American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1866.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(Continued from Page 178.)

Rev. George O. Little believed the way to have books read was to circulate them by means of colporteurs. They had employed a colporteur in the Wabash Synod, guaranteeing him \$500, and thinking that they would have to contribute \$250 of that amount. He commenced on the first of January, and has now more than paid all his expenses.

Dr. Hatfield informed the Assembly that Dr. Gurley and Judge Clark were present with the Assembly as commissioners from the Assembly in session in the Second Presbyterian Church, and moved that they be received

at one quarter after eleven o'clock. Carried.
Rev. Mr. Bradford considered the Presbyte rian Monthly the most valuable of all the publications, and urged its extensive circulation. Stated that all the publications of the committee could be obtained at No. 9 North Sixth street, in St. Louis, at Mr. McIntire's.

Dr. Parsons bore witness to the avidity with which these books were read in his

congregation, and to the manifestly good results growing out of their circulation.

Dr. Clarke stated that, having found in Buffalo that the books of the committee were too far off, they had already raised \$1200

toward a fund to found a depository among themselves. Thought if this were done gen-erally in the Presbyteries the books would be more within the reach of the people.

Rev. Mr. Griffes said they had commenced the work in Tennessee; had an experienced

colporteur in the field there.

Rev. Mr. Ransom, of Michigan, spoke of the great need existing in the Home Missionary Churches for these publications; the congregations on the border were mixed congregations of different denominations, and several denominations were striving to get a foothold among them. Many of the preachers with whom they were brought in contact were without education, or without that eduation which Presbyterians consider necessary; they come and go, and many of them present their views and doctrines with a degree of plausibility which is attractive, and often gain very much by misrepresenting the views and doctrines of the Presbyterians. Could they have a full supply of tracts and publications of the committee, they would be a great help in the work. The influence of the Presbyterian Monthly was very much needed there. Attributed the difficulty in getting contributions from the people to a lack of intelligence among them in regard to these great interests.

Dr. Parkervalluded to a publication of the

committee, "Bowen's Daily Meditations," as being the best book for family devotions that he was acquainted with, and urged the necessity of religious German papers and periodicals; considered the use of tracts very advantageous in meeting points of doctrine raised from time to time by other denomina-

Mr. Rhodes had been very successful as a colporteur, though he had entered upon the work feeling himself unfitted for it; heard a great many inquiries for German books from those who said their children could read English but they could not.

The report of the committee was adopted. The Rev. Dr. P. D. Gurley and Hon. . Clark, Commissioners from the Old School Assembly then appeared upon the platform, and Dr. Gurley addressed the Assembly as follows:

SPEECH OF DR. GURLEY.

Mr. Moderator, and Members of the General Assembly: The Hon. Mr. Clark and myself are here by appointment of the Assembly which holds its session in the Second Presbyterian Church in this city, to convey to you the fraternal salutations of that body; and this we do with all earnestness and sincerity. It is not a mere matter of courtesy and form. I think I can say it is an utter ance of the heart. We recognize you as our brethren in the Lord—bought with the same blood-renewed with the same Spirit-servants of the same Master—engaged in the there are obstacles in the way, let us endeavor same work, and going with us to the same to ascertain what they are, and to study the vants of the same Master-engaged in the Heavenly Home, and therefore, with all our means by which they can be removed. hearts, we can say, "The Lord bless you and I may speak of facts, I trust, without the can be removed. give you peace.'

We have heard of your growth—of your steady advancement in strength and influence also—he would say, "I hear that there are divisions among you," and I believe it fully. rests connected with His glory, and especially of recent and copious outpourings of the Holy Spirit upon your churches; and as we have heard these things, we have been ready as merely theoretical, for if we should so reto say with blended joy and gratitude, "The gard it, we should dishonor a high precept. Lord hath done great things with you, My friends, I remember that a worthy puriwhereof we are glad." May He continue to tan pastor once said, in his parting injunction revive, and strengthen, and enlarge, and to a portion of his beloved flock, that he was bless you, and make you a blessing to the world—is the steady and earnest prayer of our heart.

I am glad and grateful to be able to sav that during the past year the Lord has not left us without some tokens of His favor. Many of our congregations, schools, academies and colleges have been blessed with His holy Spirit which has been shed down upon them like rain upon the mown grass, and as showers that water the earth, and the result is that hundreds of our dear youth, and others, who a year ago were dead in trespasses and in sins, are now alive unto God, and engaged in his service.

It is the Lord's doings, and marvellous in our eyes. But as you have been similarly blessed in this regard, and perhaps more largely, we may well exclaim, as we stand before you, "O magnify the Lord with us, and let us exalt His name together.

It has been a great pleasure for us to meet you as brethren in this city, to mingle with you in conference and prayer, and to sit down with you at the sacramental table; and when on last Wednesday evening—an evening never to be forgotten—the two Assemblies filled this house, and partook together of the symbols of our Redeemer's death, doubtless we all felt that it was good to be here, and that our little denominational differences and distinctions were all swallowed up and lost in that greatest and best distinction that "One is our Master, even Christ, and we all are

brethren." Yes, we are brethren. We have one Lord, of us all, who is above all, and through all. and in us all; and why then should we not love one another with a pure heart, and fervently? And why should we not bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ? We should, and I believe we do—

"We share our mutual wees, "The mutual burdens bear, And often for each other flows The sympathiaian tear."

Much has been said of late on the subject of our becoming organically one; and why may we not become so at no very distant day? We are both peroughly Presbyterian in doctrine, in gottoment and discipline. Our forms of worship are the same. The means, forms of worship are the same. The means, my friends the angles have heretofore been methods and agencies by which we seek to acute; can we not render them obtuse—can substantially the same; and though, since pears to me, be most desirable.

we became two bands, we have been called by different names, you being designated as New School and we as Old School, yet it is mani-test enough that we have both been educated in the same school—a school where the West-minster Confession of Faith, and the larger and shorter catechisms are the prominent and venerated text books, the teachings of which we adhere to now as setting forth most clearly

and ably what we are to believe concerning God, and what duties God requires of us.

Moreover, recent events have brought us into a closer alliance and fellowship than we have ever felt before. In the years of our country's peril we have rallied together round the dear old flag, and while the conflict was going on, we have sung and prayed together: "The Star Spangled banner—Oh, long may it wave.
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave."

[Applause]. And when, at last, the rebel dag went down, and with it slavery, O! then we lifted our hands and hearts together unto God, and said: "Not unto us, oh Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory, for Thy mercy and Thy truths' sake. Thy right hand and Thy holy arm have gotten Thee the

victory."

These are recent events, and they have brought us into the bonds of a nearer and a

heartfelt fellowship. We know not how you may feel on the subject, but as for ourselves we feel that the time perhaps has now come when some practical step should be taken looking to the securing of an organic unity, and accordingly the General Assembly which I represent, on yesterday, by an almost unanimous vote, adopted the following resolutions, which, with your permission, sir, I will read, and then will leave them, as I am directed to do, upon your table.

Resolved, That this Assembly expresses its fraternal affection for the other branch of the Presbyterian Church, and its earnest desire for the reunion at the earliest time consistent with agreement in doctrine, order and policy, on the basis of our common standards, and the prevalence of mutual confidence and love, which are so necessary to a happy union, and to the permanent peace and prosperity of the united Church.

Resolved, That it be recommended to all our churches, and Church Courts, and to all our ministers, ruling elders and communicants to cherish fraternal feelings, to cultivate Christian intercourse in the worship of God, and in the promotion of the cause of Christ, and to avoid all needless controversies and competitions, adapted to perpetuate division

and strife.

Resolved, That a committee of nine ministers and six ruling elders be appointed, provided that a similar committee shall be ap-pointed by the other Assembly now in session in this city, for the purpose of conferring in regard to the desirability and practicability of reunion, and, if after conference and inquiry, such reunion shall seem to be desirable and practicable, to suggest suitable measures for its accomplishment, and report to the next General Assembly.

And now, sir, having expressed to you our whole mind on this subject, as well as our feelings of fraternal affection toward you, and the Church you represent, it only remains for me to thank you for your courtesy, and to ask, if you please, that you will extend a simi-lar courtesy to my associate, Judge Clark, who is here with me.

SPEECH OF HON. W. CLARK.

Moderator and Brethren: - In the discharge of the humble part which devolves upon me touching the mission with which we are charged to you, what better words or sentiments could I utter, than those which pertain to the reunion of our branches of the Church, and the establishment of fellowship between us? In doing this I shall not subject myself to the charge of arrogance in speaking of the ways and means by which this can be done, nor in saying that this is the time when it can be done. All this will be done by concerted means, at a proper time, but I surely may speak of the desirableness of the con summation, and if the cloud is tinged with light to cheer, I may look at it, and I may ask you to look at it also. And I think I see tnere.

lies anywhere respecting the divisions which have pervaded us, I have to say that the blame is by no means all yours. But if there is fault, let us see wherein it consists. If

I may speak of facts, I trust, without diskeep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and write another letter to the churches, especially to ours—and when I say ours, I mean

> My friends, there is such a thing as the unity The gard it, we should dishonor a high precept, you, My friends, I remember that a worthy puripersuaded there was more truth yet to break forth out of the word of God. This certainly was a clear declaration that there was more for them to learn, and it clearly implied another thing—that there was more of grace to be imbibed; and shall we not heed the injunc-

My friends, it has been said by some that divisions in the house of God were advantageous. For myself, I could never see the force of it. I have to say here now to you, that I do not believe it. It is a poor commentary on the precepts of the Gospel, if the family of Christis to be divided into regments in order that one portion may watch over the other-constitute itself the guardian of the other, so that it do not go astray-to keep it in what it would consider the proper road. I say that this is assuming—it is wrong—it is derogatory to the Gospel and to the Saviour. It is clear to me that divisions in the house of God are not desirable, but prejudicial, and in many important respects. The very name,

where one title is set against another, is disadvantageous, as well as to the condition of society. When one is called by the name of Apollos and the other by the name of Cephas, it implies antagonism, and as a matter of fact, antagonism has been the fruitful result. I do not suppose that members of the Church are in all respects unlike other men. Wherever there are divisions there are, at least to some extent, criticisms, jealousies, and a failure to accomplish that which union would accomplish. Does it not result in the divisions respecting churches and the minisone faith, one baptism, one God and Father try that one might discharge all the work of a single field in many cases were there are two? Does it not work prejudice, these church divisions, as regards our literary and theological institutions? Does it not divide

the resources of the Church, and consequently weaken the cause? To my mind, all this is clear, and we ought, if we possibly can, to remove this objection out of the way; and it seems to me that some concession, and something of an increase of the spirit of charity

promote the cause of our Redeemer and ad- we not swell the obtuse angles into something vance His kingdom in the world, are now like a circle? This would certainly, as it ap-

charged with the chief portion of this mis sion, has alluded to the difficulties, the troubles which have prevailed in our land for the last four or five years, and they have been of a degree never before equalled in this country. They have created divisions, they have caused separations by deep and dark lines—they have divided the Church. Whether these lines shall ever be obliterated; whether the chasm shall close up; whether they shall come together again and he can be shall every shall as the come together again. come together again, and be as aforetime, it is not for me to say; but if the agitations which have divided society have wrought. such results, why should they not come with. some healing results too? If they have wrought divisions, why should they not bring segments together? It seems to me that this is reasonable, and that it may be reasonably expected.

My friends, united we have a glorious mission before us, and united we can accomplish vastly more than we can by being separated as we are now. It is said that large things move slowly. I do not believe that this is always the case; but even if they do, they move with increased momentum, and with surer results. If, then, with a broad guage, and a grand trunk, we can assume that guage, and travel upon that trunk, what may we not expect to do in scattering abroad the blessings of evangelism, in attacking the strongholds of spiritual wickedness in high places, in all their forms, and in all places on earth, whether liberalism, rationalism, deism, or ininfidelity, and all the various forms of heathenism all over the world? To me it is clear, Moderator and friends, that we shall accomplish vastly more being united, than we can do being separated. My friends, can we not here set up a standard, inscribe onit"Truth and Righteousness," and display on all its ample folds the ensign of the "Lion of the tribe of Judah?" Christ is our great teacher; we must go forth under his instruction. He is the great Captain; we must go forth under his lead, and fight these moral battles, and then in the accomplishment,

"When that illustrious day shall rise
And all the armies shine,
In robes of victory through the skies,
The glory shall be thine."

The Moderator.—My dear brothers, Dr. Gurley and Judge Clark: It is with very great and unaffected feeling that I now attempt to reply to the salutations and addresses which you have brought us on the part of this Assembly. I count it one of the very principal happinesses of my life, that I should be the organ, in the providence of God, for communicating such suggestions as you have made to this Assembly, and to the Church which it represents. You will permit me to say that we regard it as an especial happiness that not only our honored brother, who has just addressed us, but that you your self, (addressing Dr. Gurley), who have become known to us in connection with the conspicuous and honored position you lately held in the Capitol of this country, and more especially with the place you occupied during the closing hours of our dear and martyred President, should have been made the commissioners on the part of our brethren of the other Assembly to bring to us these saluta-

All that you have said, dear brethren, in regard to our existing, substantial unity, in respect to doctrine and order, and the desirableness of closer union, resulting in a true and proper organic union between these bodies, finds a response, as you already perceive, in the hearts of this Assembly. We know that it is true, as you yourselves have been pleased to acknowledge, that this body is Presbyterian, and thoroughly so in all respects, both as to its doctrine and order. I can answer for a very large number of the churches represented in this Assemblythose which are congregated so numerously in Central and Western New York, and I know those churches love the doctrines and polity of the Presbyterian Church. These polity of the Presbyterian Church. These two bodies thus being Presbyterian, have been, in the providence of God, approaching each other during all these past years. We have come to feel more and more that we have a come to feel more and great sympathies and expressed the pleasure of his own Mr. Moderator, if there is any blame which | that bound us together, and in accordance with the demands laid upon us by the providence of God, and the influences, as we believe, of the Spirit of God, which is calling for greater unity on the part of Christ's disciples, we have felt that we were called upon to meet all these kind advances which you are pleased to make, and to throw no obstacle

in the way of such a union. Our dear and honored brother from Ireland has told us, and we were rejoiced to hear, how they were there drawing near to unifica-tion, and how those various minor details of difference were disappearing and melting

This is the tendency of the times-the mandate of Providence to us that the churches of Christ should be brought nearer to each

You have referred to the precious revivals of religion, with which your churches have been favored, and with which ours have been favored during the past year. In the portion of country from which I came, in carrying on these most precious revivals of religion we have found it most fitting and proper to work with our brethren of other denominations. Our Baptist and Methodist brethren have come in most kindly, and worked with us. They believed with us in the alienation of the natural heart from God, in the total depravity of human nature, and the necessity of the application of the atoning blood of Christ, and in justification by faith in his atoning sacrifice alone, and this has turnished ground enough for us to work together in promoting the interests of Christ's Kngdem. Now, if we can work together in the way, we of different denominations, it would certainly be a shame if we who are members of one family, and one household, should not be prepared

to work together also. I have regarded it for years as a foregone conclusion that these bodies were to be reunited, but, as a Church, we had not hoped for the happiness of seeing this consumma-tion, so much to be desired, brought so near

to us, as it appears to be at the present time. We accept, with the most hearty satisfaction, the sentiments you have expressed in regard to that substantial unity which exists between us, and the desirableness of a closer organic unity. There may be difficulties in arranging details for such a unity, but those difficulties can be obviated. You will permit me to say that it will be desirable that neither you on your side, nor we on ours, should be discouraged, if there should be some want of sympathy with this tendency in individual cases in both Churches. We should be prepared to extend indulgence in such cases. We should not think it hard if there were some indeed many of our own brethren who were not prepared for this unification. There may also be found some in the other branch of the Presbyterian Church, who are not yet prepared for such a union, but let us have indulgence toward these brethren.

Be pleased, dear brethren, to bear back to the venerable Assembly which you represent, the sentiment which you perceive upon the countenances and in the actions of these brethren, the sentiments of affection, confidence, and friendship, and our earnest desire for the closest possible unity with you at the earliest possible day. (Applause.)

Rev. H. B. Smith, D.D., read the report

of the Standing Committee on Church Polity in relation to overtures Nos. 5 to 15, on the subject of reunion of the two branches of the

castle, Athens, Steuben, Alton, Monroe, Keokuk, Long Island, and Trumbull. All these Presbyteries, with different degrees of urgency, recommend to this Assembly to initiate or to respond to proposals looking to an entire reunion of the churches represented by the two General Assemblies now in ses-

sion in the city of St. Louis.

The General Assembly now in session in the Second Presbyterian Church of this city have also adopted resolutions appointing a committee to confer with a similar committee of our own Church in regard to the desirableness and practicability of such a reunion.
Your committee recommend to this Assem-

bly the adoption of the following resolutions: Resolved, That this Assembly tender to the Assembly representing the other branch of the Presbyterian Church its cordial Christian salutation and fellowship and the expression of its earnest wish for a reunion on the basis of our common standards received

in a common spirit.

Resolved, That a committee of fifteen, nine of whom shall be ministers of the Gospel and six elders, be appointed to confer on this subject in the recess of the Assembly with the committee to be appointed by the other General Assembly, and to report the result at our next General Assembly.

Resolved, That we enjoin upon the committee, upon all our ministry and Church members, to abstain from whatever may hinder a true Christian fellowship, to cherish and cultivate this feeling and purpose, which looks to the peace and prosperity of Zion, the edification of the body of Christ and the complete union of all believers, especially of those living in the same land, having the same history and the same standards of doc-

trine and polity.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions, with the names of our committee, be sent to other General Assembly, now in session in this city.

The report of the committee was unanimously adopted amid applause and demonstrations of great satisfaction.

Dr. Knox moved that a committee of five be appointed, whose duty in should be to nominate the committee of fifteen as proposed by the Committee on Church Polity.

The Moderator appointed the following members of the Assembly on that commit-

Rev. Drs. Knox, Hatfield, Hotchkin, Hon. John A. Poote and Judge Williams. An invitation was announced to the mem-bers to visit the Public School Library.

The Chairman of the Committee on Devoional Exercises gave notice that there would be a farewell service in Dr. Nelson's Church on Monday evening, at one quarter before eight o'clock, in case the Assembly finished

its business on Monday.
Adjourned until Monday, May 28th, at 8½

Closed with prayer.

TENTH DAY.

MONDAY, May 28.

Morning Session. The Assembly met pursuant to abjournment, at half past eight A. M. The first half hour was spent in devotional exercises. Dr. Knox moved that the name of the Presbytery of Newark, be also inserted in the overtures reported on Saturday by the Committee

on Church Polity, which was agreed to. Rev. P. S. Davis, of the Presbytery of Pittsburgh, offered the following:—

Resolved, That not less than \$120,000 is

necessary to carry on the work of the Home Missionary Committee for the ensuing year, and that this General Assembly hereby pledge our churches to use all diligence and faithfulness in raising at least this amount.

Agreed to. Dr. David Heron, of the Reformed Presby terian Church, lately engaged in the missionary work in Northern India was introducted to the Assembly, and stated that there was one Presnbly, and expressed the pleasure of his own Church in view of the prospect of an early union between the two branches of the Presby terian Church, whose Assemblies are now in session in this city, and its hope that the union would be upon such a basis that all the churches of the Presbyterian family, itself among the

rest, could be joined therein.

The Moderator responded to the salutation

in a few brief and pertinent remarks.

Rev. Mr. Davies offered the following tem erance declaration, which was adopted In view of the general prevalence and great increase of intemperance in this country, this General Assembly bears the following testimony, viz :- First, We rejoice in the renewed diligence, shown by the Church in arresting the progress of this greatevil; Second, That total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks as a beverage is demanded from every Christian by the condition of society, the purity of the Churches, and the word of God; *Third*, We recommend that, on the last Sabbath in June next, ministers in our connection preach on the subject of

temperance. Judge Allison, from Committee on Mileage, tendered the report of that Committee, which was received and adopted with the thanks of

the Assembly.

The report of the Standing Committee on Sabbath schools, presented on Thursday last, was taken up, and, after some discussion, was adopted. The following resolution was offered by the

Rev. Henry Fowler:— Whereas, This Assembly, in its deliverance on the State of the country, has affirmed the truth that "our most solemn national trust concerns that patient race so long held in un-

righteous bondage;" 'and
Whereas, The education of the Freedmen is
essential to their endowment with all the rights and privileges of American citizens, and is promotive to safe and permanent reconstruction;

therefore

Resolved, That the churches be recommended to take up collections in behalf of the Freedmen supplementary to the regular collections for Home Missions, said collections to be forwarded to that Association in behalf of the Freedmen, as by the wisdom and integrity of its mangement shall best commend itself to the confidence of our congregations. The resolution was adopted.

Rev. Thomas Brown, from East Tennessee. having come from a Presbytery that had been by reason of the late war prevented from forward-ing its share of the Commissioners' Fund, it was moved that the Mileage Committee be directed to make such arrangement as to the expenses as might be satisfactory. The Mileage Committee having already reported the distribution of all funds in their hands, the expenses of the Rev. Mr. Brown from East Tenressee were met by voluntary contributions. The following resolution was adopted with

eference to text books for Sabbath schools: Resolved, That the Assembly recommend that the Westminster Assembly's catechism be introduced as a text book into all the Sabbathschools under our immediate supervision and control where it is not used. The following trustees were elected for the

The following trustees were elected for the Presbyterian House:—Rev. John A. Brown, D.D.; Rev. M. W. Baldwin, D.D.; Rev. Samuel H. Perkins, D.D.; Rev. Thomas H. Brainerd, D.D.; Rev. E. E. Adams, D.D. The following Committee on Church Erection was also elected:—Rev. J. Few Smith, D. D. Barels D. Barels and Elder W. A. D.; Rev. S. D. Burchard, and Elder W. A. Booth.

SCOTLAND. Rev. H. B. Smith, Chairman of Special

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE PREE CHURCH OF

following preamble and resolutions, which were

unanimously adopted:—
"The General Assembly of the Free Church
of Scotland, in a letter to us bearing date May
31, 1865, having proposed to us a closer fellow ship by the 'occasional visits of accredited deputies' from our respective churches, and the same proposal having been referred to in the address of the Rev. James McCosh, LL.D; herefore,

Resolved, That this Assembly cordially accede to the proposal for an interchange of deputies on such special terms as may hereafter be designated, and that two deputies be appointed to represent our church at the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scot land, in Edinburgh, May, 1867.

Resolved, That the Committee having in charge the correspondence with the Free Church of Scotland be authorized to make

these appointments in the name of the General

Assembly.

Resolved, That we tender to the Rev. James McCosh, LL.D., our sincere thanks for the able and eloquent manner in which he has dis-charged his office as the virtual if not the technical representative of the Free Church of Scotland; that we offer him the assurance of our personal honor and regard, and that we pray for his continued and increased success and influence in the great and useful labors to vhich his life is devoted.

Resolved, That a copy of this minute be sent to the Moderator of the Free Church of Scot-

and, and to the hev. Dr. McCosh. Rev. H. B. Smith, from Special Committee to prepare a reply to the letter received from the Free Church of Scotland, presented the fol-lowing draft of a reply, which was adopted without a dissenting voice:

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian

Church in the United States of America (N. 5.), in session in the First Presbyterian Church n the city of St. Louis, Missouri, May 28, 1866, to the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, greeting:—

Dear Brethren:—The most welcome letter

Dear Bretnen:—The most welcome letter of your Assembly, bearing date May 3, 1865, and subscribed by your Moderator, the Rev. James Begg, D.D., has been received by our Assembly with heartfelt gratitude and approval. We warmly reciprocate your affectionate Christian salutations, and respond with lively emotions to your expressions of sympathy and confidence, and to your proposals of a closer fol-

Though separated by the broad ocean, we are bound together by no ordinary ties. No Church of another land has a stronger hold than yours upon our love and honor. The one reformed faith is our common heritage. We express that faith in the same symbols; we have in essence the same Presbyterian polity, and we are equally engaged in kindred evangelical labors at home and abroad. There are also between us many ties of common ancestry, and ve venerate the names of your early reformers Our ministry are still instructed by the writings of your great minds; our faith is strengthened by the bright examples of your heroic martyrs, who fought a good fight for religion and civil liberty, and in your especial conflict and sacrifices for a free Church, you have had these twenty years our constant and warmest sympathy. We honor the high wisdom and extra-ordinary liberality which have made you prosperous and strong, and the new testimony you have given to the sustaining power of the Chris-tian Church, when contending for its righteous liberties. It is a good thing that a sacred fire kindled by the old Covenanters is still burning in the heart of Scotland, and that their flaming orches have been handed down from sire to son. In all these things, dear brethren, we do ejoice and will rejoice.

It is, then, with no ordinary satisfaction that we have received your proposal for an inter-change of accredited deputies between our Churches as occasion may serve. As you will see by an accompanying minute, the Assembly has unanimously resolved to appoint two such deputies to represent us before your venerable body in May, 1867. They will in due time be named and commissioned, and we bespeak for them a fraternal welcome. We also invite you to send deputies to our own Church at its next ession in the city of Rochester, in the State of New York, in May, 1867, assuring them of a

nost cordial reception. We have this year been favored with an address made in your behalf by the Rev. James McCosh, LLD., of Belfast, Ireland, who comes to us with ample testimonials from several of the honored ministers of your Church. Already known to us by his elaborate and thoughtful works, so important in relation to Christianity and some forms of modern infidelity, he nardly needed any external recommendation to insure him an attentive hearing. His elo-quent and sympathetic words have drawn us to you by the cords of a common faith and love.

The sympathies you express in the calamities and sufferings brought upon us by our recent war, in the assassination of our beloved and venerated President Lincoln—a martyr to the cause of human freedom, and your fervent congratulations upon the abolition of slavery throughout our States, as well as your wise suggestions derived in part from your British experience, and in respect to the future condition of the negro race, call for our grateful ecognition. These things have weighed, and still weigh, upon the mind and conscience of this nation. God has guided us by his wonder working Providence, bringing good out of evil He has surely chastised us for a national wrong and we bow with patience yet in trust beneath his mighty hand. He has indeed caused the wrath of war to promote his own purposes of grace and wisdom. And in the diffiulties and perplexities that still beset our path in the vast ocial and political as well as religious pro olem that we are called upon to solve, we humbly invoke and rely upon his wisdom and grace. Here, too, we feel assured that your

prayers will mingle with ours. You say that "the divergence of sentiment formerly existing between us on the question of slavery has now ceased," and "as there is really nothing now to prevent a complete and candid understanding between the British and American Churches, we take the earliest possible opportunity of giving utterance to this dition and desire of our hearts." We thank you for these words. We unite with you in the petition for these words. We unite with you in the petition for the removal of all estrangements, and the establishment not only of our old, but even of a better and nearer fellowship; and because of this, our common wish and purpose, we are emboldened to say to you, with the utmost Christian frankness, as well as the utmost Christian trankness, as wen as affection, that during the progress of our recent and terrible struggle for the very life of our nation, involving, as it did by a vital necessity the emancipation of the slaves, we have been at times deeply pained and grieved by the apparent indifference of the British Churches to the great principles and manifest moral issues that were at stake. From the beginning of the great rebellion, we American Churches, as with one voice, proclaimed the real nature of the contest. Our own Assembly never faltered or wavered in the declaration that it was essenially a conflict between freedom and slavery, and that national unity was necessary to nationa freedom. And we shall evermore regret that in our darkest days, when we were in travail, in the throes of a new birth, and when sympathy would most have cheered our hearts, we had, with few exceptions, such slight encouragements from so nearly allied to us in faith and in the fundamental principles of liberty. But these dark hours are past, never more, we trust, to return, and we are glad that the clouds are dispersing and the mists vanishing away, and that we are coming to see, eye to eye, and to know better each other's hearts and minds. You allude to the interest with which you "shall watch the future history of the negro race in these our borders." views of this Assembly on some of the points herein involved are set forth in a declaration just adopted, a copy of which will be sent to yon. The freedom of this unhappy and longsuffering race has been bought at great price of subject of reunion of the two branches of the Rev. H. B. Smith, Chairman of Special blood and treasure. Slavery is now prohibited Principal, Rev. E. J. Richards; alternate by an amendment to the Constitution. The Rev. T. J. Shepherd, D.D.

My friends, my ministerial brother, who is of New York, 3d and 4th; Dubuque, Green- from the Free Church of Scotland, reported the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen seen and the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen seen and the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen seen and the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen seen and the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen seen and the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen seen and the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen seen and the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen seen and the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen seen and the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen seen and the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen seen and the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen and the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen and the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen and the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen and the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen and the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen and the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen and the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen and the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen and the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen and the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen and the civil rights of the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen and the civil rights of the civil rights of the freedmen have been seen and the civil rights of the civil rights Other guarantees will doubtless This nation is under the ollow in good time. most solemn responsibility as to the future destiny of this class of its citizens. Meanwhile our chief reliance must be in those social, moral, and religious influences, which alone can make men fit for freedom and truly free, and which alone can fully restore the union of these States and bind them together in a com-

mon brotherhood. In those troubled times even when the horrors of war were upon us, the Great Head of the Church has given us great occasion to magnify his faithfulness. Our American Churches, not less than our Republic, have emerged from this conflict still strong in their faith and order. The principles of our American Christianity have received a new vindication. Our benevolent institutions have been constantly increasing, and we are now girding ourselves for the great task that is laid upon us, especially in our Southern and Western States, among our freedmen and our emigrant population, and of war were upon us, the Great Head of the freedmen and our emigrant population, and against the progress of Romanism, materialism, and a false rationalism, in humble reliance as we trust, upon the grace and wisdom of Him who will not leave us if we lean upon his who will not leave us if we lean upon his mighty arm, and follow the guidance of His all-wise providence. An increased desire for Christian union, too, has been kindled throughout our land. Many of our Churches also have been visited with a great outpouring of the Spirit of grace, showing that the Lord is amongst in as of old.

spirit of grace, showing amongst us as of old.

We, too, desire with you in a special manner a closer fellowship between the Presbyterian Churches in our own and other lands. We are glad to see the advancement in this direction in giad to see the advancement in this direction in England and in Scotland and in your colonial dependencies. The same spirit is at work among ourselves. The two great branches of the Presbyterian Church in this country are drawing nearer together; this year they have touched each other, and one of our Assemblies has appointed a Committee of Conference on Our deputies will refer you to this reunion. Our deputies will refer you to this desirable object, and we fervently hope that here as never before all Christian Churches may forget their lesser differences and unite ogether as far as possible in the work of the

Dear brethren, beloved in the Lord, we send to you these our Christian salutations, beseeching you to pray for us. We commend you unto God and to the word of His grace. May the one great head of the Church bless you with all spiritual blessings. May our Churches and our lands live in amity and unity. May we all live for the glory of God, in the kingdom of his Son, our Lord, to whom be praise forever,

(Signed) HENRY B. SMITH, E. F. HATFIELD,

J. Allison. Overture No. 14 was then taken up, and the report of the committee, was taken up.

The question arising in this Overture was, whether, after a second citation, according to

whether, after a second chatter, as could not pline, the judicatory before whom the party as charged with the offence does not appear, whether the judicatory in such a case could not proceed to trial in his absence, or whether they should take testimony, and there rest the case until he chose to appear for trial.

The report of the committee ably reviewed the objects of discipline and its method, and concludes that the form of trial in the Book of Discipline contemplates that the judicatory may proceed to hear the case and decide it upon evidence taken, whether the party is present or not, provided he receives the two itations according to the Book.

Pending the discussion of the report the Asembly adjourned, to meet again at 3 P. M.

Afternoon Session. The report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures was again taken up and finally

adopted. Dr. Clarke, of the special committee, ap-pointed to confer with Rev. Mr. Miller, in regard to the establishment of a manual labor college for Freedmen in North Carolina, reported that, after an ample conference, they had agreed that the matter had not sufficiently ma-tured to come before this body, and asked that

he committee be discharged. Voted that the committee be discharged.
Dr. Knox moved that the Committee of Conference have power to fill such vacancies as may occur during the recess of the Assembly

Rev. E. F. Hatfield, D.D., offered the follow ng resolution, which was adopted:
Whereas, Mr. Joseph M. Wilson, of Phila-

delphia has for some time been engaged in collecting information regarding the histories of Presbyterian Churches, to be published in the Presbyterian Historical Almanac, therefore, Resolved. That the ministers and elders of the churches under the care of this General As-

sembly be earnestly requested to co-operate with Mr. Wilson in his valuable labors in behalf of the Church. Mr. Wilson was then heard by the Assembly, and was responded to by several of the mem-bers, all of which advocated the work contem-

plated in the resolution. Communications were received from Rev. Dr. Porter, of the Reformed Dutch Church of North America, conveying the fraternal salu-

tations of that body. Also a communication from Rev. G. W. Heaock, former delegate, to visit the Old School General Assembly of last year. Rev. W. E. Knox, D.D., presented the fol-

owing resolution, which was adopted: The General Assembly having heard the statenent made touching the National Temperance Society lately organized in the city of New York, and believing its spirit and policy to be in harmony with our utterances for upwards of

fifty years past; therefore,
Resolved, That we regard the New National Temperance Society with favor, as well adapted in the form, vigor and scope of its organization to grapple with the great national sin, intemperance, and as such commend it to the faithful prayers, liberal support, and earnest cooperation of our churches

Rev. W. E. Knox, D.D., from the Committee to Report the Names of Persons to serve as a Joint Committee of Conference, reported that they would nominate the following persons, and recommended their election by the Assembly as a Committee of Conference in relation to a union of the two branches of the Presbyterian Church, Old and New School:

Ministers.—Thomas Brainerd, D.D., Chairman, Rev. Wm. Adams, D.D., Rev. E. F. Hatfield, D.D., Rev. J. F. Stearns, D.D., Rev. P. H. Fowler, D.D., Rev. J. B. Shaw, D.D., Rev. H. L. Hitchcock, D.D., Rev. R. W. Pat-terson, D.D., Rev. H. A. Nelson, D.D. Elders.—Hon. Joseph Allison, Hon. E. A. Lambert, Hon. H. W. Williams, T. P. Handy,

Esq., R. W. Steele, Esq., W. H. Brown, Esq. The above committee are a committee to confer with a similar committee appointed by the Old School Presbyterian Church on the abject of a re-union of the two churches at the earliest possible day, and to report the result of

their labors to the next General Assembly. Rev. Dr. Hatfield reported that the following delegates to corresponding bodies had been ap pointed:

U. S. GENERAL ASSEMBLY. Principal, Rev. E. D. Morrris, D.D., E. D. Mansfield, Esq.; alternate, E. P. Pratt, D.D., and F. V. Chamberlain, Esq.

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. Principal, Rev. Henry Little; alternate, Rev.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH AMERICA. Principal, Rev. H. L. Hitchcock, D.D.; alernate, Rev. Richard Craighead.

GENERAL SYNOD REFORMED DUTCH PROTESTANT

CHURCH. Pricipal, Rev. Joel Parker, D.D.; alternate. Rev. A. E. Campbell, D.D. GENERAL SYNOD REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH.