

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

SESSION OF 1865.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States met agreeably to appointment in Lafayette avenue church, Brooklyn, on Thursday May 18th at 11 o'clock A. M.

At a quarter past eleven the exercises of the morning were opened by a short and simple prayer from the Rev. John Spaulding, the former agent of the Seamen's Friend Society. A hymn was then sung, beginning,

How beautiful are their feet Who stand on Zion's tongue,

Who bring salvation on their tongues,

And words of peace reveal.

The opening sermon was preached by Rev. Thomas Brainerd, D.D., from Prov. 11, 30: "He that withholdeth words is wise." The appearance of Dr. Brainerd is thus described by a Brooklyn contemporary: "Dr. Brainerd is a man of moderate height, well-brained head, slightly tanned from weakness, round forehead, broad brow, clear, kind blue eyes, mild, yet firm-toned voice, and a well-modulated and effective enunciation." After sermon the Assembly was constituted with prayer. Adjourned to meet at half past three P. M. Concluded with prayer.

THURSDAY 31 P. M.

The Assembly met and was opened with prayer. The Report of the Committee on Commissioners was presented by the Permanent Clerk, and the following persons thereupon enrolled as duly appointed commissioners of this General Assembly.

OFFICERS.

Rev. James B. Shaw, D.D., Moderator. Edwin F. Hatfield, D.D., Stated Clerk. J. Glenworth Butler, D.D., Permanent Clerk. John Spaulding, Temporary Clerks. James Shaw.

COMMISSIONERS.

I. SYNOD OF ALBANY. Champlain—Rev. Jonathan Copeland; Elder, Zephaniah C. Platt. Troy—Rev. John Lambert Sewall, Lewis Kellogg; Elders, John Lehman, M. D., Hon. Nicholas M. Masters. Albany—Rev. Frederick S. Jewell; Elder, Edward A. Durant. Columbia—Rev. William H. Clark; Elder, Frederick Phelps. Catskill—Rev. John O. Wells; Elder, Lafayette Moore.

II. SYNOD OF UTAH. St. Lawrence—Rev. John W. Whitfield; Elder, Hon. Calvin T. Hulburd. Watertown—Rev. George W. Mackie; Elder, George E. Knowlton. Oscego—Rev. Edward L. Tyler; Elder, Hon. Ransom H. Tyler. Moses E. Dunham; Samuel W. Fisher, D.D., Moses E. Dunham; Elders, Jared E. Warner, John G. Gallup, M.D. Elders, Jared E. Warner, John G. Gallup, M.D. Elders, Jared E. Warner, John G. Gallup, M.D.

III. SYNOD OF ONTARIO. Onondaga—Rev. Edwin Benedict; Elder, Justus Townsend. Cayuga—Elders, Horace H. Allen, John Tompkins; Elders, Samuel Stringham, Philo Clark, M.D. Cortland—Rev. Irving L. Beman; Elder, John M. Roe. Tioga—Rev. David A. Abbey.

IV. SYNOD OF GENEVA. Geneva—Revs. A. Augustus Wood, D.D., Charles E. Stebbins; Elders, Ezra D. Cook, Ebenezer B. Jones. Steuben—Rev. Lewis F. Laine; Elder, Luther Sturtevant. Chenango—Rev. Charles Chapman; Elders, Martin S. Finney, George M. Chas. Warren, May; Elder, George McChain. Wellsboro—Rev. John L. Swain; Elder, Samuel Hazlett. Lyons—Rev. Wm. H. Megie; Elder, Abalom P. Chatham.

V. SYNOD OF SUSQUEHANNA. Otego—Rev. Charles Gillette. Chenango—Rev. Elroy Curtis; Elder, Edgar A. Phillips. Delaware—Rev. Charles H. De Long; Elder, Wm. McGibbon.

VI. SYNOD OF GENESSEE. Buffalo—Revs. William Waith, Sylvester Cowles; Elders, Andrew Parker, Joseph Brant. Ontario—Rev. Samuel Jessup; Elder, Leticia Coy. Rochester—Revs. James B. Shaw, D.D., John C. Taylor; Elders, Alce C. Allen, Louis Chapin. Genesee—Rev. Ebenezer H. S. Rufford; Levi M. Hart, Hon. Thos. T. Flieger. Genesee Valley—Rev. James B. Beaumont; Elder, Abram Merritt.

VII. SYNOD OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY. Hudson—Rev. Joseph M. McNulty; Elder, D. Webster Cooper, M. D. North River—Rev. Harvey Smith; Elder, Edward Wells. Long Island—Rev. Edward Stratton; Elder, John N. Stover. New York—Revs. William W. Newell, D.D., William H. Babbitt, James V. Bonar; Elders, John Endicott, Joseph W. Lester, John G. Parker. New York, 4th—Revs. John Spaulding, William Adams, D.D., Geo. L. Prentiss, D.D.; Elders, John P. Crosby, Oliver E. Wood, Albert N. Brown. Brooklyn—Rev. Samuel P. Spear, D.D.; Elder, Gordon Burchard. Newark—Revs. A. Allen Maxwell, Charles H. Thompson, James M. Dickson; Elders, James J. Dickinson, Lyndon A. Smith, M.D., Job Haines. Rockaway—Rev. Daniel E. Megie; Elder, Albert R. Riggs. Montrose—Revs. Samuel Whaley, Thomas H. Townsend; Elder, James Deans.

VIII. SYNOD OF PENNSYLVANIA. Wilmington—Rev. John W. Mears; Elders, Anthony M. Higgins, Philadelphia, 3d—Revs. Ezra E. Adams, D.D., Daniel March, D.D.; Elders, Adam C. Einfeldt, Isaac Ashmead. Philadelphia, 4th—Revs. Robert A. John, B. Reeve; Elders, Samuel T. Bodine, Joseph Francis. Harrisburg—Rev. William R. De Witt, D.D.; Elder, Charles Ogilby. Dist. of Columbia—Thaddeus D. McFall; Elder, John Knight.

IX. SYNOD OF WEST PENNSYLVANIA. Erie—Rev. Thomas B. Hudson; Elder, Geo. D. Clark. Meadville—Rev. William T. Dickson; Elder, Daniel Eber. Pittsburgh—Rev. Herick Johnson; Elder, Hon. Henry W. Williams.

X. SYNOD OF MICHIGAN. Detroit—Rev. Azariah Eldridge, D.D.; Elder, Geo. Frost. Monroe—Rev. Samuel E. Ward; Elder, Samuel E. Hart. Marshall—Rev. Loomis Chandler; Elder, William H. Skinner. Washenaw—Rev. J. Ford Sutton; Elder, Chas. Holmes, Jr. Kalamazoo—Rev. Albert H. Gaston; Elder, Daniel D. McMartin. Coldwater—Rev. Frederick R. Gallaher; Elder, John H. Phelps. Saginaw—Rev. Henry H. Northrop; Elder, Rev. Ure. Grand Island, Val.—Rev. Edwin D. Newberry; Elder, William H. Woodworth. Lake Superior—No representation.

XI. SYNOD OF WESTERN RESERVE. Grand River—Rev. Horace W. Palmer; Elder, Daniel C. Coughy. Huron—Rev. John D. McCord; Elder, William Watson. Trumbull—Rev. Augustus Cook; Elder, William Laird. Cleveland and Portage—Revs. George E. Pierce, D.D., James Shaw; Elder, Isaac M. Page. Elyria—Rev. Eldad Barber; Elder, Esak E. Bradford. Maumee—Rev. Wm. W. Williams; Elder, Solon L. Boughton.

XII. SYNOD OF OHIO. Athens—Rev. Russell D. Van Duren. Pataskala—Rev. Elias Thompson. Franklin—Rev. Homer McEly; Elder, John McElroy. Saco—E. Perkins Pratt, D.D.; Elder, Wm. E. Wilson, M.D.

XIII. SYNOD OF CINCINNATI. Cincinnati—Revs. Lewis J. Evans, Wilbur McKaig; Elders, Ed. D. Mansfield, L. D. Williams, H. Moore. Dayton—Rev. William M. Cheever; Elder, Winslow S. Phelps. Hamilton—Rev. Ellis S. Weaver; Elder, George W. Haire. Ripley—Rev. James W. West; Elder, James N. Salisbury, M. D.

XIV. SYNOD OF INDIANA. Salem—Rev. John M. Bishop; Elder, Moses C. Browning. Madison—Rev. Ninian S. Dickcy; Elder, James A. De Loveney. Indianapolis—Rev. Ezra A. Loberg; Elder, Lucius C. Walton. Greencastle—Rev. Ransom Hawley; Elder, Henry G. Todd, M. D.

XV. SYNOD OF WABASH.

Crawfordsville—Rev. Edmund O. Hovey; Elder, William T. Scott. St. Joseph—Rev. Elder Patch. Logansport—Rev. Edwin Black; Elder, Stewart T. McConnell. Fort Wayne—Rev. William J. Essick; Elder, Benjamin W. Oakley.

XVI. SYNOD OF ILLINOIS. Illinois—Rev. David H. Hamilton, D.D.; Elder, Abner C. Hilton. Schuyler—Rev. Reuben K. McCoy. Wabash—Rev. Joseph E. McMurphy; Elder, Ebenezer Beemel. Alton—Revs. Caleb J. Pitkin, Charles F. Beach; Elders, John N. McCord, Isaac Scarritt.

XVII. SYNOD OF PEORIA. Ottawa—Rev. Ira M. Weed; Elder, Thomas Ware. Knox—Rev. Samuel Wyckoff; Elder, Marcus B. Osborne. Galena and Belvidere—Revs. David R. Eddy, Josiah Leonard; Elders, Eliphail S. Rose, John J. Buckley. Chicago—Revs. Alfred Eddy, William C. Dickinson; Elders, Hon. William H. Brown, D. R. Holt. Bloomington—Rev. Adam Johnston; Elder, Amasa C. Washburn.

XVIII. SYNOD OF WISCONSIN. Milwaukee—Rev. George W. Elliott; Elder, William M. Watt. Fox River—Rev. John B. Preston. Columbus—Rev. Daniel A. Bassett; Elder, Augustus P. Smith.

XIX. SYNOD OF IOWA. Des Moines—Rev. Asa Johnson; Elder, William D. Moore. Keokuk—Rev. Aaron Thompson; Elder, H. Scott. Howell. Iowa City—Rev. Samuel J. Mills; Elder, Samuel W. Sedwick. Dubuque—Rev. Henry B. Holmes; Elder, John Mackay. Cedar Valley—Isiah Reed. Chariton—No representation.

XX. SYNOD OF MINNESOTA. Dakota—Rev. John Peck; Elder, Amos D. Seward. Minnesota—Rev. Frederick A. Noble; Elder, Hon. Samuel J. R. McMillan. Winona—Rev. Sanford H. Smith.

XXI. SYNOD OF MISSOURI. St. Louis—Rev. John Maclean; Elder, Edward Barton. Lexington—Rev. Benj. B. Parsons, D.D.; Elder, Joseph Lambrite. North Missouri—Rev. Latta W. Dunlap. Kansas—Rev. James Brownlee.

XXII. SYNOD OF ALTA CALIFORNIA. San Francisco, Sierra Nevada, San Jose, Washoe—No representation.

XXIII. SYNOD OF EAST TENNESSEE. Union—Rev. Thomas J. Lamar. Kingston—Elder John J. Dixon. Holston—No representation.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT MET IN NEWARK IN 1864. Rev. Milo J. Hickok, D.D., Mr. T. Chas. Henry. General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America—Rev. John Crawford. Union of Evangelical Churches in France—Rev. Theodore Monod.

It is believed to be the fullest roll ever reported at the opening of the body. Applications were reported from Elder J. J. Dixon, of Kingston Presbytery, and Rev. J. Lamar of Union Presbyteries in the Synod of East Tennessee, which was formerly affiliated with the General Assembly, asking to be admitted as of old. They were referred to a special committee, consisting of Rev. Dr. Fisher, R. Adair and Elder Brown of Chicago.

The Assembly then proceeded to the election of Moderator. The Rev. James Shaw, D.D., of Rochester; S. T. Spear, D.D., of Brooklyn; and Geo. L. Prentiss, D.D., of New York, were put in nomination. Dr. Spear and Prentiss, with the consent of the Assembly, declined the nomination, whereupon Dr. Shaw was unanimously chosen by a vocal vote. On being installed in the chair, Dr. Shaw gracefully acknowledged the compliment conferred upon him by the Assembly, saying that he would have declined the position but that having once been refused such a nomination he would be ashamed to do it again. He modestly spoke of his distrust of his competency for the position, saying that he would rely upon the co-operation of the Assembly and the Divine assistance for his ability to fill it. The address was a model in its way, occupying but a minute in the delivery, and made a most favorable impression.

Rev. J. M. Spaulding, of New York, and Rev. J. M. Spaulding, of Windham, Ohio, were unanimously chosen temporary clerks. The docket was read, the rules of former Assemblies were adopted for the government of the present one, and the usual distribution of the minutes of the last General Assembly was made.

The presentation of the synodical records and papers from the Presbyteries relative to them was made the order for 10 o'clock Friday morning. The report of the Ministerial Relief Fund was made the order for Tuesday, at 10 o'clock, and it was determined that a standing committee be appointed to receive and act upon it; said committee to be appointed at every meeting of the Assembly, in the same manner as the standing committee on the other denominational objects.

The Treasurer's report shows an indebtedness of the Assembly for moneys expended by him during the year of \$5,824.84, and a credit by receipts of \$5,739.90, leaving a balance against the Assembly of \$84.94. An auditing committee was appointed, to whom the report was referred.

The Assembly next proceeded to fix the place of the next meeting. Rochester, N. Y., Erie, Pa., and St. Louis, Mo., were nominated. The roll was called, and St. Louis was selected by a large majority.

Adjourned to to-morrow morning at half past eight.

SECOND DAY—FRIDAY 31 A. M. An hour was spent in devotional services. The roll was then called, and the Moderator announced the committees as follows:

Judicial—Ministers: Geo. L. Prentiss, D. D., Geo. E. Pierce, D.D., Lewis Kellogg, Elroy Curtis, R. S. Eggleston, Daniel R. Moser. Elders: Gordon Burchard, Moses Bristol, Chas. Ogilby, Robt. Ewer, Ezek. E. Bradford.

Bills and Overtures—Ministers: S. T. Spear, D.D., Wm. W. Newell, D.D., John B. Bishop, Samuel M. Mills, R. K. McCoy, Samuel Jessup. Elders: Hon. S. R. McCoin, Thomas Ware, James W. Salisbury, M. D., Joseph D. Clark, John G. Parker.

Polity of the Church—Ministers: Samuel W. Fisher, D.D., Thomas B. Townsend, Hanford A. Edson, Chas. T. Lewis, Henry B. Holmes. Elders: Edward D. Mansfield, L.L.D., John MacClay, Benjamin W. Oakley, Wm. H. Skinner, Job Harris.

Church Erection—Ministers: E. P. Pratt, D.D., Geo. W. Elliott, N. S. Dickie, Alfred Eddy, L. F. Lane, Ed. Stratton. Elders: Jno. Lambert, M.D., Justus Townsend, J. J. Dickinson, Wm. Laird, Ebenezer Cherry.

Home Missions—Ministers: E. E. Adams, D.D., Wm. Waith, B. Parsons, T. R. Gallaher, E. N. Jones, Jno. Tomkins. Elders: Hon. H. W. Williams, Hon. Wm. H. Brown, L. A. Smith, M.D., Jno. Knight, A. P. Smith.

Foreign Missions—Wm. Adams, D.D., Daniel March, D.D., William M. Cheever, E. Barber, Wilbur McKaig, Ransom Hawley. Elders: Hon. Calvin T. Hulburd, Louis Chapin, John Endicott, Charles Holmes, Jr., Moses C. Browning.

Education—Ministers: Edw. O. Hovey, A. A. Wood, D.D.; L. J. Evans, S. Wishard, T. P. Phelan, T. B. McFall. Elders: Hon. T. P. Phelan, T. B. Wood, H. G. Todd, M.D., Isaac Scarritt, William D. Moore.

Narrative—Ministers: John W. Mears, Thomas B. Hudson, William H. Clark, S. H. Smith. Elders: Philo Clark, M.D., John H. Phelps, S. L. Boughton.

Leave of Absence—Ministers: J. B. Preston, Geo. W. Mackie, John S. Swaine, John C. Taylor. Elders: A. Parker, A. C. Eckfeldt.

Devotional Exercises—Ministers: W. W. Newell, D.D., F. Sutton, Rev. B. R. Revue, H. W. Palmer. Elders: L. C. Walton, A. C. Washburn, Amos D. Seward.

Missionary—John P. Crosby; Samuel Stringham, Winslow A. Phelps.

The Committees on Synodical Records, are omitted. The Synodical records, narratives, and other papers were then called for. Mr. Walter S. Griffith, on behalf of the Permanent Committee on Foreign Missions, submitted the seventh annual report of which we annex an abstract.

FOREIGN MISSIONS. The committee say: "During four years of a terrible civil war, in which the highest energies of the nation have been put forth, and its best blood has been shed in resisting and subduing the most wicked rebellion known in the history of the fallen world, God has given grace to his people amid all the powerful strain upon their resources to remember the heathen, and to sustain in the mercies who have gone forth from us as if that we had not very seriously interfered with or impeded their labors. And now when the strife is ended and the Rebellion subdued, when the deep black blot of slavery no longer stains the national escutcheon or reflects dark shadow on our religion, when the missionary churches of our land, have, by the grace of God, shown so sublimely their love for patriotism, liberty, and mankind, in the history of their labors and sacrifices to maintain the unity and honor of the nation, to deliver the enslaved, and to save the world, we with hearty gratitude ascribe all to boundless grace bestowed upon His people under their trying and testing experiences, and express the hope that the goodness of God will lead us as a people in all the future to trust him more implicitly and to realize that the work which he calls his people to do, he will give them the needed strength to accomplish it with all their hearts and powers, they will seek his help to do their duty."

From the minutes of the last Assembly the committee report that 720 churches with a membership of 36,853 contributed nothing to the cause of Foreign Missions. During the year reported in the minutes of the last Assembly 720 churches contributed to the cause \$97,629.14, with 101,189 members; the average contribution by each of ninety; the sum of \$1,084.77 per church.

With reference to the resolution of the last General Assembly, urging the appointment of Presbyterial agents, the committee report that the suggestion has been adopted by several of the Presbyteries, with encouraging results. The report from the various Presbyterial agents were submitted in the report.

The committee regard the result reported as decidedly proving the efficiency of the plan. There are 58 members of the Presbyteries employed in the work of Foreign Missions, whose location is given: "The number is two less than last year."

Articles from the committee to missionaries in the field were read. It was a fervent exhortation, then to keep up a close connection with the home churches for their own sake, and for that of the churches, and assuring them of the profound sympathy of their brethren. It also contained a noble reference to the work of the nation, and the fact that throughout the missionaries had been true.

Interesting letters were read from Thomas S. Williamson, M.D., of the mission to the Dakotas, Rev. Albert Bushnell, of the mission to the Baraka, Gaboon, West Africa, Rev. Tilman C. Trowbridge, of the mission to West Turkey, from the Rev. H. J. Van Lennep at Smyrna, and Theo. L. Dington, Bakazga, E. Turkey.

In accordance with the instructions of the last Assembly, the Committee on Foreign Relations have become duly incorporated. The committee close their report with an urgent appeal for more laborers in the missionary cause; they hope that missionaries may be recruited largely from the soldiers of the army.

The terms of office of the following members of the committee expired at this time: Rev. George Duffield, D.D., Jan A. Brown, Rev. Walter Clark, D.D., Jan A. Brown, Rev. D. D., Rev. T. Ralston Smith.

The report was accepted and referred. The Rev. Dr. Mills submitted the

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OF MINISTERS. The committee report of encouraging progress in the interest felt their work. Although the war has drawn more largely on religious young men of the country than on others, the number of students aided by the committee has been twelve more than last year. Of this number, Brooklyn, furnishes one only. The committee believe that every year's expenditures should be paid by its contributions, and the balance made permanently available, and at the last Assembly, being \$6,000, have been invested in U. S. bonds and securities of \$2,000 each have been found, making four in all held by the committee. 345 churches have contributed to the fund, being thirty-three more than last year, to the amount of \$23,365.36, an increase of some \$6,000 over the last year. The committee urge that the contributions be made earlier in the year.

This report, together with that of the Treasurer, which was subsequently read, was referred.

The Rev. Henry Kendall, from the Committee on Home Missions, read a detailed report.

HOME MISSIONS. It reviews the progress of the work in the South, then the Rocky Mountain Division, and that among the German population, urging the education of ministers in the German language and the general education of more ministers. The report also alludes to church edifices, district secretaries, deaths, &c. The number of missionaries employed is 52; aggregate labor, 255 years.

There is a most urgent appeal for more laborers from every part of the field. Fifty ministers could be planted in promising fields without delay. Our church has never supplied itself with ministers. Three laborers have died, \$500 has been contributed by the churches. The income would have been quite inadequate but for the short supply of laborers.

COMMITTEE OF BILLS AND OVERTURES. Dr. Spear, from the Committee on Bills and Overtures, submitted three reports: one on an overture No. 2, from the Fourth Presbytery of New York, relating to an alteration in the column of statistics of contributions to Foreign Missions, based on the fact that the contributions of our churches were made to the American Board of Foreign Missions, and not to any committee of the General Assembly. The overture proposes that the column bear a heading to indicate that fact. Adopted.

On overture No. 4, setting forth the case of a confessed heretic, who asked that he be cut off from the church; Can he be excommunicated without trial? Referred to the Book of Discipline, chap. 4, and urged to follow the rule strictly. This is understood to be adverse to the request. Adopted.

On overture No. 5. Can a Presbytery authorize its Stated Clerk to grant, at their own request, letters certifying regular standing and dismission of members to join other ecclesiastical bodies in connection with the General Assembly? No. Adopted.

MEETING OF ELDERS. At a conference of Elders, delegates to the last General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, held at Dayton, O., a committee was appointed to take into consideration the expediency of calling a similar meeting of Elders some time during the session of the General Assembly in Brooklyn the present year.

The committee thinking another similar meeting very desirable, especially at this time, in view of the extraordinary condition of our country, calling the church to prayer and an enlarged spirituality in order to the preparation needed for the great work demanded of it, named this evening as the time for holding it, and cordially and earnestly invited all the Elders, delegates to the General Assembly, and the Elders of the churches in Brooklyn, New York, and vicinity, connected with the General Assembly, to attend the meeting.

AFTERNOON SESSION—REPORTS CONTINUED. PUBLICATION COMMITTEE'S REPORT. The report of the Treasurer for the year ending March 31, 1865, shows: Balance on hand April 1, 1864, \$5,126 14. Donations received to March 31, 1865, viz: For General Purposes, 6,500 73. For Endowment Fund, 31,376 66. Cash received on account of sales, 30,005 91. Do. do. interest on investments, 2,366 44. Do. do. rents from Presbyterian House, 1,727 50.

Total, \$77,191 48. Orders paid by Treasurer, viz: On account of Committee, \$38,480 02. Do. Store, 6,997 04. Do. Trustees Presbyterian House, 7,000 00. Do. Presbyterian House, 2,158 14. Do. Investment U. S. Securities, 21,000 00. Total, \$75,635 20.

Balance on hand April 1, 1865, \$1,558 98. The cash received does not show the full amount of sales, as, in the case of the sales in favor of the Committee only appear on the Treasurer's books. The gross sales for the year amount to \$36,000 81, as compared with \$22,353 66 the preceding year, and \$15,622 33 the year before last. If to the sales we would add donations made by the committee to the value of \$2,260 16, we have a total of \$38,269 97.

The total amount subscribed to the Endowment Fund is \$50,180 57. Of this there had been paid up to April 1, 1865, \$46,378 02, leaving a balance subscribed but not paid of \$3,802 55. In accordance with the instructions of the Assembly, that one-fifth of the money raised be paid to the Trustees by the Presbyterian House, towards the liquidation of the incumbrance upon the house, \$9,000 has been thus paid, which is \$355 19 in excess of one-fifth of the net receipts for the fund.

The committee report that they have had the satisfaction of effecting a much larger distribution of their publications by sale and donation, during the past, than in any preceding year. In the case of some of the works upon their list this has been marked and gratifying, and they trust that the good seed thus sown has not been without fruits in the past, and will not be in the future. Yet, whilst gratified by this fact, they do not think that they have by any means reached the point at which they should be satisfied.

The committee do not seek to conceal the highest credit for the sale of having the appearance of a strong establishment, nor do they print books and tracts that they may with them load the shelves of the Presbyterian House. The one object of all their efforts is the circulation of these pages among the people of the country, that the voices of our ministers and members may be multiplied and supplemented—that the truths which they hold in their hearts and utter with their lips, may be sent forth by a thousand-tongued press, reaching those whom they cannot personally reach, or touching those they may not feel competent themselves to instruct.

Since their last annual report they have issued over thirty new works, among which is a treatise on an organized military power has involved the sacrifice of thousands and tens of thousands of human lives, and filled the land with the deep wail of affliction and sorrow. Such a treason this Assembly regards as involving criminality in its most appalling form. The justice of God, the honor of law, and the safety of civil society imperatively demand that it should be suitably punished by the judicial power of the nation, in the infliction of penalty upon its guilty authors.

That the ministers of the Gospel resident in States—men professing to believe in the Bible and to honor its principles—should have shared in the guilt of this treason, making them as guilty parties thereto, and giving to the public eye, aiding and abetting the same, seems to the Assembly one of the most astonishing moral perversions to be found in the history of this fallen world; and yet that such has been the fact in the States hitherto in rebellion is too obvious to admit of reasonable doubt or denial. These ministers the Assembly can view only as in this thing most grievous sinners against the God of heaven. If they were justly chargeable with polygamy, debauchery, drunkenness, or any other gross sin, to the same extent, their sinfulness in that respect, would not, in the judgment of the Assembly, be greater than they now are. In view of the principles and opinions thus expressed, the Assembly most earnestly exhorts all the Presbyteries under its care to consider this subject, and take such action thereupon as shall accord with the Word of God. In the event that any of the ministers referred to in the above overture shall apply for admission into these Presbyteries, the Assembly advises the Presbyteries not to admit them, or in any way recognize them as ambassadors of the Cross of Christ, until they have given satisfactory evidence that they have sincerely repented of their sin. The details of this advice, the manner and ways of giving it practical effect, the Assembly must for the present leave with the discretion and wisdom of the Presbyteries; yet the Assembly cannot forgo to express the hope that the Presbyteries, in the spirit of true loyalty to their country and their God, will so act in the premises as to convey the clearest and most undoubted condemnation of the treason which has clothed this land with the habiliments of sorrow. Let the religious sense of the Church in her pulpits, ministrations, through her judicatories, mark this sin as of the deepest dye.

The Assembly, in thus answering the overture, has no specific case before it for a definite and special judgment, and has therefore submitted the answer in the general form of a motion to that effect, this particular report was accepted, and Monday, at 3 o'clock, was designated as the time for the consideration of the subject.

A report in regard to the relation of unemployed ministers to the Church, and especially setting forth their ineligibility to the place of elders, under the rule that no one not in full communion and a member of the Church could hold such a position, was presented.

Receipts, \$13,813 39. Expenditures, 12,262 57. Balance in hand, \$1,558 98. The sinking fund was stated as having the proceeds of \$11,900.

Both reports were, on motion, referred to the Standing Committee on Publication.

CHURCH ERECTION COMMITTEE. The report of the Church Erection Committee was next read by the Secretary and Treasurer of the Convention, W. B. Benedict, Esq. The total amount of the fund of the Committee is now \$123,846 94. The fund is designed to afford aid for the completion of church edifices not for their commencement; and the money advanced is looked upon as a loan, and to be repaid within a given time. It appeared that there are churches in arrears to this fund in the sum of \$23,243 92. The report of the Treasurer showed that the total receipts were \$127,524 72, and the total expenditures \$123,846 94.

The report was referred to the Standing Committee on Church Erection.

DELEGATES TO CORRESPONDING BODIES. Reports of delegates to the various corresponding bodies, was the next business in order. The first read was a very interesting report of Rev. Dr. Wilson, of Newark, N. J., delegate to the New School Presbyterian Church to the General Assembly, which closed the report last year. The time for the organization union between each of these bodies, the report says, has not yet come. Other reports of delegates were also read. One from Rev. Edmund Hall, D.D., of Auburn, to the Convention of Vermont. Another from Rev. F. Waldo, delegate to Wisconsin.

One from Rev. Byron Sunderland, delegate to France; and one from Rev. Chester Mills, delegate to New York.

The Report of Rev. Byron Sunderland, delegate to the Evangelical Society of France, transmitted to the Assembly the greeting of Protestants France to the Christians of America. This was a most interesting and instructive report, giving somewhat in detail the onward march of Protestantism in a land where not to any committee of the General Assembly bear a heading to indicate that fact. Adopted.

On overture No. 4, setting forth the case of a confessed heretic, who asked that he be cut off from the church; Can he be excommunicated without trial? Referred to the Book of Discipline, chap. 4, and urged to follow the rule strictly. This is understood to be adverse to the request. Adopted.

delegates from the "Old School" Presbyteries—Rev. Myron P. Hickok and Carlton Henry, of Philadelphia. On motion, it was decided that the first order on Thursday morning next shall be to hear delegates from corresponding bodies.

The report of Rev. R. R. Booth, D.D., delegate to the Assembly of the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church, concluded the list of general reports, which were together accepted and ordered to be printed in the appendix to the minutes.

REPORT OF THE OVERTURE COMMITTEE. The following is a copy of an overture presented to the Assembly, with the partial report of the committee to which it was referred. This document was the main point of the afternoon session, and excited no little interest on all sides.

OVERTURE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. The undersigned, being members of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, beg leave to submit the following overture to the General Assembly about to hold its sessions in the city of Brooklyn, expressing their belief that treason is a most grievous sin against God, as well as the highest crime against the State, and referring to the undoubted fact that the ministry resident in the States recently in rebellion have largely shared in the guilt of treason against the Government of their country, aiding and abetting the same, and thus bringing great scandal upon our holy religion—the undersigned respectfully ask the General Assembly to give its testimony on this subject, and take some order suggesting to the Presbyteries upon what terms and in what way ministers who have thus been guilty of treason should, if at all, be received by them in the event of their making an application for this purpose. The undersigned feel that this is a subject of the highest practical importance to the honor of Zion, and also the welfare of our common country; and hence they submit it for consideration to the Assembly.

This subject gave rise to an extended debate, which was generally engaged in until the time for adjournment came. On motion, the session was extended for ten minutes, in order that the subject might be settled.

Dr. Spear argued at length that ordained ministers, whether employed or not, were members of the Presbytery, and not of the Church, and could not represent the Church as elders.

The report was finally adopted. The Committee on Devotional Exercises gave out the appointments for next Sunday.

The reading of the appointments concluded the business of the afternoon session, and the Assembly adjourned.

THIRD DAY.—SATURDAY. After the hour of devotional services the meeting was called to order. The names of a number of additional Commissioners were reported to the Assembly.

Dr. Fisher, from the Committee on Church Polity, submitted his

REPORT ON EAST TENNESSEE. The committee state that they have received full statements from the Rev. Thomas J. Lamar, Commissioner from the Presbytery of Union; Elder John J. Dixon, from the Presbytery of Kingston in the State of Tennessee; and also from the Rev. Samuel Sawyer, a home missionary in that section. The papers submitted showed a resolution on the part of the Union Presbytery to disown itself with the United Synod of the Presbyterian Church; and, second, to return to its connection with this body. At the meeting of the Presbytery in September last, there were present three ministers and eleven or twelve elders. Two of the ministers of this Presbytery had been sent beyond our lines disloyally; three others absent themselves from the meeting—none of these were pastors. The meeting was called according to rule.

The papers in regard to the Presbytery of Kingston had been lost on the way to the Assembly, but verbal explanations were made in lieu of them. In this Presbytery there were six ministers, four of whom were present, and two, disloyal, absent. The elders were kept away by a raid made partly for that purpose. In view of these facts, the committee recommend the recognition of the Presbyteries of Union and Kingston, and the enrollment of the names of Messrs. Lamar and Dixon on the roll of the Assembly. As to the Synodical relations of the Presbyteries, and some of the ministers of Holston, and some of the elders, anxious to return to their connection with this body; that the Church of Greenville and the Church at Timber Ridge request to be reunited with this body; that a large part of the New River Presbytery is disloyal. The committee recommend the following resolutions:

First. That the Rev. R. P. Nells, Rev. R. Baehman, together with the Rev. S. Sawyer, at present a member of the Presbytery of Fort Wayne, are hereby constituted the Presbytery of Holston; that the churches of Greenville and the Church at Timber Ridge be placed under the care of this Presbytery; that the said Presbytery shall have the same territorial limits as those of the former Presbytery of Holston, and providing for the meeting of the same.