

SEIPT OF THE ASSEMBLY.—ADJUSTMENT OF HOME MISSIONS.

We have great reason to rejoice in our Assembly. When we look back upon our history in the perilous times through which we have been brought, we may indeed, thank God and take courage. One difficulty after another has been faithfully and manfully met; and our success, owing to our simplicity and sincerity of purpose...

In these circumstances, we have but one course to pursue. It is the glory of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, and of all the field that naturally centers here, to be loyal to the Church. We have upheld its banner in the darkest hour. We have poured out our treasure for it when few hearts trembled for the ark of God. We have been through Presbyterians by principle and not from interest. We do not intend to allow any private interests, any local feelings, to control us now. We go for the Church, and the whole Church, now and always. We stand by the Assembly in all its constitutional utterances, and in all its fairly consummated action...

ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

- 1. Report of a Committee on Statistical Returns, adopted, which recommends no new methods, but careful and accurate compliance with the methods already indicated by the Assembly.
2. The first Monday in January was appointed a day of fasting and prayer for the conversion of the world, and the last Thursday in February a day of prayer for colleges, &c.
3. A vote of sympathy for pastor Fisch and his fellow Christians and pastors in France.
4. A call for "extraordinary prayer and labor, that our noble young men who go in the spirit of Lexington and Bunker Hill to the defence of the Constitution and laws, may be kept from the temptations of the camp and the field."
5. Preamble and Resolutions on the STATE OF THE COUNTRY. These we gave in our last issue.
6. Appointment of a committee on a Fund for settled ministers. Judge Allison, M. W. Baldwin, Jos. H. Dulles, and Samuel C. Perkins.
7. A resolution expressing the delight of the Assembly with the cordial, fraternal utterances of the delegates from corresponding bodies.
8. Report of the Standing Committee on Foreign Missions, adopted.
9. Decision in regard to a Presbyterial quorum and other matters, the purport of which does not appear in the reports.
10. Report of the committee on Mileage, showing that all but sixteen Presbyteries had contributed to the fund, making a total of \$4,845, from which, after paying all claims of commissioners, a balance of \$500 remained.
11. Report of the standing Committee on Publication. Substantially a report of approval.
12. Report commending Ingham University.
13. Messrs. J. W. Benedict, W. E. Dodge, and W. S. Griffith, elected Trustees of Church Election Fund.
14. Friday, June 28th, appointed a day of fasting and prayer for the nation.
15. Drs. Kendall, Thompson, Darling, Spear, and Hawley, were appointed a committee to devise a plan of Systematic Collection for the churches.
16. The amended report on Home Missions adopted, and a committee of fifteen appointed, to be called the PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE OF HOME MISSIONS. Names of committee on the first page.
17. Trustees of the Presbyterian House appointed.
18. Amended plan of Education adopted.
19. Narrative on the State of Religion, adopted.
20. A report on the State of Theological Seminaries, adopted.
21. Closing routine—business-bill ordered paid, votes of thanks, &c.

THE ASSEMBLY IN PHILADELPHIA.

It was desired, we are to remember that this cannot always be had. We laid the whole matter before an Assembly fairly convened. The fullest opportunity for debate was allowed. Propositions, even, to restrict the speakers to three, or five, or ten minutes, were voted down, and a very kind regard was shown both for the feelings and wishes of brethren every where. In these circumstances, we have but one course to pursue. It is the glory of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, and of all the field that naturally centers here, to be loyal to the Church. We have upheld its banner in the darkest hour. We have poured out our treasure for it when few hearts trembled for the ark of God. We have been through Presbyterians by principle and not from interest. We do not intend to allow any private interests, any local feelings, to control us now. We go for the Church, and the whole Church, now and always. We stand by the Assembly in all its constitutional utterances, and in all its fairly consummated action. We are against all secession and all faction. We go for our Church in its bright sunshine of prosperity, and we went for it in its dark hour of adversity. No one ever really loses by truth, by honor, and by loyalty. The city, the district, like the individual who does right because it is right, will presently be set on high, and all men will honor the loyal in heart and hand. More especially will this be done, when the hearts of our brethren are so much with us, when Philadelphia has come to be in our Church, a synonym for liberality and fidelity, and when it is the deep feeling of every Presbyterian that she can be trusted in her nobleness with or without rewards for it.

...to herby acknowledge and declare their obligation, so far as in them lies, to maintain the Constitution of these United States, in the full exercise of all its legitimate powers, to preserve our beloved Union unimpaired, and to restore its inestimable blessings to every portion of the land. Also that this Assembly feels bound to abstain from any further declaration, in which all our ministers and members faithful to the Constitution and standards of the Church might not be able conscientiously and safely to join. The failure to commit even the members of the Assembly beyond a mere expression of adherence to the Constitution, the endeavor to avoid such phrasing as would frankly, unmistakably and authoritatively commit the body, as such, to the support of the Federal Government, and the tenderness expressed in the resolutions to the consciences of rebels in the garb of Presbyterians, created much surprise—especially in view of the previous positions taken in debate by members of the Committee—and a darker cloud than ever seemed setting upon the body. We are betraying no secrets, when we report that a feeling of disappointment, mingled with disdain, if nothing stronger, began to be freely expressed towards a body which had now seemingly suffered itself to be entangled past recovery in the meshes of a disloyal sentiment. Few, indeed, seemed to care now what was done. But there was salt in the body; true men renewed the struggle bravely. Dr. Anderson, of California, who had not once varied, alone in the Committee, presented Dr. Spring's resolutions as a minority report, and advocated them with unabated warmth and ability. The debate was continued until 6 o'clock on Wednesday evening, the 29th. We are rejoiced that the good name of the Philadelphia clergy of this Church was nobly vindicated before the debate closed, in the clear, manly and business-like speech of Dr. Edwards, of the West Arch Street Church. He proposed some amendments to Dr. Spring's resolutions, which carried, and the Resolutions thus amended passed by a vote of 154 to 66, as follows: Resolved, That, in view of the present agitated and unhappy condition of this country, the 1st day of July next be hereby set apart as a day of prayer throughout our bounds, and that on this day ministers and people are called on humbly to seek and beseech their national sin, and to offer up their thanks to the Father of light for His abundant and undeserved goodness towards us as a nation, to seek His guidance and blessing upon our rulers and their councils, as well as to implore Him, in the name of Jesus Christ, the great High Priest of the Christian profession, to turn away His anger from us, and speedily restore to us the blessings of a safe and honorable peace.

Resolved, That this General Assembly, in the spirit of that Christian patriotism which the Scriptures enjoin, and which has always characterized the Assembly of the Christian profession, to turn away His anger from us, and speedily restore to us the blessings of a safe and honorable peace. Resolved, That this General Assembly, in the spirit of that Christian patriotism which the Scriptures enjoin, and which has always characterized the Assembly of the Christian profession, to turn away His anger from us, and speedily restore to us the blessings of a safe and honorable peace. Resolved, That this General Assembly, in the spirit of that Christian patriotism which the Scriptures enjoin, and which has always characterized the Assembly of the Christian profession, to turn away His anger from us, and speedily restore to us the blessings of a safe and honorable peace.

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CONSTITUTION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE OF HOME MISSIONS.

I. The General Assembly, in accordance with the obvious indications of Providence, and agreeably to the Constitution of the Church, (Form of Gov., X.VIII.) assumes the responsibility of conducting the work of Home Missions within its bounds. II. To this end, the Assembly hereby institutes a permanent committee, to be known as the Presbyterian Committee of Home Missions, to be located in the city of New York, to consist of fifteen members, of whom not more than eight shall be ministers of the gospel, to be arranged in the first instance into three classes, one, two, and three years respectively, and their successors to serve for three years, to be appointed by the Assembly, five of them to be a quorum for ordinary business, and a majority for the election of officers, and the determination of their salaries.

III. The committee shall elect annually a general secretary or secretaries, and such other officers and agents as may be requisite for the successful prosecution of the work. They shall have power to fill, until the meeting of next Assembly, their own vacancies, to appoint their officers, and to make their own by-laws, subject to the revision of the Assembly. ART. IV.—They shall undertake the work of aiding such congregations as are not able to support, in whole or in part, the stated preaching of the gospel, and of sending itinerating or resident missionaries to the destitute in our land.

And as it is the design of the General Assembly not to supersede the different ecclesiastical bodies connected with it, but to encourage and give unity and efficiency to their action, so as to bring out the full adaptation and force of the Presbyterian system in Home Missions, the Presbyterian Committee shall be authorized to form a committee on Home Missions to explore their destitutions; to select, and, if they think expedient, to nominate missionaries for their own field; to recommend the amount of their compensation; to secure an annual contribution to the cause from the members of the Church, and to furnish annually to this committee, or before the 15th of April, a detailed statement of the Home Missionary work within their bounds.

Any individual member shall appoint and commission the missionaries, taking care to appoint no one unacceptable to the Presbytery within whose bounds he is to labor; they shall give them all needful instruction as to the place and character of their labors, securing, as far as practicable, and regarding the advice and endorsement of the Presbytery to whom they are assigned, and location of laborers, and their remuneration; they shall make the necessary appropriations to agents, exploring and itinerating missionaries, and congregations, it being understood that no appropriation shall be made to any congregation whose application is not endorsed by the Presbytery with which such congregation stands connected, or the Committee of Presbytery; and shall take measures to secure the effective co-operation of the Synods, Presbyteries, and churches, in the work of exploration, in securing missionaries, and in obtaining funds for the common treasury.

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THE INTEREST felt in our Assembly upon the State of the Country, is inadequately represented by the reports which have been spread before the community. The Resolutions, though adopted unanimously, were the subject of what the N. Y. Observer terms "a brilliant and powerful discussion." The same journal gives the following account of their passage:

Before the vote was taken, the Moderator, in most solemn tones, expressed his unqualified approbation of the resolutions, their language, their spirit, their purpose, and their temper. All were, he said, eminently worthy of the cause, the occasion, and the Assembly. When the vote was put, the entire body rose, and when the negatives were called, not a solitary individual rose. The solemn proceedings were then endorsed by an invocation of God's blessing upon the Resolutions and the government. During this impressive part of the exercises, our Southern brethren were cordially remembered and most kindly prayed for, that they may see their error and yield their obedience to the laws and the national Government.

The death of COL. ELLSWORTH was also feelingly alluded to, on Friday afternoon, by Rev. Dr. Wisner, who spoke of him as "just murdered in the discharge of his duty." A member from Mechanicsville, N. Y., (Rev. Philander Barbour, we suppose), after the announcement of the death of Col. Ellsworth, stated that Col. E.'s mother was a member of his church. He asked that she might have the prayers of the Assembly.

THE LIFE OF HENRY VIGARS, the Christian Soldier of the Crimea, is now published by the CARETAKERS, of New York, in a cheap form, with flexible covers, very handy for carrying at 20 cts. each, or \$12 per hundred. No better use could be made of \$15 just now than the furnishing of a company with this delightful little volume of Christian experience and transcript of pure affection from a true English soldier's heart. For sale at the PRESBYTERIAN HOUSE, 1834 Chestnut street.

After the Assembly voted that the Committee should be established at New York, three points were yielded to Philadelphia. They first resolved that of the fifteen members of the Committee, five should reside in Philadelphia or vicinity. More than five was not desired, as it was admitted that ten were needed in New York and vicinity, to make a working quorum, as most of the meetings will probably be held there. In the case of the Church Extension Committee, two meetings in the year were held in New York, and the others in Philadelphia. The next concession was that there should be, besides the General Secretary in New York, an Associate Secretary, also, who should reside in Philadelphia. Provision was also made for as many district secretaries as the Committee should deem necessary. It was also arranged that the Associate Secretary was not, like the district secretaries, to have local functions only, but to be placed upon the Committee so as to be concerned in the general management of Home Missions. It will thus be seen that the spirit which prevailed was, as far as possible with the selecting of one city rather than the other, a spirit of conciliation and compromise. Our object ought to be none other than the accomplishing the great work of Home Missions in the best manner. By a unanimous vote the Assembly have now taken it entirely under their own care, and they have shown a strong disposition, as far as possible, to conciliate every part of our entire Church. If every part have not obtained every thing that

NATURE'S ALPHABET.

Nature's alphabet is made up of only four letters—wood, water, rock, and soil; yet with these four letters she forms such wondrous compositions, such infinite combinations, as no language of words-four letters can describe. Nature never grows old; she has no provincialism. The lark carols the same song to a provincialism. The lark carols the same song to a provincialism. The lark carols the same song to a provincialism. The lark carols the same song to a provincialism.

MISSION SCHOOLS IN INDIA.

REV. R. G. WYDER, New York, May 20, 1861. MY DEAR SIR:—I have just finished the preparation of your volume on Mission Schools in the A. B. C. F. M. in India. I have read it with much interest, and I greatly desire to see it gaining a more rapid circulation. Please accept the enclosed \$15.00, and place that number of volumes in the hands of as many different pastors, and I will hope their exertions may be much corrected by it as mine have truly.

A SOUTH CAROLINA MINISTER IN 1795.

An old number of the Philadelphia Gazette, which bears date November 6, 1795, contains the following notice:—"Died, on the 6th of October last, at Beaufort, in South Carolina, the Rev. Mr. Matthew Tate, in the 46th year of his age." In his will were the following paragraphs:—"I enjoin it upon my executor to publish it in all the newspapers in Charleston, that I departed this life in the full possession of my mind, and that I am in possession of a slave, I should not conceive myself admissible into the kingdom of heaven. Acquaint Dr. Rush, of Philadelphia, of my decease, and request him to publish the above per-sonation in that city."