## American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1866.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(Continued from the Second Page.) FIFTH DAY.

TUESDAY, May 22.

The hour of morning devotion was appropriated to prayer, with accompanying remarks, for the Divine blessing upon Foreign

On resuming business, the Assembly received the reports from its delegates to the various bodies with which it has fraternal

correspondence. Dr. Adams, delegate to the New Hampshire Association of Congregational Ministers, forwarded a communication, which was read by the Clerk, stating that in his visit he had found many who were among his earliest and best friends. The New Hampshire pastors of the Congregational churches were generally men of culture, of generous spirit, and ardent in their piety. Dartmouth College, which, although not sectarian in its character, was mainly under the Congregational care, was in a prosperous condition. There was a desire on the part of all the ministerial laborers to reciprocate a friendly feeling, and to cultivate fraternal relations. Their churches had been visited by revivals during the past year, and one of the most encouraging features of these New Hampshire churches is the fact that many of the young men leave their farms to study for the ministry, and when prepared for the work, appeared in the Eastern and Middle States, and in all the large cities of the Union, as well as in missionary fields, and were found to be among the most eminent and efficient workers of the Church.

Rev. Daniel March, delegate to the General Association of Massachusetts, reported that he had presented the Christian salutations of the Assembly to the Association of Massachusetts, on the 27th of June last, and was received with tokens and expressions of Christian cordiality, and that he had appropriately declared the eminent and distinctive doctrines of the Church in carrying forward every department of Christian work, and especially with reference to putting forth renewed efforts to promote unity of the churches, and the evangelization of our whole country, and that to such sentiments the Moderator replied in terms of cordial sympathy. He, as a delegate, was charged to say that the only rivalry which they would attempt with us should be to see whether Presbyterianism or Congregationalism could do most for the good of our common country

and for the glory of our Lord. Dr. Nelson, delegate to the O. S. Assembly, reported as follows:

St. Louis, May 22, 1866. To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, sitting in the First Presbyterian Church, St. Louis:

BELOVED BRETHREN: I have the honor year, to convey to that body the fraternal

salutations of our own.
I was received by the Moderator of that I was received by the Moderator of that body, Rev. Dr. Stanton, with a degree of the way.

'As the General Assembly of the Free way.

'As the General Assembly of the Free course to personally and officially. I was abundantly satisfied by the reception accorded to me, and am sure that the published report of Dr. Stanton's address will abundantly satisfy all my constituents.

I need not speak of the delightful meeting of the two Assemblies, on a subsequent evening, to the members of this Assembly who were present, but may be permitted most thankfully to say that it seemed to me that the clock of Presbyterian history then struck, ringing in a new era of peace and love.

Most respectfully, H. A. NELSON. Rev. Henry F. Ray, delegate from the General Convention of Vermont, was then presented to the Assembly. He came as bearer of salutations of the Convention, a body numbering about 200 churches, and some 17,000 communicants. They were with us in membership in the great Calvinistic family; with us in the activity of the missionary spirit, and had given to our Church men not a few, some of them highly eminent—Prof. Shedd, for example. There is," said he, one more bond between us which I believe must ever unite us, and that is represented by the symbol above your own seat. love you, brethren, because you have set forth unmistakably your spririt as the spirit of liberty, as the spirit of freedom, as a lawabiding and government-loving Church, and could we of the free Green Mountain air do else than love the body planting itself on the Declaration which we have heard from you for the last lew years? We must love you. We hope to claim your regard in the future. We bid you, as a Church-reforming, intelligent body, go forth, occupy as Providence shall open to you —we never will envy—we never will try to supplant you; if we can only labor with you, we will almost be content to follow after you, if God will speed you in the great work which devolves upon you. The Moderator responded to the address in pleasant and suitable terms.

The Stated Clerk then stated the contents of a letter from Rev. Federick Monod, with regard to the union of the Evangelical Churches of France, from which it appeared that the time of meeting had been changed to step had been taken toward the separation between the Evangelistic and the Liberal parties in the Established Protestant Churches. The meetings had lost their pastoral and Christian character, and had changed into exciting and unprofitable discussions. They had pronounced their own dissolution by a vote of 162 to 50, after which a new conference was immediately organized. The letter, after reference to national affairs, closed with the following sentiment: "God grant you all, beginning with the President and Congress, the wisdom which is first pure, then peaceful, justice to all, charity to all and malice to none, such as your glorious

Lincoln practiced." CORRESPONDENCE WITH SCOTLAND.

The chief interest of the morning was centred in the reception of Prof. McCosh, and the opening of a correspondence with Church from which he came—the Free Church of Scotland. The proceedings began with the reading of the following letter from the General Assembly of that Church. "To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, N. S.:

"DEAR CHRISTIAN BRETHREN: We take invited to address the Assembly. advantage of the meeting of our General Assembly at present convened, to greet you cordially in the name of the Lord. We feel constrained to do so in consequence of the singularly momentous character of recent tion and respect, and greeted with frequent events in your country, and of their mighty applause. He explained that he did not influence on your respective churches. It come officially as a delegate from any church, influence on your respective churches. may be premature to say much, as the echoes of war have scarce yet died away, and the future may be, in other ways, as eventful as

of what falls already within the province of had taken part with this great na' ion in its

these four years of conflict; but, without

anticipating Providence, we have a plain

country by terrible things in righteousness. | clared his attachment to the cause, and had The ploughshare of war has gone deep into the never for a moment doubted of our success. soul of your people. You have been long familiar with scenes of bloodshed, such as the world never saw before, and we pray God, if consistent with his holy will, it may never witness again. But, even in this respect, good has come out of evil; for the agony and ruin of war have opened up to you many new fields of Christian philanthropy. We refer in particular to the work of your 'Christian Commission,' with its rich provision for the temporal and spiritual wants of your soldiers and sailors; and we hope that all churches shall profit by this noble exhibition of Christian love in a singularly arduous and self-sacri-

ficing sphere of labor.
"We have special pleasure in referring to the sympathy lately awakened on behalf of America among all classes in Britain, by the assassination of your great and good President; and we adore the Most High, who has thus turned one of the blackest crimes of our | it proceeded from genuine and loving hearts, age into a means of softening down asperities and because he regarded it as a declaration of of feeling, of correcting grave misunderstandings, of fusing the hearts of nations in love, above all, of calling forth in full measure the prayers of Christ's people on this side of the ral body of them will receive it with joy.

Atlantic on behalf of your sorely-stricken He declared that America and Great Britain land. We rejoice that your country is to have rest from war, and that the restoration of peace is to be followed by the abolition of slavery. No words could better express our views than those of your lamented President, written in April. 1864: 'I claim not to have controlled events, but confees plainly that events have controlled me. Now, at the end of three years' struggle, the nation's condition is not what either party or any man devised or expected. God alone can claim it. Whither it is tending seems plain. If God now wills the removal of a great wrong, and wills also that we of the North, as well as you of the South, shall pay fairly for our complicity in that wrong, impartial history will find therein new causes to attest and revere the justice and goodness of God.' The divergence of sentiment and action formerly existing vigor and liberality, and to which the church between you and us as to this question thus ceases, and we give the glory to Him, who s righteous in all His ways and holy in all His works. As there is really nothing now to prevent a complete and cordial understanding between the British and the American Churches, we take the earliest possible opportunity of giving utterance to this convicion and desire of our hearts. Our prayers shall rise with yours to the throne of grace in anxious to be in some way officially connected asking for your rulers and your people all with the Presbyterian bodies in this country, heavenly wisdom in dealing with one of the by having delegates reciprocally accredited to weightiest social problems ever presented to the General Assemblies, who might have a any country for solution. We shall watch voice on the more important questions of with the liveliest interest the future history general interest to the church. of the negro race within your borders; and you have our best wishes for the success of to judge you harshly or unadvisedly. But, it is right and proper that we should encour age you by our British experience—for the abolition of slavery in our West India Islands removed, a great stumbling-block out of our path—it led to a marked quickening of the public conscience—it gave our country a far and pleasure to report that I have presented to the General Assembly sitting in the Second Church the commission with which I was with fullness and sincerity the Gospel of salhonored by our General Assembly of last vation through Him, who came to undo the heavy burdens and to break every yoke. have no doubt that your churches will be ready to follow where Providence now points

Church of Scotland, we have every cause to reciprocate sentiments of brotherly kindness must all feel the necessity for closer fellowship between churches that have a common language, a common ancestry, a common faith. Presbyterianism would thereby become vastly more influential for good. It would bulk more largely in the eye of Christendom and its Home Missionary Committee. every section of our ecclesiastical commoncasional visits of accredited deputies from your churches to us, and from us to you. We have much to learn from your varied schemes of Christian usefulness in dealing with a state of society so different from ours and we know from the testimony of Dr. Duff and many others that in the field of heathenism there are no missionaries of more truly apostolic spirit than those sent forth by the churches of America. You on your part might also find it not unprofitable to study the working of Presbyterianism in Scotland, fragrant as our beloved country is with the memories of the martyrs, and earnestly contending, as it still does, for the faith once delivered to the saints. We must not forget, however, that there are other churches beyond the circle of Presbyterians, with which we desire to cultivate a spirit of concord, and from the field of whose experience we seek to gather like precious fruit. Let us provoke one another to love and to good works. Let us strive, as in the fire, to prevent at any subsequent time the possibility of estrangement between our respective nations. Let us pray that the same blessed Spirit, poured down so largely on your land during the period of your revival, may become the living bond of unity and peace between us. And let us ever realize the solemn fact that, humanly speaking the Christian interests of the world

hang mainly on the efforts put forth by Christ's people in Great Britain and America. "And now, dear brethren, we beseech the God of all grace to overrule these shakings of October 25th, 1866; a new and important the nations for the upbuilding of that kingdom which cannot be moved; and we affectionately commend you to Him who will give strength to His people, and who will bless His people with peace. For of Him, and

through Him, and to Him, are all thingsto whom be glory forever and ever. Amen Signed in name and by authority of the Free Church of Scotland, at Edinburgh, the thirtieth day of May, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, by James Begg, D.D., Moderator of the General Assembly of

the Free Church of Scotland.' Dr. Hatfield moved that this communica tion be accepted, and that a reponse be pre pared by a committee appointed by the Moderator, to be sent to the Free Church of Scotland, and that this communication be printed in the appendix to the minutes of

this Assembly. Adopted.
Dr. Hatfield then read a communication signed by Rev. Robert Buchanan, D.D., Rev. James Begg, D.D., H. Wellwood Moncrieff, and others of the Free Church of Scotland, introducing to American Christians Rev. Dr. McCosh, of Belfast, Ireland. Dr. Hatfield stated that James McCosh, LL.D., was pre-sent, and on his motion Dr. McCosh was

The Assembly rose to receive Dr. McCosh as he ascended the platform. His address was marked with deep feeling and earnestness, and was listened to with profound attenbut, wearied with his writing and his class es, having visited repeatedly the Continent, and not feeling inclined to go there again, he felt a longing to spend his vacation in visitin g some new country, that he might have a glimpse Christian duty to discharge, in consequence of the future that is before the world. history.

God has assuredly been speaking to your both as an author and speaker, he had de-Washtenaw Presbyteries.

He was anxious to see the country engaged in the great work of reconstruction, Such were the motives which induced him to come to this country; but when it became known among his friends that he was about to proceed to the United States, he received communication after communication, asking that he might accomplish another end. The Evangelical Alliance had a meeting for the special purpose, and enjoined upon him to say to American Christians how much it was desired, on account of that Alliance, that the American and British churches should be brought into a more thorough understanding and unity. His friends forwarded to him the letter which had been read. He had been received by the two bodies that have met in this place in a way altogether disproportionate to his position as an individual, but nevertheless accepted it all because he knew respectful feeling towards the British churches. He would take care to repeat this to the British churches, and he knew the gene were bound together by strong bands-were one in race, one in liberty, and one in the love of education, and especially and above all, one in believing in one God and one Saviour that the Presbyterians in both countries were one in faith, discipline, and polity generally. He referred to the troubles of the Church in Scotland, and to some facts in his own history, illustrating what the churches in Great the Assembly Britain had to contend with, and passed to in Congress. the present condition of the churches. The Free Church of Scotland, though not a nu merous body, had contributed for the year ending May 1st, 1865, the sum of £350,000 for the support of the Gospel; had set going a general sustaining fund for poor congregations, a benevolence instituted by Dr. Chal-mers, which had been carried on with great years ending May, 1865, £180,000, and for 22 hands of the Board, subject to the call of the february part in the state of things that looked to the state of the churches of like faith and government, not only in the United Kingdom, but in the Colonies, and the speaker took the opportunity to say that the British churches were most

The Moderator replied in a few words, say ing that at the present he would not attempt every scheme bearing on their temporal or spiritual welfare. We are by no means for McCosh, but on behalf of the General Assemgetful of our former share of national guilt as bly he welcomed him among us, and hoped to negro slavery, and it would ill become us he would remain during the session of the

General Assembly. The suggestion of Dr. McCosh on the subject of an exchange of delegates, was referred to the Committee (Rev. Dr. H. B. Smith, chairman) having in charge the answer to the letter from the Free Church.

The remainder of the morning, and the entire afternoon, were taken up with the report of the Standing Committee (see yester-day's proceedings) on Church Erection. Ruling Elder Scarritt, of the Presbytery

of St. Louis, moved to reconsider the action of the Assembly whereby it voted to accept the report of the committee, and to go into bled under the shock of war. We have passed its consideration article by article, and stated through financial embarrassments and borne that he did so for the purpose of moving the actruggle which has cost our adoption of the following plan: adoption of the following plan:

1. To repeal, as to the guidance and conand charity toward members of the same trol of the future operations of the commit-Presbyterian family with ourselves. We tee, all present laws or instructions of the

2. That this committee be the channel through which our denomination may do its work of church erection as fully and finally as it does its home missionary work through ts Home Missionary Committee.

3. That this committee may freely loan and that this committee may freely loan and Churches needing assistance have been advised.

partaking of the heritage of truth and grace common to all. We beg to add that the churches, making its own rules, only limited greatest advantage would follow from the oc- as follows: as follows: First, It shall execute its duties, both in

obligations of its charter.

Second, It shall not reduce the fund by donations to a less amount than \$100,000.

Third, It shall not loan or donate to any one church an aggregate sum of more than

Fourth, That it shall not charge interest on loans until from and after the maturity of the

Fifth, That loans shall not be for a longer term than five years, reasonably secured on real estate.

4. That this Assembly appoint a secretary or agent, who shall be to this work what Dr. Kendall is to the Home Missionary work. Mr. Scarritt addressed the Assembly at ength in regard to the management of the

fund, claiming that the existing plan looked more to the continuance and reservation of the fund than to the building of churches, and illustrating the need of a change in the plan of administering the fund by reference to the congregation of Webster Grove. Was opposed to the adoption of the report of the ommittee, because it wouldn't build the churches. Dr. Humphrey stated that the committee,

in framing the report and recommendation, was in full sympathy with the last speaker in' the desire to make the utmost amount of money available for the erection of churches, and claimed that those who were in the cities could understand the start of the case as well as those in the country, for they were coninually receiving applications for assistance which press upon then; the necessity which he has urged to day, and it certainly is their desire to relieve the people from these insessant calls, though they would be willing that they should give more than they have been accustomed to give in a desultory way. It had been the desire of the committee throughout to propose and bring forward to the Assembly such a plan as would secure the largest possible amount for the churches, and on such terms as would be most favorable to them. He stated that the plan placed no restriction upon the trustees in loaning any amount whatever to any church, if they considered in their judgments as business men that the church could afford to give good security for the money. He explained at length the difficulties that arose from churches contracting loans, both as it regarded the

churches themselves and the fund. Dr. Clarke opposed the plan as recom-mended by the committee. He claimed that this \$100,000 should, in the shortest possible time, be put into the form of churches, and not continued in the form of a fund; that the churches of the East would respond to all calls, when once this amount was exhausted: that of the \$5000 proposed to be experided each year, Missouri would receive two and a half per cent, and asked what kind of provision that was for church erection in this great State? Proposed that the whole amount should be loaned out to churches in average sums of \$1000 for ten years, which would build at least eighty churches within the next year, and, as the yearly installments became due, and were paid, it would build eight churches each year thereafter.

The report was advocated by Judge Williams, of Pittsburgh, and opposed by Mr. Hebard, of Iowa City, and Mr. Tindall, of

to the fact that, by the terms of the plan, no change could be made in it except by the vote of two-thirds of all the members on the roll of the General Assembly. One of the most able committees which our body can except here.

Assembly, or their corporate existence shall cease or their house of worship be alienated, forming the roll of the general and the cease or their house of worship be alienated, except for the building or purchase of a better furnish, including two eminent jurists, have been employed three days on the subject, and have recommended the utmost enlargement The of liberality in the disbursement of the fund which they believe the law, or the purpose of its founders will allow. Under these circumstances there is no hope of getting the requi-site vote in favor of any other plan, and after a day or two, it cannot be secured even for this, as there will not be left here two-thirds of all upon our roll. We must pass this, and do it soon, or go back to the old

The debate was here arrested by the hour of\_adjournment. The Moderator appointed the following as the Committee of Arrangements, for the next General Assembly:

Rev. J. B. Shaw, D.D. Rev. J. W. Camp bell, Rev. C. P. Bush, and Louis Chapin.

## SIXTH DAY.

WEDNESDAY, May 23.

Morning Session. Great interest was excited in the morning prayer-meeting by requests from three differen parents, each for a son in course of education that he might be graciously prepared for, and inclined toward, the ministry of the Gospel also the request of an aged father, a member of the Assembly, for the conversion of a son now

Report of the Standing Committee of the General Assembly, of 1866, on Church Erection By the tweltth annual report of the Trustees of the Assembly's Church Erection Fund, it is painfully apparent that this fund is but imperfectly accomplishing its original design. The amount of the fund in 1856 was \$100,000. Now, after ten years' use, it has increased to \$127 the receipts from the churches, on account of loans, donations, and interest, have been over \$7,000, which added to the interest accruing on the fund itself—nearly \$5,000—constitute an actual increase of the unemployed fund, after deducting expenses, &c., of about \$7,000.

The reason of this is not that the aid which in the affactory of the constitution of the second of the constitution of

might be afforded by this fund is undesired. The more wealthy churches in all our large centres have been besigged with applications for assistance in church building, as pertina ciously as if there was no fund for that purpose in existence. Large amounts have been given n answer to such appeals by the very churches which originally contributed to the now ne glected treasury, from which it was expected all feeble churches would draw. So pressing, in fact, have been the applications, that it is manifest that the whole fund, if accessible on terms favorable to the churches, would soon be

completely absorbed. The reason of such neglect must be looked for in the practical working of the plan on which the fund has been administered. The olan was most carefully devised. It embodied the wisdom of some of the most eminent men in our Church. For the period when it was adopted it was most excellent. But since its adoption a great change has taken place in our position and circumstances. The last ten years have been revolutionary. The nation has tremincurred for the erection of houses of worship have become burdensome. The churches have in many instances been depressed by the very means through which to gain strength. Obligations to the General Assembly have often been borne, under the disadvantage of contrasts drawn between the policy, upon which our plan of church erection, and that of some of our sis-

bear and so difficult to pay

First, It shall execute its duties, both in respect to its present and future funds, in enormously increased that \$200 form but a conformity with the spirit of its trust and the comparatively insignificant item in the expense of constructing an ordinary house of worshipworth applying for, indeed, but not desired under the conditions upon which it was to be obtained.

There is, therefore, an imperative call for a modification of the plan of administering our church erection fund, and this call becomes the more imperative when we consider that the which had proved a failure. By the operation rapid extension of the lines of traffic has made cities of villages, and villages of hamlets. Where, ten years since, it was supposed a few hundred dollars would suffice for the wants of a fund. Again, if the Assembly by a unanithe people, as many thousand dollars are now found to be insufficient. An almost unanticipated necessity has arisen to establish churches at key-points, and to provide them with commodious and attractive sanctuaries. The spirit of the times has changed. A new impulse, felt by all denominations, has been given to domestic missions. Looking toward the glowng future of our country, we are incited to new exertions for its evangelization. Among he ruling ideas of the day this is prominentthat to provide a church edifice is almost as important as to provide a missionary, and that the work of church erection must be carried forward upon the same enlarged and liberal scale which is adopted for the support of ministers of the Gospel. Were the idea a false one, to resist it would be like stemming the currents of the Mississippi in a flood; but your Commitee believe it to involve a true principle, though it, like all other running ideas, is liable to unnatural freshets.

This Assembly has assumed the work of domestic missions, as it had not when its church erection fund was established. Then that work vas committed to the American Home Mission-

ary Society.

Now that we have entered this field side by side with our sister denominations, we must carry on our work with an energy and a liber ality like theirs.

In view of these considerations, your Committee believe that could the whole fund be immediately scattered among our feeble churches. in the form of donations, without interest or return of any kind, while the churches aided should remain in our connection, the effect would be most happy. This we believe to be desired by many on the floor of this Assembly. Were such a course possible we should favor t. But a careful examination of the whol case, has brought your Committee to the stubborn conclusion, so often reached by others who have surveyed the same ground, that such a disposition of the fund was rendered impossible by the very terms on which it was collected. It was to be a permanent fund. To destroy its permanency would be a breach of trust which might and which ought to be legally resisted. The legal opinions submitted to the Assembly by the Board of Trustees, place this position seyond reasonable dispute.

The question therefore is, how the mode administering the fund shall be so changed as to make it most useful to the churches. After mature deliberation your Committee recommend the abandonment of the system of loans and the adoption of that of donations upon the following plan, viz.:
1. That the whole of the funds now in the

hands of the Board, together with such receipts as may return in fulfilment of pledges from the churches already aided by loans and donations. and together with whatever may be hereafter contributed to the fund, be securely and per-Manently invested

2. That the accruing interest be annually distributed by the Board on proper conditions

Assembly, or their corporate existence shall cease or their house of worship be alienated, except for the building or purchase of a better

house of worship. As supplementary to this, your Committee recommend that a collection be taken annually by all our churches, to be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Board, to be used by them in the same manner as the accruing interest of the

The necessary amendments of the Assembly's plan, together with all essential details, are submitted herewith. It is believed that in these changes no legal principle is sacrificed and that the utmost practical efficiency in the use of the fund is secured.

Your Committee cannot but regard it as a providential indication of the wisdom of these proposed changes that they have been suggested to several different minds without concert, and that they have been regarded with favor before this by those high in position in our Church, as will be seen by reference to the report of the special committee to whom the whole subject was referred by the Assembly of

Your Committee would also recommend to the Assembly to consider the expediency of appointing a General Secretary of the Board, whose duty it shall be to discharge the functions in this Board which are discharged in the Committee of Home Missions by its Secretary.

It becomes our duty to nominate three Trustees to fill the places of Rev. J. Few Smith, D.D., Rev. Samuel D. Burchard, D.D., and William A. Booth, Esq., whose term of office is soon to expire. We cordially recommend A few overtures have been referred to the committee upon the consideration of the legislature of the State of New York for that the same gentlemen be reappointed. committee upon the consideration of which we ask further

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Z. M. Humphrey, Chairman.

Sr. Louis, May 21, 1866. Rev. Van Nest called for a division of the eport in relation to the supplementary clause

of the report, which was not agreed to. Rev. Wm. Niles deprecated the slighting allusion which had been made to the fund yes terday. It had cost much sacrifice and great labor, and was the result of large benevolence, and had done much for the prosperity of the Church. It was a noble fund in its origin, and had been nobly administered upon the principles on which it was established. Although he believed that it was a fund which should be given away, yet they met with this particular difficulty—it was a permanent fund and could only be loaned. The plans of other churches in the land were but the result of this fund, and they had followed in the course pursued by this branch of the church, although in a somewhat different way. The fund since its commence-ment had aided many churches, and done much good. It was collected at great sacrifice. Churches had given to it with the earnest desire which characterized the Church of Christ-

what it was desired to accomplish. Circum- do this but you may be met by injunctions from stances have changed, and it is desirable that a | the courts of every State in the Union, because great deal more money should be expended by there are donations from every State in the our churches in building sanctuaries. Now, the question is, what will you do with this fand? The abjections to the plan are three-fold. First, there was the old idea of loan—it was all loan and no gift-and was becoming more distasteful to many of the churches. Another objection was the smallness of the gift, donation or loan. This, he was glad to say, the committee proposed to modify, but, after all, it resolved

itself into that one great objection, that of a loan. The committee had three distinct propositions before them. First, to give the whole fund away, but distinguished legal talent had been consulted and had said this could not be done. One said it could be done; a second said it could be done; a third said if it was given away the trustees would be liable for the fund, and applications would be made before the Courts for an injunction; so, no matter how much the Assembly might desire to give the whole fund away, they could not do it. The wealth would get enlargement of heart by donate its funds for the erection of churches in some cases, by Synodical or Presbyterial heart by donate its funds for the erection of churches in some cases, by Synodical or Presbyterial heart by donate its funds for the erection of churches in some cases, by Synodical or Presbyterial heart by donate its funds for the erection of churches in some cases, by Synodical or Presbyterial heart by donate its funds for the erection of churches in some cases, by Synodical or Presbyterial heart by donate its funds for the erection of churches in some cases, by Synodical or Presbyterial heart by donate its funds for the erection of churches in some cases, by Synodical or Presbyterial heart by donate its funds for the erection of churches in some cases, by Synodical or Presbyterial heart by donate its funds for the erection of churches in some cases, by Synodical or Presbyterial heart by donate its funds for the erection of churches in some cases, by Synodical or Presbyterial heart by donate its funds for the erection of churches in some cases, by Synodical or Presbyterial heart by donate its funds for the erection of churches in some cases, by Synodical or Presbyterial heart by donate its funds for the erection of churches in some cases, by Synodical or Presbyterial heart by donate its funds for the erection of churches in some cases, by Synodical or Presbyterial heart by donate its funds for the erection of churches in some cases, by Synodical or Presbyterial heart by donate its funds for the erection of churches in some cases, by Synodical or Presbyterial heart by donate its funds for the erection of churches in some cases, by Synodical or Presbyterial heart by donate its funds for the erection of churches in some cases, by Synodical or Presbyterial heart by donate its funds for the erection of churches in some cases, by Synodical or Presbyterial heart by donate its funds for the erection of churches in some cases, by Synodical or Presbyterial heart by the erection of churches but still this was a system of loaning on an en-larged scale. Many churches would not touch it no matter how large the amount, if they were obliged to give security for its return. A gen-tleman in the Synod of Missouri said, they had come to the conclusion that what they gave should be given as a gift. There was loud and long call for a radical change in the plan, and it would not benefit the Western churches unless there was a radical change. By the operaation of the old plan, churches were estranged instead of their hearts being drawn towards us, of the plan, there was presented the spectacle of the whole church selling one of its own individual churches for the purpose of keeping up mous vote agreed to lend all of the \$100,000 to the churches, they could not do it for they were restrained by the Courts. The plan proposed was simply a plan of giving, and he was in favor of giving all that the law would let us give, and churches should not expect to receive any more than the law would let us give. I therefore come back upon the plan of the committee to give away the interest on the \$100,000. I some individual was to rise up and give us the interest on \$100,000, how many would rise up in their places and thank him for doing so? Now this is the money of the church. Let us not divide it up into 2½ per cent. for the Synod of Missouri, for the Board can, if they see fit, give it to any one of the churches in Missouri. The Synods of New York and Pennsylvania do not want their money, but the old plan or any enlargement of the old plan is a failure.

The only practical alternative is to give away all that we have a right to give, and not to loan t, and this interest on this \$100,000 is all that can be given away without going into a legal contest, which would perhaps, cost us a great deal more than the interest. We have now a deal more than the interest. We have now a nest egg of say \$8000 to \$10,000 to begin with.

Dr. Humphreys stated that there was about

\$1000 not yet paid into the permanent fund, which might be appropriated in this way. Dr. Parsons inquired whether it was not cometent to loan the whole fund of \$100,000 or \$127,000 upon terms of \$500 or \$200 to each

church Mr. Moderator-Only in accordance with the

olan.

Mr. Niles-We cannot donate or loan more than one fourth of it at one time, which is, according to the meaning of the plan, a loan in I propose to give away what we can reality. legally give, whether it is one cent or \$10,000. So far as the principle is concerned it is essential for carrying on our enterprise and for the sacred interest of the Church of Christ, if we wish to keep pace with other churches. It is of vast importance that this fund be supplemented. When we send our missionaries out, we must send them money enough to build churches, and we must appoint a secretary to go to the churches, and plead with them to raise money to assist these men in raising churches, an way, we shall have a mighty fund increasing with the necessity of the case. When this fund is exhausted, then will come in applications in distressing language, asking that aid may be afforded, and then will be the opportunity for the secretary to go before the churches with these twenty-five applications written in this distressing language, and say to them, we want money to build these churches, and we want you to give us \$40,000 or \$50,000 or a \$100,000 to assist these feeble churches of this land in building a house of worship, and I tell you the churches will give it until we shall have five millions of money, the interest of which shall be expended in building churches. The Methodists, Old School Presbyterians and Congre-

Hon. John A. Foot, in few words, referred ling therefor, in the form of donations without | sible for us to accomplish it. If you do not adopt the plan proposed there will be nothing done for another year-no churches built and no applications for money, and if there was, they probably would not be granted.

Hon. John A. Foot-I move that at half-pass 11 o'clock the Assembly proceed to take a vote

ipon the report of the committee. The motion was agreed to. Dr. Knox—I move that all speeches up to that time be limited to five minutes.

The motion of Dr. Knox was also agreed to

Mr. Van Nest offered the following substi-1st, Resolved, That the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, sitting in the First Presbyterian Church of St. Louis, in May,

1866, do hereby enjoin upon the Presbyteries under its care, or within its jurisdiction, at their first meeting respectively after this injunction shall reach them, to answer the following inquiry: Shall the General Assembly make ap-plication to the Legislature of the State of New York for a repeal or such a modification of the charter of the church erection fund as that the fund can be donated to the feeble churches belonging to it, without bond or mortgage, for the purpose of erecting houses of worship, on the express condition that, as soon as in the Providence of God they are able to do so, they shall return it to the treasury of the church for a similar use in other cases.

2d. Resolved, That the General Assembly, at this session, appoint a committee, to be located in New York, with the Stated Clerk of the Assembly as its chairman, whose duty it shall be, as soon as it is practicable, after three fourths of the Presbyteries belonging to this Assembly shall officially notify the Stated Clerk of the Assambly that they respectively have affirmatively replied to the above injunction of the

aforesaid purpose-3d. Resolved, That the above committee shall report to the General Assembly, to meet at the Brick Church in the city of Rochester, on the third Thursday of May, 1867.

Judge Williams inquired whether a substitute was in order at this time when the Assembly had agreed to take a vote at a certain time.

Mr. Moderator—A motion to substitute is in

order at any time.

Judge Allison—The substitute is wholly impracticable. The General Assembly, the Presbyteries, or the State of New York through its Legislature has no power to touch that fund or to divert it from the purpose for which it was created. If the Legislature of the State of New York was to pass a law it would be of no effect, because it would impair a trust for a

Mr. Van Nest—My object was to bring it be-fore the courts, for we will never get through it untill it is legally decided.

Dr. Clark—I rise to a point of order. The substitute proposes to do what is unlawful or impossible. It is therefore certainly out of

Mr. Benedict—The only point is that of trust. You accepted the trust, and the trust still resire which characterized the Church of Christ—
not only the churches that were wealthy but the
churches that were in poverty. This fund of
\$100,000 was a good thing to have about, and if
we desired to make some arrangement one of
these days it would be a very good asset to put
in; but after all the fund is not accomplishing
whet it was desired to accomplish Circum.

The act as passed by the Legislature of New York only gave legal existence to the Board of Trustees, and you are still bound to protect that trust, and never to give a dollar away excent under the seventh section or resolution as published in the digest, which provides for the manner in which the money shall be distributed.

Dr. Clarke suggested that the resolutions be

Mr. Benedict then read the resolutions found in the digest as part of the proceedings of the General Assembly of 1853. The seventh resolution which governs the

distribution of funds, is as follows: Resolved, Each Synod, through its Commit-tee on Church Erection, of which the Stated Clerk of the Synod shall be ex officio Secretary, shall draw on the Church Erection Committee for such portion of the fund as has been alloted to it, in such sums as it shall, from time to time, loan or donate to particular within its boulds. But no draft shall be made for any ortion of the fund alloted the money is loaned each particular loan shall have been definitely agreed upon, and sufficient security in bond and mortgage or personal note shall have been duly executed and placed in the hands of Stated Clerk of said Synod, who shall with his draft transmit a statement of the loan thus made, and the security taken; nor shall any draft be made until such accompanyng statement, satisfactory to the committee

shall have been received;

\*Provided. That the Church Extension Committee of each Synod, when in their estimation the circumstances of the case demand it, may also donate to feeble churches within their bounds, or remit on previous loans, such sums as they shall judge proper; not to exceed, however in the aggregate, a sum equal to one fourth part of that amount appropriated to said Synod for the current year. And the Church Erection Committee shall pay the drafts for such donations in the same manner as for the loans above authorized. All moneys thus donated or remitted to be secured on the house, in case of a change in the ecclesiastical relations

of the church thus aided. Provided further, That all churches to whom moneys are thus donated or remitted shall take an annual collection in behalf of the church erection fund, at least until they shall have thus repayed the amount which was granted them. No interest shall ever be demanded for any moneys loaned to congregations from this fund until by the terms of the loan, the principal has become due.

The vote was taken on Mr. Van Nest's substitute, and it was declared lost. Rev. Mr. Fowler-The West are interested n this matter, and it is the best thing we can do to adopt the report of the committee. The committee looked into this matter considerately and dispassionately, let us therefore respond to their judgment. If we can only give away the interest let us do that, and then rally around the the next proposition which is to raise \$50,000, or \$100,000, if they ask it. My brother says ne cannot go to the rich men of his congregation for money when we have a fund on hand.

housands of dollars are given away every year for this purpose.

Dr. Clarke offered the following amendment to article 14 of the report of the permanent committee:

The Tract Society had a fund of \$180,000, yet

The Board shall not in any case loan or do-nate any portion of the fund to any congregation, unless such congregation own, simple and free from all legal incumbrance, the lot on which their house of worship is situated, or on which they propose to build; nor shall any loan or donation be made for the payment of any debt, except that which may have been contracted within one year previous

n erecting a house of worship. The amount loaned to any congregation shall never be more than one third of the amount contributed for the house and lot, nor shall the amount given to any congregation exceed onefourth of the amount contributed for their house and lot; nor shall such a loan and donation be made to the same congregation. The lonations within the boundaries of any Synod shall never be more than one-fourth of the

amount appropriated to that Synod. Judge Allison approved the report. He desired to say to the churches we will give you what we can, but we don't want to put you under bonds. We don't want to encourage you to build houses of worship and then, if you can't pay back the money loaned you, to send the sheriff to sell your house. We don't want to sacrifice the child we have nourished in that way, or to present the spectacle to other churches that a particular church is a repudi-2. That the accruing interest be annually distributed by the Board on proper conditions and in proper proportions, to churches applyit will accomplish the work as well as it is posTrustees did their duty and were faithful to