

American Presbyterian AND GENESSEE EVANGELIST.

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1862.

JOHN W. MEARS, Editor.

CORRESPONDENCE IN THE ASSEMBLY.

CINCINNATI, May 16, 1862.

Brother Mearns.—The Assembly has just closed the second day of its sessions. I forward you a hasty resume of its proceedings so far. Rev. Dr. Condit's opening sermon was delivered in the presence of a large audience, including many citizens. The text was Act xvii. 2, 8. The gist of the theme was in the phrase, "reasoned with them out of the Scriptures," which furnished "Biblical Preaching" for a topic. The discourse was one of practical excellence. It had the ring of times when the highest art of preaching consisted in a skillful application of scriptural authority in imparting impressions to positions, and in making them felt as real truths, and when it was not regarded as necessary to make the subsidiary testimony of reason and science so prominent that it finally comes to be regarded as the test of true interpretation. The preacher spoke of the distinction between reasoning out of the Scriptures, and reasoning out of human opinions into them, and showed, under several distinct heads, that divine authority is the great power of the pulpit. It was the preaching of Apostolic days, in the hands of men like Luther and Calvin it was the lever of the Reformation; and it made the strength of preaching for the wondrous spiritual accomplishments of the seventeenth century, when such men as Baxter and Howe, like Paul, knew nothing but Christ and Him crucified.

Dr. Condit's preaching has few accessories of manner. His countenance is calm and indicative of evenness of mind and temperament. His stature is medium, and his outward appearance pleasant, but not impressive. His voice is not adapted to give the matter of preaching any more force than what properly belongs to it. Yet he is impressive, and his audience was evidently impressed, and that deeply. It was because every thought was worth the attention which it claimed; every sentence was unartistic, and every word well spoken. I hope the sermon will be published.

How strange that real incongruities are sometimes an unavoidable necessity! Here was a sermon, preached on an occasion eminently fitting, the whole burden of which was to show that, under conditions already named, the highest power of gospel preaching is found in preaching out of the Scriptures, and yet the sermon itself was a mere essay on preaching, not illustrating its own theme in its substance. And yet it could not in any other way have met the requirements of the case. It belonged more to the professorial chair than to the pulpit. Yet even this fact was not felt as any abatement of its fitness for the occasion. Thus it illustrated the impossibility of avoiding exceptions to the best rules.

The daily reports have, I suppose, informed you of the election of the venerable Dr. Duffield as Moderator. Dr. Joel Parker was also in nomination, and received a creditable amount of support—some 80 or 70 votes. There were, however, reasons readily suggesting themselves to those familiar with the history of former days, which could not fail to secure to Dr. Duffield an easy election. Many who voted for him would, under other circumstances, have cheerfully seized the occasion for testifying the esteem in which they hold Dr. P.

The Assembly also paid a deserved compliment to our Brother Darling, by unanimously and heartily declining to receive his proffered resignation of the office of Permanent Clerk. Dr. Darling forwarded his resignation, only in view of the fact that his feeble health forbade his attendance on the present sessions. As it is not long since he was obliged to absent himself from an Assembly for the same reason, he probably feared that a second excuse of the kind might be felt by the body as a strain upon its patience. The Assembly took a different view of the matter. On learning that his health appears to be improving, and that there is a good hope of its restoration, they did as mentioned above, accompanying the vote with expressions of much personal regard, and of their sense of the value of his services. Mr. Sterling, of our Synod, takes his place for the present sessions.

On Thursday evening a meeting for prayer in view of the present state of the country, was held in the large lecture room of the church, which was densely filled. The meeting was led by Dr. Parker, who, in the course of his remarks, referred to the evident Divine guidance of the mind of President Lincoln, securing from the whole loyal part of the country a perfect confidence in him as our leader through present perils, as one cause for devout thanksgiving, and one encouragement for continued prayer for our Rulers. The Christian character of many commanders in our Army and Navy was referred to in similar terms. Dr. spoke of the probable speedy termination of the war, and the return among us of hundreds of thousands of soldiers, who, if things took their usual course, might scatter victims about their homes most destructive to religion. This, he said, was the real crisis of the hour. The wants of the hour were subsiding before the want of a universal revival of religion. Pray to God to make our Chaplains faithful, and to help them. Pray for the conversion of soldiers, and pray that when they return, they may fall into scenes of solemn revival. Brethren Dulles and Eya, of Philadelphia, were among those who took part in the exercises.

The proceedings of this day (Friday) have been chiefly such as put the Assembly in working order. Standing Committees have been announced, terms designated for several orders of business, and reports heard from two of the Permanent Committees—those on Publication and Education. The former exhibited a greater amount of efficient labor than could have been expected under the serious embarrassments arising from the delay of the pecuniary outfit which has so long existed in promissory resolutions. Several new publications have been added to the list of the Committee's issues, and important re-arrangements in expenses carried out.

Philadelphia was appointed as the place of meeting for the next Assembly. A Special Committee, consisting of Drs. Beman and Thompson, Rev. Mr. Aikman and Elders Booth and Reynolds, was appointed to prepare a paper on the

state of the country. The feeling on this subject is unquestionably sound and unanimous. At the close of the day's session the Moderator announced that there were already in attendance 207 members, 93 of whom were Elders, making, it is believed, the largest turn-out of the latter element which has been witnessed since the division. The Assembly is lighted, at this moment, a noble spectacle. I have never witnessed one since 1836 so numerous, and never one so imposing in its general appearance. Its members are chiefly at or beyond what we call the middle age of life. Three Ex-Moderators (Beman, Dickinson and Thompson,) are in attendance, and two others are present as spectators. Dr. Beman, on the question between Philadelphia and Brooklyn as the place of the next meeting, said: "Let us go to Philadelphia, and show the difference between 1837 and now." If the meeting of next year comes up to the present, it will do all our eyes good. I did not mean a pun when I wrote the last sentence, but it now seems to me that we have at least one brother there to whom it will be "a sight for sore eyes."

More as it transpires. THIRD. May 17. Brother Mearns.—The Assembly, as usual on Saturdays, held only a morning session. While I write, most of the brethren are off to the Seminary, having, I presume a good time generally. The devotional exercises this morning were deeply interesting—I think more so than I ever before witnessed in such a meeting. The time was prolonged to one hour. The exhortations came out of full hearts, and the supplications were many and tender. All was voluntary—that is, no one was called out. I saw several old men in tears, as though swept along the past to the years of the right hand of the Most High. Dr. Hatfield prayed affectionately for the Assembly at Columbus, as brethren, imploring on their behalf peace, prosperity, and the Divine unction. Would it not be glorious if I should be allowed to write you next week, that God is coming down in power into our meetings; still more glorious if it might be the inauguration of a higher spiritual tone in our Assemblies! Philadelphia might then look with new desire for its coming next year. There was a time when the expectation of the presence of the Assembly created more of dread than hope, but that time is passed—may we not devoutly hope forever passed? God will be with the men gathered in his name, and those with whom He goes are ever sure to bring joy with them.

The business of this morning was only the ordinary routine—chiefly the reading and referring of the reports of the Church Election and Home Mission Committees. Both exhibited a state of prosperity. The latter, on account of the newness of its organization, excited great interest, and the efficiency of the operations of the year, produced real surprise. At the close of the session the Moderator announced that 210 commissioners are now in attendance, and that the complement of ministerial commissioners lacks only six of being full. Is there any former Assembly in this or any other Church of which this can be said? We are rejoicing over it, notwithstanding it makes our prospects from the Commissioners' Fund darkly dubious. The Mileage Committee will work hard over the problem, but it is regarded as pretty well settled that, with this unexpected number of claimants, we shall be on short allowance for our means of getting back.

The Assembly, this morning, voted to accept an invitation to take an excursion to Oxford, on Wednesday next, to witness the opening services of new buildings for the Female College—in other words, to have a nice time among the young ladies. Some one will probably be on hand to tell you whatever of interest transpires, but it will not be this correspondent. I suppose you get daily reports of the proceedings from the Cincinnati papers. They are not so good as they would be if prepared by some person familiar with our modes of doing business, and the details of our organization. I notice the same thing in the reports of the proceedings at Columbus, from papers of that city. They are even worse sufferers than ourselves in blunders over names, as for example—Barkers for Barkus, and sometimes Georg Gunkin, and sometimes George Jenkins, for the hero of orthodoxy in 1836.

That Assembly seems to have been smarter than ours in reaching the specifying stage. We have had as yet absolutely nothing in that line, and except as we judge from the known proclivities of men, we are in profound ignorance who are to mount the platform, or whether we are to have anything which aspires to the dignity of a speech. We shall know better when we hear from the Committee on Bills and Overtures. I noticed our good brother Beckwith, the Messenger from the Union Convention of the St. Lawrence and Ogdensburg Presbyteries, hunting them up with a handful of papers, from which I presume we shall hear something. A Columbus account tells us of an animated discussion, on the second day, over the report of a Committee on the revision of the Book of Discipline, and a speech from Dr. Breckinridge was in progress when the reporter made up his report for the evening. In that Assembly Dr. Schenck has been elected Permanent Clerk, by a small majority over Dr. Nevins. If that election is a test of the relative strength of the *sempar item* and the progressive parties in that Church, (for such parties really exist there,) it will bring to some hearts the heavy conviction that the long waiting of patience is not yet over.

By the way, what of the General Assembly at Memphis? We are all in darkness; can you tell us anything of them? Dr. R. J. Breckinridge is to speak here, in the Opera House, next Tuesday evening, for the Union. I should love to hear him, but I miss many a good thing because of my dread of a crowd. The Doctor is to be regularly lionized. There has been a meeting of the citizens, and a Committee to meet him at the depot, a Committee of Reception, a Committee to introduce citizens personally to him, &c., &c., appointed. It is a well deserved honor. All Cincinnati will be out, and not a few of "the rest of mankind."

THE FAIRFIELD HOUSE, advertised in another column, is situated in one of the quiet, beautiful Connecticut villages directly on the Sound, about two hours' ride by railway from New York. The house is commodious and convenient, and has hitherto been the resort of Southern travellers, who have admired its comforts and accommodations. It is worthy the attention of those who in summer, seek the sea-shore.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

FIRST DAY.

THURSDAY, May 15.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church met this forenoon in the Second Presbyterian church (Dr. Thompson's), on Fourth street.

There were twenty-one Synods represented, as follows:—Albany, Utica, Geneva, Onondaga, Susquehanna, Genesee, New York, Pennsylvania, West Pennsylvania, Michigan, Western Reserve, Ohio, Cincinnati, Indiana, Wabash, Illinois, Peoria, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and Missouri.

There were present 104 Ministers and 86 Elders. This number will probably be increased by new arrivals. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Condit, the retiring Moderator, from Auburn, N. Y., who took for his text Acts xvii, 2d and 8d verses.

"And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the Scriptures;

"Opening and alleging that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ."

He commenced his discourse by saying that it was a fact beyond dispute, that the pulpit and the Church are inseparable; that they are so closely and intimately connected, that the one can hardly be said to exist without the other. Life in one gives life to the other, and power and strength in the one necessarily communicates their influence to support the other. They are instituted by the same author, and consequently cannot be disunited. Some see symptoms of a wringing in the success of the Church; there is a wringing into its institutions a spirit of indifference, which is peculiarly painful to those whose whole delight is in the success and well being of the Church; and this, he believes to be the result of a peculiar spirit of accommodation which has of late insinuated itself into the pulpit, entirely displacing the biblical element which forms the vital and fundamental principle of their existence. Paul's method of preaching was reasoning from the Scriptures; and that is the only true and consistent biblical preaching we can have.

Having thus forcibly introduced the subject of his discourse, he proceeded to remark that, firstly, The Bible in the pulpit is the direct source of blessing from God; and the term "Bible in the pulpit" means, proving the divinity of Christ from its sacred pages; not the introduction of petty arguments on some slight and unimportant technicalities. But reasoning founded on sacred truths, which is the only thing God uses to bring men's hearts in subjection to his will.

Secondly, Biblical preaching is invested with Divine authority, and it is the divinity of its authority which gives it the power which is so irresistible and overpowering to all that opposes it.

Thirdly, Thorough biblical preaching will produce complete unity in the church, a unity of faith and of works; without it we get works without faith, and with others faith without works, whereas, it is an essential necessity that there should be a complete unity of both.

Fourthly, Biblical preaching produces the highest development of power, both spiritual and intellectual, in the minister himself. The manner in which the preacher pictures the allurements of the Bible, and portrays its promises, or denounces its threatenings, demonstrates unmistakably whether or not he is a biblical preacher. The history of the pulpit in all ages and in every era, has proved beyond the power of sophistry to refute, that the Bible has been the secret of its success. It is not sentimentality which is now required in the pulpit; it is not the faculty of clothing the precepts of the sacred volume in attractive and alluring colors; but it is nothing but the old sound Bible truths that are wanted. The truths which produced the Reformation, which taught Martin Luther and supported the Pilgrim Fathers in their trials, and which will still continue to make the Church increase, and gather to herself glory until the end of time.

The service was then concluded by prayer, and adjourned until afternoon.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The afternoon session was opened with prayer by Rev. Mason Noble, of Washington City. The following is the roll of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, in the United States of America, convened at Cincinnati, Ohio, Thursday, May 15, 1862:

OFFICERS. Rev. Dr. George Duffield, Moderator. Rev. Edwin F. Hatfield, D.D., Stated Clerk. Rev. William Sterling, Permanent Clerk. Rev. F. F. Ellinwood, and Hon. William H. Brown, Temporary Clerks.

Synod of Albany. Elders: Chapman, John H. Stone, J. H. Noble, Nat. S. Beman, D.D., L.L.D., Stephen Bush, Samuel Loomis, John Niles.

Synod of Utica. Elders: St. Lawrence, B. B. Beckwith, Peter Snyder, Thomas A. Weed, Samuel Smith, S. W. Erace, Russel Mathur, Jon. B. Hubbard, David K. Butz, M. Miller Gray.

Synod of Onondaga. Elders: Hon. J. S. Spencer, C. Hawley, D.D., Ira Hamilton, MD, Geo. W. Warner, Owen Hughes, D. E. Whitmore.

Synod of Susquehanna. Elders: Sam'l J. White, Benj. Jacobson, Alfred Ketcham, P. Bassett, M.D.

Synod of Geneva. Elders: John Otto, Fred. W. Flint, G. W. Tew, Geo. St. John, Benjamin Conroy, S. P. Adams, D.D., C. R. Adams, F. F. Ellinwood, Harry Allen, M.D., E. N. Manley, Stephen Lee, John Gocke, James Wells, Genesee Valley, E. W. Stoddard, Wm. F. Wheeler.

Synod of Pennsylvania. Elders: Wilmington, Wm. Aikman, John C. Clark, 8rd Philadel'a, B. B. Hotchkinn, Isaac Ashmead, S. T. Johnson, Alex. Willidin, Wm. T. Eya, R. Byington, M.D., 4th Philadel'a, Henry S. Osborn, T. Trencard, Harrisburg, Wm. Sterling, John B. Hall, Dis. of Col'bia, Mason Noble.

Synod of New York and New Jersey.

Hudson, H. P. Wadsworth, G. W. Seward, North River, Elisha G. Cobb, J. S. Skidmore, Long Island, Ed. Stratton, B. J. Van Keuren, New York, D. M. Seward, Wm. A. Booth, Ed. F. Hatfield, Daniel H. Smith, S. W. Crittenden, James W. Bishop, Joel Parker, D.D., S. M. Blatchford, John Spaulding, Albert N. Morgan, J. W. McLane, D.D., F. S. Slossom, C. M. Nichols, D.D., S. G. Gould, J. P. Wilson, D.D., Seth Magie, Nathan Leitch, J. F. Fitzgerald, W. H. Adams, Richard L. Seely, Israel Brundage, Simon B. Chase.

Synod of West Pennsylvania. Elders: Joseph Vance, Harmon Ensign, Rob't G. Allison, J. F. Reed, M.D., W. G. Augenbaugh.

Synod of Michigan. Elders: G. Duffield, D.D., Horace Hallock, E. J. Boyd, W. A. McCorkle, Lewis Keeler, Benj. Russell, Alva Pratt, Norman Kellogg, Norman Kellogg, Goldwater, J. A. Ramsay, Wm. McMechan, Saginaw, H. P. Wadsworth, G. W. Seward, Gr. Riv. Valley, Louis Miller, Horace Root, Lake Superior, Cicero B. Stevens, J. C. Larimore.

Synod of Western Reserve. Elders: Grand River, D. Witter, Erastus Chester, St. Joseph, Ed. Scofield, L. Galpin, M.D., Huron, F. L. Rossiter, L. Galpin, M.D., Trumbull, Wm. C. Clark, Erastus Walcott, Cleveland, S. C. Aiken, D.D., F. S. Slossom, M.D., Elyria, A. B. Clark, Perry C. Baldwin.

Synod of Ohio. Elders: Archibald S. Reid, Joel Duning, St. Joseph, Ed. Scofield, L. Galpin, M.D., Franklin, Thos. J. Downey, Benoni Dickman, Scioto, T. S. Keeve, Robert Wood.

Synod of Cincinnati. Elders: Rev. Dr. Thompson E. B. Chamberlain, John H. Chamberlain, Ed. D. Mansfield, W. M. Cheever, J. P. E. Kamler, Stephen Whitlock.

Synod of Indiana. Elders: H. W. Ballantine, Oly Owen, Wm. H. Bond, John Lamb, MD, Isaac Delamater, J. L. Ketchum, Green Castle, H. L. Dickerson, Charles E. Knapp.

Synod of Wabash. Elders: Thomas Griffiths, P. T. McKinney, Ed. Scofield, J. Westmorland, F. S. McCabe, J. C. Reynolds, H. T. Cheside, Hon. J. L. Knight.

Synod of Illinois. Elders: W. G. Gallagher, S. W. Ramella, Chicago, Wm. H. Bond, John Campbell, J. M. Culbertson, Wabash, Chas. H. Foote, Ebenezer Cheney.

Synod of Peoria. Elders: W. McKaig, Arapahoe, Thomas Wilson, G. L. Little, N. S. Bouton, Peoria, B. Dickinson, D.D. Hon. W. H. Brown.

Synod of Wisconsin. Elders: Jos. S. Lord, John H. Preston, Wilson Holt, Fox River, T. W. Williston, John Phillips, Columbus.

Synod of Iowa. Elders: Des Moines, F. M. Dinwiddie, George D. Young, S. H. Rogers, Keokuk, Isaac E. Carey, Dubuque, Chas. B. French, Richard Elder, Iowa Valley, Chariton.

Synod of Minnesota. Elders: Dakota, S. R. Biggs, J. B. Benville, Winona, Wm. H. Smith, Winoona, J. W. Hancock, C. J. F. Smith.

Synod of Missouri. Elders: St. Louis, S. H. Hyde, Jas. Patterson, Nor'n Missouri, Thos. H. Tatlow, Kansas, Wm. H. Smith.

Synod of California. Elders: San Francisco, Sierra Nevada, San Jose.

After the calling of the roll, the Assembly proceeded to the election of a Moderator, with the following result: Rev. Dr. George Duffield, of Detroit, 118 votes; Rev. Dr. Joel Parker, of New York, 65 votes. Dr. Duffield being declared elected, took the chair, and in a short address returned his thanks to the Assembly for the honor conferred upon him, and expressed his wish to co-operate harmoniously with it in all business.

The election of temporary Clerks being next in order, the following named gentlemen were voted for, and received the number of votes attached to their names: Hon. William H. Brown received 107 votes; Rev. F. F. Ellinwood " 94 " George W. Warner " 69 " James B. Shaw, D.D. " 58 " Messrs. Brown and Ellinwood being elected, entered upon the discharge of their duties. The hours for the Session were fixed upon as follows: From nine to half-past twelve A.M., and from three to half-past five P.M. The Stated Clerk read the order of business for the Assembly; also, the rules and regulations; all of which were agreed to. Closed with prayer by the Moderator.

SECOND DAY.

FRIDAY, May 16.

The Assembly met at 9 o'clock, and the first half hour was spent in devotional exercises. The minutes of the day previous were read and approved. Eleven Commissioners appeared, and their names were added to the roll.

The Moderator announced the following committees: Judicial Committee—Ministers: N. S. S. Beman, D.D., L.L.D.; B. Dickinson, D.D.; S. C. Aiken, D.D., and N. Kellogg. Elders: Hon. J. S. Walbridge, S. B. Blatchford, and Hon. John L. Knight.

Committee on Bills and Overtures—Ministers: J. Parker, D.D.; W. C. Clark, P. Snyder, and James F. Read. Elders: Hon. I. S. Spencer, R. L. Seely, and James Lamb, M.D.

Committee on Policy of the Church—Ministers: E. F. Hatfield, D.D.; J. A. Roney, W. M. Cheever, and J. E. Carey. Elders: A. Whildin, W. C. Aughinbaugh, and W. S. Boughton.

Committee on Foreign Missions—J. P. Williston, D.D.; H. S. Osborne, W. A. McCorkle, and G. H. Pond. Elders: H. Allen, M.D.; Lewis Keeler, and D. Briar.

Committee on Church Extension—Ministers: J. B. Shaw, D.D.; C. M. Nichols, D.D.; Erasmus J. Boyd, and Aratus Kent. Elders: Hon. J. Niles, L. A. Parkes, and F. S. Slossom, M.D.

Committee on Education—Ministers: Charles Hawley, D.D.; J. Spalding; A. W. Cowles, D.D., and Ansel C. Clark. Elders: W. A. Booth, H. Hallock, and E. D. Mansfield.

Committee on Publications—Ministers: J. W. McLane, D.D.; H. H. Kellogg, J. H. Noble and E. Scofield. Elders: I. Ashmead, J. H. Hotchkinn, and Isaac G. Brush.

Committee on Narrative—Ministers: I. H. Hall, D.D.; W. T. Eya, T. T. Beave, and Wm. S. Gallagher. Elders: J. W. Bishop, E. Chester, and G. Bassett.

Committee on Leave of Absence—Ministers: T. M. Hopkins, B. B. Hotchkinn, J. Vance, and

T. Williston. Elders: G. W. Seward, I. Hamilton, M. D., and Richard Edwards.

Committee on Devotional Exercises—M. L. Thompson, D.D.; G. W. Warner, C. H. Foote, and T. H. Fallon. Elders: R. Byington, M. I. Smith, and J. Otto.

Committee on Mileage—Elders: Hon. E. A. Lambert, T. B. Chamberlain and G. W. Brundage.

The usual committees on Synodical Records, were also appointed.

Portions of the general rules which govern the Assembly were then read.

The Treasurer's report was then read, which showed the funds of the Assembly to be in a satisfactory condition, and was referred for examination to a committee of two; the gentlemen appointed to said committee being Hon. L. S. Spencer and Albert M. Brown.

After a recess of fifteen minutes, the orders of the day for Saturday and Monday were decided on, and the Assembly proceeded to select the location of the next General Assembly.

Invitations were received from the First Church of Philadelphia, the Lafayette avenue church, Brooklyn, N. Y., and the Fourth church, of Indianapolis. The Assembly decided in favor of Philadelphia, the following votes being given: For Philadelphia 116 For Brooklyn 63 For Indianapolis 10

It was resolved that a committee of two be appointed to nominate a committee to make the necessary arrangements; the committee to be appointed by the Assembly.

The report of the Publication Committee was then read by the secretary, Rev. J. W. Dulles, and was approved, and the Assembly adjourned until the afternoon.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Assembly convened at 3 P. M.; prayer by the Rev. Dr. Beman, of Troy. Minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

The Moderator announced that the next business in order would be the receiving of reports from delegates appointed by the late General Assembly to visit corresponding bodies, and also reports from corresponding bodies.

The Secretary read the report of Horace Eaton, delegate to the Association of New Hampshire; also from the delegate to the Presbyterian and Congregational Convention of Wisconsin; also from J. F. Stearns, from the General Association of New Hampshire.

These reports were ordered to be printed in the appendix.

Rev. Daniel L. Moore from the Free Presbyterian Synod, was heard in behalf of reopening the correspondence between that body and the General Assembly, with a view of closer co-operation in the work. Mr. Moore asked to be recognized as a corresponding delegate. He had no proposition to make at present.

On motion of Dr. Beman, the request was granted on the usual terms with corresponding bodies.

Mr. Moore, in reply to a question from a commissioner, stated that the Free Presbyterian Synod was composed of four Presbyteries, of fifty ministers and something over 100 churches. The territory occupied was Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, Illinois and Iowa, but chiefly Ohio.

Dr. Beman moved the appointment of a committee of five on resolutions on the state of the country, and to express the views and feelings of the Assembly on the present war. Adopted.

The report of the Committee on Education, presented to the Theological Seminaries, was read, and read by the Secretary, Rev. Dr. Mills. It gave a brief history of the operations of the Union Seminary at New York; that at Auburn, and Lane, Cincinnati, showing them to be in a prosperous condition.

Dr. Mills also read the sixth annual report of the permanent Committee on Education.

The following committee was appointed to make preparations for the meeting of the General Assembly at Philadelphia next spring, viz: Rev. Albert Barnes, Rev. T. J. Shepherd, Rev. John W. Dulles, and Elders W. J. Crowell, B. Kendall, Samuel Work and Alex. Whildin.

On motion of Rev. Mr. Eya, the rules on devotional exercises were amended so that one hour, instead of half an hour each morning, be devoted to prayer and other exercises.

The Moderator announced the following gentlemen as the Committee on Resolutions on the state of the country, viz: Dr. Beman, Dr. Thompson, Rev. Dr. Aiken, Rev. Horace Root, and Rev. J. Culbertson Reynolds.

The session then closed with prayer, and the Assembly adjourned on Saturday, at 9 A. M.

Services were held in the evening, when the Rev. Dr. Thompson announced that omnibus would be at the church at 2 1/2 P. M. Saturday, to convey members to Lane Seminary, free of charge.

THIRD DAY.

SATURDAY, May 17.

Met at 9 o'clock, with two hundred and ten members present. Opened with prayer by the Moderator. The 20th hymn was then sung in congregation, after which the Moderator read the 81st Psalm. Several members then followed in prayer and with remarks.

Business being then in order, the minutes were read and approved.

The Committee on Commissions presented the following names of commissioners, who had just arrived: Presbytery of Onondaga: Montgomery M. Wakeman, minister. Presbytery of Schuyler: John H. Catlin, elder.

Presbytery of San Jose: Laurentine Hamilton, minister.

The first order of the day, the eighth annual report of the Trustees of the Church Election Fund, was presented by the President and Secretary, Samuel T. Spear and James W. McLane. The report was a lengthy one, prepared in pamphlet form for the consideration of the members. After referring to the state of the country, consequent upon civil war and its effects upon church erections, the report presents in detail the distribution and present condition of the fund, which at present, after deducting the expenses of the year, amounts to \$114,654.45.

"That part of it which is yet unused, is either deposited in bank, or is invested in such a manner as to be perfectly safe, and convertible at once into cash. This portion of the fund has produced an average interest of about six per cent. It consists of what has been appropriated by the General Assembly to the several Synods, but which has not as yet been called for by them. In the amount, any one case, is small, ranging from three hundred dollars up to a little over four thousand, which is the highest amount yet unused in any Synod, and exists only in two instances, namely, in that of the Synod of Iowa and Missouri. The general average of these unused apportionments is only about two thousand dollars. It is only as this fact is overlooked that any surprise can be felt in any quarter that a part of the fund should be in the hands of the Treasurer, when there are feeble churches which need assistance. The simple question is, whether each Synod shall have some portion of the fund with which to aid its feeble churches when they need help, or whether it shall all be apportioned to a few Synods, and in greater sums than the plan at present allows. The Board suppose that each Synod has the right and will claim a part of the fund, upon which it can draw whenever necessity requires it to do this. If so, then there will generally be some portion of the fund in the Treasury unused. But in this connection it may be well to state still further, that every application for help that has come within the object of the fund, and has been conforming in its particulars to the requirements of the plan, has been granted.

"The whole number of grants made during the year is twenty-two, of which twelve have been in loans and ten in donations. The whole number of grants made from the beginning is 182. The whole amount granted is \$64,471. The whole amount of loans is \$54,766, and that of donations is \$9,705. The general average of the former is \$424, and that of the latter \$188. In some cases the character of a grant has been changed, at the earnest solicitation of the parties, and with the approbation of the Synodical Committee, from a donation to a loan, and vice versa. The tendency for the last two years has been in the direction of donations, and the general average in that line of grants has increased in amount. The Assembly's plan allows only one-fourth of the amount appropriated to any Synod to be expended in donations. That limit has not been exceeded, except in one case, where conformity to the rule would have obliged the Board to make a fractional grant, which they have never made in any case. In this practice they have been uniformly sustained by Assembly from year to year.

"Sixty-four per cent. of the fund has helped to secure more than four hundred and seventy-two thousand dollars' worth of church property. It will also be seen that the fund has thus far been used for the end for which it was designed by those who established it. The size and cost of the houses of worship erected, show very clearly that, in most cases at least, the churches that have been assisted from the fund, are "feeble congregations," and the help thus afforded them met a want which could not otherwise have been supplied. Another fact of great interest in this connection may be stated, that these churches have not been left with a debt resting upon them, to embarrass their efforts and to crush their spirit. The plan of the fund requires that the churches aided from it shall own their property in fee, and be free from debt, and thus secure a most desirable end."

The second order of the day was the report of the Standing Committee on Home Missions, which was read by the Secretary, the Rev. Dr. Kendall. The report shows that though the year has been one of civil war, and consequent financial embarrassment and pecuniary pressure, it has not been without its encouragements. During the process of organization, and on ceasing to act through the American Home Missionary Society, it was to be expected that some would not see the necessity of the new and independent movement, and would continue to make use of the Society through which they had previously acted. But such cases were much less than was anticipated. There has been a very general acquiescence in the wisdom of the act of the last General Assembly, which, by a unanimous vote, constituted the committee of Home Missions.

The committee are greatly encouraged in their work, and the successful beginning promises well for the future. If all the churches unite in this good work, as they doubtless will, the enterprise of the Assembly's committee will soon make the wilderness and the solitary places glad.

The sum of nearly twenty thousand dollars has been paid to Home Missionaries during the year. The reports were then referred to proper committees for consideration.

The consideration of the report of the Committee on Presbyterian House was postponed.

The Mileage Committee reported that those members who had paid full fare to Cincinnati, would be returned, free of charge, on the following named railroads:

Indianapolis and Cincinnati, via Lawrenceburg; Terre Haute and Alto; Terre Haute and Richmond; Lafayette and Indianapolis; Michigan Central, from Lafayette to Chicago; Peru and Indianapolis; Bellefontaine railroad line; Indiana Central; Madison and Indianapolis; Jeffersonville railroad; New York and Erie railroad.

Any arrangements with lines to the East will be announced on Monday morning.

Dr. Thompson presented an invitation from the Directors of the Female Seminary at Oxford, requesting the Assembly to visit the Seminary to take place on Wednesday next. Considerable discussion ensued upon the expediency of accepting this invitation, and the question was decided in the affirmative