

American Presbyterian and Genesee Evangelist.

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 1862.

JOHN W. MEARS, Editor.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY.

CINCINNATI, May 24, 1862.

Bro. Mears:—This evening brought the final adjournment of the Assembly. This speedy adjournment exceeded all our hopes. It is due in part to the fact that the wheels of our ecclesiastical machinery are now running so smoothly, that the real occasions for debate have nearly passed away. Every great fermentation is settled down, and every great feature of church polity has passed from a problem into a fixed fact. We now have, not only the unity of purpose as it regards final ends, which we have ever had, but we have also what it required long years of anxious labor to bring about, a unity of views respecting the means of accomplishment. Thus the occasion for protracted sessions has escaped. In addition to this, the fact could not be passed over, that the number of talking men was unusually small; that there were so few young aspirants for oratorical honors, and that so little was said by those, young and old, from whom more in that line was naturally expected. Dr. Beman seldom spoke—never more than two minutes; Dr. Duffield, on two or three occasions, left the chair for a brief deliverance. Dr. Dickinson, Dr. Parker, Dr. Shaw, and others who could be named, whose claim to be heard is beyond all question, scarcely transcended a suggestion or a motion; and the few speeches that were made were, in general, short and luminous, not needing to be supplemented, and provoking no reply. From first to last, the Assembly was harmonious on every important measure, and it was a working session; what, then, should prevent its being short?

My last notice of its main points of interest brought you up to yesterday (Friday) noon. I find that I was mistaken respecting the disposition made of the Bible Society question in the report of the Committee on Systematic Benevolence. It was given its place for general commendation with other voluntary societies, leaving our four denominational enterprises the leading objects. The questions on which instruction was solicited by the Permanent Publication Committee were referred to a select committee to report to the next Assembly. The other important reports, together with the usual mass of smaller affairs which always throng around the closing hours, were deliberately disposed of to-day. I must, as usual, refer you to the reports in the dailies for the particulars, for although the Assembly closed without haste, I cannot, at this late evening hour, and without the expectation of another moment for writing before leaving the city, do the same.

The usual resolutions of thanks were offered by Dr. Parker. The response was made by Dr. Thompson. It was characteristic, and all who know him know that this means much. The parting address came, of course, from the Moderator. It was, as every one expected it to be, tender and solemn. It was also deeply seasoned with that ever present element which came out more or less strong in every report presented during the sessions, and in many of the business discussions, and which ran, a broad river of feeling, through all its hours of devotion—patriotism.

These closing complimentary proceedings always come forth, as a matter of course, at the dissolution of a General Assembly, and there is much sentiment in them. But they are anything but a form. A few days of genial and holy intercourse, talking, praying, and acting together for the dear Church of Christ, for whom our tears fall, and our prayers ascend, and to whom "Our souls and cases are given, Till toils and cares shall end," brought you to the hour of a separation which, in most cases, is expected to continue until we are gathered into the General Assembly in Heaven—all this forbids the possibility of going through these closing forms as a mere formality. Only those who have passed through these scenes so often that they feel that not many more of them await their future earthly experience, can know what thoughts thrill the heart when, in such an hour, the parting hand is clasped and the farewell is spoken.

From our O. S. brethren at Columbus, the reports of this morning are good, very good. The high-toned patriotic paper of Dr. Breckenridge is likely to go through not unannouncedly as such things do with us, but with such a majority as will convince bold treason that its last game with northern christianity—that of "no politics in the church"—is played out. From last evening's report, it seems almost certain that that Assembly is going to spring up on us that other pleasant surprise of which I have before spoken—proposal for fraternal correspondence. The only question which seemed to remain was, whether a delegate should be at once appointed, or whether the thing should first be proposed to us. This is doubtless the first fruit of the recent agitation of the subject of reunion, and it accomplishes just enough to be, first an earnest of the organic union that will come in proper time, and secondly, to make us all better satisfied to await God's own methods and time for bringing it about.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

FOURTH DAY.

MONDAY, May 19.

Met at nine o'clock, opening with prayer. An hour was spent in worship. The roll of the Assembly was then distributed to the members.

Dr. Thompson then announced that he thought great good to the spiritual welfare of the sick and wounded soldiers might be accomplished, if two or three of the members of the Assembly would visit each hospital every morning. He stated that the soldiers were always willing and glad to receive advice upon the welfare of their souls. He also, on behalf of the Managers of the Cincinnati Orphan Asylum, located on Mount Auburn, extended to the Assembly a cordial invitation to visit that institution at any time which may suit its convenience.

The final settlement of accounts with the Mileage Committee, was deferred until Tuesday. The first order of the day, the report of the Committee on Foreign Missions, was also laid over till Tuesday.

The special Committee who were appointed to examine the accounts of the Treasurer, Anthony P. Halsey, submitted the following through Judge Spencer, Chairman:

Resolved, That the accounts of Anthony P. Halsey, Treasurer of the Assembly for the last year, be accepted as correct.

The same was adopted, and ordered to be printed in the minutes.

The following special Committees were then appointed by the Moderator:

Committee to nominate delegates to corresponding bodies—Jonathan B. Hubbard, Samuel W. Crittenden and Andrew Luce, ministers.

Committee to nominate a Preacher on Home Missions—Henry N. Willard, R. H. Leonard and N. Kellogg, ministers.

Committee on the subject of a day of prayer for the conversion of the world, and a week of prayer—B. B. Beckwith and W. H. Smith, ministers.

The report of the Committee on Records of Synods was made the second order for Thursday morning's session.

The report of the special Committee on Systematic Benevolence was postponed.

It was moved that the reports of the Committee on Infant Baptism and Provision for Disabled Ministers be read. The Committee not being then able to report, the subjects were postponed.

Closed with prayer, and adjourned until 3 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met at 3 o'clock, with a very good attendance. Opened with prayer by the Moderator. The minutes of the morning session having been read and approved, the Tenth Annual Report of the Presbyterian Publication Committee was presented.

During the past year, (to May 1, 1862), twenty-three works have been added to the committee's list of publications, the majority of which were for the use of Sabbath Schools. The sales have amounted to \$18,170 98, and grants of books and tracts to the amount of \$988 64 have been made by the committee. If this be added to the sales, it will give a total of \$14,107 68. Of the receipts of the year, \$9,290 were for books sold, and \$5,158 by donations—a sum smaller, by nearly \$3,000, than that received the preceding year.

The committee desire the co-operation of their brethren, especially of pastors and elders, in the circulation of their publications. Much can be done by calling the attention of congregations or individuals pointedly to the fact that such an organization as this is in existence. It is he said that the books and tracts are not accessible, we would suggest that frequent calls upon the bookseller of any town for our publications, would be the surest way to induce him to purchase and keep them. In the absence of such a demand, he will not be likely to order them. It is impossible for the committee to send out books to be sold on commission. They have not capital to scatter for this purpose. Every pastor should be provided by his people with a moderate sum to be used by him in the purchase of books and tracts, for use (as loans or gifts) in his pastoral work.

The Business Committee cannot but say to the Assembly that, without express instruction so to do, they would be very loth to continue the management of this business trust in the absence of an endowment for its operations. Hitherto, owing to the very limited sums contributed by the church at large, it has been only by special efforts among the friends of the Assembly in Philadelphia, that the cause has been enabled to go forward at all. That an endowment suitable to the magnitude and the importance of the enterprise should be afforded it, is unquestionable. Whether it can, at the present time, be attained, is for the Assembly to decide.

Nathaniel D. Graves, from the Presbyterian and Congregational Convention of Wisconsin, being present, made, by request of the Assembly, some interesting statements relative to the growth of the denomination in Wisconsin. He said that in 1839 there were but three churches in the State and six pastors. Since that time, however, one hundred and seventy-nine have been added, all of which are, at the present time, in a most prosperous condition. The present population of Wisconsin is 775,600; the number of church members, 10,145; and the average number of members to each church is 52. In general remarks he represented that religious influences are felt throughout the State, which is not the case in most of the Western States, where the worship of God is confined mostly to towns and villages, and their immediate vicinity.

"Wisconsin in religion compares favorably with the New England States, the population being Puritan in element, with their Yankeeism enlarged."

The Moderator then returned thanks to the brother from Wisconsin for the interesting information presented by him.

The Committee on the Polity of the Church reported overture No. 1, being a request of the Synod of Missouri for the appointment of a time and place for the next meeting, as in consequence of the distracted state of the country, they failed to secure a meeting last year; and they recommended that the Synod of Missouri meet at Olathe, Kansas, on the second Thursday of October, 1862, at 12 o'clock, P. M., to be opened by a sermon by the last Moderator, or, in case of his absence, by the oldest minister present. The recommendation was adopted; also overture No. 2, being a request from the Synods of Indiana and Wabash for the transfer of the church of Rockville to the Presbytery of Crawfordville, and of the church of Bainbridge to the Presbytery of Green Castle. As the church of Bainbridge has signified by memorial to the Assembly their desire for the transfer, and as nothing has been heard from the church of Rockville, the committee recommended that the request be granted, on condition that the church of Rockville consent to the transfer, and give information of the fact to the Synod of Indiana at their next annual meeting. The recommendation was adopted.

On motion, the report of the Special Committee, who are to prepare resolutions expressive of the Assembly's views on the "State of the Country," was made the second order for Thursday morning.

The Rev. A. W. Cowles, D. D., President of the Elmira (New York) Female College, gave a general description of the operations of that institution. It was founded five years ago, at a cost of \$60,000, on the plan of the Mount Holyoke (Mass.) College. A short time ago the sum of \$25,000 was presented to it by Mr. Simson Benjamin, on condition that the Trustees should

hereafter be appointed by the Synod (Presbyterian) of Geneva.

No other business being presented, closed with prayer, and adjourned until 7 1/2 o'clock, P. M.

DR. SMITH'S SERMON ON HOME MISSIONS.

In the evening the annual sermon on Home Missions was delivered to a large and interested audience by Rev. Asa D. Smith, D. D., of New York.

The text was Rom. xv. 1, "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves."

FIFTH DAY.

TUESDAY, May 26.

An hour having been spent in worship, the Moderator announced that business was in order; whereupon the minutes were read and approved. A communication from Rev. George Leon Walker, a delegate from the General Conference of Maine to the General Assembly, was also a similar communication from Rev. C. E. Ferrill, a delegate from the General Assembly of Vermont, were read and ordered to be filed.

The Assembly listened to a report from the Rev. B. Graves, a delegate from this body to the General Conference of Maine.

The Assembly's Committee on Foreign Missions, through Walter S. Griffith, Esq., of New York, presented an elaborate report of the work of missions during the year, together with a general retrospect. This is the Fourth Annual Report, and in presenting it, the committee has to regret that on account of the great troubles that are distressing the country, there was but little manifestation on the part of the churches, of energy in the cause. During the year half of the churches made no contributions whatever.

The ministers engaged in the great cause of foreign missionary labor number 54, out of 1358 ministers of the denomination of this country. Their work is conducted with the same zeal and fidelity that have ever characterized them. They are scattered throughout Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, the Sandwich Islands and North America, as follows:

Western Africa, 3; South Africa, 3; Western Turkey, 5; Eastern Turkey, 3; Central Turkey, 3; Syria, 6; Nestorians, 4; Southern Asia—Ceylon, 2; Malabar, 2; Madras, 6; Eastern Asia—Canton, 2; Fuh Chau, 3; Sandwich Islands, 5; in North America—Dacotah Indians, 1; Senecas, 1; Ojibbewas, 1.

Eight of these Foreign Missionaries are now in this country.

Fifteen of the twenty-two Synods and twenty-seven of the 105 Presbyteries are represented in foreign fields, viz.:

Synod of New York and New Jersey has 21 missionaries; Utica, 2; Onondaga, 4; Geneva, 3; Genesee, 4; Western Reserve, 5; Ohio, 1; Cincinnati, 6 (all of whom belong also to the Presbytery of Cincinnati); Wabash, 1; Indiana, 1; Pennsylvania, 1; Illinois, 2; Peoria, 2; Michigan, 1; Minnesota, 1.

In connection with the subject proper of their report, the committee stated that the number of Presbyterian (N. S.) chaplains in the army is larger, in proportion to the numbers in the church, than that of any other denomination. The following are the numbers:

Methodist, 224; Presbyterians (N. S.), 94; Congregational, 57; Episcopal, 66; Baptist, 48; Presbyterian (O. S.), 24; Unitarian, 24; Catholic, 22; not known, 8, Total, 472.

In view of the falling off of contributions, and apparently of interest in the missionary work, the committee submitted an ably digested plan for the collection of funds, and urged upon the Assembly the necessity of putting it, or some good system, in force.

A memorial from the Presbytery of Detroit, on the subject of originating an evangelical mission in Mexico and Central America, was read and placed in the hands of the Committee on Foreign Missions, for their consideration.

The Committee on Systematic Benevolence submitted a report, presenting, as the principal objects of the benevolence of the church, foreign missions, home missions, education for the ministry, publications, and the American Bible Society. The report was referred to a special committee of three, consisting of David Torrey, Thomas A. Weed and A. J. Westervelt, for consideration and report.

Closed with prayer, and stood adjourned until 3 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Opened with prayer by the Moderator. The committee to whom was entrusted the subject of nominating a Preacher on Home Missions for the next General Assembly, reported the names of Rev. Z. M. Humphrey, of Chicago, principal, and Rev. Geo. C. Curtis, of Chemung, alternate.

On motion, a resolution was adopted to the effect that some plan should be adopted by which the fiscal and statistical reports of Sabbath schools could be embraced, through Presbyteries, in the annual reports of the Assembly. The matter was referred to a special committee, whose duty it shall be to report and make recommendations to the Assembly on Saturday next.

The committee to whom was referred the designation of days for fasting and prayer, reported the same days as heretofore, viz.—The first Monday of January, for the conversion of the world, and the last Thursday in February, for students in colleges and seminaries.

In addition to these days, the committee recommended the observance of the second week of January, including the first and second Sabbaths, to be observed as a week of fasting and prayer. The report was adopted.

Dr. Thompson presented the following, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we have listened with interest to the statements made by the Rev. C. P. Bush, in behalf of the American Tract Society, of Boston, with special reference to the large amount of work accomplished by that society in furnishing religious reading to our soldiers, and that we cheerfully commend this work to the consideration of the churches, as most important and timely, not only in its influence upon our brave troops exposed to peril and death, but also, through them, upon the welfare and perpetuity of our beloved country.

The following was also presented:

Resolved, That the ministers who attend the General Assembly to discharge duties assigned them by the Assembly, have their expenses defrayed, the same as Commissioners.

The Standing Committee on Church Extension made a report on the Annual Report of the Trustees of the Fund, saying that they could not too highly praise the zeal and fidelity of the gentlemen. They recommended that the Committee on Church Extension be discharged, and

that two committees, to be called the Committees on Church Extension and Home Missions, discharge its duties. The committee advised the Assembly to appoint more missionaries to the Pacific States. The field there is a large one, and but little cultivated as yet.

Considerable discussion ensued on the report, and it was finally laid on the table.

SIXTH DAY.

WEDNESDAY, May 21.

According to previous arrangements, the Assembly visited Oxford and participated in the dedicatory services of the Oxford Female Seminary. Excellent addresses were delivered by Rev. Henry M. Field, editor of the New York Evangelist, by Rev. F. S. McCabe, of Peru, Indiana, and by Rev. Joel Parker, D. D.

The Assembly were cordially entertained, and carried free over the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railroad; they returned in the evening, much delighted, and having met with not a single untoward circumstance.

SEVENTH DAY.

TUESDAY, May 22.

An hour was spent in devotional exercises. At half-past nine the assembly proceeded to business. The minutes having been read and approved, the Committee on Nominations of Delegates to other bodies made their report, which was unanimously adopted, as follows:

To the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church—Francis S. McCabe, of Logansport, and Charles H. Foote, of Wabash, alternates.

To the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America—Wm. Sterling, of Harrisburg, and Wm. C. Clark, of Trumbull, alternates.

To the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the United States—B. B. Hotchkiss, of Philadelphia, and Wm. Aikman, of Wilmington, alternates.

To the Synod of the German Reformed Church of the United States—Joel Parker, D. D., of New York, and Joseph Vance, of Erie, alternate.

To the General Association of Massachusetts—A. B. Lambert, of Troy, and S. W. Brace, of Utica, alternates.

To the General Association of Connecticut—Jas. W. McLane, D. D., of Brooklyn, and D. M. Seward, of New York, alternates.

To the General Association of New Hampshire—Sam. Loomis, of Oatskill, and Stephen Bush, of Albany, alternates.

To the General Conference of Maine—J. B. Condit, of Cayuga, and Wm. A. Booth, of New York, alternates.

To the General Convention of Vermont—Peter Snyder, of Waterbury, and T. M. Hopkins, of Geneva, alternates.

To the Presbyterian and Congregational Convention of Wisconsin—Z. M. Humphrey, of Chicago, and A. T. Norton, of Alton, alternates.

To the Union of the Evangelical Churches of France—Rev. M. Sawtell.

To the Synod of the Free Presbyterian Church of the United States—D. D. How, of Cincinnati, and S. G. Speer.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported that they had received four overtures from Presbyteries of the Old School (?) Church relative to the reunion of the schools.

The committee then submitted the resolutions which follow. The report of the committee was accepted; but further action upon it was postponed.

THE RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, firstly, That the temper of these overtures meets the hearty approval of the Assembly, entirely accordant as it is with that spirit of brotherly affection toward other denominations, and of co-operation in matters of common interest, which has marked our whole history.

Resolved, secondly, That while we have ever regretted the acts of 1857, deeming them at variance alike with the constitution of our church and the word of God, we have never cherished any unkind or exacting spirit, as has been evinced in various ways, particularly in the proposition made by us some years since, to meet together with our brethren of the other Assembly, around the table of our common Lord.

Resolved, thirdly, That it would give us pleasure to unite in closest fellowship with all persons who can stand with us on the basis of our confession of faith and book of discipline, and who substantially agree with us on the great moral questions of the day, especially in the matter of loyalty to the Government, and in the views of slavery, set forth prior to the division, in 1818.

Resolved, fourthly, That while we bear in mind the prayer of our Lord that his disciples may be one, and while we can see some special advantages to be derived from a reunion of the two branches of the Presbyterian Church, we do not perceive that beyond previous declarations of our views, anything remains for us at the present time to await humbly and patiently the movements of Divine Providence.

The Rev. Dr. McLane, from the Committee to whom was referred the Report of the Permanent Committee on Publication, reported:

That the condition of the Publication cause is one which demands the most earnest and serious attention of the Assembly. Those to whose management this great interest is committed are unwilling to continue in the work unless some provision, adequate to the importance of the enterprise, is made. Nor is it strange that they should state clearly and definitely to the churches what its purpose and its policy are in carrying forward this work, and the reasons which call for its vigorous prosecution. The churches must see the necessity of sustaining the enterprise before they will give themselves for the work.

The report then reviews the history of the Publication cause, from its inception in 1852 in the present time, showing that it was originally intended mainly for the issue of "such tracts as would clearly and distinctly exhibit our peculiarities of doctrine, government and missionary policy" and that in 1857 the scope of the enterprise was enlarged so as to include the publication of "such works of an evangelical character as may be profitable to the church at large." The report maintains that light is needed by the churches upon the desirableness of this enlargement of the functions of the committee. If the Assembly commends to the patronage of the churches voluntary societies doing this very work, they will not sustain our committee in

doing what is already done for them by others. The report judged that the churches were willing to support an agency for the publication of tracts and books on the peculiar doctrines of the denomination, but doubted their willingness to support a general religious publication enterprise without more light and conviction than they now possess.

The report next discusses the importance of uniformity in the house of God. It takes strong ground for the universal adoption of the book adopted, purchased and owned by the Assembly, "The Church Psalmist," and against the introduction, by irresponsible parties, of books unauthorized by the Assembly.

After a tribute of thanks to the gentlemen in Philadelphia, who have given so much time, labor and money to this cause, the report closes with the following resolutions:

1st. That this Assembly take up and consider the whole subject of the publication cause, and settle definitely and clearly its course of action for the future, and give to the churches the reasons for that action.

2d. That the Assembly recommend to the Committee of Publication to use all possible means to secure the introduction of the Church Psalmist into all the churches.

The discussion of the report was made the second order for Friday.

The next business in order was the report on "Home Missions," which recommends that the Assembly raise the amount of \$75,000, to enable it to commission three hundred missionaries and appoint exploring missionaries, whose field of labor shall be in the United States, particularly in the far West.

The discussion of this topic being in order, Rev. Hiram H. Kellogg, of Bloomington, Ill., arose and stated that his Presbytery sent him here to aid the great cause of Home Missions, and he intended to do so to the extent of his ability. "The work of evangelizing the land is well before our time, and our labor. If we place before our churches a good plan for this work, the funds to carry out that plan will be forthcoming. The time has come for us to occupy, with genuine spirit, the large field our Lord has given us."

The venerable moderator, George Duffield, D. D., then called a substitute to the chair and took the floor. He felt an intense interest, the subject being considered, and the venerable brother who had just spoken (Mr. Kellogg) had expressed his own sentiments, long entertained. He, too, thought that the church would respond cheerfully and with alacrity to the call for the necessary amount. All that is wanting is to present the subject in a tangible shape, and there is plenty enough to respond to this call of the blessed Redeemer. The Assembly will gain nothing by conducting this enterprise on commercial principles, which are strictly selfish. The operations of the church should be conducted on principles of love. "Let us not love in word, but in deed and truth."

Rev. Laurence Hamilton, who is from San Jose, California, the centre of that vast field of the Pacific States which calls so loudly for Missionary aid, followed Dr. Duffield. In an earnest and able manner he made to the Assembly on behalf of the starving souls of that region, an appeal for their aid. He, demanded it, too, as their right. He spoke of the large number of settled farmers, living on their farms and intending to die there, who are never permitted to hear the Word of God, expounded. Then, referring to the mining population, who in vast numbers are to be found there, the speaker dwelt upon their miserable condition regarding the state of their souls. With them iniquity is active and outspoken, for there is no motive for concealment. Skepticism is most alarmingly prevalent. Out of all the adult population not one in twenty-five is ever to be seen in a church. Mr. Hamilton said that in California where nature conducts things on the most gigantic scale, religion should correspond.

He closed his address by again appealing for missionaries in the Pacific States.

Several gentlemen then followed, advocating the proposed measure, which, upon the vote being taken, was adopted.

The reports of the Committees on Education and Mileage were received, and the former was made the third order of the day for to-morrow morning.

CLOSED WITH PRAYER AND ADJOURNED.

The reading of the minutes having been dispensed with, the following resolutions, presented by the Special Committee on the State of the Country, through the Rev. Dr. Beman of Troy, together with the accompanying communication to the President of the United States, were read and passed by a vote entirely unanimous.

WHEREAS, This General Assembly is called, in the providence of God, to hold its deliberations at a time when a wicked and a fearful rebellion threatened to destroy the fair fabric of our Government, to lay waste our beloved country, and to blight and ruin, so far as the present life is concerned, all that is dear to us as Christians; and,

WHEREAS, As a branch of the Christian Church, Presbyterians have ever been found loyal and the friends of good order, believing, as they do, that civil government is ordained of God; that the magistrate is the minister of God for good; that he "beareth not the sword in vain"; and they are, therefore, subject to this ordinance of God, "not only for wrath," or under the influence of fear "but also for conscience sake," or under the influence of moral and Christian principle; and,

WHEREAS, The particular church whose representatives we are, and in whose behalf we are now here called to act, have inscribed on our banner "THE CONSTITUTIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH" having never favored Secession or nullification, either in Church or State, deem it quite becoming and proper in us to express ourselves with great Christian sincerity and frankness on those matters which now agitate our country.

Resolved, First—That we deem the Government of these United States the most benign that has ever blessed our imperfect world, and should it be destroyed, after its brief career of good, another such, in the ordinary course of human events, can hardly be anticipated for a long time to come, and for these reasons we revere and love it as one of the great sources of hope under God for a lost world, and it is doubly dear to our hearts because it was procured and established by the toil, sacrifice and blood of our fathers.

Resolved, Second—That rebellion against such a Government as ours, and especially by those

who have ever enjoyed their full share of its protection, honors, rich blessings of every name, can have no excuse or palliation, and can be inspired by no other motives than those of ambition and avarice, and can find no parallel, except in the first two great rebellions—that which assailed the Throne of Heaven directly, and that which peopled our world with miserable apostates.

Resolved, Third—That whatever diversity of sentiment may exist among us respecting international wars or the appeal to the sword for the settlement of points of honor or interest between independent nations, we are all of one mind on the subject of rebellion, and especially against the best Government which God has yet given to the world; that our vast army now in the field is to be looked upon as a great police force, organized to carry into effect the Constitution and laws, which insurgents, in common with other citizens, have obtained by their own voluntary acts, and which they are bound, by honor, and oath, and conscience, to respect and obey, so that the strictest advocates of peace may bear a part in this deadly struggle for the life of the Government.

Resolved, Fourth—That while we have been utterly shocked at the deep depravity of the men who have framed and matured this rebellion, and who are now clad in arms, manifested in words and deeds, there is another class found in the loyal States who have excited a still deeper loathing, some in Congress, some in high civil life, and some in the ordinary walks of business, who never utter a manly thought or opinion in favor of the Government; but they follow it, by way of comment, by two or three smooth apologies for Southern insurrectionists, presenting the difference between an open and avowed enemy in the field and a secret and insidious foe in the bosom of our own family.

Resolved, Fifth—That, in our opinion, this whole insurrectionary movement can be traced to one primordial root, and one only, African Slavery, the love of it, and a determination to make it perpetual; and while we look upon this war as having one grand end in view, the restoration of the Union, by crushing out the last living and manifested fibre of rebellion, we hold that every thing, the institution of Slavery, if need be, must be made to bend to this great purpose, and while, under the influence of humanity and Christian benevolence, we may commiserate the condition of the ruined rebels, one in fraternity with ourselves, but now—should the case occur—despoiled of all that makes the world dear to them, we must be, at the same time, constrained to feel that the retribution has been self-inflicted, and must add—Fiat justitia ruat cælum.

Resolved, Sixth—That we have great confidence in Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, and his Cabinet, and in the commanders of our armies and our navy, and the valiant men of this republic, prosecuting a holy warfare under their banners; and while we bless God that he has stood by them and cheered them on in what we trust will ever stand as the darkest days of our country's humiliation, and crowned them with many signal victories. Knowing that ultimate success is with God alone, we will ever pray that the last sad note of anarchy and misrule may soon die away, and the old flag of our country, radiant with stripes and brilliant with stars, may again wave over a great, undivided and happy people.

Resolved, Seventh—That we here, in deep humility for our sins and the sins of the nation, and in heartfelt devotion, lay ourselves with all we are and have on the altar of God and our country, and we hesitate not to pledge the churches and Christian people under our care as ready to join with us in the same fervent sympathies and united prayers that our Rulers in the Cabinet, and our commanders in the field and on the waters, and the brave men under their leadership, may take courage, under the assurance of the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of the UNITED STATES are with them, in heart and hand—in life and effort—in this fearful existing conflict.

Resolved, Finally—That a copy of these resolutions, signed by the officers of the General Assembly, be forwarded to his Excellency, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, accompanied by the following respectful letter:

To the President of the United States:

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, holding its annual session in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio, in transmitting the following resolutions, beg leave most respectfully to express in a more personal manner the sentiments of our church in reference to yourself and the great issues with which you are called to deal. It is with no desire to bring a mere tribute of flattery, when we assure you, honored Sir, of the affection and confidence of our church. Since the day of your inauguration, the thousands of our membership have followed you with unceasing prayer, beseeching the Throne of Heaven on your behalf. In our great church courts; in our lesser judicatories, in our weekly assemblies, in the house of God; at our family altars, in the inner place of prayer, you have been the burden of our petitions; and when we look at the history of your Administration hitherto, and at the wonderful way in which this people have been led under your guidance, we glorify God on your behalf. We give praise not to man, but to God. In your firmness, your integrity challenging the admiration of even our enemies, your moderation, your wisdom, the timeliness of your acts exhibited at critical junctures, your paternal words, so eminently fitting the chosen head of a great people, we recognize the hand and power of God. We devoutly and humbly accept it, as from Him, in answer to the innumerable prayers that have gone up from our hearts. We desire, as a church, to express to you our reverence, our love, our deep sympathy with you in the greatness of your trust, the depth of your personal bereavements, and to pledge to you, as in all the future, our perpetual remembrance of you before God, and all the support that loyal hearts can offer. We have given our sons to the army and