house? or the mingling of males and females in this amusement for the reason among others, that in such cases the dance has a tendency to influence the licentious passions."

Answer1st. The Assembly has uniformly discouraged and condemned the modern dance in all its forms, as tending to evil, whether practised in public balls or in private parlors.

- 2d. Some forms of this amusement are more mischievous than others; the round dance than the square, the public ball than the private parlor, but all are evil and should be discountenanced.
- 3d. The extent of the mischief done depends largely upon circumstances. The church session is therefore the only court competent to

judge what remedy to apply; but the Assembly being persuaded that in most cases it is the result of thoughtlessness or ignorance, recommends great patience in dealing with these who offend in this way.

4th. The following was added by the Assembly as an amendment:

And we further affectionately urge all our christian parents not to send their children to dancing schools, where they acquire a fondness and an aptitude for this dangerous amusement.

The report was adopted.

The unfinished business of last evening, viz: concerning the last clause in the report of the Committee of Correspondence, was then taken up. The Committee obtained leave to withdraw that part of their report, and the question being upon the first part, as constituting the whole report, it was adopted by a vote of 109 in the affirmative and 4 in the negative. This report is as follows:

The Committee of Correspondence recommend to the General Assembly the following as our Church's reply to the communication received at this session from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian

Church in the United States of America:

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of this Church, in session at St. Louis in 1875, adopted a paper rendering "special thanks, in the name of the whole Church, to our Committee of Conference at Baltimore, for their diligence, fidelity and Christian prudence," and in particular approving and indorsing "as satisfactory to the Southern Church the condition precedent to fraternal relations suggested by our Committee," viz: "If your Assembly could see its way clear to say in a few plain words to this effect, that these obnoxious things were said and done in times of great excitement, and are to be regretted, and that now, on a calm review, the imputations cast upon the Southern Church [of schism, heresy and blasphemy are disapproved, that would end the difficulty at once;" and-

Whereas, Our General Assembly, in session at Savannah in 1876, in response to a paper from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, which met in Brooklyn,

adopted the following paper, viz:
"We are ready most cordially to enter on fraternal relations with your body on any terms honorable to both parties. This Assembly has already, in answer to an overture from our Presbytery of St. Louis,

spontaneously taken the following action:
"Resolved, That the action of the Baltimore Conference, approved by the Assembly at St. Louis, explains with sufficient clearness the position of our Church. But inasmuch as it is represented by the overture that misapprehension exists in the minds of some of our people as to the spirit of this action, in order to show our disposition to remove on our part all real or seeming hindrance to friendly feeling, the Assembly explicitly declares that, while condemning certain acts and deliverances of the Northern General Assembly, no acts or deliverances of the Southern General Assemblies are to be construed or admitted as impugning in any way the Christian character of the Northern General Assembly, or of the historical bodies of which it is the successor;" and-

WHEREAS, The said General Assembly at Brooklyn, in response to the foregoing paper of our Assembly at Savannah, adopted the follow-

ing, which has been communicated to us at our present meeting, viz:
"The overture of this Assembly having been received by the General Assembly in the South with such a cordial expression or gratification, the Committee recommend that the same resolution, declarative of the spirit in which this action is taken, be adopted by this Assembly, viz: In order to show our disposition to remove on our part all real or seem-

ing hindrance to friendly feeling, the Assembly explicitly declares that, while condemning certain acts and deliverances of the Southern General Assembly, no acts or deliverances of the Northern Assembly, or of the historical bodies of which the present Assembly is the successor, are to be construed or admitted as impugning in any way the Christian character of the Southern General Assembly or of the historical body or bodies of which it is the successor'"; now, therefore, be it Resolved by this Assembly, that we cannot regard this communica-

tion as satisfactory, because we can discover in it no reference whatever Savannah and communicated to the Brooklyn Assembly. This Assembly at Savannah and communicated to the Brooklyn Assembly. This Assembly can add nothing on this subject to the action of the Assembly at St. Louis adopting the basis proposed by our Committee of Conference at Baltimore and reaffirmed by the Assembly at Savannah.

If our brethren of the Northern Church can meet us on these terms. which truth and righteousness seem to us to require, then we are ready to establish such relations with them during the present sessions of the Assemblies.

A report of the Committee on Nomination of Delegates. to the General Council of the Presbyterian Alliance was received, and having been amended by the Assembly, it was adopted, and is as follows:

Your Committee beg leave to report that there have been placed in their hands the resignations of the following brethren, appointed by the last General Assembly as delegates to the General Council of the Presbyterian Alliance, viz :

W. P. Webb, of the Synod of Alabama; John R. Hampton, of the Synod of Arkansas; Rev. B. M. Palmer, D. D., and W. R. Lyman, of the Synod of Mississippi; Rev. J. B. Adger, D. D., of the Synod of South Carolina; Rev. J. W. Miller, D. D., and James Sorley, of the Synod of Texas; Rev. J. H. Rice, D. D., B. M. Estes and Rev. B. M. Smith, D. D., at large.

Your Committee recommend that the vacancies occasioned by these resignations be filled by the following appointments, viz:

Rev. C. A. Stillman, D. D., Synod of Alabama; Rev. Wm. S. Plumer, D. D., Synod of South Carolina; Rev. S. A. King, Synod of Texas; Rev. J. W. Lupton, Synod of Nashville; Rev. John W. Neel, Synod of Texas; Rev. H. Merrill, Synod of Arkansas; Rev. T. A. Hoyt, Synod of Nashville; Rev. J. Leighton Wilson, D. D., Synod of South Carolina; Rev. Robert Irvine, D. D., Synod of Georgia; Rev. Wm. Brown, D. D., at large.

Your Committee further recommend that the Delegates to the General Council of the Presbyterian Alliance from the Presbyterian Church in the United States be accredited to the former body by Commissions duly issued by the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

JAS. K. HAZEN, Chairman.

The Standing Committee on Systematic Benevolence made a report, through its chairman, the Rev. Dr. Campbell, which was adopted, and is as follows:

REPORT ON SYSTEMATIC BENEVOLENCE.

Your Committee on Systematic Benevolence would respectfully report to the General Assembly that, of the 63 Presbyteries under its care, 51 have transmitted statistical reports for the ecclesiastical year now ending, as compared with 46 last year. This small increase is gratifying, and inspires the hope for next year of a larger, if not a general compliance with the order of the General Assembly. Of these reports 5, viz., those of Greenbrier, Charleston, New Orleans, Cherokee and Chickasaw, are informal and incomplete, and are not available for the purpose of this report, leaving but 46 from which your Committee could prepare an approximate estimate of the systematic beneficence of the entire Church.

The names of the delinquent Presbyteries which have sent up no reports are here inserted as required by the last Assembly: Harmony, Central Ohio, Sao Paulo, Tombeckbee, Indian, Fayetteville, Louisville, Muhlenberg, Transylvania, Memphis, North Alabama and North

Mississippi.

Three of the seven Presbyteries of the Synod of Kentucky report that 41 churches have contributed to Sustentation \$1,036; 36 to Evangelistic Fund, \$643; 31 to Invalid Fund, \$478; 36 to Foreign Missions,

\$2,573; 40 to Education, \$948, and 40 to Publication, \$582.

Of the 136 churches of this Synod, 24 have given contributions to the six schemes of the Church, 6 to five, 8 to four, 1 to three, 1 to two, 3 to one, and 13 to none, leaving 80 churches from which no report has been received.

Of the six Presbyteries of the Synod of Georgia, five have sent up complete reports, showing that 83 churches have given to the cause of Sustentation \$3,927; 62 to Evangelistic Fund, \$723; 53 to Invalid Fund, \$652; 72 to Foreign Missions, \$2,301; 59 to Education, \$1,526, and 48 to Publication, \$565.

Of 169 churches, 42 have given to all six objects, 7 to five, 18 to four,

14 to three, 15 to two, 10 to one, and 50 to none.

Two of the three Presbyteries composing the Synod of Arkansas report that 43 churches have contributed to Sustentation \$524; 28 to Evangelistic Fund, \$142; 29 to Invalid Fund, \$162; 37 to Foreign Missions, \$791; 39 to Education, \$756, and 32 to Publication, \$225.

And of the 82 churches, 19 have contributed to all the schemes, 6 to five, 6 to four, 4 to three, 6 to two, 2 to one, and 27 to none.

The four Presbyteries of the Synod of Texas report that 81 churches have given to Sustentation \$858; 78 to Evangelistic Fund, \$1,005; 46 to Invalid Fund, \$317; 52 to Foreign Missions, \$698; 68 to Education, \$710, and 52 to Publication, \$405.

Of 124 churches, 36 contributed to all the schemes, 15 to five, 16 to

four, 26 to three, 24 to two, 46 to one, and 21 to none.

The four Presbyteries of the Synod of South Carolina report that 55 churches gave to Sustentation \$449; 28 to Evangelistic Fund, \$183; 47 to Invalid Fund, \$315; 55 to Foreign Missions, \$1,191; 54 to Education, \$941, and 34 to Publication, \$186. Of the 156 churches, 17 have given to all the schemes, 12 to five, 14

to four, 7 to three, 6 to two, 4 to one, and 23 to none.

The three Presbyteries of the Synod of Alabama, report 69 churches contributed to Sustentation, \$1,898; 59 to Evangelistic Fund, \$598; 59 to Invalid Fund, \$941; 63 to Foreign Missions, \$2,307; 58 to Education, **1,5**04, and 55 to Publication, \$421.

Of 113 churches, 52 have contributed to all, 11 to five, 8 to four, 7 to

three, 4 to two, 2 to one, and 44 to none.

Four of the six Presbyteries of the Synod of Mississippi report that 48 churches contributed to Sustentation, \$418; 39 to Evangelistic Fund, \$566; 32 to Invalid Fund, \$727; 42 to Foreign Missions, \$617; 52 to Education, \$463, and 33 to Publication, \$499.

Of the 162 churches, 20 have contributed to all, 21 to five, 7 to four,

8 to three, 8 to two, 10 to one, and 19 to none

Four of the five Presbyteries of the Synod of North Carolina report that 106 churches have contributed to Sustentation, \$2,248; 85 to Evangelistic Fund, \$1,581; 92 to Invalid Fund, \$528; 100 to Foreign Missions, \$2,759; 92 to Education, \$2,441, and to Publication, \$629.

Of the 213 churches, 70 have contributed to all, 15 to five, 9 to four,

7 to three, 7 to two, 5 to one, and 23 to none.

Only one complete report from the five Presbyteries of the Synod of Memphis has been received, showing that 15 churches have given to Sustentation, \$323; 3 to Evangelistic Fund, \$33; 11 to Invalid Fund, \$91; 10 to Foreign Missions, \$138; 13 to Education, \$355, and 5 to Publication, \$40.

Of the 140 churches, 1 has contributed to six objects, 4 to five, 6 to

Of the 140 churches, 1 has contributed to six objects, 4 to five, 6 to four, 3 to three, 2 to one, and 14 to none

The four Presbyteries of the Synod of Nashville report that 55 churches have contributed to Sustentation, \$10,323; 54 to Evangelistic Fund, 8546; 54 to Invalid Fund, 8703; 68 to Foreign Missions, \$2,017; 70 to Education, \$3,262, and 58 to Publication, \$399.

Of the 114 [churches, 24 have contributed to six, 11 to five, 14 to four, 21 to three, 24 to two, 27 to one, and 22 to none.

Nine of the Presbyteries of the Synod of Virginia report that 205 churches have given to Sustentation, \$3,719; 170 to Evangelistic Fund, \$3,135; 170 to Invalid Fund, \$2,618; 197 to Foreign Missions, \$19,559; 178 to Education, \$16,484, and 178 to Publication, \$4,763.

Of the 270 churches, 138 have contributed to all, 26 to five, 15 to four, 16 to three, 12 to two, 14 to one, and 20 to none

All the six Presbyteries of the Synod of Missouri report that 68 churches have contributed to Sustentation, \$1,028; 51 to Evangelistic Fund, \$436;

have contributed to Sustentation, \$1,028; 51 to Evangelistic Fund, \$436; 24 to Invalid Fund, \$261; 44 to Foreign Missions, \$957; 55 to Education, \$1,191, and 36 to Publication, \$306. Of the 141 churches, 10 contributed to all six objects, 10 to five, 16 to

four, 19 to three, 14 to two, 14 to one, and 54 to none.

The total beneficence of the church as reported to your Committee, shows that 807 churches have contributed to the cause of Sustentation, \$26,781; 690 to Evangelistic Fund, \$9,891; 648 churches to Invalid Fund, \$7,801; 776 to Foreign Missions, \$35,898; 778 to Education, \$30,582, and 663 to Publication, \$9,020.

Of the 1,820 churches within the bounds of the Assembly, 453 contributed to all six schemes, 144 to five, 138 to four, 133 to three, 121 to

two, 139 to one, and 330 to none.

1,128 churches are reported to have contributed this year, as com-

pared with 1,100 last year.

A few Presbyteries have reported compliance with the injunction of the Assembly of last year, requiring Churches which failed to take up collections, to assign reasons in writing for such failure.

We would respectfully recommend to the General Assembly the readoption of the resolutions, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, appended to the report of last year, as found in the minutes of Assembly, pages 224 and 225, and are as follows:

1. This court solemnly enjoins upon all pastors and other supplies their obligation to expound fully to the people the duty and privilege of giving to Christ of their substance as God has prospered them.

2. This court enjoins upon all its constituent Presbyteries to include

this branch of ministerial duty in their stated conferences upon the

tate of religion in their bounds.

3. This court solemnly enjoins its constituent Presbyteries to require Church Sessions to send up reports in writing in case of their failure to comply with the injunction of Presbytery, the reason for such failure; and the Presbytery shall pass judgment upon said reports. And the Presbytery shall report back to the Assembly as part of their Annual Report on Systematic Benevolence, whether they have complied with this injunction.

4. As a part of the duty of the Standing Committee on Systematic Benevolence, it shall ascertain from the reports sent up on this subject how far the Presbyteries have complied, and report the same to the

General Assembly.

It is further made the duty of the Assembly's Stated Clerk to enter upon the docket, as an item of business, the calling upon Commissioners from Presbyteries reported delinquent by the Standing Committee, for reasons of such delinquency.

5. This court solemnly enjoins upon its constituent Presbyteries to require their Stated Clerks to furnish every church, vacant or otherwise, with printed blanks, at least six weeks before their Spring meeting, and at the same time press the injunctions of this court upon their attention, in order that no excuse may remain for non-compliance with the same.

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

The unfinished business of yesterday, viz: the overture relating to theological education, was taken up, and, after considerable discussion, its consideration was suspended to introduce the following paper offered by the Rev. Dr. Adger, which was adopted and ordered to be sent under official authority by telegraph:

[Telegram Forwarded to General Assembly North.]

NEW ORLEANS, May 22, 1877.

To the Rev. Edwin F. Hatfield, Stated Clerk of General Assembly at Chicago, Illinois:

This Assembly has adopted, by 109 to 4, a paper which recites the action of our St. Louis and Savannah Assemblies, and also refers to communications received from your Assembly at our present sessions. It concludes with the expression of our dissatisfaction with this last named paper, because it contains no reference whatever to the main part of the paper sent to Brooklyn from Savannah, and it declares that this Assembly can add nothing to our action at St. Louis approving the ground taken by our Committee at Baltimore, which approval the Assembly reaffirmed at Savannah. The paper adopted here concludes thus: If our brethren of the Northern Church can meet us on these terms, which truth and righteousness seem to us to require, then we are ready to establish such relations with them during the present sessions of the Assemblies. Our letter has gone on by mail.

[OFFICIAL.]

JOSEPH R. WILSON, Stated Clerk.

The unfinished business was resumed, when the paper presented by the Committee on Bills and Overtures having been amended, was adopted, and is as follows:

OVERTURE No. 13, from the Presbytery of New Orleans, asking the Assembly not to take action at this meeting on the report and resolutions on theological education presented to the last Assembly, and referred for consideration to this Assembly on pages 272–278 of the Minutes for 1876, on the allegation that the paper contained suggestions, which appear too undigested, and the resolutions proposed by the Assembly are too vague—It proposes the farther postponement of the subject, and its reference to the same or another Committee.

Your Committee recommend that the Assembly do now proceed to consider this subject, and presents herewith a paper, setting forth in more detail and definite propositions, the topics comprehensively presented in 1, 2 and 3, page 278, Minutes 1876, for the consideration

of this Assembly.

This General Assembly, in view of the suggestions of the report on theological education, referred to it by the Assembly of 1876, respecting the desirableness of sundry modifications in our methods of training candidates for the ministry, hereby solemnly recommends to the Presbyteries and to the Theological Seminaries under its care to take order,

in their respective spheres of service in such training, for carrying

forward that training in the methods herein commended.

I. I. The Presbyteries shall observe with increased strictness the provisions of our Form of Government, Ch. xiv., sections iii.-vi., and, to avoid precipitate action in the licensing of candidates, they shall be required to pass through a probation of at least one year, involving an attendance on, at least, two meetings of Presbytery, at each of which a portion of their examinations shall be held. The examination of candidates in the Seminary shall in no case supersede the examination by Presbytery.

2. Every candidate, except as regarded as an "extraordinary case," F. of G. xiv.-vi., shall be required to prosecute satisfactorily the scholastic course prescribed in the Form of Government, and, at the discretion of Presbytery, exhibit any other evidences of piety, literature,

and aptness to teach, which may be required by Presbytery.

3. To improve candidates in "aptness to teach," the Presbyteries are advised to provide opportunities for such as need additional advantages for that purpose, by granting them permission for a limited period and prescribed field of labors, to conduct public religious ser-vices involving the exposition of the Scriptures, and provide for the adequate superintendence of such candidates, and for a reasonable compensation for their services, and no candidate shall assume such privileges except by leave of Presbytery.

Candidates whose residences are at an inconvenient distance from a Seminary for a properly frequent attendance on Presbyteries, may be temporarily placed under the care of some Presbytery more convenient to the Seminary, but ordinarily such candidates shall be required to pass their final examinations and receive licensure by the

Presbytery under whose care they had been first taken.

The Seminaries are advised so to arrange their programme of study that candidates may abridge or extend the time of scholastic study, according to previous preparation and ability for its successful prosecution. But in no case shall such programme lessen the requisitions of our Form of Government.

In no case, except under the authority of Presbytery, shall a candidate be allowed to pass to a higher grade of study till he shall have sustained a satisfactory examination on the studies of the grade

preceding.

The authorities of the Seminaries shall annually report to the Presbyteries with which candidates may be connected, by a formal relation or by residence, their scholastic progress, and whatever else

respecting their merit the Presbyteries may request.
4. They shall also provide a course of "vacation study," of such a character that they can be successfully prosecuted in private, and on which the student shall pass a satisfactory examination. This provision is designed to meet the wishes of candidates who, in the judgment of their Presbyteries, ought to complete the prescribed course of study in a less period than three years, either to enter on the work of the ministry or to spend an additional year in prosecuting such a post graduate course of study as the Faculty of the Seminaries may prescribe.

In adopting this report, the General Assembly distinctly disclaims any purpose to exercise any right not clearly given by the Constitution, or to restrict in the slightest degree the rights of the Presbyteries in the premises. report is advisory only.

It was ordered that the report of the Standing Committee on Sustentation be presented to-morrow night at 8 o'clock.

The Assembly then took a recess until 8 o'clock, P. M.

TUESDAY NIGHT, 8 o'clock.

The Assembly met and was opened with devotional exercises.

The report of the Standing Committee on Foreign Missions, with accompanying resolutions, was read by the Chairman, Rev. Dr. Houston, after which addresses were made and a collection 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 examined, with due care, the report of the Executive

Committee, their minutes and accompanying documents.

Committee, their minutes and accompanying documents.

They rejoice to say that there is much ground for congratulation in the facts set forth, and comparatively little for regret. It is true that the death of one highly esteemed and promising young laborer is reported, that two others have suffered in some degree from ill-health, and that one excellent brother has been compelled, from the same cause, to abandon altogether his work as a missionary, without any hope of ever resuming it; yet He who holds the stars in His right hand has so ordered it, and however mysterious to us it may seem to have been, it is wisest and best to have been ordered thus. The tokens of God's grazions favor, however, have been evident, and in some instances been, it is wisest and best to have been ordered thus. The tokens of God's gracious favor, however, have been evident, and in some instances of a somewhat remarkable character, much to the encouragement of our beloved brethren and sisters in the field and those who sustain them. We rejoice to believe, also, that there is a growing spirit of liberality in not a few of our churches; that the female members of the Church are co-operating in many places with a most commendable spirit; and that the lambs of the flock, in pleasing numbers, are being trained in their early years to take the place of their fathers and mothers in carrying forward this blessed enterprise of benevolence and christian duty. christian duty.

Still the harvest is very, very great, and the laborers are very, very few. The question to be solved is not where shall the sickle be thrust few. The question to be solved is not where shall the sickle be thrust in? or where shall laborers be found to enter the field? (they have offered themselves in growing numbers, in answer, as we believe, to prayer), but where, oh how, shall we obtain the means to send these forth? Cannot some plan be devised for the purpose of bringing into exercise the great strength of the Church in this regard? Our aggressive movement on the realm of sin and against the mighty hosts of Satan must inevitably fail without "the sinews of war." No effect was ever produced without an adequate cause. The cause operating here is not adequate to produce the desired or expected effect. Our Executive Committee, therefore, is far more anxious and far more embarrassed just here than in respect to any other matter claiming their barrassed just here than in respect to any other matter claiming their

attention.

The financial department, however, of the Executive Committee has been managed with consummate fidelity and skill, so that we can congratulate the Assembly in the fact reported that the burdensome indebtedness of the Church has been so diminished as to give painful anxiety no more, either to the missionary in the field or the christian at home.

The Manual submitted for the action of the Assembly, designed for the use of the missionaries and missionary candidates, has engaged the careful attention of your Standing Committee also, and is commended to the approval and adoption of the Assembly.

The Committee cannot close their report without reminding the

Assembly that no missionaries have been sent out for two years—that the number in the field has been considerably reduced by untoward causes-that contributions to the cause of Foreign Missions, during the past year fell \$8,150 short of the contributions for the year before—that there were 766 churches which gave nothing at all to the missionary cause, and that the women and children of the Church gave nearly half as much as all the churches which did contribute; therefore, there are weighty considerations for a special and speedy effort to be made, for the purpose of enabling your Executive Committee to send forth those candidates for the work of missions who have offered their services. The loud calls from Mexico, Brazil and China especially should not be treated with neglect.

Your Committee therefore in view of the considerations thus reported, recommend to this General Assembly, for their adoption, the

following resolutions, viz:—

Resolved 1. That it be enjoined on all the Presbyteries to require each. Pastor and Stated Supply, at the commencement of every ecclesiastical year, to preach an instructive, faithful sermon on the great duty of sending the gospel to the unevaugelized nations of the earth, and while the impression of responsibility rests upon them, adopt some plan, which in their estimation may prove most successful, towards augmenting the gifts of the people; and determine, through help from on high, that the plan shall be executed.

Resolved 2. That while the Assembly rejoices in the rapid multi-plication of Ladies' Missionary Societies, and would not by any means discourage their increase, yet a tendency manifested by some churches, to have the ladies contribute alone, or to appear as the only contributors of the church, would seem to be attended with the evil effect of a failure to cultivate that spirit of benevolent liberality, in all the mem-

bers of the church which is inculcated in the gospel.

Resolved 3. That the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions, for

the ensuing year, shall consist of the following persons, viz:

Rev. Jno. Leighton Wilson, D. D., Secretary; Rev. Rich'd McIlwaine,
D. D., Co-ordinate Secretary and Treasurer; Rev. J. G. Hanmer, D. D., Rev. Jno. Leyburn, D. D., Rev. J. J. Bullock, D. D., Rev. J. A. Lefevre, D. D., Rev. W. U. Murkland, D. D., Hon. J. A. Inglis, C. F. McCay, Esq., J. Harman Brown, Esq., G. Ober, Esq., J. L. Wecks, Esq., G. F. Anderson, Esq.

All which is respectfully submitted for the Committee,

SAML. R. HOUSTON, Chairman.

After further religious exercises, the Assembly adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Wednesday Morning, May 23, 9 o'clock.

The Assembly met and engaged in religious services. The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported Overture No. 12, the consideration of which, after some discussion, was suspended to take up the order of the day, when the Rev. Dr. Howe, from the Standing Committee, presented its report on Education, which was adopted, and is as follows:

The Standing Committee on Education, appointed to report on the matters entrusted to the Assembly's Executive Committee, find that the duties of this Committee have been wisely discharged, and as successfully as the means furnished them by the Church would admit. There has been a small increase the last year in the number of contributing courches, yet the amount contributed, as a whole, has been less by \$1,267 than during the year preceding. This has arisen, in part, from the depressed condition of our Southern people in financial affairs, and in part from the fact that some few of the Presbytcries that before co-operated with the Committee, are now providing independently for the education of their candidates.

The debt of the Committee, on the 30th of April, 1876, amounted to \$4,473. Upon this debt the sum of \$2,684 has been paid since the last report, reducing the debt to \$1,789. This debt is owed to former beneficiaries of the Committee, but not a cent is due on the appropriations

of the last year.

The ability of the Committee to reduce the debt, (thus far,) and to meet its obligations for the past year, has arisen from the fact that the expenses of the Committee have been less, and that the appropriations to students in colleges and seminaries have been diminished in amount for the present, a necessity which we have reason to believe will not exist beyond the present year, and need not exist so long, if the churches will come to the Committee's aid at once, up to the measure of their

ability and duty.

If all our Presbyteries would imitate the example of the Presbytery of Brazos, the only one of all in which every church has made a remittance to the Committee during the year, this indebtedness would never occur again. Nor will it occur if the co-operating Presbyteries will impress their churches with the necessity of contributing to this cause punctually and liberally. It is important that all should cooperate, the stronger assisting the weaker, thus bearing one another's burden and so fulfilling the laws of Christ. Some of the Presbyteries that have withdrawn, have not done as well by their candidates in their independent action as before. Those which recommend candidates to the Committee for aid should especially contribute liberally and not devolve the whole or the main support of them on others.

The actual number of candidates on the funds of the Committee is less by 17 than in the preceding year. This is accounted for by the fact that two Presbyteries have withdrawn, which have a large number of candidates, and some, we fear, have been deterred from applying by the known embarrassments of the Committee, and have abandoned the idea of entering the ministry from want of the means of pursuing the

required course of study.

Your Committee, in view of the whole subject, would recommend

the adoption by the Assembly of the following resolutions:

1. Resolved, That the Presbyteries be requested to report to the Secretary, immediately after their meeting, the names of the candidates and their places of study who are to receive aid, that it may be known to the Committee what amount is needed to meet their wants for the

current year.

2. Resolved. That the attention of the Church is hereby directed to the the report of Dr. Stratton on Beneficiary Education, appended to the Minutes of the General Assembly of 1876, for information on that important subject. And your Committee would further suggest that said report be published in such form and numbers as may allow of its general circulation.

3. Resolved, That the attention of the churches be directed to the Institution for the education of the colored candidates for the ministry, under the care of Dr. Stillman and Prof. A. F. Dickson, and that they

be called upon to aid generously in its support.

4. Resolved, That the attention of this Assembly is directed to a resolution found in connection with the Constitution of the Executive

Committee of Education, as follows:

"If any Presbytery should insist upon managing the funds collected within its bounds, as well as all other parts of the work of Education, the Assembly will not enjoin upon such Presbyteries to send all the moneys raised to the Treasury of the Central Committee. *Provided*, That a collection shall be taken in all its churches for the work committed to this Committee." (See Minutes of the Assembly at Memphis in 1866.) [The Assembly would again bring this provision to the notice of the Presbyteries.]

of the Presbyteries.]
5. Resolved, That in view of the apparently diminished number of candidates for the ministry, the Church be called upon to pray continually to the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth more laborers into his harvest, and that, to this end, the day of prayer, the last Thursday in February, be observed throughout our bounds.

The following persons are recommended as members of the Executive Committee, to serve for the ensuing year: J. N. Waddell, D. D. LL. D., Secretary; G. W. MacRae, Esq., Treasurer; Rev. A. H. Kerr, D. D., Rev. R. E. Evans, Rev. Wm. E. Boggs, D. D., Rev. John S. Park, Rev. Eugene Daniel, B. M. Estes, Esq., M. P. Jarnagin, Esq., A. F. Dod, Esq., James Elder, Esq.

The unfinished business (Overture No. 12) was resumed, whereupon the following paper was adopted:

Overture No. 12, from Ouachita Presbytery, requesting the use of some other letters than S. S. to designate those ministers who have charge of churches, but are not pastors.

The Assembly, on consideration, deem it best to decline making any change in the matter referred to.

Also,

Overture No. 17 was presented from the Presbytery of Florida, asking the erection of a "Synod of Florida," under certain conditions.

The Assembly declines granting the request of the overture for want of satisfactory information in the premises, and recommends to the Presbytery of Florida to make known their wishes to the Synods of Georgia and Alabama, and then prosecute or decline to prosecute the effort to procure the erection of a Synod according to the result of such application to the Synods of Georgia and Alabama. Adopted.

Also,

Overture No. 18, from Rev. J. W. Kerr and others of the Presbytery of Quachita, complaining of the action of the General Assembly of 1875, pages 40 and 41, as extra constitutional and practically, in some hands, offensive and alienating.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures recommend this reply. The action complained of evidently arises from a misapprehension of the purpose of said action, which simply provides for inquiring of church courts respecting their diligence in affording the people opportunities for contributing to our schemes of benevolence. Adopted.

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

The Auditing Committee beg leave to report that they have carefully examined the books and accounts of the Treasurer and Secretary of Education, and after much trouble, by comparing the two accounts, find them both correct, and the balance in the Treasury correctly

stated at five hundred and forty-six dollars and seven cents (\$546-07), The Secretary's account is clearly and plainly stated, and the dis-

bursements sustained by proper vouchers.

The Treasurer's accounts are faulty in several particulars. The Auditing Committee of last year found errors against the Treasurer amounting to \$303-10. This sum should have appeared in this year's account, as a distinct item, next after the apparent balance of \$520-21 of last year; instead of which it is credited as part of the receipts of May and June, thus making the receipts of the churches appear to be, for the year, \$13,077-99, instead of \$12,774-89.

A number of the disbursements of the Treasurer are not sustained

by vouchers, and but for the presence of the Secretary and his account, in which these receipts from the Treasurer were acknowledged, your Committee would have been obliged to throw them out. In some cases the Treasurer filed as youchers cancelled checks drawn by himself on his bank, payable to bearer, not endorsed by anybody, and, of course,

not vouchers.

Your Committee regret the necessity of making these criticisms, and of calling the attention of the Treasurer to the importance of having vouchers of his own for every payment.

Respectfully submitted,

L. CHARLES INGLIS, JAMES SORLEY, JOHN A. MINNIECE,

The Judicial Committee presented a report, which was ceived. Ruling Elder, I. M. Veitch, a member of the Committee, presented a minority report. Whereupon it was moved that said minority report be adopted. This motion, after discussion, was rejected. The ayes and noes having been called, they are as follows:

AYES.—G. W. Blatterman, J. C. Graham, A. H. Barkley, I. M. Veitch, E. H. Carter, S. W. Watkins-6

Veitch, E. H. Carter, S. W. Watkins—6

Noes.—J. K. Hazen, F. L. Ewing, C. A. Stillman, J. Grier, D. C. Anderson, S. H. Sprott, T. R. Welch, F. M. Howell, J. P. Coffin, J. W. Hannah, F. McMurray, J. Woodrow, J. E. Jones, W. H. Dodge, J. T. McBryde, J. W. Montgomery, F. D. McConnell, J. A. Billups, W. J. Manly, S. W. Wilson, J. W. Wheatley, J. O. Varnedoe, E. W. Bedinger, W. J. Lowry, S. M. Neel, W. D. Morton, E. O. Guerrant, J. W. Aikin, T. Sanders, J. W. McPherson, J. R. Hughes, I. C. Vanmeter, J. H. Gaillard, E. Daniel, J. S. Frierson, B. M. Farris, T. A. Currie, F. W. Merrin, J. L. H. Tomlin, J. R. Gilland, J. Stratton, C. W. Grafton, A. R. Banks, W. H. Simpson, S. P. Greves, J. Carson, E. S. Keep, T. H. Morris, J. A. Minniece, B. H. Charles, L. Baier, G. W. Harlan, E. H. Rutherford, G. C. Heard, J. T. Brown, W. H. Claggett, J. A. Carson, C. Foster Williams, J. R. King, T. H. McCallie, A. Cowan, T. Frierson, C. R. Vance, J. A. Caldwell, D. N. Kennedy, J. H. Thornwell, W. S. Lacy, W. H. Davis, H. H. Banks, L. C. Vass, D. E. Jordan, S. H. Isler, R. L. Beall, J. P. Hodges, W. L. T. Prince, J. P. Alexander, Geo. Allen, L. B. Spencer, B. G. Worth, T. W. Erwin, Geo. Howe, J. S. Cozby, J. B. Adger, A. P. Nicholson, W. H. Stewart, A. R. Stillman, W. D. Johnson, J. B. Fraser, A. B. Towes, Wm. Wright, W. H. Vernor, A. J. Loughridge, W. N. Dickey, W. E. Caldwell, L. C. Reed, E. H. Barnett, J. T. Cannon, I. Hudson, L. C. Inglis, S. R. Houston, J. W. Rosebro, R. R. Houston, J. T. Watkins, B. M. Smith, G. W. Finley, J. Mann, J. L. Campbell, W. M. McAllister, G. P. Terrill, T. S. Henry, L. R. Railey, Geo. Glass—112.

The adoption of the report of the Committee was then

moved, and was carried, one vote only dissenting. The report is as follows:

The Judicial Committee, to which was referred the complaint of the Rev. Dr. S. J. Baird, touching the action of the Presbytery of East

Rev. Dr. S. J. Baird, touching the action of the Presbytery of East Hanover, with the accompany papers, beg leave to report:
That in a statement made to the Committee, by the complainant, he admitted that he caused to be published in a recent number of the Richmond Dispatch a letter written by the Rev. Dr. E. T. Baird, from which, and the Record of the proceedings of the said Presbytery, it appears that the subject matter and the person named in said proceedings and in the complaint are the same: that the Rev. Dr. E. T. Baird has taken an appeal from the action of the Presbytery of East Hanover to the next superior Judicatory, the Synod of Virginia, and that the matter of the appeal and of the complaint raise the same questions and refer to the same cause and the same person. refer to the same cause and the same person.

In the opinion of the Committee, it is not proper for the General Assembly to take jurisdiction of the matter of a complaint, while the same cause, embracing the same matter, is pending in another judicatory, which has jurisdiction, by appeal, at the instance of the person aggrieved. Wherefore, the Committee recommend that the complaint

be referred to the Synod of Virginia.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. Woodrow, Chairman.

It was made the first order of the day for to morrow to hear the report of the Committee on the Book of Church Order.

A recess was then taken until 8 o'clock P. M.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT, 8 o'clock.

The Assembly met after recess, and after preliminary religious exercises, the report of the Standing Committee on Sustentation was read by the chairman, the Rev. Dr. Rutherford. Addresses were delivered, after which the subject of the Committee's report was made the second order of the day for to-morrow.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock; closed with prayer by the Rev. A. A. Morse, and the apostolic benediction.

THURSDAY MORNING, May 24, 9 o'clock.

The Assembly met and engaged in religious exercises. The minutes of yesterday morning were read and approved.

The order of the day was taken up, when the Rev. Dr. Armstrong, Chairman of the Committee, presented a report concerning the Book of Church Order. After a full consideration of the subject, but before a final disposal of the report, it was resolved that the whole matter be recommitted to the same Committee to prepare an overture to be sent down to the Presbyteries, which shall distinctly state what this Assembly has done and what it requires the Presbyte-The report of the Committee, as amended, and ries to do. finally adopted, is as follows:

The Committee to whom was referred the reports of the Presbyteries to the overture of the last General Assembly, submitting to them the

Revised Book of Church Order, report:

What answers have been received are mostly official—a few, the reports of commissioners to this Assembly respecting the action of their several Presbyteries—from all the sixty-three Presbyteries on the roll of the Assembly, except the Presbytery of Indian and the two small Presbyteries of Central Ohio and Sao Paulo, in Brazil.

An examination of these answers shows that twenty-five Presbyteries have adopted the Revised Book as it now stands, leaving thirtyfive that have not adopted. But of this thirty-five twenty express approval of the Revised Book in the main, and ask that the work of revision be continued; whilst two only ask that the work may stop. It will be remembered that the last General Assembly sent down the Book, not specifically for adoption or rejection, but for the action of the Presbyteries, without specifying what the nature of that action should be; your committee, therefore, would report that the action of the Presbyteries, by an overwhelming majority, is in favor of prosecuting the work of revision, and upon the basis of the present revised Book. How shall this work be done? The Presbyteries have suggested two plans:

 That the General Assembly shall call a convention, to meet at some central point, at some suitable season during the coming year, to whom the whole matter shall be committed, that they may, if possible, perfect a Book of Church Order on the basis of the present Revised Book, to be sent down for adoption or rejection by the Presbyteries

before the meeting of the next Assembly.

2. That the work be carried forward under the auspices of the Assembly, as follows, viz: (1.) That certain articles in the Book upon which there is known to be a difference of opinion in the Church, such as that providing for the demission of the ministry, and that determining who shall vote in the election of pastor, shall be submitted to a distinct and separate vote in the Presbyteries. (2.) That this Assembly amend the Revised Book in certain particulars in which the reports of the Presbyteries seem to indicate a general desire for amendment, and then send down the Book, as thus amended, for the adoption or rejection of

the Presbyteries.

The last mentioned plan, in substance, is that which your committee would recommend to the Assembly, not only because it avoids the large expense in time and money, which is necessarily involved in the other, but especially because it is thoroughly Presbyterian in its spirit, and provides that the questions of real difficulty shall be decided by the Presbyteries themselves, the proper bodies to decide such questions. We make this recommendation the more confidently because a careful examination of the answers—some of them very voluminous—sent up by the Presbyteries to this Assembly has disclosed the fact that outside the six or seven points proposed to be submitted to the direct vote of the Presbyteries, there is really very little difference of opinion in our Church. Nine-tenths of the amendments suggested by the Presbyteries are mere verbal amendments, affecting not the doctrine but the style of the Book, and the consideration of them, we think, can be provided for in a way which would secure the best possible result in the end without occupying the time of this Assembly.

First Recommendation.

Your committee, for these reasons, recommend, first, that this Assembly consider certain articles proposed to be submitted to the Presbyteries, to be separately voted upon by them, as follows, viz:

I. Chapter 5, section 4, article 2, Form of Government, restricting the right to vote in Presbytery in certain cases.

II. Chapter 5, section 7, Form of Government, of Ecclesiastical

Commissions.

III. Chapter 6, section 3, article 4, Form of Government, Electors of Pastors.

(1.) This article as it stands in the Revised "Book of Church Order,"

printed at Richmond in 1876.

(2.) The article as adopted by the General Assembly at Memphis, viz: All communicating members of the Church, in good and regular standing, but no others, are entitled to vote in election of church officers in the churches to which they are respectively attached. In the election of a pastor, when a majority of the electors east their votes for a candidate, he shall be considered elected; but a separate vote may also be taken of the non-communicating adult members of the church who are regular in their attendance on the common ordinances in that congregation, and all other persons who regularly contribute to the support of the pastor, in order to be laid before the Presbytery as a representation of their desires in the premises.

(3.) All communicating members of the church in good and regular standing, but no others, are entitled to vote in the election of pastors, ruling elders and deacons; and when a majority of the electors cast their votes for a person for either of these offices, he shall be considered

elected.

IV. Chapter 10, section 4, article 5, Form of Government—The examination rule, viz: Ministers seeking admission to a Presbytery are to be examined on experimental religion, and also as touching their views in theology and church government.

V. Chapter 12, article 1, Book of Discipline—Judgment without pro-

VI. Chapter 12, article 2, Book of Discipline—Transfer, in certain circumstances, of a member from the class of communicating members to that of non-communicants.

VII. Chapter 12, article 3, Book of Discipline—Demission of the

ministry.

Second Recommendation.

2. That the Assembly consider the following amendments to the Revised Book:

FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

1. Chapter 4, section 2, article 1, strike out: As he is commissioned and sent forth by the Church on his errand of mercy and love, he is termed "missionary."

II. Chapter 4, section 2—Add as article 6—article 6 taking the number of article 7: When a minister is called to labor through the press, or in any other needful work, it shall be incumbent on him to make full proof of his ministry by disseminating the Gospel for the edification of the Church.

III. Chapter 5, section 1, article 3, after "is Moderator" insert "of the session if there be one."

IV. Chapter 5, section 3, article 6, after "ruling elders" insert "and when there is no pastor it may be convened by two ruling elders."

V. Chapter 5, section 4, article 10—Substitute for the whole: "Ministers in good standing in other Presbyteries, or in any ecclesiastical body with which this Church has established correspondence, being present at any meeting of the Presbytery, may be invited to sit and deliberate as corresponding members. Also, ministers of like standing in other evangelical Churches may be invited to sit as visiting brethreu. In all these cases it is proper for the Moderator to introduce them to the Presbytery and give them the right hand of fellowship."

VI. Chapter 6, section 4, article 1, strike out "the session shall hold free conference with him, with reference to his vocation and obliga-

tion to accept the office. $^{\prime\prime}$

VII. Chapter 6, section 4, article 5, strike out "of the ceremony." VIII. Chapter 4, section 1, article 1, strike out: "It is also recommended that a fast day be observed in the church previous to the day of ordination."

IX. Chapter 8, section 1, article 1, strike out: "And formed them into one body" and substitute "and united them with the household

of God."

BOOK OF DISCIPLINE.

I. Chapter 2, article 3, for "exhibit knowledge to discern the Lord's body," substitute "give evidence of saving faith in Christ."

II. Chapter 2, article 3, strike out "and look after them as a parent

yearning over straying children."
III. Chapter 6, article 4, for "the accused" substitute "either party." IV. Chapter 6, article 3, for "except to give the accused a full copy of the charges, with the names of the witness then known to support them," substitute "except to appoint a prosecutor, and order the indictment to be drawn, a copy of which, with the names of the witnesses then known to support it, shall be served on the accused."

V. Chapter 6, article 15, after "the accused" insert "and the prose-

cutor shall close."

VI. Chapter 6, after article 16, insert a new article, as follows, viz: "Either party may for cause challenge the right of any member to sit in the trial of the case, which question shall be decided by the members of the court other than the one challenged."

VII. Chapter 9, article 3, strike out all after "charge" and insert: "Yet if, in addition to the testimony of one witness, corroborative evi-

dence may be produced, the offence may be considered to be proved."
VIII. Chapter 12, article 3, for "and he shall resume the position of a private member," substitute "and shall assign him membership in

IX. Chapter 10, article 7, strike out "and degrade from rank."
X. Chapter 13, section 3, article 7, after "the appellee" insert "and the appellant shall close."

XI. Chapter 13, section 4, article 3, after "reprehensive" insert "the complainant shall close, after which."

Third Recommendation.

3. That the Revised Book as amended by this Assembly be referred to a committee of five to revise the language and style of the same in the light of the criticisms upon those points sent up to the Assembly by the Presbyteries, and publish the same and send it down to the Presbyteries.

It was made the order for to-night, at 3 o'clock, to hear the report of the Standing Committee on Publication.

Report was made by the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, which was placed on the docket.

The second order of the day was taken up, the report of the Standing Committee on Sustentation, and after some time spent in its consideration, the Assembly took a recess until 8 o'clock to-night.

THURSDAY NIGHT, 8 o'clock.

The Assembly met, and the unfinished business was taken up, viz: the report of the Standing Committee on Sustentation. The report was adopted, and is as follows: 427

The Standing Committee on Sustentation respectfully submit to the General Assembly the following report:

Having carefully examined the report of the Sccretaries of Sustentation, with the accompanying papers, including the minutes of the Executive Committee, the accounts of expenditures, etc., we have the pleasure to say, not only that we find them all correct, but they evince the most commendable fidelity and discretion on the part of the Committee in the management of the important interests committed to their care.

This agency of the Church appeals especially to our prayerful regard and liberal support in the fact that it embraces as many as five distinct departments of our work, namely, the assistance of feeble churches in the support of their ministers, the maintenance of missionaries and evangelists, and the promotion of the work of Church extension; giving the Gospel to the large colored population which Providence has placed within our bounds; providing for the support of aged and in-firm ministers, and, finally, the establishment of a Relief Fund for the benefit of the families of deceased ministers. All of these objects are intimately related to our life as a church, and we are happy to know

that they are all very dear to the hearts of our people.

The Assembly fully recognizes the rights of the Presbyteries, and it freely accords to them the privilege of discharging their duty in the great work of Sustentation in whatever way may seem unto them best. Yet, it cannot but regard with deep solicitude the fact that any of them, and especially some of the oldest and strongest of them, are not in full co-operation with the Assembly's plan. After years of practical and successful operation, we have the pleasure to say that this plan, founded in the prayers and wisdom of the Church at large, cannot be regarded as an experiment, but hundreds of our feeble churches rescued by it from utter extinction now attest, in their increasing usefulness and prosperity, the wisdom and necessity of such a scheme. But, under God, our success in this great department of our work is largely dependent on the hearty co-operation of all our Presbyteries; and we fondly hope that those who have adopted a different method, by which they are confining their work principally or entirely to their own peculiar fields, may soon give their support to the Assembly's plan by their hearty and thorough co-operation.

Notwithstanding the monetary stringency which has prevailed throughout the land, it is gratifying to observe that there has been no greater decrease in the collections for each of these objects during the last year. And, though there has been a marked decline in the collections from the churches for the Invalid Fund, the contributions from miscellaneous sources have supplied the deficiency, so that the amount received is the same as in the last report. But, nevertheless, the sad fact remains, according to the statement of the Committee, that "a very large portion of all the churches have failed to contribute to any branch of the home work. Perhaps one-third have failed in the support of Sustentation; full one-half have given nothing to the Evangelistic work, either in general or Presbyterial; and more than one-half have not contributed to the Invalid Fund." In view of the great importance and pressing needs of these various objects, the Assembly would repeat the solemn counsel and injunctions of former Assemblies on this subject, and would lay it on the consciences of our people to contribute to the support of these objects, as the Lord may prosper them. And, in the hope of awakening a deeper interest in the cause of Sustentation and of inciting all to a greater liberality in its support, the Assembly would direct the special attention of Presbyteries and Sessions, and, through them, the attention of the Church at large, to the following significant facts contained in the report of the Executive Committee :

"A large proportion of our ministry, almost, if not quite, twothirds of them, wholly engage I in the work of the Church, are living on very inadequate salaries, and must, in many cases, have their effi-

ciency materially interfered with on this account."

2. "A large number of our ministers, amounting perhaps to two hundred, do not appear to be engaged in any fruitful ministerial work at all, or, if at all, so irregularly, that they are not reported. And this must be due, in a great measure, to the want of support."

3. "There are over one-half, probably two-thirds, of all our churches, when grouped into pastoral charges, which are unable, without assistance, to support the stated Ministry."

4. "Perhaps more than four hundred churches are at present va-

cant, because they cannot receive aid in support of the Ministry. These simple facts, together with the further fact that one hundred and sixtyone organized churches have no house of worship, ninety of which are suffering for the want of them, show at once how much is needed to be done, and how imperative is the duty resting on those who can help in this work."

The Assembly recognizes with pleasure and thanksgiving the zeal and liberality of the Ladies' Societies and Sabbath Schools in the support of the various objects of the Church, and would commend this

cause to them for a proportionate part of their contributions.

The reported progress in the colored evangelistic work is highly gratifying; and, feeling a very deep interest and a peculiar responsibility in this work, the Assembly would call on all our people to sustain it by their personal efforts, their contributions and their prayers.

Owing to the increasing demand on the Invalid Fund, the great decline in the collections from the churches for this object during the

past year, and the great obligation we are under thus to minister to those upon whom its aid is so worthily bestowed, the hope is entertained that it is only necessary to emphasize this part of the report, and thus to direct especial attention to it.

In regard to the Relief Fund, your Committee would make no additional recommendation, and would hope that as the scheme is better understood and its benefits are more fully appreciated, it may gain in

favor throughout the Church.

We recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the General Assembly expresses its perfect satisfaction with the wisdom and fidelity with which the Executive Committee of Sustentation have managed the important interests committed to their care, and commends them for the same.

Resolved, That the Presbyteries are exhorted to persevering and faithful effort to cultivate in all our churches an increasing interest in this great work by enlisting their sympathies, their gifts and their

prayers.

Your Committee recommend that the General Assembly reappoint the former Executive Committee of Sustentation for the ensuing twelve months, viz: Rev. J. Leighton Wilson, D. D., Secretary; Rev. Rich'd McIlwaine, D. D., Co-ordinate Secretary and Treasurer; Rev. J. A. Lefevre, Rev. J. J. Bullock, D. D., Rev. J. G. Hanner, D. D., Rev. John Leyburn, D. D., Rev. W. U. Murkland, D. D., J. Harman Brown, I. A. Judie G. Ober, G. F. Anderson, J. A. J. Brown, J. A. Inglis, G. Ober, G. F. Anderson, John L. Weeks, and C. F. McCay.

E. H. RUTHERFORD, Chairman.

It was made the first order of the day for to-morrow to hear the report of the Standing Committee on Theological Seminaries.

The report of the Standing Committee on Publication was presented, through its chairman, the Rev. Dr. Welch. Pending the consideration of the question of its adoption,

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

FRIDAY MORNING, May 25, 1877, 9 o'clock.

The Assembly met and engaged in devotional exercises. The minutes of Wednesday night and of yesterday were read and approved.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported on

OVERTURE No. 11, from the Presbytery of the Western District, asking the Assembly to take order for the reduction of the salaries paid to the Secretaries of the several Executive Committees. Your Committee recommend that the Presbytery be advised to present the subject to the several Executive Committees, to whose attention it primarily belongs.

The report was adopted.

The following paper was presented and ordered to be entered upon the records:

The undersigned, members of this Assembly who voted in the minority, on the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, in reply to the paper received from the Brooklyn Assembly, respectfully beg leave to record the following as our reasons for voting against

that report, viz:

1. That while we heartily concur in the ultimatum of the Baltimore Committee of our Church, we are of the opinion that the action of the Cleveland Assembly, substantially repealed by the Assembly which met in Brooklyn in 1876, effectually estops us from further action upon this subject, and that it is inconsistent with self-respect for this Assembly to continue to press this ultimatum after its distinct and repeated declinature by the Northern Assembly.

2. That the further agitation of this question tends only to detract from the spirituality of our Church.

3. We can but regard the manner in which this question was hurried to a vote, as an infringement of the privileges of the minority.

Respectfully,

W. L. T. PRINCE, H. H. BANKS, B. M. FARRIS, JAMES P. COFFIN.

The following protest was presented and ordered to be placed on record:

The undersigned respectfully requests the Assembly to record his protest against so much of its deliverance in reply to Overture No. 7, from the Presbytery of Atlanta, as relates to dancing, which protest is made for the following reasons:

1. Because the Assembly, by condemning actions as actions which may or may not involve an element of sin, weakens the force of its

own protests against real and acknowledged wrong.

2. Because, in the judgment of your protestant, this deliverance contravenes Section 2, Chapter 20 Confession of Faith, which declares that God alone is Lord of the conscience and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are in anything contrary to His Word or beside it, &c.

J. W. MONTGOMERY.

The resignation of Dr. Gordon, as a delegate to the Presbyterian Alliance, was announced, and the question of filling the vacancy was laid over for the present.

A communication from the Presbyterian Historical Society was referred to the Committee on Bills and Overtures.

The unfinished business of last night, viz: the report of the Committee on Publication, was then taken up and discussed until the time of recess.

After the recess the unfinished business was laid over to take up the report of the Committee on the Book of Church Order. This report, being amended, was adopted unanimously. (See page 424.)

The following paper, offered by Rev. Dr. Armstrong, Chairman of the Committee on the Book of Church Order, was adopted:

Overture of the General Assembly to the Presbyteries under its care, adopted at New Orleans, May 25, 1877:

The General Assembly having carefully revised the Book of Church Order, amending it in a number of particulars suggested in the papers sent up by the Presbyteries, and through its Committee corrected its language and style, it is now sent down to the Presbyteries to be acted upon, as follows, viz:

The Presbyteries are directed—

1st. To vote upon the adoption of the Book as a whole.

2nd. To take a separate and distinct vote upon the adoption of each of the following parts of the Book, viz:

- (1.) Form of Government, Chapter V, Section IV, Article II.
- (2.) Form of Government, Chapter V, Section VII.
- (3.) Form of Government, Chapter V, Section IV, Article V—The first sentence of the article.
- (4.) Form of Government, Chapter VI, Section III, Article IV—The Presbyteries will adopt one of the three forms of this article contained in the Book as now printed.
- (5.) Book of Discipline, Chapter III, Article I, and Chapter I, Article II of the present Book of Discipline, as alternative propositions, adopting one of them.
 - (6.) Book of Discipline, Chapter XII, Article I.
 - (7.) Book of Discipline, Chapter XII, Article II.
 - (8.) Book of Discipline, Chapter XII, Article III.

The Presbyteries are further directed to send up to the next General Assembly a properly authenticated record of their vote upon each of these several points.

The following persons were appointed the Committee provided for in the above paper, to prepare the Book in a form to be submitted to the Presbyteries, viz: Rev. J. B. Adger, D. D., B. M. Palmer, D. D., Geo. D. Armstrong, D. D., J. L. Marye, D. C. Anderson.

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

Resolved, That the Committee of Publication be directed to have the Book of Church Order, as now revised, printed; and as soon as practicable to send a copy to each Minister and one to the session of each church under the care of the Assembly.

It was made the order for this evening, at 8 o'clock, to receive the Rev. Benjamin Johnson, delegate from the Reformed Episcopal Church.

The unfinished business was resumed, viz: the report on Publication. It was ordered that in the further discussion of this subject, the members of the Assembly shall be limited, each to five minutes.

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

FRIDAY NIGHT, 8 o'clock.

The Assembly met. Mr. Alexander Hay was elected a delegate to the Presbyterian Alliance in the place of Dr. Gordon, who had resigned, and the Rev. Messrs. F. L. Ewing, A. Shotwell, Rutherford Douglas, J. H. Thornwell and H. H. Banks were elected as corresponding members.

A letter was received from the Rev. Wm. S. Plumer, D. D., reporting his attendance as a delegate appointed by the last Assembly to the General Synod of the Reformed Church. Also a letter from the Rev. John Douglas, reporting his attendance at the meeting of the Associate Reformed Synod of the South. These communications are as follows:

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, in session at New Orleans:

Dear Brethren: Agreeably to the appointment of the last Assem-DEAR BRETHREN: Agreeably to the appointment of the last Assembly, I attended the annual meeting of the General Synod of the Reformed Church, held at Kingston, New York. The meeting was, throughout, delightful. A large hospitality was extended by the people, and the members of the Synod showed an excellent spirit.

I shall not detain you with particulars of their action, as the Rev. Jacob Chamberlain, an eminent servant of Christ in the work of missions in India, is their delegate to your venerable body. He will lay before you fall particulars. I bespeak for him the kindest possible reception from all the brethren

reception from all the brethren.

Allow me to make two remarks, suggested by my visit to the General Synod. One is that correspondence by delegates must be far more pleasant and effective of good than any correspondence by writing could possibly be. I have no doubt the Assembly will reach this conclusion after becoming acquainted with Dr. Chamberlain. As to the expense attending our present mode of correspondence, with a little care and inquiry it may always be arranged so as to be no expense to the Church. I present no bill for any expenses.

The other is, that I there met with a delegate from the Reformed Episcopal Church.' His whole bearing and all his statements were of the most pleasing kind. I would respectfully suggest that as our Church is the older organization, it should offer a correspondence with that body. I feel very sure that it would be grateful to the feelings of the pious in both Churches. The Reformed (Protestant Dutch) Church was the first Church in this country to send delegates to the Reformed Episcopal Church. So good an example from so sound a body may be very safely followed.

Asking God's blessing on all your deliberations, I am

Very truly yours in the Lord Jesus,

WM. S. PLUMER.

FLORAL HILL, N. C., May 2, 1877.

To the Rev. Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, to meet in New Orleans May 17, 1877.

REV. AND DEAR SIR:—I respectfully report, that, in compliance with the appointment of the Assembly of last year, I attended as one of your delegates, the Synod of the Associate Reformed Church of the South, which met at Hopewell Church, Chester District, S. C., September 22, 1876. My visit among them (owing to providential circumstances,) was very brief, and I greatly regretted the absence of my colleague, I. S. K. Axson, D. D., whose presence and kind words would have contributed much to the interest of our missions and to strengthening the fraternal relations of the two bodies, already so nearly the same in doctrine and order. I was cordially greeted and hospitably entertained by their body, and respectfully heard while delivering your christian and fraternal greetings to them—which was all I felt authorized to do—and was responded to by their Moderator, in a kind and christian spirit. Our short intercourse was as pleasant every way as it well could have been. They are a noble (though small) body of christians, and in my humble opinion, it is much to be regretted a more intimate and enduring connection could not be formed betwixt them and ourselves. Not more welcome was my introduction among them, than was the warm handshaking I had with the whole body on taking leave of them.

shaking I had with the *whole body* on taking leave of them.

They appointed Rev. John Miller, D. D., of Allenton, Alabama, the (principal) delegate from their Synod, to attend our Assemby in New Orleans, 17th instant, and Rev. Calvin Pressly, Abbeville, Mississippi,

his alternate.

Very respectfully,

other documents placed in its care.

JOHN DOUGLAS.

The order for the evening was taken up, and the Rev. Benjamin Johnson, of the Reformed Episcopal Church, addressed the Assembly, bearing to it the cordial salutations and sympathy of the Church he represented. To this address the Moderator made an appropriate response.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported Overture No. 19, which was adopted, and is as follows:

Overture No. 19.—A communication from the "Presbyterian Historical Society," asking the attention of this Assembly to its claims. The Committee respectfully recommend the adoption of the following reply: The Assembly reiterates its cordial recognition of the claims of the "Presbyterian Historical Society," and earnestly commends to Presbyteries, pastors and members of our churches, all proper efforts for securing contributions of historical matter to the library of the society, and of means to promote its laudable purposes in establishing a suitable receptacle for the safe preservation of the books and

The report of the Stanling Committee on Sabbath

Schools was presented by the chairman, the Rev. L. C. Vass, and was adopted. The report is as follows:

The Standing Committee on Sabbath Schools respectfully reports to the General Assembly as follows:

The Presbyterial reports placed in our hands present the following facts:

1876—Number of Presbyteries reporting.	54
1876—Number of Presbyteries reporting	56
1876—Number of schools reported	715
	911
Increase of schools	196
1876—Total contributions	
1877— " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	31,417
Of this last aggregate the Benevolent Objects embraced	10,691
Increase of contributions for 1877	2,892
1877—Number of teachers reported	$8{,}138$ $63{,}167$
Average attendance of teachers	6.119
Average attendance of teachers	38,867
Increase of teachers	142
" scholars	1.387
Teachers added to the Church	272
66 66 66	1,604

In the above compilation are included 35 Union schools, embracing 131 teachers and 1,016 scholars, and 8 colored schools scattered through six Presbyteries, and containing 30 teachers and 535 scholars, and contributing for their own use \$96.

The following seven Presbyteries, with their 154 churches, send no reports, viz: Central Ohio, Muhlenburg, Transylvania, North Alabama, North Mississippi, Tombeekbee and Sao Paulo.

Of our 1,821 churches, only 937 make any report. Thus 884 churches,

nearly one-half of our whole number, are delinquent.

There are reported 1,196 more teachers and 8,748 more scholars on the rolls than last year. This arises chiefly from the large number of churches reporting their schools. The actual advance during the year was only 142 teachers and 1,387 scholars, which falls short of the progress made in 1876.

A very large number of the reports are lamentably deficient in statisties and general information about the Sabbath School work. In about one-third of the documents the columns of statistics were not footed up, and the labor of completing the reports of the Presbyterial Committees fell upon your Committee. Some of the reports have neither the name of the Presbytery nor the Stated Clerk, and we had to trace them by the churches named therein. Many of these serious defects seem to arise from the inexcusable failure of the Stated Clerks and Sessions to provide themselves with the proper blank forms prepared for these reports by our Committee of Publication.

Many of the churches are co-operating in union schools, which are not reported; but most of the teachers in these schools, in many cases, are Presbyterians. Complaints are made, however, that frequently the desire to have a large school has interfered with making it distinc-

tively Presbyterian.

The reports do not show that activity in Sabbath School work, and that high estimate of its great value to the Church's mission to save souls, that this grand and sanctified agency demands of all christians. Neither the *Children's Friend* nor the *Earnest Worker* are generally taken. The shorter Catechism is almost universally taught. No uni-

formity exists in the books used in teaching. Separate preaching to the children is frequent, but not general. A large number of the schools are under direct sessional control, or are attended by the elders.

It is to be lamented that the Holy Scriptures of God are not more generally memorized by the youth.

In view of the facts already recited, your Committee recommend that the Assembly adopt the following resolutions:

- I. That Presbyteries be again enjoined to use all judicious efforts to secure more faithful reports, after the regular prescribed form, from every church under their authority.
- II. The General Assembly heartily commends the increased activity manifested in several Presbyteries in the establishment of Sabbath schools for the colored people, and hereby most earnestly exhorts our Presbyteries and churches to prosecute zealously this good work wherever God opens the door.
- III. That the Presbyteries should especially emphasize and encourage the performance of the duty of affectionate and diligent training of the children of the Church to understand and contribute regularly and cheerfully to all the benevolent operations of the Church.
- IV. That we heartily commend the *Children's Friend* and the *Earnest Worker* as valuable aids in the prosecution of our Sabbath School work.
- V. That the Overture from the Presbytery of Nashville, asking for an additional line or column to the Sabbath School blank report, to inquire whether "the school is held all the year round or only during summer," be answered in the negative, as the present form seems sufficient to cover the ground.

The consideration of the unfinished business was resumed and continued until the Assembly adjourned. Adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Closed with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Hazen.

SATURDAY MORNING, May 26, 9 o'clock.

The Assembly met, and engaged in religious exercises. The minutes of yesterday were read and approved. The unfinished business of yesterday (viz: the report on Publication) was taken up, and after some progress, the subject was postponed and made the order for 12 o'clock M. this day.

A report from the Judicial Committee was presented and adopted, and is as follows:

The committee to which was referred the complaint of Rev. J. W. Canfield against certain proceedings of the Synod of Kentucky, have considered the same, and beg leave to report that the matter presented by this complaint for the revision of the Assembly arises upon a part of the judgment of the Synod of Kentucky, rendered upon the consideration of an appeal of complainant from the Presbytery of Louisville. In this complaint and in the petition which alleges the ground of complainant's appeal from the proceedings of the Presbytery of Louisville against him, many apparent grievances against the action of the Synod and of the Presbytery, and the conduct of certain members of the Presbytery, are set forth.

In the statement of this complaint and the references which it makes there is much confusion, and it is difficult to ascertain precisely the object of complainant in coming before this Assembly. This Assembly has no power to render any general relief in the premises, as complainant seems to think, nor would it be proper, in this or any other case, to

set aside the judgment of an inferior court, unless there be clear and satisfactory evidence that such judgment is erroneous, or that it ought to be reversed for some reason laid down in the Form of Government.

From an examination of the papers submitted to us, viz: the statements of the complainant and the record of the Synod of Kentucky, it appears that the Synod carefully considered all the matters at issue between the complainant and the Presbytery of Louisville; that the most material part of the sentence, and really the only matter at issue, was in favor of the complainant.

The refusal of the Synod to censure the Presbytery of Louisville was a matter entirely discretionary with the Synod, and we see nothing in

it for the Assembly to set aside or disapprove.

The committee therefore recommend that the complaint be dismissed.

All which is respectfully submitted,

J. WOODROW, Chairman.

The Auditing Committee presented the following reports, which were adopted:

The Auditing Committee beg leave to report that they have examined the report of the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the General Assembly, which report shows an expenditure during the year of \$21.20, consisting of two items, to wit: the traveling expenses of the President, amounting to \$7.40, and of the Secretary and Treasurer, amounting to \$13.80, incurred by these officers respectively in their attendance upon the sessions of the General Assembly of 1876. For these disbursements the Treasurer presents to your committee no vouchers; but as it appears from the minute book of the Board of Trustees that this report, in which these credits are claimed, was read and adopted by that Board of which the parties to whom these amounts are claimed to have been paid are members, your committee consider the fact of these payments sufficiently substantiated. They therefore report the balance in the hands of the Treasurer as correctly stated by him to be (\$62.87) sixty-two dollars and eighty-seven cents.

The report further shows that during the year the Treasurer has received from Rev. R. McIlwaine, D. D., Treasurer, (3,000) three thousand dollars of the bonds of the city of Norfolk, Va., issued on behalf of the water works of that city, making the total investment in the name of the Relief Fund (\$21,000) twenty-one thousand dollars, and that the interest on all these bonds, as it falls due, is regularly collected by the Treasurer and paid over to Dr. McIlwaine as Treasurer of Sustentation.

Respectfully submitted,

L. CHARLES INGLIS, JAMES SORLEY, JNO. A. MINNIECE,

The Auditing Committee beg leave to report that they have examined the books and accounts of the Rev. J. R. Wilson, D. D., Treasurer of the Assembly and find them correct, and as follows:

Balance on hand as per last report	\$33	64
Received from Presbyterial Assessments and on	•	
account of Commissioners' Fund\$1,498 25		
Received from sale of Minutes, 273 70	\$1,771	95
	\$1.805	50

Disbursements sustained by vouchers: Salaries of Clerks and clerk hire		
Paid Printing Minutes. Paid Postage, Express and sundries	764 - 23	1,561 13
Balance in treasury		\$244 46

Respectfully submitted,

L. CHARLES INGLIS, JAMES SORLEY,
JNO. A. MINNIECE,

The Auditing Committee have examined carefully and laboriously the books of account and vouchers of the Treasurer of the Assembly's Committee of Publication, which have been quite recently submitted to them, but have not been able, in the short period allowed them, to attain a result entirely satisfactory to themselves. The manner in which the books were kept has rendered the task of examination more difficult than it would otherwise have been, and your committee would recommend some more simple method of book-keeping to those in

charge of these trust funds of the Church.

Your Committee find the receipts, including a balance from last year of \$838-02, to be correctly stated in the Treasurer's Report at \$40,201-65. They find the amount of disbursements substantiated by vouchers, to be \$17,359-96, and that the Treasurer should have in his hands, instead of the balance of three thousand four hunded and sixty dollars and eighty-two cents, (\$3,460-82) which he places upon his report, the amount of twenty-two thousand eight hundred and forty-one dollars and seventy-two cents, (\$2,841-72) that being the difference between the above stated total receipts and the total of those disbursements sustained by yourchers as ascertained by your committee.

It is proper to state in this connection, that the accounts of the Treas-

It is proper to state in this connection, that the accounts of the Treasurer of Publication, appear to have been fully vouched when they were examined, as they appear to have been, by the Committee in Richmond, but the vouchers, except as stated, have not come into the hands of the Auditing Committee. The Committee also report that the balance due the Treasurer on account of the Publishing House, is correctly stated to be three thousand and sixteen dollars and thirty-

nine cents (\$3,016 39.)

Respectfully submitted,

ed, L. CHARLES INGLIS, JAMES SORLEY, JNO. A. MINNIECE,

The Auditing Committee also made a report pertaining to the general management of the financial affairs of all our Executive Committees, which was placed on the docket.

The report of the Standing Committee on Theological Seminaries was read by the Rev. W. N. Dickey. A minority report in relation to part iv. (viz: the Revised Constitution of Columbia Theological Seminary), was presented, and a motion was made for its adoption. This motion prevailed, upon a count of the house, by a vote of 79 to 12, which being the number required (two-thirds) in making a change in the Constitution of the Theological Seminary at Columbia, the said minority report was declared to be adopted. The further consideration of the report was then postponed for the present.

After a recess of thirty minutes, the Assembly resumed business. The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That in the conduct of the Sabbath schools, no matter what system of lessons may be used, it is earnestly enjoined upon our Church Sessions to see to it that not only the great truths of the Gospel, about which all evangelical denominations are agreed, but also the distinctive doctrines of the Presbyterian Church, are faithfully taught.

The unfinished business, viz: the report of the Committee on Theological Seminaries, was taken up, and part second, concerning Columbia Theological Seminary, and part third, concerning a Theological school for colored people at Tuskaloosa, were adopted. The remaining part, pertaining to Union Theological Seminary, and then the whole report was adopted, and is as follows:

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

L-UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

In the report of this seminary the number of students (sixty-two) is gratifying; but it is alarming to observe that the number is decreasing, seniors 26, middles 22, juniors 14. Should this descending scale continue there will soon be no supply of ministers from this beloved school of the prophets. It is also to be deprecated, that only one-half of the members of the senior class received certificates from the faculty of having completed the full course of study in the seminary, and of having passed satisfactory examinations. This arises chiefly from the commendable efforts of the authorities to elevate the standard of scholarship. But whatever be the explanation, it is to be regretted. The healthy condition of the finances, as exhibited in the report, the character and deportment of the students, the increase of the library, the excellent methods of examination, and especially the proposed instruction in elecution and sacred vocal music, are noted with great pleasure.

The Assembly would earnestly commend this institution, in all its interests, management and work, to the Church.

II.-COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

The Board of Directors and Faculty of the Theological Seminary at Columbia, South Carolina, have presented a full report, from which we

glean the following facts, viz:

During the past year there have been twenty-five students in attendance—seniors nine, middles nine, juniors seven. This number would have been larger but for the extreme financial depression throughout the entire country preventing several, who were otherwise prepared, from entering the seminary, thus delaying their further progress for a season. The students have all shown commendable zeal in the prosecution of their studies, and the utmost harmony has prevailed. The faculty have conducted the exercises of the seminary with regularity and faithfulness, the duties of the vacant professorship having been divided among the other professors.

The finances of this seminary are not in as favorable a condition as they were at the last report. Failures to pay interest due on some of the investments, and the reduced value of others, have rendered it impossible to meet the actual necessary expenses of the institution during the past year. For the immediate relief of this venerable school of

the prophets, the committee would recommend the following:

1. That the Board of Directors, by authority of the Assembly, apportion approximately, according to strength, the deficit, about \$2,500,

among the Synods not already committed to the support of Union Theological Seminary, and urge them to come to the immediate relief of its present wants.

- 2. That the Board of Directors be instructed to renew measures, if practicable, to so increase the endowment that these financial difficulties shall not again occur.
- 3. That owing to the straightened financial condition of the seminary, the existing vacancy in the faculty be not filled at present.
- 4. That the churches be urged to extend a liberal and constant support to this institution, and give to it freely, not only of their means, but their prayers, their confidence and their patronage.
- 5. That the following named members of the Board of Directors, whose term of office has expired, be re-elected, viz: Mr. Henry Muller, of Columbia; Rev. John Douglas, of Charlotte, North Carolina; Mr. James W. Bones, of Rome, Georgia; and Col. J. J. Gresham, of Macon, Georgia.

HI.-TUSKALOOSA INSTITUTE FOR COLORED MEN.

This Committee has also fully examined and considered the report of Rev. C. A. Stillman, D. D., Superintendent of the Institute for the Education of Colored Candidates for the Ministry; an overture from Tuskaloosa Presbytery in relation thereto, and other papers upon the

same subject, and would respectfully report as follows:

We rejoice to commend the fidelity, the zeal and self-sacrificing labors of Rev. C. A. Stillman, D. D., and Rev. A. F. Dickson, whom he has associated with himself, in furthering this important work. The Master only can reward them, and we are glad to believe that it is the will of God that their names shall be inscribed on the foundation stones of an institution that shall last as long as there remains a colored element in our population.

In view of the great importance of the subject, and the manifest leadings of Providence, we recommend the following action, to wit:

- 1. That an Executive Committee, to consist of a Secretary and four members, one of whom shall be, by said Committee, elected Treasurer, be now appointed, clothed with powers, and subject to restrictions in every respect similar to the other Executive Committees of the Assembly, to be called the Executive Committee for the Education of a Colored Ministry.
- 2. That this Committee shall be charged with the duty of devising and executing, in accordance with existing restrictions on other Executive Committees, all that shall be useful to establish on a permanent basis a suitable institution for the education of a colored ministry, and to do such other work as the General Assembly shall from time to time direct, for the evangelization of this element of our population.
- 3. That this Committee be located at Tuskaloosa, Alabama, and the names of the following persons are proposed to constitute said Committee, viz: Rev C. A. Stillman, D. D., Secretary; W. P. Webb, Jonathan Bliss, J. T. Searcy and R. D. Webb.
- 4. That this Executive Committee prepare, and report to the next General Assembly for its action, a complete constitution and by-laws for itself, and for the institution over which it is to be placed.
- 5. That the Presbyteries be again earnestly urged to consider this whole subject, in view of this action of the Assembly, and to co-operate with the Executive Committee in carrying out the work assigned it
- 6. That for the present the support of candidates for the ministry at this institute be provided for through the Presbyteries having such candidates under care, as such bodies shall devise, and that Presbyteries having no colored candidates of their own, or having a surplus

of funds for this purpose, shall send their contribution or surplus to the Treasurer of the Committee, to be invested or disbursed by it under the rules to be adopted for its action.

- 7. That in addition to the annual reports of this Committee to the General Assembly, it be required to send to all the Presbyteries having candidates, or contributing funds, a semi-annual report, on the 1st of March and 1st of September of each year, setting forth the deportment and progress of their candidates, and the disbursement of the funds.
- 8. That the whole Church be most earnestly and affectionately urged to look with favor on this work, and to liberally aid it with their prayers, their influence and their means. And inasmuch as this work is in its infancy, it is not inappropriate to add that contributions are greatly needed for its general support, as well as for the support of the students.
- 9. That the first Sabbath of December, or as soon thereafter as practicable, be appointed for the annual collections for this object, to be taken up in whatever way shall seem best to each particular church.

REVISED CONSTITUTION FOR COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

The recommendation of the majority of the Committee was stricken out, and the following adopted, as presented by the minority, viz: That article 5 of the revised Constitution be amended by striking out the word "now," and inserting in lieu thereof the phrase "at the time of the adoption of this Constitution," and that, as thus amended, said revised Constitution be placed before the Assembly for adoption, in accordance with the requirements of existing laws.

The revised Constitution was then adopted, as thus amended, by the

vote mentioned above.

The order of the day, viz: the report of the Committee on Publication, was taken up, whereupon the Rev. James K. Hazen was elected as Secretary of Publication, and then the whole report was adopted, and is as follows:

The Standing Committee on Publication to which was referred the following papers, viz: The sixteenth Annual Report of the Executive Committee of Publication: the records of the Committee and books of subscription to the cause of Publication, &c.; an overture from the Presbytery of Bethel; a memorial from certain members of Mecklenburg Presbytery, and a letter from J. Miller, all relating to the cause of Publication: have carefully considered these papers and documents and have examined into the present condition of the finances of the Committee of Publication, and would respectfully report that the books are in such a condition that it is absolutely impossible for us to ascertain the exact state of the case. The following is an approximate statement of the assets and liabilities as we find them in the minute book.

ASSETS.

Stock on hand	825,000 00
Bills due Committee	8,000 00
Store fixtures,	$2.500 \ 00$
Stereoptype plates	22,000 00

LIABILITIES.

Commercial paper signed E. T. Baird, Secretary, given for official business	26.913 85
Commercial paper signed E. T. Baird, Secretary, given for business not official	,
Commercial paper signed E. T. Baird, given for official business	4,858 47
Open accounts.	9,097 99

\$48,719 19

The last three items are represented as losses sustained through E. T. Baird, amounting, according to the report of the Committee, to \$22,408 37.

The books have been so kept that we cannot now ascertain whether all the above mentioned losses have been sustained by the general business, or whether a part of them belongs to the building fund. We are unable to determine the facts in the case because a portion of the money was never entered upon the Treasurer's books. The Committee, we are informed, have already secured the sum of \$12,000, in hand, and \$3,000 dollars in pledges, to repair the loss. Under the circumstances, the Executive Committee deserve and should receive the hearty thanks of the Church for their prompt and successful effort in this matter.

Your Committee would recommend the adoption by the Assembly of the following resolutions, covering the points referred to in the memorial and overture, as well as those found in the books and report

of the Executive Committee.

- 1. The Assembly expresses its sympathy with the Committee in the embarrassing circumstances through which it has passed; approves its action in maintaining the honor and purity of our beloved Church, by assuming to pay the liabilities incurred by the late Secretary, and commends its fidelity and zeal in obtaining money to pay these losses.
- 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.
- 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 are raised, within a reasonable time to liquidate the debt now resting upon it.
- 4. That the Eurnest Worker shall hereafter be published monthly, and devoted exclusively to the exposition of Scripture Lessons and other subjects promotive of Sabbath School work. The Children's Friend is commended to the more liberal patronage of our Sabbath Schools.
- 5. The restrictions as to the terms on which the publications of the Committee are sold, are hereby removed, and the whole subject left to the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- 6. That in the judgment of the Assembly the Executive Committee, by introducing the changes indicated in their report, may prosecute its work with greatly reduced expenses and accomplish much good for the Church. We recommend our churches and all our people to assist the Committee in its laudable efforts to raise a sum of money sufficient to meet the emergency caused by the loss recently incurred and to protect the honor and good name of the Church.
- 7. That the Assembly desires gratefully to acknowledge the kindness of those Northern houses that have extended their credit to the Executive Committee of Publication in its present embarrassment.

The following persons shall constitute the Executive Committee of Publication for the coming year: Rev. J. K. Hazen, Secretary; Chas. Gennet, Treasurer; Rev. M. D. Hoge, D. D., W. Brown, D. D., C. H.

Read, D. D., T. L. Preston, D. D., W. A. Campbell; and W. F. Taylor, B. R. Wellford, E. H. Fitzhugh, R. Ould, S. H. Hawes and M. M. Gilliam,

Thos. R. Welch, Chairman.

The following paper offered by the Rev. Dr. Hoge was adopted:

Resolved, That the General Assembly appoint three experienced business men, familiar with accounts, to repair to Richmond, as early as practicable, for the purpose of making a thorough examination of all the financial affairs of the Executive Committee of Publication, and report the result to the public through the newspapers, and then formally to the next Assembly, and that alternates be appointed to supply the places of any of the committee who are unable to go.

The following report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence was taken from the docket and adopted:

The Committee on Correspondence recommend to the Assembly the

The Committee on Correspondence recommend to the Assembly the adoption of the following:

Resolved, That in accordance with the strongly expressed desires of a number of our Presbyteries, some of them amongst the largest, the Assembly will, after the present year, hold its correspondence with all the Churches with whom we maintain that sort of relations, by letters instead of deputations, always excepting the Reformed Church, with which we are united in peculiar co-operative alliance. The Assembly will hereafter appoint amongst its standing committees a committee of correspondence, whe shall prepare the letters to be sent by us to other Churches, and does hereby invite all Churches with whom we are, or may be in correspondence, to communicate with us in this form. or may be, in correspondence, to communicate with us in this form.

The Rev. J. B. Adger, D. D., was appointed a delegate to the General Synod of the Reformed Church, and the Rev. E. H. Rutherford, D. D., as alternate.

The Committee to whom was referred the series of questions in preparing Presbyterial narratives, presented the following paper, which was adopted:

The Committee to whom was referred the Stated Clerk's report of questions for Presbyterial narratives, would submit the following recommendation, viz:

That instead of a series of questions, which may be answered categorically, the Assembly send down to the Presbyteries the following topics, as furnishing the basis of their narratives:

- 1. Official fidelity on the part of ministers, ruling elders and deacons.
- 2. Attendance upon the services of the sanctuary.
- 3. Special outpourings of the Holy Ghost in the churches.
- 4. The prevalence of intemperance, worldly amusements and other forms of sin.
 - 5. Family worship.
 - 6. Catechetical instruction in Sabbath schools and families.
 - 7. The observance of the Sabbath.
- 8. Fidelity of God's people in worshipping the Lord with their substance.

- 9. The supply of the churches within your bounds with the ministration of the Word.
 - 10. Religious instruction of colored people.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene Daniel, Chairman.

The whole matter of publishing and circulating the report on Beneficiary Education, submitted to the General Assembly of last year, was referred to the discretion of the Executive Committee of Education.

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

The Auditing Committee beg leave to submit the following supplemental report on the records of the Board of Trustees of the General Assembly:

Assembly:

They report that it appears from said records that the terms of office of Rev. John Douglas and Messrs. John E. Brown and John L. Brown, as members of said Board, will expire, by their own limitation, before the next General Assembly shall convene.

Your Committee therefore recommend that these gentlemen be re-elected by this Assembly to fill the vacancies caused by the expira-

tion of their terms of effice as aforesaid.

Respectfully submitted,

I. CHARLES INGLIS, JNO. A. MINNIECE

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

SATURDAY NIGHT, 8 o'clock.

The Assembly met, and the Moderator announced the following Committee, in accordance with the resolution providing for a thorough examination of the Financial affairs of the Executive Committee of Publication, viz:

L. C. Inglis, of Baltimore, Md.; J. J. Gresham, of Macon, Ga.; W. S. McCrea, of Louisville, Ky.; with alternates: J. Adger Smythe, of Charleston, S. C.; Joseph R. Mitchell, of Louisville, Ky., and G. W. McCrea, of Memphis, Tenn.

The general report of the Auditing Committee was taken from the docket, when the following paper, offered by the Rev. Dr. Armstrong, was adopted as a substitute;

Resolved, That the Assembly refers the recommendations of the Executive Committee on Publication, found on page 28 of their annual report, touching certain "regulations for the administration of the affairs of the Committee," to the said Committee itself, recommending that they be put into effect as far as practicable.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the Assembly does hereby advise the Presbyteries, that, in electing their Commissioners in the future, to do so with a view to their remaining in session during a term probably not less than about two weeks.

The following Synodical records were, upon reports of the respective committees appointed to examine them, approved as far as written, viz: Arkansas, Alabama, Kentucky, Memphis, Virginia, Texas and Georgia.

The records of the Synod of Nashville were approved with the exception that on page 274 the Synod seems to teach that a Presbytery has no power to send a licentiate to declare a church vacant.

The records of the Synod of Mississippi were approved with the exception that they were not sent up for review last year. Information was received from the Stated Clerk of the Synod of Missouri that he had been providentially prevented from sending up the records of that Synod for review.

The records of the Synod of North Carolina were approved with the exception that on page 489 it ordered a paragraph of the records of an inferior court to be stricken out.

The following report was received and approved:

The Committee on Leave of Absence would respectfully report to the General Assembly that leave of absence has been granted to the following persons: After the sessions of Wednesday, J. W. Hannah and R. S. Campbell; after the sessions of Thursday, S. P. Greves, B. G. Worth, A. Turner, J. R. Hughes and W. J. Lowry; after the sessions of Friday, James Mann. J. Grior, J. S. Frierson, S. R. Houston, L. C. Reed, J. A. Caldwell, W. H. Simpson, S. H. Sprott, W. H. Stewart, G. W. Blatterman, Geo. Allen, W. D. Johnson and T. A. Currie.

C. F. WILLIAMS, Chm. Com.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved 1. That the thanks of the Assembly are due and are hereby tendered to the members of the Church in New Orleans for the generous hospitality and kind courtesies which have been extended to all its delegates, and made their sojourn here a delightful experience.

Resolved 2. That the thanks of the Assembly are also tendered to all those churches which have invited supplies for their pulpits from the members of this body; also to those lines of travel which have offered facilities on this occasion.

It was then, on motion, resolved that this General Assembly be dissolved, and that another General Assembly, chosen in the same manner, be required to meet in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of Knoxville, Tenn., on the third Thursday of May, 1878, at 11 o'clock A. M.

Closed with singing and prayer and the apostolic benediction.

WILLIAM BROWN, Permanent Clerk.

Joseph R, Wilson, Stated Clerk.





APPENDIX.

NARRATIVE OF THE STATE OF RELIGION.

The Committee appointed to prepare a Narrative of the State of Religion within the bounds of this Assembly would respectfully report:

That from a careful survey of the field, brought under review by the reports from fifty-seven Presbyteries, we discover abundant cause for encouragement, and carnest thanksgiving to God. Your Committee has been aware of the difficulty of preparing a faithful report on this matter of such deep interest to the Assembly, and, for this very reason, we have endeavored to use the more caution in drawing our inferences from the data furnished by the Presbyterial reports; and although it has involved much time and labor to read and compare the various papers placed in our hands, we beg leave to record our sincere gratification in being thus privileged to walk through the length and breadth of our beloved Zion and to mark her bulwarks.

We would be glad, were it practicable, to present to this Assembly all the matters of interest that have been brought before the eye of the Committee, for we are persuaded that our Church needs to be seen in all her borders in order to be duly estimated; but we must condense our report under the two general heads: First—the preaching or ministration of the Word, and, secondly, the results of this ministra-

tion in the Church and in the world.

1. In regard to the ministration of the Word of God, it is matter for devout thanksgiving that at least four-fifths of the Presbyteries report that their churches have been more fully supplied with the preached word and the ordinances of the Church than has been the case for years past. This result seems to have been accomplished by the grouping of several feeble churches under one pastorate, and by the devotion and diligence of the evangelist. And, again, there seemed to your Committee reason for encouragement in regard to those Presbyteries where great spiritual destitutions prevail, because of the earnest appeal they make to the Church at large for help, showing their determination to have a preached gospel in their desert places, if they can, by any means, enlist the aid and sympathy of their christian brethren. This loud Macedonian cry for help your Committee would here reiterate, with the sincere hope that our beloved Church, which is dispensing with a liberal hand the bread of life to the heathen world, will not be indifferent to the cries of her own children when they beg for the "sincere milk of the word."

The necessity resting upon the Church to give more earnest heed to these appeals for help will at once appear, as we consider our second general division of this report, viz: The results of the preached word in the Church and in the world. And here we would say, could our whole Church but see with the eye of your Committee the great contrast between those parts of the moral vineyard, which have enjoyed

the stated means of grace and those which have been without these means, the conclusion must be reached, that the question as to the state of religion within the bounds of this Assembly really hinges on the answer to another inquiry: Have the Presbyteries been well supplied with the preached gospel? Those Presbyteries that have been better supplied during the past year than formerly (and let it be remembered that the great majority report this hopeful fact) bring before you these encouraging fruits: 1. There is a deeper earnestness among the ministers, and in the Church, that the work of the Lord may be done well. 2. While there are loud complaints from some Presbyteries of too much conformity to the world on the part of God's professed people, yet it appears that, in most of our churches, there is a faithful recognition of that solemn covenant which separates from the world. 3. Our churches have made progress in the matter of worshipping God with their substance, and although their offerings cast into the treasary of the Lord may not be larger than in former years, yet we believe that they have been more characterized by that spirit of self-sacrifice which alone can render them well-pleasing unto God. 4. The ministers of the word take a lively interest in the lambs of the fold, giving to them their portion in the distribution of the rich provision made by the good shepherd for the lambs as well as the sheep of his pasture. 5. All the Presbyteries that have enjoyed the abundant ministrations of the word declare a gracious ingathering of souls into the Redeemer's kingdom—not by extraordinary religious services, but by the earnest and prayerful use of the ordinary methods for bringing the truth of God to the solemn attention of those unto whom the word has been mercifully sent. 6. There have been but few cases reported requiring the severe discipline of the Church, and from this fact we infer that the members of our Church are, in the main, free from all those flagrant transgressions which bring reproach on the cause of our Lord.

Your Committee cannot, without being tedious, dwell on the picture presented by those Presbyteries that claim our sympathy and help, because of great spiritual destitutions; and, therefore, we must content ourselves with saying that their spiritual condition is almost the exact reverse of that just presented. There are sad complaints of the utter neglect of family religion, a disregard of the sanctity of the Lord's day, and of those obligations and restraints which characterize those communities blessed with the regular ministrations of the word and ordinances of God's house. So truly have the various reports revealed the fact that the measure of gospel ordinances measures the spiritual condition of the particular field, that your Committee beg leave to call special attention to that which we all know, but which is too often lost sight of—that God has linked His grace with His word, and no man

may dissever them.

And, in conclusion, we would say, that while it is not with us altogether as we desire, yet there is much to encourage our hearts, and we are assured, from the evidences before us, that He who walks in the mid-t of the golden candlesticks has not withheld from us the gracious tokens of His favor and acceptance.

J. S. Cozby, Chairman.

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 in New Orleans on the 17th day of May, 1877:

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 Institution have been carried on regularly and faithfully during the year, by the Faculty, and the Directors take

pleasure in stating, both from their own observation, and from information derived from others, that the deportment, habits of study and progress of the students in attendance have been such as to merit the approbation of the friends of the Seminary.

The number of students during the session has been twenty-five. We had hoped that the number would have been larger, but the stringency of pecuniary matters has been such as to pevent the presence of

more.

The Board is sorry to report that the financial affairs of the Seminary are not in as favorable a condition as they were at your last meeting. Some of the investments have ceased to pay any interest, and others have been diminished as to the rate, so that there will be difficulty in meeting the expenses of the Institution. These failures and diminu-tions are not from any neglect of the Board, but from the general shrinkage of property and values prevailing through the whole country. The Board would, therefore, ask the General Assemby to aid, as far as in their power, in providing for the support of the Seminary. They also hope that the Churches will be moved to show liberality as heretofore to this School of the Prophets.

The terms of the following Directors will expire at the ensuing meeting of the General Assembly, viz: Rev. John Douglas, Henry Muller, J. J. Gresham and James W. Bones.

Respectfully submitted,

James Hemphill, Chairman.

May 9, 1877.

REPORT OF THE FACULTY OF THE THEOLOGICAL SEMI-NARY AT COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA.

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, to meet at New Orleans on the third Thursday in May, 1877:

The Faculty of the Theological Seminary at Columbia report to the General Assembly that there have been twenty-five students in attendance upon our instructions during the year past. That the classes have not been larger is due in part to the extreme depression of this portion of our Southern country, the want of means on the part of those who have completed their studies in college, obliging them to delay their further progress for a season, and to the diminished resources or extinction of preparatory institutions that once were sources of supply to our schools of theology.

The names of the students are as follows:

The names of the students are as follows: Senior Class—William Boyd, of Industry, Texas, graduate of Austin College and candidate of the Presbytery of Brazos; M. C. Britt, of Griffin, Ga., graduate of Davidson College and now licentiate of the Presbytery of Atlanta; J. Tallulah Bruce, of Newnan, Ga., graduate of Oglethorpe University and candidate of the Presbytery of Atlanta; Edward P. Davis, of Pleasant Ridge, N. C., graduate of Davidson College and candidate of the Presbytery of Mecklenburg; J. E. Fogartie, of Charleston, S. C., graduate of Davidson College and candidate of the Presbytery of Charleston; J. J. Henry, of Toronto, Canada, graduate of the University of Toronto and candidate of the Presbytery of Lindsay, Canada: Donald McQueen, of Sumter, S. C., graduate of nate of the University of Toronto and candidate of the Presbytery of Lindsay, Canada; Donald McQueen, of Sunter, S. C., graduate of Davidson College and candidate of the Presbytery of Harmony; S. W. Newell, of Oxford, Miss,, graduate of the University of Mississippi and candidate of the Presbytery of Chickasaw; G. A. Trenholm, of Charleston, S. C., candidate of the Charleston Presbytery.

Middle Class—W. S. Plumer 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.

didate of the Presbytery of Orange; H. G. Gilland, of Canton, Miss.,

graduate of Stewart College and candidate of the Presbytery of Central Mississippi; Z. B. Graves, of Lexington, Mo, graduate of the University of Mississippi and candidate of the Presbytery of Lafayette; Thomas P. Hay, of Camden, S. C., student of Hampden Sidney College, Va., and now licentiate of the Presbytery of Harmony; T. M. Lowry, of Yorkville, S. C., graduate of Erskine College and candidate of the Presbytery of Bethel; J. C. McMullen, of Pleasant Ridge, Ala., candidate of the Presbytery of Tuscaloosa; A. E. Norris, of Anderson, S. C student of Davidson College and candidate of the Presbytery of South Carolina; J. L. Williamson, of Lancaster, S. C., graduate of Davidson College and candidate of the Presbytery of Bethel.

Junior Class—H. C. Fennel, of Chester, S. C., graduate of Erskine College and candidate of South Carolina (A. R.) Presbytery; H. W. Flinn, of Holly Springs, Miss., graduate of the University of Mississippi and candidate of the Presbytery of North Mississippi; A. Henseld and Carolina (A. R.) derson, of Stratford, Canada, graduate of Galt Institute and candidate of the Presbytery of Harmony; C. W. Robinson, of Concord, N. C., graduate of Davidson College and candidate of the Presbytery of Concord; J. D. Rowe, of Newton, N. C., student of the University of Virginia and candidate of the Presbytery of Concord; E. G. Smith, of Winnsboro', S. C., graduate of Davidson College and candidate of the Presbytery of Harmony; W. G. Woodbridge, of Newton, Miss., student of Princeton College, N. J., and candidate of the Presbytery of Tombeckbee.

From Alabama, 1; from Georgia, 3; from Mississippi, 4; from Missouri, 1; from North Carolina, 3; from South Carolina, 10; from Texas,

1; from Canada, 2.

Of the students reported last year, Mr. T. J. Horne, Des Arc, Ark., and Mr. R. P. Smith, of Reidville, S. C., did not return to the Seminary, and Mr. F. J. Mundy, of Rahway, N. J., was dismissed during

the summer at his own request.

The health of the students, with one or two exceptions, has been good during the year. Their deportment has accorded with their profession as Christian men, preparing for the holy office of the Gospel ministry, and their general devotion to study has been worthy of all praise.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. Howe, Chm. of Faculty.

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, COLUMBIA, S. C., May 7th, 1877.

The Board of Directors is constituted as follows: Directors for one year (their term expires in May. 1877)—Rev. John Douglas, Charlotte, N. C.; Mr. Henry Muller, Columbia, S. C.; Hon. J. J. Gresham, Macon, Ga.; Mr. James Bones, Rome, Ga.

For two years (term expires in May, 1878)—Rev. D. McQueen, D. D., Sumter, S. C.; Rev. A. W. Clisby, Macon, Ga.; Mr. T. B. Fraser, Sumter, S. C.; Mr. A. B. Davidson, Charlotte, N. C.

For three years (term expires in May, 1879)—Rev. J. O. Lindsay, Due West, S. C.; Rev. C. W. Lane, D. D., Athens, Ga.; Hon. James Hemphill, Chester, S. C.; Mr. Josiah Sibley, Augusta, Ga. Hon. James Hemphill, President; Mr. T. B. Fraser, Secretary; Mr.

Henry Muller, Treasurer. THE FACULTY are—

Rev. George Howe, D. D., LL. D., Professor of Biblical Literature. Rev. James Woodrow, Ph. D., D. D., Perkins Professor of Natural Science in connection with Revelation.

William S. Plumer, D. D., LL. D., Professor of Pastoral, Casuistic

and Historic Theology.

J. L. Girardeau, D. D., Professor of Didactic and Polemic Theology. Charles R. Hemphill, Tutor in Hebrew.

^{*}The studies belonging to this department have been taught during the past session by the occupants of other chairs, in addition to their regular instructions.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS OF UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN VIRGINIA.

The Trustees and Directors having held their annual meeting on the 10th and 11th of April, 1877, submit to the Assembly and to the Synods, this their

REPORT.

The attendance of Trustees at the annual meeting was full. Mr. J. Harman Brown, of Baltimore, who was appointed a Director from the Presbytery of Chesapeake by the Synod of Virginia, was elected a Trustee, and having qualified in the mode prescribed by the law, appeared and was enrolled.

The whole number of students during the term of 1876–'77, was sixtytwo. Of this number fourteen were in the Junior class, twenty-two in Middle class, and twenty-six Seniors. Ten students, at the time of matriculation, were *not* under Presbyterial care.

The usual certificate of having completed the full course of study in the Seminary and having passed satisfactory examinations, were awardthe Seminary and having passed satisfactory examinations, were awarded to the following members of the Senior class, to wit: Isaac N. Campbell, Virginia; Patt. R. Law, North Carolina; James H. Me-Cown, Virginia; Wm. L. McLelland, North Carolina; Edmund M. Munro, North Carolina; James A. Ramsey, North Carolina; John-Ruff, Jr., Virginia; Robert De. L. Stinson, North Carolina; Wm. L. Trimble, Missouri; Goodridge A. Wilson, Virginia; Samuel K. Winn, Georgia; Wm. H. Woods, Kentucky, and Chas. W. Johnson, Virginia. No general sickness has at any time during the term prevailed and

No general sickness has at any time during the term prevailed, and but one case of serious illness has occurred. For the first time, in the history of the institution, there was a *death* among the students during the session; Mr. Archie C. Dalton, of North Carolina, under the care of the Presbytery of Orange, and a member of the Junior class, died on the 19th of September, 1876, after a brief illness. His end was one of great peace, showing forth abundantly the sustaining power of divine

grace.

The finances are in a favorable condition. For details, on this and other matters of interest, the Assembly and Synods are referred to the report of the Secretary and Treasurer hereto appended.

One hundred and fifteen volumes have been added to the library, during the past year. The whole number of volumes amounts to about

ten thousand five hundred.

The method of written examinations, (combined with oral,) has been adopted, with satisfactory results, both as furnishing a more accurate and reliable test of the attainments of the students, and stimulating them to closer and more thorough work. The Trustees propose to make permanent arrangements, if practicable, for instruction in elocution and sacred vocal music.
We give thanks to God for the manifold tokens of His favor, vouch-

safed to the Seminary in the past, and, for its future, we humbly recognize our dependence on His grace and goodness.

By order of the Trustees.

J. Rumple, President.

April 12th, 1877.

APPENDIX.

The funds of the institution are invested in interest-bearing public securities, from which are derived its annual revenues, and from which salaries and other expenses are paid. The existing investments are as follows, by their face value:

1. Virginia Certificates of Debt and Consols (tax receivable)\$	137,695
2. State of Georgia Consols	12,000
3. Individual bonds (two in number)	30,250
4. Richmond & Danville Railroad bonds	10,000
5. Long Island Bank (7 shares)	350
6. South-Side Railroad bonds.	5,000
7. Nashville bond	1,000
8. Richmond City bonds	8,000
9. St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad bonds	1,000
10. James River and Kanawha bonds	3,500
11. Orange, Alexandria and Manassas Gap bonds	4,700
12. Salem, Virginia, bonds	2,000
13. Central Railroad bonds	6,000
14. North Carolina bonds (in litigation)	15,000
15. " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	4,147
16. Des Moines Valley Railroad	1,000
17. City of Montgomery, Alabama	1,000
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During the past year ('76-'77) \$1,450 have been received under the will of Mrs. Ann Davisson, late of Rockingham county, Va., to found a scholarship. Mr. Joseph B. Wilson, of Rockbridge county, Va., has given, since the adjournment of the Trustees, nine thousand dollars in the James River and Kanawha Company bonds, to establish three scholarships of \$3,000 each. This is the second of the benefactions of this liberal gentleman for scholarships. At present the annual income of the Seminary is chargeable with about \$2,000 to meet the orders in

aid of students placed on the several scholarships.

The Trustees are the Rev. Dr. Charles H. Read, of Richmond, Va., President; Rev. Dr. J. Henry Smith, of Greensboro', N. C., and J. Harman Brown, of Baltimore, Md., Vice-Presidents; Judge F. N. Watkins, of Farmville, Va., Secretary and Treasurer; and Messrs. H. G. Hill, J. P. McPherson, W. W. Pharr, B. F. Marable, F. H. Johnston, J. M. Atkinson, J. Rumple, E. N. Hutchison, D. A. Davis, R. I. McDowell, E. McIlvary, of North Carolina, and William Brown, J. J. Bullock, H. M. White, J. L. Kirkpatrick, W. T. Richardson, Alex. Martin, Charles White, E. M. Armstrong, J. N. Sydenstricker, of Virginia. Virginia.

The Rev. Dr. William Brown, Rev. W. T. Richardson and Charles White, and Messrs. E. M. Armstrong and E. N. Hutchisen compose

the Executive Committee.

The Faculty are the Rev. Dr. B. M. Smith, Rev. Dr. R. L. Dabney, Rev. Dr. T. E. Peck and Rev. Dr. H. C. Alexander.

The Rev. Dr. Smith is Librarian, the Rev. Dr. Peck is Intendant, and the Rev. Dr. Dabney is the Clerk of the Faculty.

The Postoffice address of the students and Professors is Hampden Sidney, Va.; that of the Treasurer is Farmville, Va. The Session of 1877-78 begins on Wednesday, the 5th of August, 1877. F. N. WATKINS, Secretary.

FARMVILLE, VA., April 13th, 1877.

FIRST REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE IN-STITUTE FOR THE EDUCATION OF COLORED CANDI-DATES FOR THE MINISTRY.

One year ago the General Assembly authorized the establishment of an Institute for the Education of Colored Candidates for the Ministry, with especial reference to the building up of the African Presbyterian Church. It was located at Tuskaloosa, Alabama, and placed

under the supervision of the undersigned, who was "authorized to employ a suitable assistant who should be the teacher of the English department," and to whom was confided, in connection with the Executive Committee of Education, the whole matter of raising funds for

the support of the Institute.

Not being prepared to abandon my pastoral charge and give my whole time to this undertaking, nor yet being willing to decline the appointment and thus defer the whole enterprise the Assembly not naming any alternate nor providing for the appointment of one, I at once proceeded to seek an assistant who should be competent to conduct all the necessary instruction. It was thought, at first, that a young man capable of teaching the English elementary branches would meet the wants of the first year; but it was discovered that the candidates, being in different stages of study, would need a more experienced and thoroughly furnished scholar, who could teach all branches included in the entire course. With the advice of the Executive Committee of Education and of various brethren of high repute in the Church for wisdom, the appointment of teacher or professor was given to the Rev. A. F. Dickson, then of Chester, South Carolina, a ripe general scholar, fully able to teach every department, and a man well known to cherish a deep interest in the spiritual welfare of the colored people and of abundant labors in their behalf.

No pledges were made of any fixed salary beyond the effort to raise \$1,500 per annum, and relying on the liberality of the churches. With this uncertainty, our brother was willing to enter upon this arduous and trying work. He arrived in Tuskaloosa the latter part of October, and opened the doors of the institute the first of November. Notice of the fact was given to the public, and applications for entrance invited; and at the same time appeals were made for funds to support the

Institute.

The first student came from the Presbytery of Memphis, with pledges of support. Applications came from various quarters—North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, North Alabama, Mississippi and Texas—but all coupled with inquiries as to the means for supporting students. Had these been provided, we would soon have had a full school. But we had no fund for this purpose, and only a small part of the contributions received could be applied to this object, and we were obliged to discourage all applications which were unaccompanied with arrangements for support—Besides, knowing the liability to having unworthy applicants, we were careful to require good testimonials of character and capacity, and requested the Presbyteries to send only such men as they could endorse, or their Committees of Education; and also urged the necessity for their attention to the matter of support. We have but two regular candidates under the care of Presbyteries, viz: those of Memphis and Savannah, and these are both provided for.

Here lies the chief difficulty in building up this school, and we invoke the wisdom of the Assembly to devise some method for its re-

moval.

In addition to these two Presbyterian candidates, three Methodist and one Baptist preachers, laboring as pastors in and near Tuskaloosa, have entered the Institute, and seem to have a high estimate of its advantages. All six have pursued their studies with an encouraging degree of industry and success. Brother Dickson is an apt teacher, and succeeds admirably in stimulating their minds and keeping uptheir interest. The work is one of great labor, and demands much patience, but, having his heart in it, he never flags. You could hardly find a more capable or faithful professor.

The raising of funds has been no easy matter. Many appeals have been made through the press, and innumerable letters have been written to individuals. The Executive Committee of Education, with their Secretary, have shown a warm and steady interest in this work, and have rendered efficient aid. And we have to thank the editors of all our religious papers for their frequent mention of this school and

their many kind appeals on its behalf. A late remittance from the Reformed Church, through Dr. McIlwaine, has relieved our embarrassments for the present, and we trust is an earnest of future and larger

help from this strong ally of our Church.

We have endeavored to conduct this enterprise on the most economical plan. Our arrangements are of the humblest character. A moderate sized room, rented for two dollars per month, and the simplest furniture, is all the material show we can make. The object deserves very much more, and needs more extensive arrangements, if we purpose to carry it on efficiently. But we were determined to incur no debt, and to avoid burdening the Church beyond what was absolutely necessary. It is for the Assembly to determine whether or not to build up a school for this people commensurate with their great spiritual wants and their strong claims upon us, as a Church pledged to the spiritual illumination of the ignorant and destitute within our reach. It is evident that the present method of sustaining the enterprise is too precarious. We need to have it placed upon a broader and firmer basis. If it be, indeed, as its friends claim, and as all must admit, a legitimate part of the great work of the Church, having in it the threefold features of domestic missions, foreign missions and education for the ministry, not to speak of its philanthropic and social features, it does seem that it ought to be placed on a similar footing with our other Church enterprises.

I submit herewith a statement from Professor Dickson, setting forth the present course of study in the Institute; also, the financial report.

Respectfully submitted,

C. A. STILLMAN.

COURSE OF STUDY.

A. The studies pursued in the Colored Theological Institute thus far have been:

Reading the Bible, with special reference to pulpit reading. [This will be made a prominent specialty hereafter.]

Bible Lessons (1.)—Vincent's First Year with Jesus. (2.)—Topical Lessons, with the Help of the Concordance. [This chiefly for practise.] Introductory Theological Lessons—Plumer's "Truths for the People."

Lectures on Homiletics, with practise in preparing briefs, preaching before the class, and debates.

Greek Grammar and Greek Testament. English Grammar and Arithmetic, where necessary.

B. It is proposed, in the next year—i. c., with the opening of the fall—to earry on the advanced pupils to the direct study of the Confession of Faith and Proof Texts; also, to a careful but brief and simple summary of Natural Theology (which I have now in course of preparation), and Pastoral Theology, with such helps as Pilgrims' Progress, and Alexander's Notes on Religious Experience.

The only thing dropped (with them) will be "Truths for the People."

New pupils will probably need some elementary studies, as will

doubtless long be the case with successive classes.

A. F. Dickson.

THE FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE INSTITUTE FOR THE EDUCATION OF COLORED CANDIDATES.

187	Cr.			
June	26—Rev. J. B. Converse	8	-5	00
Oct.	12—Rev. A. A. Morse		10	00
4.6	12—Rev. B. M. Palmer—a donation from a Canadian			
	gentleman		50	00
Oct.	27—S. M. Shelton, Vicksburg, Miss		20	00
Dec.	1—A friend in Decatur, Alabama, per Rev. J. Simpson			
	Unionary		5	$\Omega\Omega$

Dec.	1—Dr. E. H. Sholl, Cainesville, Ala		00
"	1—Government Street Church, Mobile, Ala	25	00
" 187	13-Dr. A. P. Brown, Jenerson, Texas		00 00-
Jan.	9—Mulberry Church, Presbytery of Louisville, per S. W. 12—Rey. Peter Gowan, Selma, Ala		00
"	15—Mrs. J. S. Moore, Jefferson, Texas 17—Rev. R. B. Anderson and two friends in Morgan-		00
"	ton, N. C	15 20	00
6.6	17—J. Bliss, Esq., Gainesville, Ala		00
4.4	17—H. P. Snow, " "		00
-11	20—P. A. M., Wartrace, Tenn		00
46	20—E. C. M., " "		00
	20—A. R. Kennedy, Cotton Plant, Arkansas	10	00
	20—Caroline, a colored communicant of Lamar Presbyterian Church, Presbytery of West Texas, per Rev.		
	W. E. Caldwell	1	00
Feb.	W. E. Caldwell		
4.6	D1. Waduci		00
44	5—Miss E. C. Murdoch, New Orleans		00
44			00
4.4	5—James Murray, Greenville, Va.		50
Mare	5—Mrs. E. M. Perkins, " 5—James Murray, Greenville, Va		
	Dickson	237	
4.6	2—M. P. Brown, Grand Rapids, Mich	10	
	3—Concord Church, Presbytery of Tuskaloosa		70 00
4.6	26—M. B. E., Pecan Pt., Arkansas, per Dr. W		00
April	12—First and Seventh Churches, Louisville, per Dr. W		00
* *	16—W., Columbia, S. C	10	
44	16—A friend, Clarksville, Tenn., per Dr. W. Flinn	25	
	27—Alpha, Athens, Ga		00
May	8—Reformed Church, per Dr. McHwaine 8—John N. Laren	385 5	98 00
	-	31,029	_
1870	D_r	,	••
Oct.	7—Paid Rev. A. F. Dickson	\$ 15	00
- II	27— " " "	20	
Dec.	1—	25	
	4— " "	15 10	
187		10	90
Jan.	10- " " "	10	00
44	15— " "		00
"	17— " " " "	15	
Feb.	17— "	$\frac{32}{217}$	
Marc	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	50	
44	<u>00</u>	75	
April	11— " "	10	
	17— " "	35	
35	<u>98</u>	200	
May	10—	300	00
	12- " "		
		4000	

1877. INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.		
Jan. 17—Express charges on books	Ş	1 60
" 17— " money received" " 31—Bucket for school room 25c., cup 10c		85 85
Feb. 7—Two lamps \$1.50, oil 75c., can 60c		2 85
" 14—Books ordered from Tract Society		5 00
" 21—Lamp chimney March 9—Two loads wood \$2_00, room rent for February \$2_00		$\frac{10}{4.00}$
" 12—Shovel and tongs for school room		75
April 3—Rent of room for March		2 00 1 00
May 12—Broom for school room		25
" 12—Rent of room for April		2 00
	\$ 2	0 25
STUDENTS' FUND. 1876. Cr.		
Nov. —From Dr. Waddel for McKie	\$ 2	5 00
Dec. 1—A. D. Price, Harrodsburg, Ky		$\frac{1}{2} \frac{00}{50}$
to a continuator in reads		1 00
1877. Jan. 12— " Committee of Education	1	0-00
" 15— " A. E., Memphis, Tenn		5 00
Feb. 5—James Murray, Greenville, Va		9 50
March 6—Synod of Memphis, Presbytery of Memphis, Ger- mantown, for support of McKie		5 00
Box of clothing for McKie from Memphis. M'ch 22—Rev. W. E. Boggs, D. D		5 (0)
" 22—Dr. Waddel		1 00
May 8—Committee of Education per Dr. Waddel for support of McKie	5	2 50
1 1) Funn Donton will. Day betons of March 1.		
12—From Fortersvine, Freshytery of Memphis, per Rev.		
A. M. Watson, for McKie		1 10
A. M. Watson, for McKie		
A. M. Watson, for McKie	\$12	1 10 S 60
12—From Fortersvine, Presbytery of Memphis, per Rev. A. M. Watson, for McKie	\$12 \$ 2	1 10 8 60 5 00 1 00
1876	\$12 \$ 2	1 10 S 60 5 00 1 00 1 00
1876	\$12 \$ 2	1 10 8 60 5 00 1 00 1 00 2 50
1876	\$12 \$ 2 1	1 10 S 60 5 00 1 00 1 00 2 50 0 00
12—From Fortersvine, Presbytery of Mempins, per Rev. A. M. Watson, for McKie	\$12 \$ 2 1	1 10 \$ 60 5 00 1 00 1 00 2 50 0 00 3 00 1 00
1876	\$12 \$ 2 1	1 10 8 60 5 60 1 00 1 00 2 50 0 00 3 00 1 00 8 00
A. M. Watson, for McKie	\$12 \$ 2 1	1 10 \$ 60 5 00 1 00 1 00 2 50 0 00 3 00 1 00
A. M. Watson, for McKie. 1876	\$12 \$ 2 1	1 10 S 60 5 60 5 00 1 00 1 00 2 50 0 00 3 00 1 00 8 00 5 30 1 00 3 50
12—From Fortersvine, Presbytery of Memphis, per Rev. A. M. Watson, for McKie	\$12 \$ 2 1	1 10 S 60 5 00 1 00 1 00 2 50 0 00 3 00 1 00 8 00 5 30 1 00
A. M. Watson, for McKie. 1876	\$12 \$ 2 1 1	1 10 8 60 5 00 1 00 1 00 2 50 0 00 3 00 8 00 8 00 8 00 8 00 8 00 8 00 9 3 00 9 3 00 9
12—From Fortersvine, Presbytery of Memphis, per Rev. A. M. Watson, for McKie	\$122 \$ 2 1 1	1 10 8 60 5 00 1 00 1 00 2 50 0 00 1 00 8 00 1 00 8 00 1 00 8 00 1 00
12—From Fortersvine, Presbytery of Memphis, per Rev. A. M. Watson, for McKie. 1876 Dr. Nov. —Paid by Dr. Waddel to McKie. — " to Luke Lowry for McKie's board. Dec. 6— " " " " " " " 1877. Jan. 15—McKie. Feb. 14—Shoes for McKie and mending " 14—Washing for McKie. March 9—Luke Lowry in full for McKie's board. " 9—Clothing for McKie. March 9—Luke Lowry in full for McKie's board. " 9—Clothing for McKie. May 9—Cash " 9—Washing for McKie. May 9—Cash " 12—Received from Portersville, per A. M. W.	\$12 \$ 2 1 1 1 \$ 8 \$ 3,02	1 10 S 60 5 60 5 60 5 00 1 00 2 50 0 00 0 00 3 00 0 00 0 00 0 00 1 00 0 00
A. M. Watson, for McKie. 1876	\$12 \$ 2 1 1 1 \$ 8 \$ 3,02	1 10 S 60 5 60 5 00 1 00 2 50 0 00 3 00 8 00 8 00 8 00 8 00 1 00 8 00 1 00
A. M. Watson, for McKie. 1876	\$12 \$ 2 1 1 1 \$ 8 \$ 3,02	1 10 8 60 5 00 1 00 1 00 2 50 0 00 0 3 00 1 00 8 00 3 50 0 00 1 00 1 10 1 10 1 10 3 40 9 78 8 60
A. M. Watson, for McKie. 1876	\$122 \$ 2 1 1 1 \$ 8 \$ \$1,022 12	1 10 8 60 5 00 1 00 1 00 2 50 0 00 0 3 00 1 00 8 00 3 50 0 00 1 00 1 10 1 10 1 10 3 40 9 78 8 60
A. M. Watson, for McKie. 1876	\$122 \$ 2 1 1 1 \$ 8 \$ 1,02 12 \$1,15	1 10 8 60 5 00 1 00 1 00 2 50 0 00 0 8 00 5 30 1 00 8 5 30 1 00 1 1 00 1 1 00 1 1 00 8 5 30 1 1 00 8 5 30 1 1 00 8 5 5 30 8 5 5 30 8 5 5 5 6 6 9 5 5 6 6 9 5 6 6 6 9 5 7 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8

SUSTENTATION.

ABSTRACT OF THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF SUSTENTATION, FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 1, 1877.

It is with much regret that the Executive Committee reports to the General Assembly that the advance of the work projected and inaugurated a year ago has not been maintained in any of the departments committed to their charge during the year which closed on April 1st last. The receipts of none of the funds have been sufficient to justify further extension, and in some of them hurtful retrenchment has been necessary.

FINANCE.

The total receipts of all funds in this department from all sources (including the Sustentation, Evangelistic, Colored Evangelistic, Invalid and Relief Funds) have been \$43,102-90, which, together with \$11,669-79 balance on hand April 1, 1876 makes a total of \$54,772-69, which has been under the control of the Committee during the year.

The Treasurer's report and the tabular statement of receipts from and payments to each Presbytery for the Sustentation, Evangelistic and Invalid Funds afford full information in regard to the financial

condition of this department.

Sustentation.—The receipts this year have been \$19,487-55, against \$22,664-68 last year, showing a decrease of \$3,177-13. Of this decrease \$594-16 is in miscellaneous sources; \$2,582-97 is in the churches. Of the decrease in the churches, \$1,370-78 is to be accounted for by the independent action of Augusta and East Hanover Presbyteries, and \$400 by the failure of a remittance from Nashville Presbytery (supposing that these Presbyteries would have done as much this as last year), thus leaving a deficiency of \$812-19 from the other contributing churches.

The total payments to Presbyteries have amounted to \$20,559 51, against \$21,637 81 last year, showing a decrease in payments to Presbyteries of \$1,078 30. The Committee was only enabled to make such large payments to the Presbyteries by a somewhat hazardous diminution of the balance on hand April 1, this amount being \$1,958 84 instead of \$5,261 22 on April 1, 1866. It is evident that unless the receipts to this fund are much larger this than last year, future appropriations will have to be very much diminished, and thus the work in the Presbyteries be further depressed. Both the wisdom and zeal of the General Assembly are invoked to prevent so dire a calamity.

EVANGELISTIC FUND.—There has been an increase in receipts of \$953-64, which is to be attributed to the receipt from legacies of \$1,200, thus making the receipts from miscellaneous sources \$1,260-10 more this than last year, while the receipts from the churches have been \$306-46 less than last year. The payments to the Presbyteries have been \$4,736-76 more than last year, which has been accomplished by a diminution of the balance on hand April 1, 1876, of \$6,494-14 to \$4,106-64, the amount on hand April 1, 1877. It is estimated that this balance, together with the estimated receipts between this and September 1, will enable the treasury to pay the current obligations of the Committee to the Presbyteries; but it is evident that if the work is to be conducted on its present scale, to say nothing of a much needed enlargement, the receipts must be greatly increased.

COLORED EVANGELISTIC FUND.—The receipts of this fund have been \$458-53, about one-half of which came from the First Presbyterian Church (Northern), Baltimore, and from the Reformed (Dutch) Church, New Peltz, N. Y. Payments have been made amounting to \$875, and \$388-58 which this fund would have been in debt on April 1, has been

charged against the Sustentation Fund in accordance with the directions of the General Assembly of 1875.

Invalid Fund.—The receipts of this fund during the year have been \$947-12 less than last year. The receipts from miscellaneous sources were \$1,267-85 more than last year, so that the contributions from the churches fell off \$2,214-97, which is a sad fact. The payments to the Presbyteries have been \$1,002-50 more than last year, and there was a balance against the fund of \$1,906-56 on April 1, 1877. The balance will be somewhat reduced by receipts before July 1 (the beginning of another invalid year), but it will hardly be cancelled by that time, so that the receipts of this fund must be considerably increased during the present year, if the Church is to be faithful to her obligations to those who in God's providence are the recipients of this benefaction.

Relief Fund.—An investment of \$3,000 of approved bonds has been made during the year, so that the securities now belonging to this fund amount to \$21,000, a descriptive list of which is attached to the Treasurer's report. Annuities have been paid during the year amounting to \$1,200 to the families of three deceased ministers.

SUSTENTATION.

These statements show that the means at the disposal of the Committee have been wholly inadequate to supply aid for the work in the Presbyteries. At nearly every meeting of the Committee urgent applications for help in the support of feeble churches, and in the erection of needed houses of worship at important points, had to be passed over; and at the meeting in March it was necessary to diminish the appropriations asked for by the amount of \$7,000. This same process has been needful in April and May of the present fiscal year, so that the lack of means is now causing repression in the Church's energy and growth, painful indeed to contemplate, and far more painful to realize, as the Committee, from its position, has been compelled to do.

Encouraging Facts.—Notwithstanding the diminished amount placed at the disposal of the Committee, appropriations have been made to fifty-two Presbyteries, amounting to \$17,406 92 in aid of the labors of 164 ministers in the service of perhaps nearly five hundred churches. Assistance has also been extended in the erection of twenty-two church buildings to the amount of \$3,152 59. In very many of these cases the churches aided could have had no stated ministration of the Word but for the assistance rendered through the Sustentation Fund, and in perhaps a larger proportionate number the church edifices would not have been obtained except for the aid afforded. It is, therefore, a cause of thankfulness that this agency has been maintained, and while not able to do much which was demanded, has nevertheless been instrumental in doing something for the comfort and edification of a considerable part of the Church.

Facts which Demand Immediate Consideration and Action.—Having now stated briefly what has been done and the signs of encouragement which appear, the exigencies of the work demand that the Assembly shall be informed of the real state of this work as far as it can be ascertained. The fact stated above, that of the sixty-one Home Presbyteries, twenty-nine are so weak as to require large help in order to carry on their work efficiently, and that eleven of the remainder are not supposed to be able to do more than to conduct their own work efficiently, is of itself adapted to show that nuch exertion is needed on the part of the twenty-one strong Presbyteries to prevent the work of the Church as a whole from failure. But when the further fact is stated, that of the twenty-one Presbyteries estimated to be strong, four have last year received more from the fund than they have given to it, and that eight others have given only a pittance more than

they received, it appears that the importance of this branch of the work is feebly apprehended in their churches. Besides this, sixteen Presbyteries report that the average of their ministers' salaries, outside of cities and large towns and apart from the Sustentation Fund, is under \$800, but above \$600, and twenty Presbyteries that the average of salaries is under \$600, and in one of them as low as \$300. In confirmation of these figures it is reported by fifty-four Presbyteries that there are 609 ministers in them engaged wholly in ministerial labor, 278 of whom receive salaries of over \$800 per annum, 145 between \$600 and \$800, and the rest under \$600, so that not more than one-half of our ministers who are wholly engaged in the service of the Church receivemore than \$800 salary, and that much the larger proportion of the rest receive under \$600.

In this connection it is reported that there are forty-one ministers engaged in secular work, and thus hindered from the work of the ministry, who would cheerfully devote themselves wholly to the service of the Church if they could obtain a support so large as \$800 per annum.

It is also stated that there are 361 pastoral charges—not single churches—but groups of churches forming fields of labor, which are not able to give so much as \$800 salary. It is furthermore said that there are 152 unoccupied fields needing ministers at once, of which only thirty-four are able by themselves to support the Gospel, showing that besides the 164 charges now being helped from the Sustentation Fund, there are 118 vacant fields which must be aided if they have the Gospel of salvation preached to them.

The Assembly is invited to pause and consider the impressive facts

which have now been detailed.

1. That a large proportion of our ministry, almost, if not quite, twothirds of them wholly engaged in the work of the Church, are living on very inadequate salaries, and must, in many cases, have their effi-

ciency materially interfered with on this account.

2. A large number of our ministers, amounting perhaps to two hundred, after making liberal deductions for the superanuated and invalid, theological teachers, secretaries, foreign missionaries and the unacceptable, do not appear to be engaged in any fruitful ministerial work at all, or if at all, so irregularly that they are not reported. This must be due in great measure to the want of support.

3. There are over one-half, probably two-thirds, of all our churches, when grouped into pastoral charges, which are unable without assist-

ance to support the stated ministry.

4. There are not far from four hundred churches—perhaps more—at present vacant, because they cannot receive aid in the support of the ministry. These simple statements, together with the further fact that 161 organized churches have no house of worship, ninety of which immediately need them and are suffering for the want of them, at onceshow how little has been done in this department, how much needs to be done, and how imperative is the duty resting upon those who can help in this work to do so.

MANSES.

The attention of the Executive Committee has during the year been directed to this interesting subject, and inquiries addressed to the chairman of the Presbyterial Committees have resulted in securing the following information: There are in fifty-four Presbyteries 186 churches which own manses, only nineteen of which were vacant at the time the report was made, and a number of these were expected to be supplied at an early day. The large majority of the Presbyterial Committees express the opinion that the possession of a manse has a decided influence in securing the greater permanency of the pastoral relation. In a few cases this opinion has not been formed. The Presbytery of Lexington has the largest number of manses—twenty; and not one of these churches is vacant. The Presbytery of Winchester has eleven, with the same result. The Presbytery of Montgomery has eleven, two

of which were vacant at the time of the report. The Presbytery of Harmony has eleven and one vacant. The Presbytery of Roanoke has nine, and the chairman of its committee expresses the opinion that had it not been for the possession of these if would have been impossible for the churches, with one exception, to have maintained the ministry. It seems clear from these statements that it is very important for every pastoral charge to own a comfortable residence for its minister. results as these could not have been attained unless there were a potent influence for good in the possession of the manse. Not only is there this much added to the support of the minister over and above what the people would otherwise be able and willing to give, but as a home provided by the Church for him who ministers to them in the Gospel, it becomes endeared at once to the minister's family and to the people of his charge, and is thus a strong bond of sympathy between them. This form of church endowment seems to be free from objections which may be legitimately urged against other permanent congregational investments for the support of the Gospel, and were it not that there is so much to be done in the direct work of supporting the ministry and in establishing and building up the feeble churches, it might be well for the General Assembly to initiate measures looking towards securing a manse in every pastoral charge As it is, the Committee recommends that the attention of Presbyteries and churches be called to this subject, and that they be urged as far as practicable to secure a manse in every pastoral charge.

SUGGESTIONS.

It has been suggested to the Executive Committee, that perhaps the rule adopted by the General Assembly in regard to not aiding churches ordinarily for a period longer than five years should be abandoned, as in many cases if must be practically inoperative, and it is not wise to class as extraordinary cases which have already become and must continue to be common. To the Committee there appears much force in this suggestion, and were it not that such large latitude is already conferred in judging of such cases, they would recommend that the rule be rescinded. The matter is referred to the General Assembly for its consideration.

Two things of a practical nature in regard to feeble churches ought always to be kept in view: 1st. It is from them that our ministry very largely comes. 2d. They are the feeders of the strong churches. Their loss is oftentimes the gain of other fields which but for the strength thus drawn from these unacknowledged sources would have remained insignificant, if they had continued to exist. Many of the best workers of the town and city churches have been converted and trained in weak country congregations, and these latter may surely say, without presumption, "if we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?"

It has also been intimated to the Committee that it might be well for the Assembly to adopt a rule requiring every church which is aided to certify that its promises of pecuniary support to its minister have been fulfilled before the aid furnished by the Assembly's fund shall be paid. This suggestion is referred to the Assembly for its consideration, but with the remark that such a rule appears to be liable to the very grave objection that while in some cases it might act well on the churches, in others it would be the source of very great embarrassment to the minister, he finding himself in the double misery of being unpaid both by his people and by the Assembly.

EVANGELISTIC WORK.

The distinction between sustentation and evangelistic work is not as yet thoroughly defined in all the Presbyteries. The metes and bounds of these branches of work are, however, becoming better marked out and are sufficiently kept in view already to justify the separation of them into co-ordinate departments, as the General Assembly has done.

The former department is conservative and preservative, the latter is aggressive and extensive. The object of sustentation is to aid feeble churches already established in securing and maintaining the ordinances of a preached gospel, with a view to their growth in numbers and grace, to the end that efficient congregations may be built up in the place of weak ones. The object of evangelistic work is to extend the authority and pastoral care of the Presbytery to our scattered people who would otherwise be left without oversight or needed attention; to send the Gospel into regions where it is not preached, and to establish churches at points where the providence of God seems to indicate that they are needed and desired.

COLORED EVANGELISTIC WORK.

Eighteen Presbyteries report that something is being done in their bounds for the work among the colored people. From the reports it also appears that there are twenty-one churches for the colored people, five colored ministers, three colored licentiates and six colored candidates for the ministry under the care of the fifty-four reporting Presbyteries. This shows an increase of seven churches, of two ministers and of five candidates over last year. The number of licentiates is the same. It is probable that the increase in candidates is due, at least in some degree, to the stimulating effect of the action of the last General Assembly in establishing the training school for colored ministers at Tuskaloosa, Alabama. If this be so, it shows that this infant institution has already produced important indirect results which entitle it to the liberal support of all who love the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, and who feel an interest in the salvation of the four millions of people for whose benefit it is intended.

INVALID FUND.

The demands on this fund last year were considerably larger than the year previous and the appropriations were a little over \$1,000 more. Had the receipts from the churches been as large as in the former year, there would have been no deficiency on April 1st, but a comfortable balance. It was late in the year before it appeared certain that this falling off in the contributions would occur, and after that time the Committee felt compelled to curtail the amounts applied for in several This was painful, but it seemed necessary. At the March meeting of the Committee the question had to be squarely met as to whether the second instalment of the appropriations, made in October, should be scaled down so as to avoid a deficiency in the treasury, or whether obligations already incurred and relied on by those who draw from this fund should be paid in full. The latter alternative was adopted, as it was not believed to be right to allow the venerable and beloved men of God and the widows and orphans of our deceased brethren, who draw the comforts and in many cases the necessaries of life from this fund, to be disappointed in their well-founded expectation of help from the Church. Hence no action was taken looking towards a diminution of payments, but all the outstanding obligations of the Committee were promptly met. Great caution, however, is now being used not to increase the obligations of the fund beyond the point which it will probably be able to meet, it being evident that unless the receipts from the churches are much larger than formerly, no alternative will be left at the time of annual appropriation in October, except to diminish the amount appropriated so as to correspond with the amount received.

All the Presbyteries co-operate in sustaining this fund except that of Concord, three or four of whose churches and some benevolent individuals and one ladies' society have, however, contributed. Forty-three Presbyteries have received aid from the fund for twenty-eight aged and infirm ministers, and for the families of sixty-eight deceased ministers. This shows seven Presbyteries requiring aid more than last

year, with two ministers and eight families added to the lists of those who need to be helped.

RELIEF FUND.

On April 1st there were seventy-five names on the relief lists whose premiums have been fully paid. Of these twelve have come in under the scheme adopted by the last General Assembly, which has been received with evident favor by the Church, and which, it is hoped, will be found largely useful in the future. There are also three names on the lists of persons under the old scheme who are entitled to pay their premiums during this ealendar year. There has been only one death among the subscribers to the fund since the meeting of the last General Assembly, that of the Rev. Jesse Rankin, of the Synod of North Carolina. In January last the condition of the relief fund was thoroughly re-examined by C. F. McCay, LL. D., a member of your Committee, and the result is the confident statement that it is not only-solvent, but besides being able to meet all its engagements, had a surplus of \$1,706 over and above its liabilities. It is cheering to note that the receipts on account of interest are this year more than enough to pay all the annuities which fell due, thus leaving the whole of the premiums, after deducting the very small expense account, to be added to the permanent investment fund. It is believed that as our ministers become better acquainted with the working of this fund and its benefits are more generally distributed, a larger number will avail themselves of its advantages. To the younger men of the ministry, especially, it offers peculiar attractions. Of the new names added last year all except one belong to this class. For them the annual payment is so small that by a little self-denial most of them may meet it, and as it does not increase, but continues the same throughout life, they gain a great advantage by not delaying to secure its benefits.

By order of the Executive Committee,

RICHARD McIlwaine, J. Leighton Wilson, Secretaries.

BALTIMORE, MD., May 1, 1877.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ON ACCOUNT OF SUSTENTATION.

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, 1876, to April 1st, 1877.

	SUSTENTATIO				EVANGELISTIC FUND.			INVALID FUND.		
PRESBYTERIES.	Contributed	Churches.	Rec'd from	the Fund.	Contributed	Churches.	Rec'd from the Fund.	Contributed	Churches.	Rec'd from the Fund,
		_		_	<u> </u>	_			<u> </u>	
Pres. of East Alabama " South Alabama " Tuskaloosa	\$339 458 244	05	312 325		174 37 186	85	350 00 200 00	113 231 176	85 20 75	150 00 100 00 275 00
Synod of Alabama	1042	55	637	50	398	63	550 00	521	80	525 00
Pres. of Arkansas " Indian " Ouachita	256 19 154	28	425 487			45 45 35	225 00	83 11 103	5 0	225 00 300 00
Synod of Arkansas	429	64	912	50	157	25	225 00	198	 75	525 00
Pres. of Atlanta	158 364 189	20	150 262 325	50			592 37	291	$01 \\ 00 \\ 52$	250 · 00 275 · 00
" Florida " Macon	$\frac{278}{239}$	35 95	512 250	$\begin{array}{c} 50 \\ 00 \end{array}$	37 90	$\frac{35}{20}$	250 00	74 71	$\begin{array}{c} 75 \\ 35 \end{array}$	100 00
" Savannah	131					52			56	250 00
Synod of Georgia			1725		474		842 37	675		875 00
Pres. of Central Ohio Ebenezer	$\begin{array}{c c} 12\\283\end{array}$	45 36	250 264		-	$\frac{00}{44}$		$\begin{array}{ c c }\hline 11\\103\end{array}$		
" Louisville " Muhlenburg	813 31	45 75	500	00	127	90	200 00	187 5	60 00	100 00
" Paducah	190		380			00		82	20	
" Transylvania	279	50	250		290	00	333 33	42	20	
" West Lexington	565	 -	283		305	75		271	35	
Synod of Kentucky	2176	69	1927	66	888	09	533 33	703	32	100 00
Pres. of Chickasaw		30	450				,		65	200 00
" Memphis		25	375		195			211		200 00
" North Alabama " N. Mississippi	87 169	65 20	500	00	$\frac{61}{2}$	70 65	575 00	$\frac{28}{60}$	$\frac{60}{35}$	275 00
" West'n District		90	200		33	00	100 00		70	200 00 200 00
Synod of Memphis	991	30	1530	00	293	21	675 00	399	58	925 00
Pres, of Central Miss	189 95		412 950		39	75		94	75	250 00
" Louisiana " Mississippi	122		100		$\frac{29}{49}$	$\frac{90}{75}$		21 83		350 00
" New Orleans	726		200		256	40		436	35	990 00
" Red River	98		500	00	17	20	400 00	31	10	
" Tombeckbee	176	87	125	00		••••		26	65	75 00
Synod of Mississippi 5	1409	92	2287	50	3 93	00	400 00	694	15	675 00

	SUSTEN	CATION		ELISTIC	D FUND,	
		FUND,				
PRESBYTERIES	Contrib'd by Churches	Rec'd f'm the Fund.	Contrib'd by Churches	Rec'd f'm the Fund.	Sontrib'd by hurches	f. ind.
1 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	G.4 E	, E	ほんむ	_ Ξ,Ξ	itril hy irch	
	# - #	ું ફુંમું	투수로	2 <u>4</u>	5-2	\ \J
	Contrib'd hy Churches	84. 34.	fontribid by Thurches	24	Contrib'c by Churches	Ree'd f'n the Fund
Pres. of Lafayette	131 40	225 00	71 10	100 00	9 90	100 00
" Missouri	169 85	$\begin{vmatrix} 312 & 50 \\ 275 & 00 \end{vmatrix}$	102 90	300 00	71 10	100 00
" Palmyra " Potosi	$\begin{vmatrix} 98 & 10 \\ 91 & 95 \end{vmatrix}$	275 00	$\begin{array}{ccc} & 45 & 40 \\ & 55 & 05 \end{array}$	200 00 66 66	52 95 16 05	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
" St. Louis	$339 \ 28$	275 00	62 55	75 00	$\frac{10}{72} \frac{68}{68}$	200 00
" Upper Mo	86 70		78 60		58 60	
Synod of Missouri	917 28	1087 50	415 60	441 66	281 28	400 00
Pres. of Columbia	207 90	275 00	$\frac{112 \ 05}{}$	${325} {00}$	67 00	
" Holston	168 43	350 00	52 - 20	304 16	78 70	
" Knoxville	151 20	· 439 60	126 44	450 00	109-56	325 00
· Nashville	19 00		$\frac{19.75}{}$		484 80	
Syn. of Nashville	546 53	1064 60	310 44	1079 16	740 06	325 00
Pres. of Concord	66 15	200			71 51	1-7 00
" Fayetteville	90 46	200 00	57 04		41 46	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
MICCRI Duig.	492 35 355 24	$\begin{bmatrix} 425 & 00 \\ 362 & 50 \end{bmatrix}$	$ \begin{array}{c cccc} & 10 & 00 \\ & 25 & 70 \end{array} $		192 39 $198 28$	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
" Orange " Wilmington		302 50			$\frac{138}{58}$ $\frac{23}{02}$	200 00
Syn. of N.Carolina	1004 20	987 50	92 74		561 66	825 00
Pres. of Bethel	213 30	$\frac{-337}{30}$	95 75		118 90	$\frac{-175 \ 00}{}$
" Charleston	146 36	200 00	3 20		88 11	375 00
" Harmony	355 78	200 00	221 - 80		175 17	610 00
" S. Carolina	232 01	75 00	85 76	150 00	167 40	375 00
Syn. of S. Carolina.	947 45	812 50	406 51	150 00	549 58	1535 00
Pres. of Brazos	209 60	350 00	97 00	700 00	73 15	250 00
" Cen. Texas	205 95	960 50	183 20	942 35	64 40	435 00
" Eas. Texas	151 60	616 67 850 00	356 10 211 30	762 50	51 25	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
Wes. Ichus,	231 90			652 59	78 05	
Synod of Texas	799 05	2777 17	847 60	3057 44	266 85	1035 00
Pres. of Abingdon	217 44	227 59	156 21	500 00	110 59	200 00
" Chesapeake	$\begin{bmatrix} 2024 & 84 \\ 405 & 05 \end{bmatrix}$	1370 83	788 75 59 63		522 14 521 52	700 00 400 00
" E. Hanover." " Greenbrier	330 42	487 50	$\frac{99.03}{223.48}$	458 33	149 96	150 00
" Lexington	638 07	804 16	385 02	450 00	312 69	150 00
" Montgomery	481 36	362 50	100 10		84 03	275 00
" Roanoke	514 76	382 50	104 30		141 67	100 00
" Eao Paulo	400.00	510.50	200 43		6 75	200 00
" W. Hanover.	490 30	$\begin{array}{ccc} 712 & 50 \\ 462 & 50 \end{array}$	209-22 380-26	400 00	151 33	200 00
willenester	533 09		2406 87	300 00	$\frac{247 \ 31}{2247 \ 99}$	425 00
Syn. of Virginia	5635 33 2224 93	$\frac{4810}{1840} \frac{08}{94}$	$\frac{2406-87}{1365-10}$	2108 33		2600 00
Miscellaneous Col'd Evang. Fund	± ± 95	388 58	1909 10	775 15	1402 85	871 78
Bl. on h'd Apr. 1, '76	5261 32		6494 14		67 40	
	24748 87	22789 03	14944 08	$\frac{10837}{44}$	9310 46	
Bl. on h'd Apr. 1, '77			4106 64			1906 32
Proun a Whiri, 11	TINDO OT		1200 01			100000

REPORT OF TREASURER OF SUSTENTATION, APRIL 1, 1877.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States in account with Richard McIlwaine, Treasurer of Sustentation.

SUSTENTATION.

DR.

DR.		
To cash paid Ministers' Salaries and Church Erection, from April 1, 1876, to April 1, 1877	\$20,559 388 1,494 85 81 41 71 4 61	58 51 84 38 69 35 71 46
	\$24,748	87
Cr.	4 - 2, 1 2.7	• • •
By donations from Churches, &c., from April 1, 1876, to April 1, 1877. By balance in Treasury, April 1, 1876	-\$19.487	
	\$24,748	87
EVANGELISTIC FUND.	Ç=1, (1)	.,
$\mathrm{Dr}.$		
To cash paid Evangelists, from April 1, 1876, to April 1, 1877 General Expenses, including salaries and clerk hire, \$629 27; Printing, \$36-15; Travelling Expenses, \$34-26; Office Epenses, \$17-56; Postage, \$30-05; Exchange, \$1-99; The	\$10,062 775	
Missionary, \$25 87	4,106	64
	\$14,944	08
Cr.	. ,	
By donations from Churches, &c., from April 1, 1876, to April 1, 1877	\$8,449	0.1
By balance in Treasury, April 1, 1876	6,494	
	\$14,944	08
COLORED EVANGELISTIC FUND.		
Dr.		
To eash paid Ministers and Churches	\$875	00
Cr.		
By donation from Churches, &c	\$458	53
By balance in Treasury, April 1, 1876.	27	
By balance in Treasury, April 1, 1876	388	
	\$ \$75	00

INVALID FUND.

DR.

To cash paid to Disabled Ministers and families of deceased Ministers	\$10,345	00:
To cash paid to General Expenses, including salaries and clerk hire, \$707.93; Printing, \$40.41; Travelling Expenses, \$38.55; Office Expenses, \$19.75; Postage, \$33.80; Exchange, \$2.23; The Missionary, \$29.11	871	
The state of the s	\$11,216	78
Cr.		
Donations from Churches, &c	9,243	
By balance in the Treasury, April 1, 1876	1,906	$\frac{40}{32}$
-	\$11,216	78 .
RELIEF FUND.	7,	
Dr.		
To cash paid families of deceased Ministers	\$1,200	
" " Norfolk City, Va., (water) Bonds	3,277	5()
clerk hire, \$393-29; Printing, \$22-59; Travelling Expenses, \$21-41; Office Expenses, \$10-97; Postage, \$18-78; Exchange, \$1-25	468	29
To balance due Treasurer, April 1, 1876	180	
By balance in Treasury, April 1, 1877	337	07
	\$5,4 63	82
CR.	64 130	6)(1
By amount of Premiums from Ministers and Churches By interest on investments, through Jesse H. Lindsay,	\$4,122	
Treasurer By interest from individuals	1,326 14	66 96
	\$5, 4 63	82
RICHARD McIlwaine,		
Treasurer of Suste	ntation	•
Bonds in the hands of Jesse H. Lindsay, Esq., Treasurer of th Trustees of the General Assembly, belonging to the Relief		l of
6 bonds of the City of Augusta, Ga., \$1,000 each	\$6,000	
3 " " Augusta Factory, Augusta, Ga., \$1,000 each 3 " " Central Ohio R. R. Co., " "	3,000 3,000	
4 " Northern Central R. R. Co., (gold bonds)	4,000	
2 " " \$1,000 each	,	
ach City of Norfolk, Va., (water) \$1,000 each	2,000 3,000	
	\$21,000	00

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

ABSTRACT OF THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 1ST, 1877.

In presenting the Sixteenth Annual Report on Foreign Missions, the Executive Committee would humbly and thankfully acknowledge the goodness of Almighty God in His merciful dealings with our missionary brethren, and praise Him for the manifold tokens of favor bestowed upon their work, for the preservation of our missions and missionary stations during the year, and for the growing interest manifested by our Christian people in the progress of this great cause.

UNFAVORABLE FACTS.

Among those events of an unfavorable or afflictive character may be mentioned first, the removal by death of the Rev. William LeConte, on the 4th of November, at his mother's home in Washington, D. C. Another unfavorable feature in the work was the failure of health on the part of Mrs. H. B. Pratt, of Bucaramanga mission, and of Mr. John W. Dabney of the Campinas mission, making it necessary for both to return to this country for the recovery of their health, thus weakening the missions with which they were respectively connected. In addition to these we are sorry to report that Rev. M. H. Houston, who has spent so many years in China and who has been laboring in the churches in this country for eighteen months past with so much acceptance and success, has been compelled in consequence of continued ill health, to ask his dismission from the missionary service. He has recently assumed a pastoral charge in the mountains of Virginia, and it is hoped that he will not only be useful there, but that the mountain air may be the means of restoring him to ultimate good health, The missions in China and in South America feel very sensibly these bosses, and it is hoped that the time may not be far distant when these breaches shall be repaired.

But the trials connected with this loss of laborers are not the only ones that need to be recorded. During the greater part of the year, the United States of Colombia have been so violently agitated by a bitter and fierce civil war, that not only have the labors of our missionaries been greatly paralyzed, but the life of Mr. Pratt, as there was reason to fear, was for some time brought into serious peril. At the date of our last letters, there was something of a lull in the progress of the war, but still greater uncertainty as to the final result. As a further fact of a kindred nature it is necessary to state that the Muskogee Institute, in the Creek Indian Country, to which frequent allusions have been made both in the *Missionary* and in previous Annual Reports, has, so far as connected with the Committee, been suspended—owing partly to lawless assaults repeatedly made against the Institution by drunken young men in the nighborhood, whom the community did not seem able to restrain, and partly on account of dissatisfaction with the conduct of Mr. Perryman who has had charge of the Institution for several

years past.

FAVORABLE INDICATIONS.

One of the most important is, that notwithstanding the severe financial restrictions that have necessarily been imposed upon the missions, and notwithstanding the further fact that no missionary reinforcements have been sent out for two years, yet, in the good providence of God, none of our missions have been discontinued on this account, whilst most of them have been carried on without any apparent diminution of energy. At all of the stations, except perhaps those in the United States of Colombia, there have been important accessions to the

churches, and at some of them those accessions have been considerable. In this same connection it should be mentioned, that our christian people, notwithstanding the unprecedented hardness of the times, have responded to the ealls of this great cause with commendable liberality, and especially are thanks due the christian women of the Church, many of whom have not only practiced self-denial, but have wrought vigorously with their own hands to raise funds for the promotion of this great enterprise. The children of the Sabbath Schools too have been active and have contributed materially to the missionary fund. There is reason also to believe that the great body of our christian people are acquiring more knowledge in relation to the progress of this great work, and are more ready to admit their obligation to do all that they can for its promotion.

CHANGES IN THE MISSIONARY FORCE.

Miss Nannie Henderson, who returned from Campinas to this country two years ago in utterly prostrate health, has gradually regained good health and hopes to return to her chosen field of labor in the early Rev. J. H. Colton, who had had charge of Spencer Academy for a number of years, and who had conducted it with efficiency, wascompelled last fall, on account of the feeble health of his family, to ask to be released from the charge, which was granted with regret for the cause which made it necessary. Rev. J. J. Read, for a number of years the efficient pastor of the Presbyterian church in Houston, Texas, wasappointed to take charge of this institution, which he did in the early part of January, and with very encouraging prospects of success. Rev. L. W. Currie, of North Carolina, and Dr. H. R. Johnson, of Texas, have been appointed permanent teachers in this institution and are now actively engaged in the discharge of their duties as such. Misse Mattie C. Parks, of the Synod of Missouri, was appointed teacher in the Muskogee Institute. She reached the Indian Country in December, and continued to teach there until the Committee closed its connection with that school. Miss Nannie Henderson, who has been in that country on account of her health, expects soon to return to the Campinas mission.

FINANCE.

The receipts from all sources for the year ending April 1st, were \$55,121 15. Of this amount \$38,697 31 was contributed by churches and individuals, \$9,625 78 by Ladies' Missionary Associations and \$6,798 06 by Sabbath Schools. This shows a falling off in the contributions from churches, individuals and miscellaneous, as compared with last year, of \$8,152 60; an increase from those of Ladies' Missionary Associations of \$1,807 93; and an increase from Sabbath Schools of \$192 55. In the aggregate there has been a falling off in the receips, as compared with last year of \$6,152 12. The expenditures, in consequence of the most rigid economy, have been reduced to \$50,098 75. This leaves the general debt reduced to \$4,826 27, which can now, in the general acceptation of the terms, scarcely be regarded as a debt, as this amount is liable to be found on one or the other side of the account at the close of every year. The home expense, including salaries, clerk hire and travelling expenses, postage, printing Annual report and circulars, expense of the Missionary, over and above receipts, amount to \$4,936 11. The travelling expenses amounting to \$372 40, are greater than usual, owing to the fact, that in addition to visiting Synods, the Senior Secretary had to make a visit to one of the Indian missions during the year.

The number of churches that have contributed is 1,053, which is less by 66 than contributed last year, and which shows that there are 766 churches, a good deal more than one-third of the whole, that have contributed nothing at all to this great work during the year.

The number of Ladies' Missionary Associations that have contributed is 172, being an increase of 64 over those that contributed last year.

Their aggregate contributions exceed those of last year by \$1,807.93. Great credit is due to these Associations for their earnest and hearty co-operation in this time of great need. It has been, as we have reason to know, by much earnest effort, great field. It has been, as we have reason to know, by much earnest effort, great self-denial and no little industry that they have procured the means of contributing to this cause. The number of Sabbath Schools that have contributed is 262, being 8 less than gave last year, though the aggregate contributions of these exceed those of last year by nearly \$200. The receipts from these schools might be greatly augmented if they could generally be interested in the work. ted in the work.

INDIAN MISSIONS.

Cherokee Mission.

Park Hill.—Rev. Stephen Foreman.

Choctaw Mission.

Boggy Depot.—Rev. Allen Wright, (native) and Mrs. Wright.

Bennington.—Rev. J. W. B. Lloyd and Mrs. Lloyd.

Doakesville.—Rev. E. Brewer (native preacher,) and Rev. Charles Stewart (colored preacher.)

Lenox.—Rev. Harris Danna, (native preacher.)

Cove.—Mr. James Dyer and James Taylor, (native licentiates.)

Spencer Academy.—Rev. J. J. Read and Mrs. Read, Rev. L. W. Currie, H. R. Johnson, M. D., and Miss Elizabeth Morrison, teachers.

MEXICAN MISSION.

Matamoras.—Rev. A. T. Graybill. Messrs. Carrero and Leandro, Mrs. Carrero and Miss Virginia Leandro, (native helpers.)

God still continues to bless this mission in a remarkable manner, especially in the view of the fact that it is only three years since it was founded. Mr. Graybill, aided by Mr. Leandro, maintains preaching every Sabbath at Matamoras, at Brownsville, on the opposite side of the Rio Grande, and at Santa Rosalia, three miles distant from Matamoras. At Santa Rosalia, the people without any assistance from abroad, have erected a neat little chapel for themselves, at a cost of something like \$300. At Matamoras the congregation have purchased a very desirable lot for a church building at a cost of \$374. Between these two congregations as much as \$862 50 has been raised for church building purposes. Besides this the church at Matamoras has raised as much as \$70 to meet contingent expenses and to relieve the poor of the church. During the year twenty-five adults have been received into the communion of the church by baptism on a profession of their faith, whilst fourteen children have also been added by baptism. The whole number of adult communicants received since the establishment of the mission is seventy-nine, and the whole number of children bap-tized is twenty-four. Four of the first mentioned have been removed by death. There are three day schools at the principal stations, embracing in all sixty-five pupils—the regular number of attendants being something smaller than this. There are also three Sabbath Schools embracing as many as eighty-six attendants. There are also three persons who are under training for the work of the ministry—studying under Mr. Graybill systematic theology, interpretation of the Scriptures when the construction of the Scriptures and the Creek beginning. tures, and the Greek language. Something like \$1,600 have been contributed by friends in this country to aid in building the church at Matamoras. The building has been commenced, but it will require \$300 or \$400 in addition to what has already been given to complete it, and this cause is earnestly commended to the liberality of those who have the means to aid in the accomplishment of this most important object.

MISSIONS IN THE UNITED STATES OF COLOMBIA.

Bucaramanga.—Rev. H. B. Pratt and Mrs. Pratt, (in this country.)

Baranquilla.—Rev. J. G. Hall, Mrs. Hall and Mr. A. H. Erwin, teacher.

Mr. Pratt has been employed mainly in preparing, printing and circulating religious tracts among the people. For a portion of the year he has printed and circulated gratuitously a monthly magazine, which he thinks has been received with considerable favor, and which, he hopes, is silently doing good. He has also spent a good deal of time in revising and printing a new edition of the Psalms, which he hopes will some day or other prove a blessing to the entire Spanish-speaking population of South America.

Mr. Hall's labors have been devoted almost entirely to the people of the city of Baranquilla and in the study of the language. He complains that the attendance is not large, but there will probably be improvement in this respect when he is able to speak the language with greater fluency. The schools taught by Mrs. Hall and by Mr. Erwin have both been very much reduced in consequence of the war. With the return of peace the schools will no doubt regain their former prosperity.

BRAZILIAN MISSIONS.

Campinas.—Rev. G. Nash Morton and Mrs. Morton, Rev. Edward Lane and Mrs. Lane, Rev. John Boyle and Mrs. Boyle, and Miss M. V. Kirk, Miss Nannie Henderson (in this country.) Four mative helpers.

Pernambuco.-Rev. J. Rockwell Smith. One native colporteur.

The work at the Campinas mission has been arranged under three distinct departments. First, the college under Mr. Morton's general superintendence; second, the school for girls under the direction of Mr. Boyle, in which he is assisted by Miss Kirk; third, the evangelistic work under the care of Mr. Lane, in which he is assisted by the

colporteur and other native helpers.

The college has been earried on as in former years, except that some interruption has been occasioned by sickness. The number of pupils previous to the interruption was 120, and it will probably continue to range at about this number. The condition of the grounds and premises has been greatly improved, especially in the supply of an abundance of good water, drawn from a deep well through the agency of a windmill. The girls' school contains 25 pupils, a part of whom are the daughters of Americans who have recently settled in Campinas. Stated preaching is maintained by Messrs. Morton and Boyle in the college chapel in the church at Campinas and occasionally in other places in the vicinity.

Mr. Lane has spent a large part of the year in missionary tours in the surrounding country and with many encouraging tokens of success. There are now five separate church organizations in connection with this mission, at Campinas, Penha, Agua Branca, Mogy-Morim and at Santa Barbara. Three persons have been received into the church at Campinas on a profession of their faith, and five children have been baptized. The total membership is 37. Forty children are instructed in the Sabbath schools. The church has contributed \$224 to meet its own expenses, and \$81.71 has been raised by the ladies of the church towards putting up a church edifice. At Penha three persons have been received into the communion of the church on a profession of faith, and 5 children have been baptized.

This church, during the latter part of 1875 and the present year, has raised \$355 in gold for the purchase and enclosure of a cemetery, its members being denied burial in the Romish cemetery. They also maintain a good school at their own expense. At the Agua Branca church 5 persons have been received on a profession of their faith, and 5 children have been baptized, the total number being 27. The

church at Mogy-Morim has recently been organized. The number of its members is 7, each one of whom contributed \$1 monthly to meet the expenses of their worship. The church at Santa Barbara is made up almost wholly of United States citizens, who settled there soon after the war. Rev. James Baird, formerly of South Carolina, has the pastoral charge of this church, but the missionaries at Campinas preach there once a month, in the morning to the English-speaking congregation, and in the evening to the Brazilian people. The whole number of members here is 25.

ITALIAN MISSION.

Milan.—Miss Christina Ronzone.

GREEK MISSION.

Athens.—Rev. M. D. Kalopothakes and Mrs. Kalopothakes, Rev. G. L. Leyburn and Mrs. Leyburn.

Salonika.—Rev. George Kazacos and Mr. Laoutsi.

Volos.—Mr. Michaelides and Mr. Atoniades.

The two papers, The Star of the East, published weekly, and The Child's Paper, published monthly, have been regularly issued and their circulation compares favorably with former years. A hymn and tune book has been printed, consisting of one hundred and seven tunes and two hundred and fifty hymns; the whole makes a neat octavo book of one hundred and twenty-seven pages, and so far as is known is the only publication of the kind in modern Greek.

CHINA MISSIONS.

Hangehow.—Rev. J. L. Stuart and Mrs. Stuart, Rev. Ben. Helm, Mr. G. W. Painter, Mrs. A. E. Randolph, Miss Helen Kirkland, Mr. Wu and Mr. Lee, Ah-tse and five other native helpers.

Soochow.—Rev. H. C. DuBose and Mrs. DuBose, Rev. John W. Davis, Miss Anna C. Safford and four native helpers.

The Hangchow mission has been favored with general good health. Mrs. Randolph, on account of the failure of her voice, found it necessary to visit Japan, where she remained several weeks and derived great benefit. Mr. Painter had an attack of chills, but recovered entirely from it by spending a few weeks on an island near Ningpo. Mr. Davis suffered sometime from sore throat, but was much better at the date of our last letters. Miss Safford, in consequence of not having comfortable rooms in Soochow, spent several of the hot months in the vicinity of Cheefoo.

The labors of the Hangehow mission have been devoted to the public preaching of the Gospel, to visiting among the women, to preparing books and tracts for the press, to circulating books and tracts in the city and surrounding country, and, with the aid of native helpers, to the instruction of schools. There are two boarding schools, one for girls and the other for boys, the former under the care of Mrs. Randolph, and embraces thirty pupils; the latter under the care of Mr. Painter, and contains twenty-four pupils. Besides these there are four day schools, one for boys, under the direction of Mr. Painter, and three of a mixed character, under the direction of Miss Kirkland, embracing

about fifteen pupils each.

Daily preaching has been kept up in the street chapels by Mr. Helm and Mr. Stuart, aided by the native preacher. Each of the brethren have made three evangelistic tours into the neighboring towns and cities, Mr. Helm spending thirty days in this way and Mr. Stuart twenty-five, and in that time sold 10,000 copies of books and tracts. The number of church members in good standing is now 16, of which 4 were added during the year and are members of Mr. Painter's school. The day schools open up a wide door of access to the female population of Hangehow, which the ladies are turning to a good account. Mr. Helm has prepared and published a valuable hymn book in the Mandarin language, which will no doubt have an extensive influence for good.

The church at Soochow has three members, two having been sus-Preaching is maintained in the chapel on Sunday morning and afternoon, and a Sunday school is also kept up during the afternoon. Miss Safford's class of women has also increased during the year. The building of a street chapel here has been an important feature in the Mr. DuBose had to spend nearly two months in superintending the work, but preached two or three times during the week while the work was going on; after its dedication, in January, he preached almost daily to congregations varying from forty to eighty. Mr. Davis has suffered much of the time from sore throat, but has been able to deliver one hundred sermons and addresses notwithstanding. Mr. DuBose did not make any extended missionary tours during the year, but sold in the streets of Soochow 4,500 books, besides distributing many thousand sheet tracts. Mr. Dayis visited thirty-one different towns and cities and sold 6,200 books. There are three day schools at Soochow, two under the care of Mrs. DuBose and one superintended by Miss Safford. The average attendance at Mrs. DuBose's school is thirty-six, and at Miss Safford's eighteen. Mrs. DuBose and Miss Safford have both visited extensively among the women of Soochow. Miss Safford had interviews of a religious character with nearly 2,000 women. Miss Safford has in press an addition of 200 copies of "Bible History" in Soochow dialect; she has also ready for the press an edition of "Precept upon Precept" and a revised edition of her Catechism, the first edition being exhausted. Mr. Davis reports a large number of individuals who have received medical aid during the year.

By order of the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions,

J. LEIGHTON WILSON, Secretaries. RICHARD MCILWAINE,

Baltimore, May 1, 1877.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, APRIL 1, 1877.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, in account with Richard McIlwaine, Treasurer of Foreign Missions.

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			D	R.					
To eash	naid	Indian Missio	ns from	Ameil	1 276 to	Annil	1 277	\$7,680	70
"	144	Indian Missio China	11.7,110111	41,111	·, ;;	, 41,111	1, ,,	8,847	
4.4	44	Campinas	6.6	4.4	4.6	44	44	10,545	
4.4	4.4	Pernambuco	44	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.4	2,693	
4.4	4.4	Colombian	44	66	6.6	4.4	44	5,205	
6.6	4.4	Italian	4.4	66	44	4.4	44	650	
44	4.4	Greek	4.6	6.6		44	44	5,792	
4.4	44	Mexican	4.6	4.6	44	4.6	66	3,164	
4.4	44	Salaries and (Tork bir	•0				4,125	
4.4	4.4	Printing	JELK IIII	· · · · · · · · · ·	•••••	• • • • • • • • •		175	
"	44	Printing Travelling Ex	11011 202	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	•••••	$\frac{179}{372}$	
6.6	44	Office Expons	трепаса.	••••••	•••••	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	•••••	64	
66	44	Office Expens	·Cs	•••••	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	185	
"	6.6	Postage Exchange	••••••	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • •	•••••		13	
4.6	44	The Missionar	ov abovo	roccint		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	582	
" Ar	naun	t due Treasure	y above	1976	~	• • • • • • • • • • •	•••••	9,848	
411		t due Treasure	April	, 1010	•••••	• • • • • • • • • •	•••••	9,040	01
								\$59,947	.10
			CF	. 1				φ90,0 4 1	7.
0 1									
By don:	atron	s from Church " Mission	ies, &c					38,697	
"	"	" Mission	iary Soci	ieties				9,625	
••	••	" Sabbati	h School	s. &c				6,798	
" Am	ount	due Treasurer	April 1,	1877				4,826	27
							•	\$59,947	42

RICHARD McILWAINE,

Treasurer Foreign Missions.

N. B.—The Treasurer also has in his hands \$1,200 of the Southern Rail Road Bonds, received as a donation during the current year, which are not at present paying interest and the value of which cannot be ascertained, but is understood to be nominal.

ABSTRACT OF THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION.

The number of candidates for the ministry recommended by Presbyteries for assistance during the past year comprises seventy-four in all stages of preparation. Of this number thirty-three are reported as strictly theological students, who have been pursuing their studies at the seminaries following, viz:

$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{t}$	Union Theological Seminary,	-		-	-	-		17
	Columbia Theological Seminary,		•	-	-		-	11
\mathbf{At}	Arkansas College, Batesville,	-		•	-	-		8
$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{t}$	Princeton Theological Seminary,		• ′	-	-		-	1
\mathbf{At}	the Institute for Training Colored	1 (Jai	ıdid	lates	, -		1-33

The remaining students on our lists have been pursuing their literary and scientific studies at the following thirteen universities and collegiate institutes, viz:

The University of Virginia, Washington and Lee University, University of Mississippi, Wooster University (Ohio), Davidson College, King College, Stewart College, Westminster College, Alabama State Normal Institute, Homer College (La.), Texas Agricultural College, Oxford Collegiate Institute (Ala.)

As usual, some of these candidates have dissolved their connection with the Committee, and left the institutions they were attending, for reasons not involving an abandonment of the ministry, but from ill-

health or straitened circumstances.

For the past two years during which this Committee has been acting, it has been their painful duty to report to the Assembly considerable deficiency in the amount of receipts compared with the appropriations made to students. For example: For the year ending April 30, 1875, the deficiency amounted to \$3,992 45; and on April 30, 1876, the amount deficient reached the sum of \$4,473. Subsequent contributions and collections have enabled the Committee to reduce these figures to the sum of \$1,789. By the last Assembly it was resolved that "the trustees of the General Assembly be instructed to turn over the legacy of the Lusk estate to the Treasurer of Education, to collect and use the same for liquidating the existing debt, or otherwise, as the exigencies of the case may require."

Since the close of the ecclesiastical year on April 30, 1876, the collections from this source amount to \$769-55. Of this sum all except the sum of \$100 recently collected has been distributed among those of the students to whom the money is due. Other sums have been given for this purpose, and have been so appropriated. The amount on hand collected from the legacy for this object is \$100; and the hope and belief is that it will be increased by additional collections not long hence. The fact that the amount of the legacy, interest included, is nearly double the amount of the indebtedness of the Committee is an addiditional reason why we feel sure of realizing a sufficiency to pay it en-

tirely before very long.

It is the policy of the Committee to hold this legacy as a kind of reserve fund sacredly for the extinguishment of their indebtedness, and it will be devoted to that object as rapidly as it is collected and paid over into our treasury. The Committee has not used the current income arising from the contributions of the churches during the past

year to pay this debt, and for the following reasons: 1. The Assembly provided, at the last meeting, by resolution, that this legacy should be so used. 2. Past experience had shown very clearly that the contributions of the churches were never sufficient to pay the indebtedness and to meet their pledges to students of the current year at the same The Committee has also pursued the policy of distributing the collections from the legacy among students at the seminaries and colleges who were their creditors, instead of graduates, for this reason: The graduates were receiving salaries, and were not pressed as were the students who were not in a situation to help themselves. But it is hoped that by the blessing of God upon our affairs every creditor of the Committee will be paid in full "to the uttermost farthing." debt is due only to students.

It is a source of profound satisfaction to your Committee that they are enabled to report to the General Assembly that the income of the current year arising from individual contributions and collections from churches has been sufficient to pay in full all the appropriations made Yet the Committee, while recording this circumstance with sincere and hearty thanks to God for His great favor thus extended, would not ignore the fact that there are two reasons which

have contributed to some extent to this result; and they are-

A smaller number of students than usual has been upon the funds of the Committee, and, of course, a smaller amount of money was

needed.

The Committee have felt also that it was a necessity that they should curtail the amount promised—that is, that whereas formerly the sum of \$200 was, in ordinary cases, appropriated to students who were in the seminaries, this sum should be reduced to \$175; and just so, also, in cases of college students, that the sum of \$150 should be the amount promised, instead of what formerly was allowed, viz: \$175.

These two facts, of course, enabled them to do their work, and pay

what they promised, with greater case.

The experience of many young men who placed themselves on the funds of the Committee in the expectation that their pressing wants would be supplied, led them to the conclusion that the pledges of the Committee were a delusion and a snare. They did not-they could not—censure the Committee. This agency of the Assembly has no power except to carry out the will of the Assembly, and to comply with the wishes of the Presbyteries as expressed to the Committee by the Corresponding Presbyterial Committees through their chairmen. The Committee accepts every candidate who comes regularly recommended, and appropriates, if possible, the sum asked by the Presby-terial chairmen. Of course, then, it is a reasonable expectation on the part of Committee that the Presbyteries will see to it that their churches send forward the required amounts if they be able, or, at least, that every church shall have the opportunity to give something. But when the test is made, while there are noble organizations and churches well indoctrinated which do contribute to their utmost to the causes of benevolence under care of the Assembly, yet it is to be lamented that so few esteem it a duty, and still fewer regard it a *privilege* to give.

While five or six hundred of the churches appealed to have as yet remitted nothing at all, a large proportion have contributed, in response to the appeals, sums much beyond the amounts specified—some noble churches in Virginia having sent us five-fold the sum asked many have sent the exact sum suggested, and a few have remitted less, some large, wealthy and important churches have not responded in any way. If these non-contributing churches belonged to those Presbyteries not co-operating with this Committee, no expectation would be indulged of a response from them. Indeed, no appeal, in point of fact, was made to churches belonging to non-co-operating Presbyteries, save in one instance, and under peculiar circumstances; and in that

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case the response was prompt and characteristically liberal. But when churches, which are abundantly able to assist in the work, on the roll of co-operating Presbyteries, and of Presbyteries, too, which recommend to the Committee their candidates, and whose candidates receive their proportion of the funds furnished by other Presbyteries and churches, contribute not so much as one cent to the treasury of the Committee, it is indeed a disappointment to the just expectations of the Committee to which the Assembly has entrusted the great work of distributing their funds among the wards of the Church. design by this statement any formal censure, yet, at least, the Committee ask to have this fact duly considered, since there seems to prevail, in some quarters, a tendency to condemn the existing scheme of Beneficiary Education. It is but a bald truism to say that "no system will work itself;" and the co-operation of the churches being the essential element in the scheme, of course any failure in this regard causes the The Committee feel conplan to break down just to that extent. strained to make the statement that these remarks apply to more than a few churches in connection with co-operating Presbyteries. Under this condition of things it is matter of grateful surprise that we have been successful in escaping the painful necessity of reporting a deficiency, even though it has been partly due to a diminished number of candidates, and to a curtailment of the amounts appropriated to them.

Your Committee report this year a small increase in the number of contributing churches, although, in many cases, the sums contributed have been diminished. That the severe stringency in financial circles, and the depressed condition of the agricultural interests in the South, arising from short crops and low prices, have contributed not a little to the general embarrassment which has overtaken all the benevolent schemes of the Church, is obvious to all. The cause of education, however, has suffered no more than others, and, indeed, may be considered in a condition more hopeful, if not more positively prosperous, now than it has been for some years past.

The careful perusal by all our ministry and eldership of the very able and exhaustive report of the Special Committee on Beneficiary Education, adopted with entire unanimity by the last Assembly, and appended to the minutes, would be a very profitable source of information upon the subject, and would supply an irresistible array of argument for its universal adoption and support by all of our churches.

The Secretary visited during the past year four of the Synods, viz: Missouri, Texas, Memphis and Georgia. He also presented the cause of education to the churches as he had opportunity, and the reception which he met with on his mission was uniformly cordial, and assurances of support to the cause were everywhere made. It is due to the interests of truth, and as a testimonial to the fidelity of our brethren of the Synod of Texas, and their loyalty to the Assembly's system of benevolence, to record, for the information of the Church at large, and for the encouragement of the brethren of Texas in particular, that a more general presentation of this cause seems to have been made by them to their churches, than in almost any Synod whose Presbyteries co-operate with the Committee; and a larger number of churches, in proportion to their aggregate of churches, have contributed to this cause than elsewhere. In this connection it is especially proper to be stated that to the Presbytery of Brazos belongs the high distinction of being the only Presbytery in the territory covered by our Southern Church of which every church has made a remittance to our treasury. Let each minister present the claims and explain to his people the nature of the scheme of Beneficiary Education; let every evangelist, as he travels among vacant churches, do the same; let the chairmen of the Presbyterial Committees of Education urge upon all the churches to take up collections for this cause at the proper time; and the record of Brazos will no doubt be made in regard to them all.

The whole amount of funds raised during the past year, according to

the Treasurer's report, is \$13,077 99. These funds have come from churches, individuals, and a small portion from the Lusk Estate Legacy, already reported. Information in regard to the state of the work of Ministerial Education from all parts of the field occupied by our Church in the South has been sought from the chairmen of Presby-terial Committees, but it has been furnished in a manner so meagre as to admit of only an approximation to a correct statement. number of candidates reported by the Presbyteries that have made response is not fully known; and the amounts raised, besides that which were sent to the Committee, are also unknown. The prospect for an

were sent to the Committee, are also unknown. The prospect for an increase of students for the ministry is very discouraging.

It has been the studied policy of this Committee to conduct the business of education entrusted to them with the least possible expense. The salaries of Secretary and Treasurer, traveling expenses, printing and distribution of annual reports, postage, revenue stamps, etc., constitute the items which did not reach last year the sum of \$2,000. We pay no rent, but the officers furnish their own rooms. Economy in the management of trust funds, has been rigidly enforced.

The Committee would close this report by asking the Assembly to recommend to all our churches the earnest and devout observance of the last Thursday of February as a day of prayer for the youth of our Church and our country, and for God's blessing upon this cause.

Respectfully submitted, by order of the Committee,

John N. Waddel, Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

A. F. Dod, Treasurer,

MEMPHIS, TENN., May 2d, 1877.

In account with Committee of Education,

Balance in treasury May 1st, 1876 Receipts for May and June	140 373 1,636 1,750 2,128 1,242 1,935	63 58 42 82 31 06	\$ - 13	520 ,077	
Total			813	,598	20
Cr.			ÇIO	,500	
		0.0			
Remittances to students through Secretary					
Secretary's salary	-1,500				
Treasurer's salary	100				
Secretary's traveling expenses	221				
Postage (stamps, mailing reports and circulars)	45				
1,000 postal receipt cards printed	12	00			
Postal cards, circulars, etc., for Secretary's ap-					
peals, etc	14	15			
peals, etć					
Printing supplement to same 17 00-	- 57	00			
Blank book for receipts	4	00			
Express on reports and books to Savannah	1	25			
Express on books from Dr. Baird	1	50			
A. F. Dod & Co.'s stationery bill	- 6	10			
Disct. and exch. on checks and remittances	24	88-	- 13	,052	13
Balance on hand			\$	546	07

MEMPHIS, May 4, 1877.

To Rev. W. E. Boggs, D. D., Chairman Ed. Committee:

The undersigned, charged with the duty of auditing the amounts of your Treasurer, respectfully report that we have found each contribuyour Treasurer, respectfully report that we have found each contribution, with the date and source whence received, carefully set forth, so that every cent given can be identified. The income for the year, including balance on hand May 1st, 1876, of \$520.21, amounted to \$13,598.20. The Treasurer paid to the Secretary in the way of remittances to students \$11,064; for the Secretary's salary, \$1,500; for his own, \$100; for traveling expenses of the Secretary, \$221.90; and printing, postage, exchange, stationery, etc., \$166.23, making total disbursements \$13,052.13; for all which proper vouchers have been furnished, and they are herewith filed, leaving cash on hand \$546.07 now standing to his credit in the Bank of Commerce, in this city, as Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

G. W. MACRAE, MILTON P. JARNAGIN, Committee.

ABSTRACT OF THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLICATION.

The business capital or endowment fund was reported last year at \$39,576 36.

The contributions of the churches to Publication have been \$7,878-77; from which deduct the amount used in gratuitous distribution, viz: \$5,432 12, and there is left \$2,446 65 to be added to the business capital. making its present amount \$42,023 01.

PUBLICATIONS.

During the year the following publications have been issued:

"The Holy Sabbath." By Rev. James Stacy, D. D., pp. 63.

A Prize Essay.

- "AN APPEAL TO THE BAPTIZED CHILDREN OF THE CHURCH," and
- "A Word to Christian Parents." Both by Rev. T. D. Witherspoon, D. D.

During the year, also, there have been prepared by the Secretary, and issued by the Committee, minute books for Presbyteries and Church Sessions, with a Church register.

Moreover, there have been prepared and issued books with one hundred blank certificates of admission of church members, with a stub attached, on which the clerk of the session may enter a memorandum of all the facts contained in the certificate.

The issues from the press during the year have been as follows, viz:

Church Register and Minutes	
Contribution Books	25
Church Dismission Books	40
Hymns of Voice of Praise	5,000
Psalms and Hymns	5,000
Brown's Catechisms	16,000
Hymns of Voice of Praise Psalms and Hymns Brown's Catechisms Shorter Catechisms.	20,000
" with proofs	5.000

Children's Bread	4,000
Tract volumes	2,000
Holy Sabbath	5,000
Class Books two years	1,000
Catalogues	5,000
Circulars	13,509
Church Blanks	7,000
Annual Reports	-2,000
Book of Church Order	-2,000
The Family	1,000
Supplement to Psalms and Hymns	5,000
Church Envelopes	
Tracts	

In looking back over the results of our labors since this Committee emerged from the ashes of Richmond, there is much to give encouragement in this work if the Church will only take it to heart. A brief retrospect will present the whole matter fully before the Assembly:

•	No. bound vols.	Tract vols, and pamphlets.	Catechisms,
1866.	52,700		5,000
1867.	64,050	5,600	10,009
1868.	12,000	******	*******
1869.	35,860	30,700	31,000
1570.	41,500	19,000	27,500
1571.	30,520	4,500	5,000
1872.	87,450	19,000	30,000
1873.	81,340	23,000	50,009
1574.	39,250	20,000	52,500
1575.	15,300	7,500	30,000
1876.	58,787	13,000	35,000
1877.	15,141	14,000	41,000
	489,888	197,300	317,000

As the number of books put in circulation of our own publications is about half of the whole work done by the Committee, since fully as many approved books of other houses are circulated as of our own, it will be seen that fully 980,000 bound volumes—or nearly one million have gone forth on their mission through our instrumentality.

In addition to tract volumes, there have been issued about 950,000

copies, or 7,000,000 pages, of tracts.

We have issued 2,500,000 of envelopes for systematic benevolence. We have furnished 80,000 church blanks, most of them gratuitously.

We have stereotyped, for the benefit of our Choctaw Mission, the Choctaw Spelling-Book, the Choctaw Hynn-Book, and the Shorter Catechism in Choctaw; and have published 4,000 of the Spelling-book, 3,000 Catechisms, and 3,000 of the Hymn-Book. These are not included in the previous table.

We have issued 40,000 copies of the Songs of Praise, 24,500 copies of the Voice of Praise, 40,000 of the Hymns of the Voice of Praise, and 7,500 of the Hymn and Tune Book. These are included in the number

of bound volumes given above.

THE EARNEST WORKER AND GOSPEL SOWER.

The Earnest Worker was commenced nearly seven years ago, and from the start has received much encouragement. A synoptical view of the circulation and receipts is here given:

	E. W. Issue.	Lesson Papers.	Receipts.	Expenses.
1871.	2,450	6,000	\$1,614 68	\$1,655 95
1872.	3,400	6,000	4,780 87	4,573 82
1873.	3,400	7,000	4,442 01	3,769 12
1874.	3,400	7,000	4,519 51	3,868 92
1875.	2,700	6,000	4,338 54	4,283 71
1876.	3,000	15,000	1,824 71	1,279 83
1877.	3,250	13,000	1,517 35	1,606 37

The figures above given for 1871 and 1873, and those which are subsequently given for the *Children's Friend*, are different from those found in the Treasurer's reports for those years. In 1873, the only accounts which the Treasurer gives in his estimate of expenses for these journals are the printing bills. The bills for paper, etc., are not included in it. The figures given in the above table, and that hereafter given for the *Children's Friend*, are taken from the ledger, and include all expenses for paper, cuts, etc. These items are included by the Treasurer in the merchandise expenses; as were also a part of the expenses for 1871, as is stated in the annual reports for those years.

This journal has been no burden to the Church, but has paid its way

This journal has been no burden to the Church, but has paid its way fully from the start; unless it be charged that the furnishing of it to the ministers of the Church makes it so. This was done, however, by the order of the Assembly, and this Committee does not feel called on

to defend its action in that matter.

The Gospel Sower took the place of the Earnest Worker for the year 1876. This publication, it will be remembered, was jointly issued by the Board of Publication of the Reformed Church in America and this Committee, under the plan of co-operation adopted by the chief judicatories of the two churches. Its circulation was over 8,000 copies. But this joint periodical, not exactly meeting the wants of either Church, it was deemed best to discontinue it; and the Earnest Worker was revived on the 1st of January last.

THE "CHILDREN'S FRIEND"

Has gone forward without anything special to record. It preserves its circulation at an average of about 25,000. The Reformed Church still continues to use the paper in their schools to a considerable extent, and co-operate with us in its publication.

The apparent profit in the case of the *Earnest Worker* and *Children's Friend* is about their fair proportion toward the payment of clerk hire,

etc.

The following table will show the circulation of the *Children's Friend*, with its receipts and expenses from the beginning. The semi-monthly edition was commenced in 1867, and the monthly edition ceased with 1875:

	Monthly.	Semi-monthly.	Receipts.	Disbursements.
1866.	10,500	•••••	\$3,151 92	\$2,666 28
1867.	3,000	16,000	3,824 35	3,541 83
1868.	3,500	17,000	1,657 68	1,223 9
1869.	3,500	20,000	3,359 01	2,097 01
1870.	3, 5 00	20,000	3,581 91	2,377 80
1871.	3,500	21,000	5,731 74	4,755 62
1872.	3,400	25,000	6,300 25	5,926 96
1873.	3, 5 00	23,000	6,071 26	5,376 45
1874.	3, 5 90	24,5 00	5,923 98	5,092 92
1875.	3,000	20,000	5,734 06	5,388 97
1876.		25, 000	4,360 38	4,595 18
1877.		25,000	5,690 91	4,493 51

GRATUITOUS WORK.

The Committee was originally organized by the General Assembly as one of its benevolent or missionary agencies. The view of its work, which seems to be current in some parts of the Church, that it is the business of the Committee to make money, was not, as we suppose, even thought of when the enterprise was inaugurated; and the whole conception of our work is changed the moment this idea is introduced into it. Following out the general view that this is one of the causes of true Christian benevolence, that this is a missionary agency, the Committee has always considered it its duty to aid feeble churches and Sabbath Schools, by furnishing them the needed books and other supplies. Hence, a large part, indeed the larger part, of the money which

has come into the treasury from the contributions of the churches has gone to supply destitution and to aid feeble churches and Sabbath Schools. It has been a source of comfort to us, in the midst of the trials and difficulties of our past history, that we have been able to do something for our Lord and Master by the gratuitous distribution of our publications to meet confessed wants and to supply wide-spread destitution. These efforts have not been in vain, for many Sabbath Schools have been encouraged and strengthened by the aid turnished, and many would have had no existence but for the aid thus given. Tracts and tract volumes have been scattered all over our Church, wherever and by whomsoever applied for, in the safe and regular way provided for by our rules, and have done efficient service to the praise of God's grace in originating and promoting revivals of religion, in comforting the hearts of the sorrowing and in directing the young and thoughtless to the way of life. Not only our books, but both of our journals have been used with similar results.

Moreover, of our scant means we have done what we could in the work of colportage. Several years ago colporteurs were directly employed by the Committee and paid out of its benevolent fund. The inadequacy of the means furnished for the purpose rendered efficiency in the work impossible. Moreover, experience showed that one part of the plan adopted by the Assembly for our guidance was

impracticable.

As the most feasible method the Committee urged the Assembly to transfer the whole matter to the Presbyteries, and thus not only gave them the appointment of the colporteur, but also aimed to throw on them the whole pecuniary responsibility. Of course this plan saved the Committee from the evils thus endured; but it has evils of its own, or at all events it has produced undesirable results. While the Presbyteries nominally support the colporteur, in point of fact, in most instances he is supported by this Committee. It is rare that a Presbytery raises a sufficient capital to support the colportage work, but generally they rely on us for the capital to do it with. With much self-sacrifice we have aided them to the full extent of our ability. According to this plan the colporteur is supported by his sales. But the books are ours, usually bought by the Presbyterial Committee on credit, at the highest possible discount, thus taking away from us all the profit and transferring it to the Presbytery to pay their colporteurs. Now, if the Presbyteries paid cash down, this might be safe and profitable, because we could immediately invest the money so as to become productive. As it is, we are out of the capital until the colporteur sells the books and gets his own salary, when he turns over to us enough to satisfy our claim. In other words, it is our capital which is employed, but the advantage and profit is that of the Presbytery, and while the Committee by its funds does the work, the whole of the credit goes to the Presbytery. Now, if the work be only done to the honour and glery of God's name, it does not matter to whom the credit of the work is given, nor has this Committee ever allowed itself to be disturbed by the fact that the proper financial results of the use of its capital were not credited to it, but were attributed to others; for this Committee has never estimated its work by its commercial results only, but by the amount of good accomplished by it, as one of the evangelistic agencies of the Church.

That part of our gratuitous work which has consisted in the distribution of money contributed by the churches will be exhibited in a com-

prehensive view by the following table:

A	•/	
	Grants	. Colporteurs.
1866.		Colporteurs.
1867.	2,839 00	115 08
	882 40	
1869.	3,359 01	
	::,069 45	
1571.	4,051,50	541 92

1873.		7,233:	25 26	***************************************		urs. 22
1875. 1876.		-5,9 4 5 (-5,014 (32 28	••••••	460	45
	\$	51,672	28		$\frac{4,487}{51,672}$	
	Total				\$56,160	02

Here, then, is the distribution of $856,160\ 02$ by the agency of this Committee. The labour employed and the expenses incurred are not charged on the table of benevolent operations. All that is put down

as a charge against the store.

In estimating the work accomplished by the Committee, therefore, as an offset against its expenses, we desire to place on record these facts for the thoughtful consideration of our brethren, not doubting that they will see that a greater work has been accomplished than some have been led to suppose.

THE PUBLISHING HOUSE.

No progress has been made during the year in paying for the building, though, under the order of the last Assembly, the Committee inaugu-

rated an agency to raise funds for this purpose.

On the building, which originally cost \$45,000, there is now due 831,000. The interest on this amount, diminished by the rents received for the apartments not occupied by the Committee, is less than the amount formerly paid by the Committee for the rent of inferior accommodations. So that, notwithstanding the heavy debt due on the purchase, it is not, when thus viewed, an expense to the Church.

It would be unspeakable relief to the Committee had it been their privilege to close this report with what has been presented above. But it becomes our duty to present now officially a statement to the General Assembly of events unspeakably distressing to our whole church,

About the middle of last March the unexpected and startling disclosure was made to us that the Secretary of Publication, Rev. E. T. Baird, D. D., was a defaulter to the Committee to an amount not less than \$22,000; and to set forth at one view the magnitude of his financial ruin, it may as well be stated here, that, besides this, his private what were contracted to be not less than \$10,000.

debts were soon ascertained to be not less than \$10,000,

Dr. Baird, as Secretary of the Committee, was recognized in commercial circles as its financial agent. Before the Trustees of the Committee of Publication became an incorporation, under the present charter, transactions in conducting the business of the Committee had often to stand in the name of E. T. Baird, as the Committee was not recognized in law. Notes given when money was borrowed for the Committee, or when accounts were settled by note, as was sometimes necessary in conducting a large business on a small capital, were signed sometimes "E. T. Baird," and sometimes "E. T. Baird, Secretary." In all transactions relating to our affairs he was recognized as representing the Committee.

For years past, as has now come to our knowledge. Dr. Baird was himself deeply involved, and in the habit of borrowing money from the banks and elsewhere, and from time to time renewing these loans,

or effecting others, and this often at a high rate of interest. Under these circumstances Dr. Baird yielded to the temptation to use the funds of the Committee for his own relief. This he did in two ways:

First, He withdrew from the treasury funds which he appropriated to his own purpose. These amounts he had charged to himself on the books of the Committee, and as an offset he placed to his credit receipted bills of merchandise, which had been paid, not with the money withdrawn by himself, but with his own notes. Secondly, He borrowed money in the name of the Committee of Publication, giving therefor his obligation as Secretary, but used the money borrowed in his own affairs.

These transactions covered at least several years, yet none of them appeared on our books, and were known only to Dr. Baird. There was no suspicion on the part of the Committee of wrong or irregularity

in the acts of the trusted and honored Secretary.

Under the process pursued by Dr. Baird in borrowing money to carry his debts, and compounding interest thereon, often at high rates, the burden was becoming too great to be borne much longer, even with the aid of the Committee's credit, which, as we have since learned, had, in some quarters, been brought into extreme peril. It was under these circumstances that the state of affairs, so long covered over, was brought to light.

Among those who held Dr. Baird's notes, sent in payment of their bills, as already explained, were the Presbyterian Board of Publication and several other northern houses, from whom the Committee has been

in the habit of purchasing books.

It was at the time of a visit made by the Business Superintendent of said Board, for the purpose of an investigation into his own accounts with the Committee, that Dr. Baird first made any disclosure of his indebtedness to the Committee, or his private transactions by which the Committee became involved. He made a written statement to a few of the members of the Committee, which was shortly afterwards laid before a full meeting, acknowledging the amount of indebtedness already mentioned.

It may well be imagined that this disclosure was completely astound-

ing to the Committee.

To know where we stood, and what resources we had for extrication from these difficulties, it was necessary to make farther investigation. Accordingly, an accountant was engaged to make out from Dr. Baird's private accounts, compared with our own, a clear statement of these liabilities. The entire control of all money transactions was at once put into the hands of a finance committee, consisting of the elders on

the Executive Committee.

The Finance Committee, with the aid of the accountant employed, at once began the investigation ordered. Dr. Baird giving them every facility in his power. The chief source of information was a private account book of Dr. Baird's, which he called his "cash book," and in which he kept his account with the Committee. The result of the examination was reported to the Committee on the 2d day of April; from which it appeared that the amount of indebtedness stated by Dr. Baird was very nearly in accord with the result reached by the accountant.

OPEN ACCOUNT.

EASTERN BILLS:		
Methodist Book Concern. Ro. Carter & Bros., American S. S. Union Presbyterian Board of Publication	851 51 200 00	
		\$5,042 85 3,657 87 1,000 00

STATEMENT OF DR. E. T. BAIRD'S ACCOUNT.

LIABILITIES:

1. Open account, as above	89,700 72
2. Commercial paper signed E. T. Baird, Secretary, given	,
for business not official,	7,848 88
3. Commercial paper signed E. T. Baird, given for official	
business,	4,858 47
·	

\$22,408 07

It is proper to state, that the Finance Committee, in submitting this statement, expressed the belief that it was not perfectly accurate; yet that it was made out from the only source of information available, and

they believed it approximated the truth.

The Finance Committee reported that it was necessary to raise the sum of \$15,000 within a short time, to meet outstanding commercial paper constantly maturing; or accept the alternative of going into liquidation and sacrificing a most important interest of the Church. In this emergency we sought the counsel and aid of a few brethren, who were summoned by telegraph, some of them from the most distant part of the Church, and who came promptly at our call. For the self-denial and sacrifice of time and money made by these brethren, and more for their valuable advice, and for the very large donations some of them were enabled to make, they deserve the special thanks of the whole Church.

After a free interchange of views, it was the unanimous opinion of the Committee and of those in conference with us, that the idea of abandoning the publication cause must not be at all entertained. A scheme so important to the Church, furnishing it with a literature that is indispensable to its healthful growth, and that cannot well be provided except through such an institution, a business built up by the contributions of the churches, and with expenditure of much labour and anxious thought through fifteen years, must not be given up without an earnest effort to save it. The Church surely would expect this at our hands. It was, therefore, resolved to endeavour to secure contributions to an amount not less than \$15,000, to relieve the present embarrassment; and the work was begun at once, by liberal pledges being made by some of the brethren who had been invited to the conference, and by some of the Committee. Several of our number visited individuals and churches, and laid before them the sad tale of our Their appeal for contributions was met by liberal responses disaster. from all the churches visited.

In the payment of the obligations incurred by Dr. Baird, the Committee determined to assume all the notes given by him bearing his official signature, and also those bearing his personal signature, where given for Committee's business. We did not think it best to raise the question as to the legal obligation in the latter case, since we believed

the moral obligation to be clear.

Having given much and anxious thought to our present embarrassments and complications, the Committee deem it proper to state more distinctly a few facts already alluded to, and to lay some suggestions

before the Assembly for its consideration:

1. Our records will show that, from the beginning of its business, the Committee has laid upon the Secretary such restrictions in financial matters as they deemed necessary to secure the Church from loss. No general authority was ever given by the Committee to the Secretary to borrow money. In a few specific cases, authority limited to those cases was given. It is true that the Committee had knowledge of the fact that the Secretary did occasionally borrow small sums of money for temporary accommodation; but this excited no suspicion, and did not seem to call for any notice from the Committee, inasmuch as it was rendered necessary by the occasional demands of business. authority of the Secretary to draw upon the Treasurer was general, for

the current expenses of the business department, including the publication of the two papers; for other matters it was limited to specific orders of the Committee. It may be that a better system of checks and balances may be devised for protection in future; which subject should claim on the part of the Committee early and careful consideration; but we cannot hope for a system in which it will not be necessary to place confidence to a considerable extent in the integrity of the Church's agents.

- 2. Accountants who have examined our books have stated that there was nothing in these accounts that would bring to our knowledge the Committee's complications with Dr. Baird.
- 3. 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.

It is proper to add, that whatever judgment may be formed concerning this arrangement, on general principles, in the opinion of the Committee, the peculiar circumstances under which it originated (as set forth in the paper aforesaid,) made it advantageous at the time, and the work of the Committee has derived benefit from it ever since.

- 4. Should the present disaster be repaired, as we confidently believe it will be, there is no reason known to us why the business of the Committee should not continue, not only without embarrassment, but with increased prosperity and usefulness, especially if its operations be vigorously sustained by the Church.
- 5. A thankful recognition of their kindness is due those northern houses that have extended their credit to the Committee in our present embarrassment, especially to the Presbyterian Board of Publication.

6. The Committee is of opinion that certain regulations for the administration of its affairs might be safely adopted, and recommends to the General Assembly for its appoval, or for reference to the Committee to

be appointed at its present meeting, the following, to wit:

That the Secretary and Treasurer each be required to give bond and proper security for the faithful discharge of duty; that the Treasurer only shall receive all moneys belonging to the Committee, keeping separate accounts of each fund; that all moneys, as soon as they are received, shall be deposited in bank to the credit of each fund; that no money shall be paid out except upon the check of the Secretary, countersigned by the Treasurer; that no money shall be borrowed except by authority of an express vote of the Committe; and that all obligations of the Committee, as well as all debts contracted in its behalf, shall be listed and reported to the Committee at its next meeting thereafter.

7. The Assembly is hereby earnestly requested to remove the restrictions as to the terms on which the publications of the Committee are sold, and leave them to the discretion of the Committee.

In view of all the circumstances in relation to the late Secretary.

the Committee deem it suitable to bear testimony to the amiable deportment manifested by him in all their intercourse, and their estimate of his high qualifications in many respects for the duties of the office which he held.

Respectfully submitted, by order of the Committee.

W. A. CAMPBELL, Secretary pro tempore.

RICHMOND, VA., May 12, 1877.

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TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer of Publication reports his receipts and disbursements for the year ending April 30th, 1877, to be as follows:

RECEIPTS.

Total funds			\$40,201	68
- Datance per last report			\$23,359	46
Merchandise sales	\$22,521	44		
Total donations		-	816,842	22
Miscellaneous			1,954	
Total from churches			\$14,857	73
Virginia				
Texas	301			
South Carolina				
Nashville North Carolina	496			
Missouri	203 173			
Mississippi	421			
Memphis	252			
Kentucky	1,532			
Georgia	8,807			
Arkansas	201	95		
Alabama	5373	1.5		
Donations from Synods:				

Of the above amount of donations the sum of \$8,963 45 was contributed for the deficiency of the late Secretary.

DISBURSEMENTS.

Merchandise, &c		\$13,609 37		
Grants		5.432 12		
Postage				
Freight		153 42		
Bills payable		2.712 97		
1 .			22.682	16
Advertising	87 50		,	
Interest account	1,418 16			
Insurance				
-		1,630-66		
SALARIES:		,		
Secretary	3,383 31			
Clerks	4,349 97			
Treasurer in part	250 00			
-		7,983 28		

Office Expenses: Secretary's travelling expenses. Do. Rev. Drs. Brown & Dabney Incidentals	76 62 35 00 305 40 358 41 11 46				
Cash due by the late Secretary		••••••		7 - 36 740	
Balance	•••••••	••••••	••••••••••	$\frac{3,460}{\$40,201}$	$\frac{82}{68}$

The undersigned, a committee appointed to audit the accounts of the Treasurer of the Committee of Publication, certify that they have examined the above account, and the accompanying vouchers, and find it correct. The balance due by the Treasurer on the 30th of April, 1877, being three thousand four hundred and sixty dollars and eighty-two cents. (\$3,460 \$2.)

May 11, 1877.

B. R. WELLFORD, JR., Committee. Edw. H. Fitzhugh,

TREASURER'S REPORT OF PUBLISHING HOUSE.

RECEIPTS.

Donations from Synods:			
Alabama	\$54 10		
Arkansas	16 50		
Georgia	29.75		
Kentucky	6.56		
Memphis	6.00		
Mississippi	4 00		
Missouri	10.75		
Nashville	17 00		
North Carolina	61 94		
South Carolina	5S (0)		
Texas	42 20		
Virginia	495 22		
<u></u>		\$802	02
Miscellaneous		938	46
	_		
Total receipts		\$1,740	48
Rents		1,364	
	-		
Total funds		\$3,104	92
Balance due Treasurer		3,016	39
	-		
		86,121	31
DISEURSEMENTS.		. ,	
T) make	5.4 EF		
Repairs	\$4 75		
Recording deeds	50 75		
State and city taxes	\$52.96		
Insurance	312 50		
Interest on purchase of house.	4,004 19	0= 23=	1 -
Total disbursements		\$5,225	
Balance due Treasurer at last report		896	16
	_	86,121	31

The undersigned, a committee appointed to audit the accounts of the Treasurer of the Committee of Publication, certify that they have examined the above account and the accompanying vouchers, and find it to be correct. The balance due the Treasurer on account of the Publishing House, on April 30, 1877, being, as appears above, the sum of (\$3,016 39) three thousand and sixteen dollars and thirty-nine cents.

May 11, 1877.

B. R. WELLFORD, JR., EDW. H. FITZHUGH,

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, to meet in New Orleans on the 17th day of May, 1877:

The Trustees of the General Assembly ask leave to submit their

annual report:

Since our last meeting the Treasurer has received bonds to the amount of three thousand dollars (3,000) on account of the Relief Fund. The total amount of bonds of that fund now in the hands of the Treasurer is twenty-one thousand dollars (21,000), a detailed statement of which appears in his report, as also in the report of the Auditing Committee of this body. No money has been received since our last report.

We send herewith a copy of our minutes for the inspection of the

Assembly.

The following persons have been elected officers of this corporation, viz: James Hemphill, President; Rev. John Douglas, Vice-President, and Jesse H. Lindsay Secretary and Treasurer.

The terms of the following Trustees will expire at the next meeting

The terms of the following Trustees will expire at the next meeting of the General Assembly, viz: Rev. John Douglas, John L. Brown, Esq., and Col. John E. Brown.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES HEMPHILL, President.

May 3, 1877.

REPORT OF TREASURER OF TRUSTEES.

Greensboro', Guilford, N. C., May 2, 1877.

The Treasurer respectfully submits his annual report:

The amount of bonds in my hands belonging to the Relief Fund, as stated in my report, dated May 3, 1876, was eighteen thousand dollars. In March last I received from Rev. Richard McIlwaine, Treasurer, three additional bonds, issued by the city of Norfolk, Virginia, on behalf of the water-works of that city, which made the sum of twenty-one thousand dollars, as follows:

1	bonds	\$1,000	each	Northern Central Railway, Baltimore\$	4 000
- 5			"		
2	4.4	1,000	•••	Pittsburgh and Connellsville R. R. Co	2,000
3	4.4	1,000	4.4	Central Ohio R. R. Co., Norfolk	3,000
-6	4.4	1,000		City of Augusta, Georgia	6,000
3		1,000	"	The Augusta Factory, Georgia	3,000
3	4.6	1,000	4.4	City of Norfolk, Virginia, water bonds	3,000

I have brought the bonds with me to be submitted to the Trustees

for their examination with this report.

In my last report I had reference to the legacy of Robert Luck, of Mississippi. At the last Assembly this entire matter was turned over to the Committee of Education, to manage, receive and to apply to its own uses. Dr. Waddel, our Secretary of Education, informed me that he had received 8500 and would give his attention to the collection of the balance. The Trustees are relieved, by the action of the General

Assembly, from any further care over the matter.

The balance due from the estate of Judge Kennedy, of Columbia, Tennessee, has not been paid. After repeated applications to the attorneys, receiving always in answer the plea of hard times and difficulty of collecting, I became auxious and restless and opened a correspondence with Dr. Waddel, of Memphis, hoping through him to get a proper understanding of the state of the estate and the cause of the delay of settlement. He very cheerfully came to my assistance and has now the whole business in his hands for investigation and adjustment. He is acting under authority sent to him by the President of our Board, whom I had apprized of the state of the claim and our fears as to final payment. Dr. Waddel has the counsel of wise, prudent legal gentlemen to help him and will give it all proper and needed attention.

The coupons on all the bonds mentioned above have been regularly cut off as they fell due and forwarded to Dr. McIlwaine, Treasurer of the Relief Fund, for which I hold his receipts and herewith submit

them for the inspection of the Trustees.

The amount of eash in my hands at the last report was 884–07. Since then I have paid our President 87–40 and our Secretary and Treasurer 813–80, expenses incurred by them in attending the meeting in May, 1876, for which I submit youthers, leaving in my hands to-day the sum of 862–87.

I present two items of business laid over from last meeting, one, the matter of the legacy of Mr. Cyrus Fleming, the other the matter of

Maryville College in East Tennessee.

As required by the Trustees, I sent to the Assembly which mel in Savannah last year all papers enjoined upon me, and also our book of minutes, to enable any one to see our history who might have occasion to look into it.

I submit for the consideration of the Trustees a letter of late date from Rev. Dr. McIlwaine. It is in reference to the appointment of a Trustee in the city of Baltimore and the custody of the bonds of the Relief Fund.

All which is respectfully submitted,

JESSE H. LINDSAY, Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE GEN-ERAL ASSEMBLY OF 1875 ON THE CONFEDERATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES OF THE WORLD.

Your Committee beg leave to report that the General Assembly of 1875

"Resolved, That this Assembly appoint a committee on the Confederation of the Presbyterian Churches of the world, with authority to correspond with similar committees of other Presbyterian bodies in reference to the constitution to be proposed for such a general conneil, and, if the committee deem it wise and practicable, appoint a delegate

or delegates to the proposed conference to be held in London on the —

day of July, 1875.

"And Revs. Stuart Robinson, J. A. Lefevre, W. U. Murkland and Ruling Elder L. Charles Inglis were appointed this committee under the foregoing resolution." (Minutes, p. 46.)

As the time for correspondence and arrangement for the conference at London was very limited, the Committee organized and opened correspondence with a general committee at New York, known as the American Committee on the Confederation of Presbyterian Churches, and representing some six Presbyterian bodies of the United States and British America. A constitution (tentative) prepared by the American Committee, to be submitted to the conference in London, was submitted to us with the request that we suggest any amendments that might occur to us for the consideration of the American Committee, to meet on the 15th of June to make a final revision of this tentative constitution before presenting it to the London conference.

Your Committee considered this proposed tentative constitution carefully, and suggested amendments freely, and forwarded a draft of the constitution as amended by us. But the American Committee failing to meet on the 15th of June, our proposed constitution was submitted directly by the Secretary of the American Committee to the conference, together with the tentative constitutions of both the American and British Committees.—It was found to be in remarkable accord with the constitution submitted by the British Committee; and the constitution finally adopted by the conference differed little in any material point from that which your convention proposed. The most important

change concerned the size of the body. Your Committee had suggested that the council consist of only one hundred delegates.

Though at first it was not deemed or essential importance that our Church should be represented in this conference by the personal attendance of a delegate or delegates, yet, after some correspondence and a more mature consideration of the matter, it seemed to your Committee extremely desirable, if not absolutely essential to the ends aimed at, that the personal attendance of a delegation should be secured. Committee, therefore, appointed Drs. Hoge, Lefevre and Robinson delegates to the conference, of whom only Dr. Robinson attended the conference, and in his report as a delegate will inform the Assembly more fully in detail what was done at this London meeting.

The Assembly will see from an examination of this constitution, which, with the proceedings of this conference, are herewith submitted, that every care was taken to guard against any infringement by the General Council of the constitutional rights, or the doctrine and order of the several Churches entering into the confederation. will appear more especially from the following provision of the consti-

tution concerning the powers of the council, viz:

"But it shall not interfere with the existing laws or constitution of any Church in the Alliance, or with its internal order or external rela-

tions."

On the other hand, the great objects which the constitution enunciates as those to be effected by this Alliance—such as seeking the welfare of the weak and persecuted Churches; disseminating information concerning the kingdom of Christ; commending the Presbyterian system as Scriptural; the distribution of mission work, etc. These

commend themselves to all true Presbyterians.

It gives your Committee pleasure to report that in all their correspondence and intercourse with both the American and British Committees they have been treated with every kindness and consideration. Every suggestion made by them in regard to the constitution of the Alliance or to the meeting of the council has been received with the greatest deference and respect. And from the brethren of all the various bodies represented in the conference they have received tokens of respect, christian affection and confidence. Nor have they discovered in their intercourse with the brethren of these various Prosbyterian bodies anything to excite the slightest apprehension that in continuing

this intercourse there may arise any trouble in the future.

In conclusion, we beg leave to say that the result of our consideration of this whole subject and of carefully watching the development of this scheme for the confederation of the Presbyterian Churches of the world, has been to strengthen and deepen our conviction of the importance to the interests of Presbyterianism in the world generally, and to our own Church in particular, in the peculiar circumstances in which we are placed by the Providence of God. In our judgment it opens up to us an opportunity to give efficiency to our peculiar testimony for a pure Presbyterian doctrine and order, and for our special testimony in behalf of the non-secular, free Christian communions. And, therefore, with the utmost confidence do we recommend to this Assembly the approval of the constitution proposed, and of the arrangement made for a general council at London, and the appointment of delegates to the first General Council to be holden at Edinburgh during the year 1877.

It was against the judgment of your Committee that by the action of the American, and the acquiesence of the British Committee, the meeting of the council was postponed from July, 1876—the time fixed by the London conference—till 1877; and yet we can see that there is advantage to our Church in the postponement, from the fact that the delay will give to delegates who may be appointed full time to make arrangements for their voyage across the Atlantic, and give opportunity to the General Assembly of 1877 to fill vacancies in the delegation, should it be found that those first appointed should not be able to

attend.

With a view to present the subject matter of this report in form for the consideration of the Assembly, your Committee recommend the

adoption of the following resolutions:

1. Resolved, That this Assembly hereby expresses its approval, in general, of the proceedings of the conference held at London in July last, composed of the representatives of a large portion—some 15,000 congregations—of the Presbyterian Churches of the world.

2. That this Assembly accepts as satisfactory the constitution agreed upon by that conference, providing for an Ecumenical Presbyterian

Council every three years.

3. That this Assembly will appoint delegates to represent the Presbyterian Church in the United States in the General Council to be holden in Edinburgh in 1877.

STUART ROBINSON, J. A. LEFEVRE, W. U. MURKLAND, L. CHARLES INGLIS.

REPORT OF THE DELEGATE TO THE CONFERENCE HELD IN LONDON JULY 21-23, 1875, TO FRAME A CONSTITU-TION FOR A GENERAL PRESBYTERIAN COUNCIL.

To the General Assembly to meet in Savannah May 18, 1876:

The undersigned begs leave to report to the General Assembly that, being appointed a delegate, together with Drs. Hoge and Lefevre, to the conference at London, by the Committee on Confederation of Pre-byterian Churches, appointed by the General Assembly of 1875, he proceeded to London, and was in attendance on the sessions of the conference from the opening to the close of the same.

The undersigned, as representative of the Southern Presbyterian Church, met in the conference the representatives of near twenty other Presbyterian bodies from various parts of the world. He takes pleasure in saying that from these representatives, without exception, as well as from the good Presbyterian people of London, he received, both personally and as your representative, every mark of affectionate christian regard; and during the conference there was not the slightest jar or serious disagreement on any subject that came before the body. Your representative spoke his mind just as freely as if he were speaking in our own General Assembly, on every question that arose during the deliberations—even to the extent of expounding, as well as he could, the distinctive views of Presbyterianism which characterize our Southern Church. And, so far as he could judge, it gave great pleasure to our British Presbyterian brethren to learn that there was so large a body of Presbyterians in the Southern States holding so tenaciously to the great principles of doctrine and order asserted by the early Scottish fathers. On the other hand, it gave your representative great pleasure and incited devout gratitude to God to find that, notwithstanding the noise which the devotees of a progressive theology have been making in Scotland and elsewhere in Britain, the great body of the ministry and people of the several different Presbyterian Churches in Britain seem to stand fast by the old landmarks, and that the excitement and attention aroused by the new and startling dogmas of the "Progressive Theology" only adds another illustration of this fact, that in the theological and ecclesiastical, as in the sphere of physics, "the empty carts make the most noise."

The deliberations of the Conference were carried on almost entirely after the fashion of a committee meeting. The three forms of constitution, which, in order to save time, had been prepared for submission for the consideration of the Conference, were carefully compared and the propositions scanned word by word. That form suggested by the British committee was remarkably similar to the form suggested by the committee of our Assembly—a form which was submitted to the American committee at New York, but which, because of the failure of the American committee to meet on the 15th of June, according to appointment, was laid directly before the Conference by the Secretary of the American committee. On account of this similarity the constitution finally adopted by the Conference was, in all important points, in accord with those submitted by the British and the Southern Presbyterian committees. The chief points of difference between the constitution proposed by our committee and that finally adopted are: First, in regard to the extent of the authority to be given to the proceedings of the General Council. We had inserted the provision that the proceedings of the General Council should be officially submitted to the Supreme Courts of the several bodies constituting the alliance for their prayerful consideration; whereas in the constitution adopted there is no obligation at all laid upon these courts to take action of any sort upon the proceedings of the General Council, the provision being simply for "communicating the minutes of its proceedings to the Supreme Courts forming the alliance."

The second point in which our proposed constitution differed from that adopted by the Conference was that relating to the size of the council. We proposed a council of not over one hundred. The constitution adopted provides for a council of three hundred. The chief objection to so large a council is the expense attending so large a delegation, especially when it becomes needful to cross the ocean. It was argued, on the other hand, that a large body is necessary to give true dignity and moral influence to the proceedings of the council, and that the great expense need probably not be incurred more than once in six or nine years. It is the opinion of your delegate, however, that after the experiment of so large a council the number will be reduced at least one-half.

The basis of representation in the council selected by the conference was the number of congregations in each of the bodies composing the Alliance. Your delegate urged that the basis of representation should be that of ministers and congregations combined, and pointed out the irregularity that must result, seeing that in all the American bodies the number of congregations is much larger than the number of ministers, whereas, in the British bodies, as probably in the Continental also, the number of ministers is equal to, or in excess of, the number of congregations. This objection was overruled by the votes of the British representatives themselves. This arrangement, together with the adoption of the rule that no body in the Alliance should have more than forty representatives, led to a large excess of representation from the Southern Presbyterian Church in proportion to the number of our ministry. While the principle of the maximum of forty confines the Northern Presbyterian body to that number, the Southern Presbyterian Church, with less than a fourth of their ministers—in its eighteen hundred congregations—is apportioned a representation of twentyeight delegates, a larger delegation than any other body in the Alliance except the Northern Presbyterian body.

This explanation is made here lest it should be thought that the disproportionate representation in favor of the Southern Presbyterian Church in this Council should be supposed to have been brought about

through any agency of its representative in this conference.

As there seems to be some misapprehension in regard to the expense attending a voyage across the Atlantic, your delegate, after two experiments, feels authorized to say that the entire expense of a voyage, going and returning from our scabord to Edinburgh, need not exceed from one hundred and fifty to two hundred dollars, with all the usual comforts of travel by sea, and a large portion of that may be repaid to those who desire to supplement their libraries with the older books that every minister needs—such books being exceedingly cheap in Britain, and there being no duty on books published twenty years before the date of shipment. And an additional consideration is that it would be of great advantage to our Church if a larger number of our ministry and ruling elders could visit the land where our Presbyterianism had its origin, and have the opportunity to study, by aid of personal observation, the several phases which the Presbyterianism of the Reformation has developed by reason of the varying circumstances under which it has grown up.

As to the expense of a delegation to a conneil on the other side of the Atlantic, it is highly probable that a sufficient number of ministers and ruling elders to represent our Church acceptably could be found every six or nine years who, either from their own means or means cheerfully furnished by their friends and pastoral charges, could make the voyage; while at least every alternate meeting of the Council would be held on our side of the Atlantic, and attendance upon it

would involve little expense.

As the proceedings of the Council are to be purely conferential, and, therefore, the number of votes east on any occasion are less important, such number of delegates only as may be conveniently sent at any time If thought important, no doubt the principle could be need be sent. established that the delegates from any body in the Council, be they few or many, shall east the full vote to which such body is entitled in the Council. These are obviously minor matters, which will be settled as experience may demonstrate to be wise. Indeed, in case it were inconvenient for any of the delegates chosen to attend the Council at any meeting, it would be entirely competent for the delegation, by written communication simply, to lay before the Council any matters which they might deem it important to have considered, and such views of the subject as they might desire to present. So that the question of the expense of attendance upon the Council presents one of those merely theoretical difficulties which will vanish before an earnest purpose to execute the scheme proposed.

The undersigned would beg leave, in conclusion, to express the clear and profound conviction, to which he has been led by a participation in the London Conference, of the great importance of the movement, both to our Church and to the cause of Presbyterianism at large. It is his conviction that whatever opposition to, or doubt about, this movement exists among us, springs entirely from misapprehension of the spirit of the movement and misinformation or want of information concerning it. He is fully persuaded that a careful examination of the subject under the same advantages of personal observation which be has himself enjoyed, through the favor of the Church in calling him to a prominent place in the matter during the past year, would bring every candid and intelligent Presbyterian among us to the same conclusion, to wit: that the guidance of the Holy Spirit only could have led to the ready acquiescence of three-fourths of the Presbyterians in the world in a proposition to give outward expression to the real unity of the whole Presbyterian Church of God throughout the world by a triennial council, which, without interference with the teachings, the internal order or external relations of any of its constituent bodies, should unite the whole in a common testimony to the excellency and efficiency of the Presbyterian order; give to the weak and persecuted members of the Presbyterian family the countenance and support of the whole body; arrange for the more economical and efficient distribution of the great work of the Church, preaching the Gospel to all nations, and bear a united, and therefore a more powerful, testimony in behalf of a pure and simple Gospel, and against the corruptions of the truth which teach men to have the form of godliness, denying the power thereof.

Clearly the indication of God's providence seems all tending to the fulfillment of the hopes of the martyr fathers, who, though their theory of the visible Church could not be centralized by reason of the barrier between nation and nation, still longed and hoped for the day when the visible unity of the Church throughout the world would be

exhibited in a Ecumenical General Assembly.

STUART ROBINSON.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ALLIANCE.

WILLIEAS, Churches holding the Reformed faith, and organized on Pre-byterian principles, are found, though under a variety of names, in different parts of the world;

WHEREAS, Many of these were long wont to maintain close relations, but are at present united by no visible bond, whether of fellow-

-hip or of work;

AND WHEREAS, In the providence of God, the time seems to have come when they may all more fully manifest their essential oneness, have closer communion with each other, and promote great causes by joint action: it is agreed to form a Presbyterian Alliance, to meet in General Council, from time to time, in order to confer upon matters of common interest and to further the ends for which the Church has been constituted by her Divine Lord and only King. In forming this Alliance, the Presbyterian Churches do not mean to change their fraternal relations with other Churches, but will be ready, as heretofore, to join with them in Christian fellowship and in advancing the cause of the Redeemer, on the general principle maintained and taught in the Reformed Confessions that the Church of God on earth, though composed of many members, is one body in the Communion of the Holy Ghost, of which body Christ is the Supreme Head and the Scriptures glone are the infallible law.

ARTICLES.

- I. Designation.—This Alliance shall be known as "The Alliance of the Reformed Churches throughout the World holding the Presbyterian System."
- II. MEMBERSHIP.—Any Church organized on Presbyterian principles, which holds the Supreme authority of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments in matters of faith and morals, and whose creed is in harmony with the consensus of the Reformed Confessions, shall be eligible for admission into the Alliance.
- III. The Council.—1. Its Meetings.—The Alliance shall meet in General Council once in three years.
- 2. Its Constituency.—The Council shall consist of delegates, being ministers and elders, appointed by the Churches forming the Alliance; the number from each Church being regulated by a plan sanctioned by the Council, regard being had generally to the number of congregations in the several Churches. The delegates, as far as practicable, to consist of an equal number of ministers and elders. The Council may, on the recommendation of a Committee on Business, invite Presbyterian brethren, not delegates, to offer suggestions, to deliver addresses and to read papers.
- 3. Hs Powers.—The Council shall have power to decide upon the application of Churches desiring to join the Alliance; it shall have power to entertain and consider topics which may be brought before it by any Church represented in the Council, or by any member of the Council, on their being transmitted in the manner hereinafter provided; but it shall not interfere with the existing creed or constitution of any Church in the Alliance, or with its internal order or external relations.
- 4. Its Objects.—The Council shall consider questions of general interest to the Presbyterian community; it shall seek the welfare of Churches, especially such as are weak or persecuted; it shall gather and disseminate information concerning the Kingdom of Christ throughout the world; it shall commend the Presbyterian system as Scriptural, and as combining simplicity, efficiency and adaptation to all times and conditions; it shall also entertain all subjects directly connected with the work of evangelization, such as the relation of the Christian Church to the evangelization of the world, the distribution of mission work, the combination of Church energies, especially in reference to great cities and destitute districts, the training of ministers, the use of the press, colportage, the religious instruction of the young, the sanctification of the Sabbath, systematic beneficence, the suppression of intemperance and other prevailing vices, and the best methods of opposing infidelity and Romanism.
- 5. Its Methods.—The Council shall seek to guide and stimulate public sentiment by papers read, by addresses delivered and published, by the circulation of information respecting the allied Churches and their missions, by the exposition of Scriptural principles, and by defense of the truth; by communicating the minutes of its proceedings to the supreme courts of the Churches forming the Alliance, and by such other action as is in accordance with its constitution and objects.
- 6. Committee on Business.—The Council, at each general meeting, shall appoint a Committee on Business, through which all communications and notices of subjects proposed to be discussed shall pass. The Committee appointed at one general meeting shall act provisionally, so far as is necessary, in preparing for the following meeting.
- IV. CHANGE OF CONSTITUTION.—No change shall be made in this constitution, except on a motion made at one general meeting of Council, not objected to by a majority of the Churches, and carried by a two-thirds vote at the next general meeting.

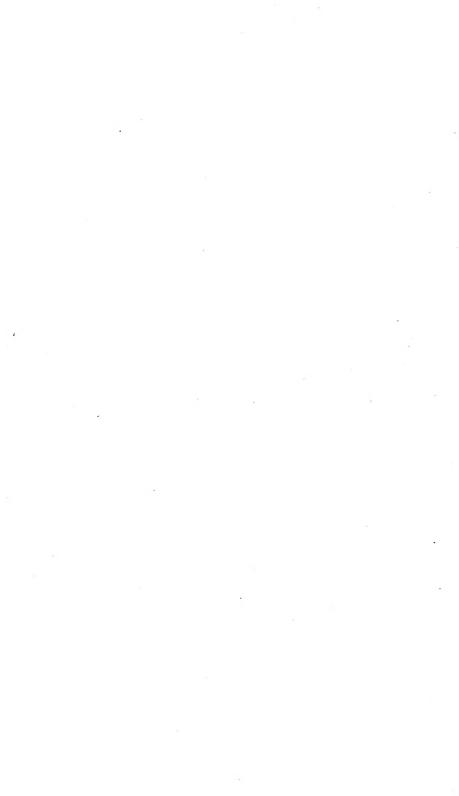
PRAYER FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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

annually in the Appendix to the Minutes of the Assembly.



STATISTICAL REPORTS

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Agent, Orangeburg,

Chas. S. Vedder, D. D., P. Charleston,

Wm. H. Adams, f. D. A. Brown,

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5. Pres. of Lexington.

Candidates—3.

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Edward D. Washburn, Wm. Stoddert, D. D.,

Candidates—7.

John C. Dinwiddie,

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T. D Bell.

H. P. R. McCoy, L. B. Johnston,

David Teese,

Edgar Woods,

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SUMMARY VIEW OF PRESBYTERIES.

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	PRESHYTERLES.	East Alabama, South Alabama Thscaloosa, Arkansas	Ouachita Atlanfa Angusta	Cherokee Florida Maeon	Central Ohio Ebenezer Louisville Muhlenburg	Paducah	North Alabama North Mississippi Western District. Cen. Mississippil Louislana Mississippi	New Orleans. Red River. Tombeckbec. Lafayetto Missouri. Pulmyra Potosi.

605 J. P. Foreman, 229 J. A. Williams, 229 J. A. Williams, 229 J. A. Williams, 220 J. A. Williams, 230 W. Tharr. 371 J. P. McPherson, 251 J. P. McPherson, 251 J. P. McPherson, 251 J. P. A. Johnston, 251 J. P. James M. Sprunt, 351 J. P. Jacobs, 351 J. P. Tenney, 351 J. P. Tenney, 351 J. P. Tenney, 351 J. P. Tenney, 351 J. P. Tenney, 351 J. P. Tenney, 351 J. P. Tenney, 351 J. P. Tenney, 351 J. P. Tenney, 351 J. J. Tenney, 351 J. J. Tenney, 351 J. J. Tenney, 351 J. J. Tenney, 351 J. J. Tenney, 351 J. J. Tenney, 351 J. J. Tenney, 351 J. J. Tenney, 351 J. J. Tenney, 351 J. J. Tenney, 351 J. J. Tenney, 351 J. J. Tenney, 351 J. J. Tenney, 351 J. J. Tenney, 351 J. J. Tenney, 351 J. J. Tenney, 351 J. J. J. Tenney, 351 J. J. J. J. J. J. J. J. J. J. J. J. J.	
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GENERAL VIEW OF SYNODS, FROM REPORTS TO THE GENERAL	
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SSEMBLY OF 1877.	PLACE OF NEXT NAMES AND POST OFFICES MEETING. OP STATED CLERKS.	 Eufaula, Ala. Oct. 31, 7 P. M. R. Nall, D. D., Ocalla, Fla. S346 Hot Springs, Ark Oct. 11, 7 P. M. T. R. Welch, D. D., Little S023 Columbus, Ga. Nov. 14, 7 P. M. 	9242 Covington, Ky. Oct. 11, 7½ P. M. L. H. Blanton, Paris, Ky.	6570 Baton Rouge, La Nov. 8, 7 P. M. R. Evans, Germantown, Tenn.	8437 Memphis,1st Ch. Nov. ————————————————————————————————————	 8333 Cleveland, Tenn. Oct. 18, 7½ P. M. Jannes Park, D. D., Knox- 16544 Charlotte, 2d Ch. Oct. 24, 7½ P. M. Jacob Doll, Reidsville, N. C. 	 167 10394 Columbia, S. C. Oct. 18, S P. M. T. S. Law, Spartamburg, S. C. 133 4949 San Antonio, Tex Oct. 31, 7½ P. M. R. F. Bunting, D. D., Galveston, Texas. 	205 276 22225 Alexandria, Va. Nov. 6, 7½ P. M. J. P. Smith, Fredericks- 1032 1830 112550
GENERAL AS	TIME OF NEXT MEETING,	Oct. 31, 7 P. M. Oct. 11, 7 P. M. Nov. 14, 7 P. M.	Oct. 11, 7½ P. M.	Nov. 8, 7 P. M.	П, ТР. М.	Oct. 18, 7½ P. M. Oct. 24, 7½ P. M.	Oct. 18, 8 P. M. Oct. 31, 7½ P. M.	Nov. 6, 7 <u>1</u> P. M.
RTS TO THE	PLACE OF NEXT MEETING,	6142 Eufaula, Ala. Oct. 31, 7 p. M. 3346 Hot Springs, Ark Oct. 11, 7 p. M. 9023 Columbus, Ga. Nov. 14, 7 p. M.	Covington, Ky.	Baton Rouge,La	8437 Memphis,1st Ch. Nov. 7345 Lexington, Mo. Oct.	Cleveland, Tenn. Charlotte, 2d Ch.	Columbia, S. C. SanAntonio,Tex	Alexandria, Va.
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M	No, of Churches,	38 83 83 83 172	S7 139	70 142	S0 167 73 139	67 116 10 216	91 157 74 133	276 1830
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A GENERAL VIEW OF SYNODS, FROM REPORTS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 1877.	RESPECTIVE PRESBYTERIES.	Alabama East Alabama, South Alabama, ArkansasArkansas, Indian, Ouachita GeorgiaAtlanta, Augusta, Cherokee, Floride, Macon, Savannah	Kentucky Central Ohio, Ebenezer, Louisville, Muhlenhurg, Paducah, Transylvania, West Lexington	ern District	Tombeckbee Lafayette, Missouri, Palmyra, Potosi, St. Louis, Upper Missouri.	N. Carolina, Concord, Fayetteville, Mecklen-burg, Orange, Wilnington	Brazes, Convrescon, Harmony, South Carolina	Nontgomery, Roanoke, SaoPaulo, West Hanover, Winchester
A GF	synobs.	Alabama Arkansas Georgia	Kentucky Memphis	Mississippi	Missouri	N. Carolina,	Pexas	

GENERAL VIEW OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

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Synods	. 12
Presbyteries	63
Ministers and Licentiates	1,115
Candidates	. 176
Churches	1,830
Licensures	
Ordinations	41
Installations	54
Pastoral relations dissolved	51
Churches organized	43
Churches dissolved	12
Churches received from other denominations	5
Churches dismissed to other denominations	3
Ministers received from other denominations	1
Ministers dismissed to other denominations	1
Number of Ruling Elders	5,122
Number of Deacons	3,338
Members added on examination	6,302
Members added on certificate	3,066
Whole number of communicants	112,550
Adults baptized	1,947
Infants baptized	4,565
Number of baptized non-communicants	22,582
Children in Sabbath Schools and Bible classes	66,624
CONTRIBUTIONS.	
Sustentation	\$39,195
Evangelistic Fund	12,736
Invalid Fund	9,470
Foreign Missions	39,483
Education	30,088
Publication	10,595
Presbyterial	11,523
Pastors' Salaries	512,580
Congregational	392,093
Miscellaneous	53,208
Total	81,110,971

DEATHS.

The following named Ministers are mentioned in the Presbyterial Reports as having died during the rast ecclesiastical year:—

J. C. McAuley	Presbytery of	South Alabama.
Daniel G. Doak	"	North Mississippi.
Horace P. Smith	44	North Alabama,
Jonathan Lyons	"	Abingdon.
John D. Ewing	4.4	Montgomery.
Jesse Rankin	44	Concord.
Thomas L. DeVeaux	**	Fayetteville.
J. F. W. Freeman	44	Arkansas.
R. C. Ketchum	"	Atlanta.
H. H. Hopkins, D. D	"	Louisville.
William LeConte	"	Sao Paulo.

SUCCESSION OF MODERATORS.

1861-1877.

A. D.	NAME.	PRESBYTERY.	PLACE.
1861.	Rev. Benj. M. Palmer, D. D., LL. D.,	N. Orleans.	Augusta.
1862.	Rev. John L. Kirkpatrick, D. D.,	Concord.	Montgomery.
1863.	Rev. James A. Lyon, D. D.,	Tombeckbee.	Columbia.
1864.	Rev. John S. Wilson, D. D.,*	Flint River.	Charlotte.
1865.	Rev. George Howe, D. D., LL. D.,	Charleston.	Macon.
1 866.	Rev. Andrew Hart Kerr, D. D.,	Memphis.	Memphis.
1867.	Rev. Thomas Verner Moore, D. D.,*	E. Hanover.	Nashville.
1868.	Rev. John N. Waddel, D. D., LL. D.	Chiekasaw.	Baltimore.
1869.	Rev. Stuart Robinson, D. D.,	Louisville.	Mobile.
1870.	Rev. Robt. L. Dabney, D. D., LL. D.,	W. Hanover.	Louisville.
1871.	Rev. Wm. S. Plumer, D. D., LL. D.,	Harmony.	Huntsville.
1872.	Rev. Thomas R. Welch. D. D.,	Arkansas.	Richmond.
1873.	Rev. Henry Martyn Smith, D. D.,	N. Orleans.	Little Rock.
1874.	Rev. John L. Girardeau, D. D.,	Charleston.	Columbia.
1875.	Rev. Moses D. Hoge, D. D.,	E. Hanover.	St. Louis.
1876.	Rev. Benjamin M. Smith, D. D.,	W. Hanover.	Savannah.
1877.	Rev. C. A. Stillman, D. D.,	Tuskaloosa.	New Orleans.

STATED CLERKS FROM 1861 TO 1877.

Rev. John N. Waddel, D. D., LL. D.
 Rev. Joseph R. Wilson, D. D.

PERMANENT CLERKS FROM 1861 TO 1877.

1861. Rev. Joseph R. Wilson, D. D. 1865. Rev. William Brown, D. D.

*Deceased.

STATED CLERKS OF PRESBYTERIES

ARE EARNESTLY REQUESTED

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- 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, without charge.
- 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 eare.
- 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 purpose, are not furnished by the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, but by the Executive Committee of Publication, without charge, by order of the Assemblies of 1867 and 1874.

TO THE STATED CLERKS OF THE SYNODS.

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 meetings of their respective Synods.

Churches,

Ministers, and have under their care GENERAL ASSEMBLY FORM OF PRESBYTERIAL REPORT TO THE reports to the General Assembly that they consist of

Licentlates, and

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mply that they consist of , and Candidates, viz.:

	Miscellancous.			
	Congregational.	•		
	Pastors' Salaries actually paid.			
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nor Follow the above with a statement of licensures, ordinations, installations, pasteral relations dissolved, churches organized or dissolved, or received or dismissed to other denominations, ministers received or dismissed to other denominations, or removed by death since last Report, -, Mated Clerk. Signed,

clive the names of Brentlates, but only the number of candidates, without names. It is carnestly requested that the above order of columns may all be carefully added up. To ministers who are pastors, annex P.; to stated supplies, S. S.; to be been a sistent with the foreign Missionaries, B. M.; to Foreign Missionaries, F. M.; to Proleger or Theological Seminaries, bref.; to Theological Seminaries, P. T.; to Agonis, A.; to Editors, Y. T. To charebes 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 hamedlately contiguous to his mane, and when the Post Office of every served by thin is the same, with his own, but 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.

#8-Norm.—All collections for Home Missionsought to be placed under the head of "Sustenfation," "Presby terial," includes all moneys collected for Commissioners' and Contingent Fund, and for all other purposes strictly connected with the current expenses of Presbyleries. Contributions in the congregation for Sabbath Schools should be put under congregational.

NOTE.

The following is inserted as explanatory of a portion of the minute found on page 430, having reference to the Book of Church Order

- "IV. Form of Government, Chapter VI, Section III, Article IV. The Presbyteries will adopt the Article in one of the following forms, viz:"
- (1.) "All communicating members of the Church, in good and regular standing, but no others, are entitled to vote in the election of Ruling Elders and Deacons. In the election of a Pastor, besides these, such adult persons as are regular in their attendance on the common ordinances, and who regularly contribute to the support of the Pastor in that congregation, may also participate, and when a majority of the electors cast their votes for any candidate, he shall be considered elected."
- (2.) "All communicating members of the Church, in good and regular standing, but no others, are entitled to vote in the election of church officers in the churches to which they are respectively attached. In the election of a Pastor, when a majority of the electors east their votes for a candidate, he shall be considered elected; but a separate vote may also be taken of the non-communicating adult members of the church, who are regular in their attendance on the common ordinances in that congregation, and all other persons who regularly contribute to the support of the Pastor, in order to be laid before the Presbytery as a representation of their desires in the premises."
- (3.) "All communicating members of the church, in good and regular standing, but no others, are entitled to vote in the election of Pastors, Ruling Elders and Deacons; and when a majority of the electors cast their votes for a person for either of these offices, he shall be considered elected."

ALPHABETICAL LIST

Ministers and Licentiates.



ALPHABETICAL LIST

OF

MINISTERS AND LICENTIATES,

EMBRACED IN THE PRECEDING TABLES.

Note.—The Postoffice addresses in this List in some 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, Williamsburg, S. C., 507
Adams, W. H. Charleston, S. C., 551
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Adger, D. D., J. B., Pendleton, S. C., 554
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Alexander, H. S., Culpepper C. H., Va., 561
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Alexander, S. C., Wadesboro, N. C., 545
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Allison, J. Y., Monroe, La., 527
Allison, T. J., Tarboro, N. C., 547
Anderson, E., Clayton, N. C., 499
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Anderson, J. M., Mebaneville, N. C., 548
Anderson, R. E. Morganton, N. C., 542
Anderson, R. C., Martinsville, Va., 571
Anderson, W. J., Spring Creek, Tenn., 522
Arbuthnot, D. D., J. S., Gallatin, Tenn., 540
Arreher, Stevenson, Greenville, Miss., 524
Armstrong, D. D., Geo, D. Norfolk, Va., 564
Armstrong, Jas. A., Shepherdstown, W. Va., 573
Atkinson, Jos. M., Raleigh, N. C., 548
Atkinson, J. D., J. M. P., Hampden Sidney, Va., 572
Atkinson, W. R., Raleigh, N. C., 548
Axson, Samuel E., Rome, Ga., 507

Axson, D. D., I. S. K., Savannań, Ga., 510 Axson, Samuel E., Rome, Ga., 507 Bachman, J. W., Chattanooga, Tenn., 539 Baier, Leo, Hannibal, Mo., 532 Bailey, J. S., Unionville, S. C., 550 Bayley, W. L., Crittenden, Ky., 512 Baird, Jas. H., Raltimore, Md., 564 Baird, Jas. R., Santa Barbara, S. A., 574 Baird, D. D., S. J., Staunton, Va., 564 Baird, William G., Oak Hill, N. C., 547

Baird, Isaac, Greenville, Ky., 515
Baker, Archibald, Shoe Heel, N. C., 543
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Barkley, A. H., Crawford, Miss., 529
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Barret, T. Calvin, Charleston, W. Va., 566
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Bell, Robert S., Washington, Va., 564
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Bingham, Samuel J., Enterprise, Miss.,

Bingham, W. B., Hazelhurst, Miss., 526 Bishop, Wm. F., Ashland, Va., 505 Bittinger, M. H., Indian Creek, W. Va.,

500 Black, Duncan B., Burgaw, N. C., 548 Black, J. S., Burgaw, N. C., 550 Blackburn, J. C., Athens, Ala., 521 Blain, Daniel, Christiansburg, Va., 56 Blain, Samuel W., Carrolton, Ky., 513

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Blake, J. H., Vicksburg, Miss., 525 Blanton, L. H., Paris, Ky., 512 Blaney, John B., Sulphur Springs, Ohio, Campbell, C. N., Darnestown, Md., 563 Blanton, L. H., Paris, Ky., 512
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Boggs, D. C., Bentonville, Ark., 501
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Brackett, G. R., Charleston, S. C., 551
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Britt, M. C., Hollonville, Ga., 506
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Brown, H. C., Hedgesville, W. Va., 573
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WITH AN APPENDIX.

Vol. IV.

A. D. 1878.

WILMINGTON, N. C.:
JACKSON & BELL, PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS.

1878.

