

American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1865.

NEW PREMIUMS.—For two new subscribers, paying full rates in advance, the new Life of John Brainerd, elegantly bound and gilt and postage prepaid.

For three new subscribers: Life of John Brainerd and Zulu Land, postage extra.

For thirty-five new subscribers paying full rates in advance, or four clubs of ten each, a FIFTY-FIVE DOLLAR SEWING MACHINE, of Grover & Baker's make.

THE SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, on Seventh street, below Arch, recently invited the Rev. E. R. Beadle to become their pastor. The call was accepted, and Mr. Beadle began his duties on Sabbath, October 22d.

LIBERAL OFFER.—Our friend Mr. W. F. WYERS, the accomplished principal of the West Chester Academy, offers, in his advertisement, to give the sons of ministers and young men preparing for the ministry, tuition in his excellent institution without charge. This is a generous proposal and will doubtless be appreciated, especially in these expensive times.

PRESBYTERIANS IN A SCARE.—We enjoy a paragraph, like the following, from a Washington correspondent of the Boston Recorder, for the reason that we always love to see people satisfied with themselves. The "intruder" referred to, is simply a new Congregational Church.

"Our Presbyterian friends have become alarmed. Dr. Sunderland's church has sent to Paris after their absent minister, although eight months of his service there are yet unexpired. A meeting of the Presbytery has been called to meet here the next week, undoubtedly to consider how to treat the young but vigorous intruder. If we can continue to meet in a church building, the coming session of Congress will add much to our members and our strength."

DEDICATION OF THE NEW OLIVET CHURCH, corner of Twenty-second and Mt. Vernon streets.—We bespeak for the dedication of the Olivet Church next Sabbath, the 29th inst., as large an attendance of the ministers and people of our denomination as possible.

The object is of common interest. The erection and furnishing of such a church in that region is advantageous to all our churches, whose members as they remove westward, will here find a home and thereby preserve the Presbyterial elements for combination into an efficient congregation.

Services will be held morning, afternoon and evening, and collections taken in behalf of the church.

The Dedication sermon in the morning at 10 o'clock, by the pastor, Rev. W. W. Taylor, assisted by Rev. Messrs. Mears, Crittenden, Crowell and others.

Preaching in the afternoon at 3 o'clock, by Rev. Dr. March, pastor of Clinton street Church, assisted by Rev. Dr. Brainerd, who will offer a short address, by Dr. Adams and various pastors of our own and other denominations.

Sermon at night at 7 o'clock, by Rev. Mr. Calkins, pastor of the Calvary Church.

A WORTHY ENTERPRISE.—We believe that our readers have already been informed that, some two years since, a band of staunch and loyal Presbyterians in St. Joseph, Missouri, a city of twelve or fifteen thousand inhabitants, broke off from the existing church organization, where the disloyal power had reached the unendurable point. They formed themselves into a new church, to secure for themselves public meetings where they might unite in prayers for the President and Government, and might afford to the country their sympathy in its hour of need. This new organization they placed under the care of the Lexington Presbytery, in connection with our branch of the church. Of this church, Rev. Dr. Nelson, of St. Louis, well-known throughout our church as a worthy witness, says:

"I know of nothing in connection with the cause of evangelical religion, particularly as it is cared for by the N. S. Presbyterian Church, more important than that our church recently organized, should succeed in their present effort to provide themselves with a suitable house of worship. St. Joseph is the second city in Missouri, in commercial and political importance, and is the metropolis of a most important region. The formation of our church there is a timely protest against the pro-slavery policy, which has corrupted other churches, and is a movement which neither our church at large, nor our country, can afford to have fall short of decided success. From all that I have been able to learn of this movement, I have judged it to be from the most thoroughly Christian motives, and on the soundest Christian principles—not primarily a political movement at all, but a thoroughly Christian movement, too soundly and intelligently so, not to be at the same time patriotic; purging itself, from the beginning, of all connection with and all taint of disloyalty."

Rev. B. B. Parsons, D. D., the pastor of the Church, is now among us soliciting the aid which must come from the east, for giving to it a proper house of worship. Dr. P. is fully recommended personally—a recommendation to which, from personal acquaintance, we can cordially add our own. Himself and his cause are strongly commended by leading ministers in New York, such as Drs. Hatfield, Kendall, Adams, and others.

PROGRESS IN CUBA.—The planters of Cuba have addressed a memorial to the home Government at Madrid, asking for the abolition of slavery in Cuba.

NEW CHAPEL IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE.

The ceremony of dedicating to the purposes of worship and of instruction the new RODNEY ST. MISSION CHAPEL in Wilmington, Delaware, took place on Sabbath afternoon last. The dedicatory prayer was offered by the pastor of the Central Church, Rev. Geo. F. Wiswell. Remarks were made by the pastor, and Rev. John W. Mears, of Philadelphia. The occasion was one of deep interest. The chapel which will accommodate 200 people, was not only thronged, but a large audience clustered around the open door and windows on the outside. The building was commenced in the latter part of August, and has been less than two months in the entire process of construction. It is free from all incumbrance. This gratifying result is due to the energy and promptitude of the young men of the Central Church, two of whom deserve especial mention: Mr. Wm. B. Wiggins, formerly mayor of the city, and Mr. G. W. Houseman. The building will accommodate the oldest mission school of the Central Church, who were unceremoniously dispossessed of their wonted quarters, during their summer vacation, by some over-zealous persons of another denomination. The Rodney St. Chapel is near the terminus of the passenger railway, and is admirably situated to command a growing population. The whole vicinity is being laid out in lots, and residences are rapidly going up. This is the second chapel erected by the young men of the Central Church since the war, a third having been erected by the young men of Hanover Street Church, in a different and needy part of the city some two or three years ago. Still another important mission Sabbath-school near the Brandywine, is in charge of the young men of the Central Church, which in due time, and perhaps very soon, will be supplied with a substantial chapel from the same source, the question of means being, we may say, practically settled.

The absence from the dedication ceremonies of the venerated John R. Latimer, Esq., lately deceased, and of his estimable lady, was feelingly referred to by the pastor, and elicited a response in many a tearful eye in the assembly. Yet it is encouraging to think that so much of wealth, consecrated to the Lord, is in the hands of the young men of the Central Church, as to remove all fear of the interruption of their evangelizing enterprises. Would that some of our contented, quiet, overgrown churches, who have vegetated for a quarter of a century, and allowed other denominations to come into territory naturally their own, and to make up new organizations in part out of their own members, would take a lesson from this young, active, efficient church, which, though less than ten years old, has judiciously planted two mission chapels, and is about ready to lay the foundation of a third, each of which will doubtless, in time, prove the nucleus of a church of our denomination.

A pleasant feature of the exercises on Sabbath was the gift of \$50 to the enterprise, by a gentleman of the Methodist Church.

SYNOD OF ONONDAGA ON HOME MISSIONS.

Synod has listened with peculiar interest to the statements of Rev. T. Ralston Smith one of the Assembly's Committee of Home Missions, and Rev. A. M. Stow, District Secretary, with regard to the vast, field opening for us as a church, in the prosecution of our Home Missionary work, and the corresponding demands upon the churches.

The great wants of the present time appear to be two:—First, men; second, money. In view of the great want of men, Synod would urge upon pastors, elders, and all church members, the duty of praying—"the Lord of the harvest, send forth laborers into His harvest," and they would urge upon pastors especially the duty of watchfulness in endeavoring to direct the attention of pious young men to the ministry; and upon parents especially the duty of consecrating their children to this work.

In view of the great want of money, and whereas it appears that, of the seventy churches in our Synod, but forty have contributed anything to this cause the first year; but seven churches over \$100 each; but eleven churches as much as \$50 each; and the entire membership of the Synod have averaged less than 50 cents per member,—therefore Synod urges upon all pastors and elders present the important duty of making this cause prominent in our list of contributions, and particularly that no church should excuse itself from contributing to this object; Synod also would urge upon Presbyterial Committees diligent attention to their duties in such committees; and in conclusion, Synod resolves:

- 1st. To endeavor to secure a contribution, however small, from every member of our churches.
- 2d. To endeavor to secure, if possible, a contribution from every church, the aggregate of which shall be an average of \$1 per member.
- 3d. To endeavor to secure a contribution as much above \$1 per member as possible. And for the information of pastors and churches not represented here, the stated clerk of Synod is requested to have this action published in the AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN and the New York Evangelist.

A LITTLE JUSTICE.—The guerilla, Champ Ferguson, was hanged at Nashville, October 20; and the guerilla, Henry C. Magruder, at Louisville, October 20.

SYNOD OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The annual meeting of this body has just been held in the Third Presbyterian Church in this city. The session commenced on the evening of the 17th inst., with public religious services and the preaching of the Synodical sermon by the retiring Moderator, Rev. B. B. Hotchkiss, from 1 Corinthians ix, 16.—Necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel. After the close of the public service, Rev. Thomas J. Shepherd, D.D., of the Fourth Presbytery of Philadelphia, was elected Moderator, and Rev. Daniel G. Mallory, of the same Presbytery, Temporary Clerk. Our further notice of the meeting will be topical, without regard to the order of time.

A VISITOR FROM TAHITI.

Rev. Mr. Arbusset, of the French Protestant Church, and its missionary in the island of Tahiti, and chaplain to the reigning Queen Pomare, addressed the Synod on the state and prospects of Protestant missions on that island. When, a number of years ago, the French took possession of the island, all the English and American missionaries were expelled, and Romish institutions established in their place. The expelled missionaries asked the French Protestant church to enter upon their fields, claiming as Frenchmen the toleration allowed by the laws of France. Mr. Arbusset and others occupied the ground in 1862, and have secured toleration, and still continue their labors. The queen and the prince next to the throne, both of whom appear to be sincere Christians, have remained faithful to their original church relations. The government has authorized the establishment of a society for maintaining Protestant schools, and has itself built a school-house sufficient for three hundred pupils under the auspices of this society. As the work grows in magnitude, increased expenses are inevitable. The French churches are not at present able to assume an extensive work abroad; hence practical sympathy from America is invoked.

The Synod responded to the remarks of Mr. Arbusset with a resolution of sympathy, commending his good work to the regard of the churches.

EDUCATION FOR THE MINISTRY.

Rev. Mr. Richards, chairman of the standing committee on this subject, reported that he had not been furnished with data for a minute account of the benefactions of the churches toward this cause. There has been a slight advance, but far short of that demanded by the loud calls of Providence. Dr. Mills, the veteran Secretary of the Assembly's Committee took the floor, and spoke with great earnestness of a still higher want—that of young men coming forward self-consecrated to the work of the ministry, in whatever field God should assign to them. He referred most feelingly to the failure of parental consecration when the trying test comes—their unwillingness, and sometimes absolute refusal to surrender for their sons opportunities to acquire wealth and live in worldly comfort, and expose them to the self-denials of life in the ministry. In our Home and Foreign Missionary work, wide fields are open; loud calls are made for men, but they do not come. We have often listened with interest to Dr. M., but never heard from his lips so feeling an address, and never witnessed so marked an effect from his appeal upon the feelings of an ecclesiastical assembly. Regarding the subject as, at the present time, entitled to more than usual consideration, the Synod passed the following resolution, offered by Rev. W. T. Eva:—

Resolved, That Synod has heard with great interest, the statement and views of Rev. Dr. Mills on the subject of education for the work of the Gospel ministry, especially those portions which relate to the matter of increasing the number of candidates for that work; and that a committee be appointed to prepare a short pastoral letter addressed to our ministers and churches, and especially to parents and guardians in our congregations, urging this subject upon their attention as one of vital importance to the interests of the Church and country, and to the cause and kingdom of Christ in the world.

Rev. Messrs. Hotchkiss, Eva, and Wiswell, were appointed to prepare the proposed Pastoral.

RULING ELDERS.

Rev. Mr. Hotchkiss, chairman of a special committee, presented the following report which, after a pretty full discussion, was adopted.

The committee appointed to prepare a report "in relation to the position and duties of ruling elders in our ecclesiastical bodies" respectfully report:—

Except in the church session, your committee find no radical peculiarities distinguishing the position and duties of the ruling elder from that of other members of the ecclesiastical body.

For instruction respecting their place and power in the church session, reference is made to chap. IX of the form of government. It is presumed that no fuller statement is needed, or can be given of the relative position of the classes composing that court. Your committee suppose that the resolution before them has more special reference to the higher judicatories.

In these higher judicatories, the ruling elder represents the session. This may seem like a very simple enunciation, but your committee regard it as important in view of a somewhat prevalent, practical disregard of this elementary principle in the construction of our church courts. It is the duty of each session, previous to the meeting of Presbytery or Synod, in a regular sessional meeting, to appoint its own representative; and the appearance of a ruling elder in these bodies, by mere invitation of the pastor, and without sessional appointment, is in violation of the principle of sessional representation.

As regards the correlative position and duties of the ministering and ruling elders when assembled, our form of government allows no fundamental distinction. In ordination and installations, the public services are, as a requirement of propriety, committed to ministers. The provision for opening sermons by retiring Moderators of the General

Assembly, seems to assume that a minister will be called to the Moderator's chair. In the rules respecting business quorums, care is taken to insure that some ministers shall be present. These are simply incidental distinctions between the two classes, and as bearing upon their position and duties in the ecclesiastical bodies under consideration, they are the only ones known to our system. In all other respects of privilege, duty and authority, they are, while here, not only equal, but in a state of official fusion. They have the same duties, and the same responsibilities to the church and its sovereign head.

From the discussion preceding the resolution creating the committee, it is to be presumed that the Synod desired that some action should be recommended which might appear practically to the ruling eldership, perceiving them of their real importance in our church courts, and the solemn duty of the sessions, no less than that of the ministers, to be present by their appointed representatives. The principle to be preserved, is a vital one in our Presbyterial system, the union of the ministerial and popular element in the government of the church. All the provisions of our constitution upon this subject, are not only affirmatory of this general principle, but, in determining the ratio of sessional representation, giving but one representative to a plurality of sessions united, one pastor, and to collegiate churches a sessional representative for each pastor, it was intended to make the nearest possible approach to a numerical equality of the two elements. No fair effect can be given to this provision, except by making the attendance of ruling elders just as much a conscientious duty as in the case of ministers. The Synod earnestly reminds the sessions of this element in our system, and commends to them their duty in giving to it a continued practical reality. Its force can never be lost, except through their forgetfulness of it. It is a suitable measure for continually reminding the sessions of their high responsibility as the representatives of the church, that the practice of calling upon absentees for their reason for absence, now applied to ministers, be extended to them. The following standing rule is accordingly proposed:—

The stated clerk shall, at least one month previous to each meeting of Synod, write to the session of each church which failed to be represented at the next previous meeting, to forward any reason for such non-representation, asking for such reason to be laid before Synod, and urging them to be represented at the approaching meeting.

Your committee further propose to Synod to recommend to the Presbyteries the adoption of a rule respecting sessional representation in their meetings similar to the above, and that the stated clerk notify them accordingly.

The committee subsequently reported a Pastoral Letter as directed, and it was ordered to be published by the Stated Clerk, and forwarded for distribution in the churches, and also to be read to the congregation from the pulpit. We are compelled to defer the publication of this letter until another week.

HOME MISSIONS.

The report on our General Assembly's Home Missionary work within the bounds of the Synod, was made by Rev. W. Aikman, Chairman of the Standing Committee on that subject. Some churches, heretofore receiving missionary aid have become self-supporting, and others are asking for reduced appropriations. The missionary field of the Synod is opening wider, and men are wanted. This was said to be especially true in the State of Delaware. The principal feature in the report was the fiscal one. The contributions of the churches were named in detail, and in comparison with those reported in 1864. The Presbyterial summaries are as follows:—

District of Columbia	\$184 42	1865	\$200 00
Wilmington	275 07	632 42	
Philadelphia, Third	2,568 43	3,373 40	
Philadelphia, Fourth	1,350 70	1,350 70	
Harrisburg	927 28	1,768 62	
Total	\$5,507 90	\$8,491 94	

The increase for the year has been \$2,984.04, but there is a deficiency of about \$4,949, in coming up to the sum of \$13,440 named by the last Assembly as needed from this Synod for the Home Missionary work of our churches. The number of churches from which no contributions to the cause, and which have reached the knowledge of the Committee, are four of the nine belonging to the Presbytery of the District of Columbia; seven of the thirteen in Wilmington; eight of the twenty-one in Philadelphia Third; seven of the twenty-nine in Philadelphia Fourth; and one of the eight in Harrisburg.

In addition to the above, there have been large contributions of boxes of clothing for the families of missionaries, the value of which there are no means of estimating.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

A similar detailed and carefully prepared report was presented by Rev. John McLeod, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Missions. The aggregate of the contributions of the churches of the Synod to the American Board, during the year, was about \$13,500. We hope to notice it more at length hereafter.

Rev. W. E. Moore reported in behalf of the Standing Committee. Whereupon it was

Resolved, That the Synod recommend to the churches, as it may be practicable, to introduce into their Lectures and Social meetings, the Social Hymn and Tune Book, just issued by the Publication Committee.

MINISTERIAL RELIEF FUND.

In commending the cause of ministerial relief the Synod adopted the following resolutions of the General Assembly:—

1. Resolved, That the attention of church members be directed to the straitened circumstances of many of our faithful ministers who, having toiled for many years on small salaries, are now left in the decline of life, without adequate means for the support of themselves and families.
2. Resolved, That every Presbytery be directed to appoint a Standing Committee, whose duty it shall be to inquire into the necessities of disabled ministers, and of the widows and orphans of those deceased, with a view of bringing the cases of such to the notice of the Executive Committee of the Relief Fund.
3. Resolved, That the Presbyteries earnestly request the churches under their care to make annual collections for this fund; and

that they encourage, also, bequests and donations toward the formation of a permanent fund for this object.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Rev. Dr. Shepherd, Chairman, reported as follows:—

The Committee on the Minutes of the General Assembly report the following items as worthy the attention of Synod, viz:—

I. The Assembly's action in regard to Home Missions, p. 24.

The Committee recommended that this action be read by pastors and stated supplies to the churches of Synod, as the basis of appeals for increased contributions in aid of the enlarging and vitally important work which, in our own country, our denomination is prosecuting.

II. The Assembly's action in regard to Ministerial Relief, p. 29.

The Committee recommend that so much of this action as urges, the churches to make annual collections for this fund be reaffirmed and very earnestly commended to the pastors, sessions, and churches of Synod.

III. The Assembly's action in regard to Publication, p. 34.

The Committee recommend that so much of this action as contemplates the "increase of contributions to the Publication Cause with a view to more extended and thorough operations, and with special reference to affording facilities for the gratuitous distribution of tracts and books among the Freedmen," be reaffirmed.

IV. The Assembly's action in regard to the State of the Country, p. 38.

The Committee recommend that this action be reaffirmed.

V. The Assembly's action in regard to Theatre-going and Card-playing, p. 45.

The Committee recommend that this action be reaffirmed and entered at large on the minutes of Synod, and the matter brought to the attention of our churches at some suitable time.

VI. The Assembly's action in regard to Intemperance, p. 53.

The Committee recommend that this action be reaffirmed and that the "Resolution of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America on the sin, the evils, and remedy of Intemperance," as found in the appendix to the Assembly's minutes be read by the pastors and stated supplies to the churches of Synod, at some convenient time on the Sabbath, and be brought to the notice of the Assembly's Publication Committee as a suitable tract.

The report, after a full discussion of some of its items was adopted.

AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN.

The committee appointed at the last meeting to secure an increase in the circulation of the AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN, and collect facts bearing on the subject, presented a report containing an encouraging account of progress during the year, and naming several churches where, through pastoral and other effort, this progress had been especially gratifying.

Through much that has been done, much still remains. Our churches, with some few exceptions, still need to be educated to clearer views of their relations to the denominational weekly journal. The last General Assembly in two distinct papers gave its testimony for the first time on this subject. This testimony is remarkable for its comprehensive and emphatic character, and your committee would beg leave to present to the notice of Synod the following extracts:—

The Standing Committee on Publication, speaking of the three religious papers of our church say: "These are our denominational organs, and we should do more than has been done to push them in advance of all others, and even to the exclusion of some which have stolen in where they do not belong. Outspoken efforts to set ourselves right before the people, and keep the principles we have fresh in the hearts of those who are with us, but are many of them being insidiously perverted, are absolutely necessary."

Says Judge Mansfield's report, specifically upon the Religious Weekly Press: "It is patent to every man that the newspaper has a wider and deeper influence upon the members of our congregations than tracts, books or quarterly reviews. It comes nearer than any of them to the living preacher in the time and manner of its ministrations. Hence, if the press is to be recognized by the church as an instrumentality for good, she ought to take a deep interest in the most popular and influential of its issues, the newspaper, and try to use it so as to promote the good of men and the glory of God." The families of our churches at present neglecting this duty are exhorted to subscribe for at least one of our papers, the committee declaring the influence of such a paper as "second only to that of the preached word in the moral and spiritual culture of the Christian household."

Ministers are also requested to preach on the subject, impressing upon church members the duty of being loyal to the denomination in this respect, and the duty of parents to provide the right kind of papers for their children to read.

Did these views prevail, and were these duties felt to be obligatory, the Synod of Pennsylvania, with nearly 15,000 members, and a Presbyterial population of perhaps 100,000, could alone sustain a religious weekly paper.

Your committee recommend the following action:—

That the recommendations of the General Assembly on the denominational press are cordially accepted and reaffirmed.

2. That Synod will aim through its churches to add at least 300 new names to the list of the AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN during the year, to be distributed among the Presbyteries as follows: Wilmington 35; Philadelphia 3rd 90; Philadelphia 4th 135; Harrisburg 25; District of Columbia 30. Those churches especially which did little or nothing last year are requested to give early attention to the matter.

3. That a committee be now appointed with instructions to take suitable measures to carry the wishes of the Synod into effect.

A committee of one from each Presbytery was appointed under the last resolution, viz:—Rev. George H. Smyth, of the District of Columbia; Rev. J. G. Hamner, of Wilmington; Rev. B. B. Hotchkiss, of Philadelphia Third; Rev. A. Culver, of Philadelphia Fourth; and Rev. William Sterling, of Harrisburg Presbytery.

THE FREEDMEN.

Rev. Wolcott Calkins, Chairman of a Special Committee on the subject, presented a report. The Synod heard from one of its members, J. M. Paul, M.D., a moving account of the distresses which call for relief, obtained from much personal observation on the ground. His remarks secured profound attention. The report is as follows:—

The committee to whom was referred the resolution in behalf of Freedmen, recommend the following paper:—

Synod feel a painful interest in the wants of the Freedmen. They are suffering for

food, for clothing, for instruction, and for the Gospel. We feel that we must take prompt and decisive action to relieve these immediate necessities.

We have therefore recommended our churches to send contributions for food and clothing and common school education, through that agency which, in our judgment, will distribute them most impartially, and with the least expense among all the needy. At the same time, we believe it to be the Christian sense of the whole country, that the distributors of charities, and especially the teachers sent to the Freedmen, ought to be faithful Christians. The constitution of the Commission we commend; the character of its President and members, and the decided approval of the Christian soldier at the head of the Freedmen's Bureau, warrant us in expecting that its whole influence will be cast on the side of evangelical Christianity. We do not desire the Commission to be sectarian. We are glad to unite with all benevolent men in feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and instructing the ignorant. But we feel that we have a right to demand that great Christian nation shall be a Christian one; cherishing the deepest reverence for the inspired word of God, and pointing the emancipated to our Lord Jesus Christ who alone can make them free.

But while the indirect influence of this Commission will, as we hope, be decidedly Evangelical, we feel that neither this, nor any secular organization can do the spiritual work of our Church. Therefore, while we minister to the physical wants of the Freedmen through this national organization, we must, at the same time, sustain our own Home Missionary Committee in the worthy work ordered by the General Assembly to be undertaken by the Assembly Minutes p. 26. The Committee have already begun this work and we invite our churches to offer special contributions for this branch of their operations.

The Synod, therefore, earnestly recommends: 1st. That until the next meeting of the General Assembly, our churches contribute for the relief of suffering, and for week-day schools, to the American Freedmen's Aid Commission; and that wherever practicable auxiliary aid societies be immediately formed in our churches to co-operate with the Commission.

The Stated Clerk shall notify the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, that in consequence of the action of our General Assembly on the subject, our special commendation of the Freedmen's Bureau of their body, is necessarily withdrawn; at the same time conveying to them the assurance of our continued regard and sympathy with them, in this and every good work.

The Synod hereby memorializes the General Assembly to take such further action for the religious culture of the neglected whites and freedmen of the South, and for the dissemination among them of the principles and policy of our denomination; as shall give these objects the specific and prominent position before the churches which their great importance demand, and as shall fully develop the liberality of our people, whose hearts are warm, and who seek some larger channel in connection with our church for their benefactions towards the neglected white population, and the wonderfully emancipated African race. And the Stated Clerk of Synod is instructed to forward this memorial to the General Assembly, in due form.

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Rev. Mr. Aikman, chairman of a special committee on the state of the country, presented the following series of resolutions which, on a vote taken by yeas and nays, were adopted by a vote entirely unanimous, except that two members declined to answer to their names, saying however that the sentiments of the resolutions secured their hearty concurrence, but reasons of another nature forbade their taking part in the vote.

Whereas, The Synod holds its annual session now, for the first time after the close of a great civil war; and

Whereas, It becomes a recipient of blessings given in answer to prayer, to return humble and grateful thanks to God our Father; and

Whereas, By Divine command, the Church is to bear in her heart before God the rulers of the land, and cannot therefore but have the deepest interest in the purity and stability of the Government; and that, in a country where the Church enjoys such freedom and protection so beneficent from the Government, she is bound by every principle of honor and of gratitude to God and to pledge, as we have in time of its danger, and as we do now, her loyalty, and to express her joy in the hour of its success; therefore

Resolved, That we give humble thanks to God most high, for the overthrow, so sudden and so entire, of the great rebellion, for the virtual extinction of the system of human slavery, the baleful growth of two centuries of wrong; for the elevation of four millions of men from the degradation of absolute servitude into freedom and citizenship; for the entire establishment of the Government and the vindication of its authority and honor; for the spirit of peace over the whole land; for the rich promise of returning harmony and brotherhood, and of a new and purified life to the nation.

Resolved, That we give thanks to God for the inspiration of faith, courage, and constancy which has borne the nation through four years of self-denial, suffering, and death, and which has held it unflinching on its way to this day of light and triumph. To God be all the glory.

Resolved, That the dangers and sorrows through which the nation has passed, and God's Providence, all declare that absolute justice must be done to all men, and do point unerringly to the duty of lifting as speedily as possible, those whom God has made free, to the rights of citizenship before the law.

Resolved, That to the soldiers of the Union, to whose valor and endurance under God we owe the triumph and peace of to-day, we return our grateful acknowledgements, and pray that God would crown them with the richest blessings of his grace.

Resolved, That to the great multitude of the bereaved, whose loved ones have fallen by disease and exposure, by the arms and in the prisons of the enemy, we bring our sympathy, too deep for words; and the memory of their dead we will hallow, and hold them in everlasting remembrance.

Resolved, That the Synod would record its grateful thanks to the Great Head of the Church that He has so largely preserved the lives of our young men who went forth to do battle for their country, and that He has returned them, in so many instances, with piety only deepened by the experiences of camp and field; that He has blessed our churches with revivals of religion and with such harmony and general prosperity, that the close of the war finds us with more evidences of vigorous life than ever before.

To these resolutions another was subsequently added, by unanimous vote, as follows:—

Resolved, That Synod expresses its hearty approbation of the sentiment repeatedly uttered by our Chief Magistrate, that treason is one of the highest crimes known among men, and, as such, must be punished, and its confidence, accompanied by its prayers to God, that his future action will be in accordance with this sentiment.