

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Saturday (Continued.)

Rev. Chas. Brown Secretary of the Ministerial Relief fund was heard by vote of the house. He feared that everybody would feel that this was a popular cause and commended itself to each church, and so individually neglect it.

Rev. Mr. Taylor said that the record was plain, that they who preached the gospel should "live of the gospel." To preach that gospel constituted a perpetual claim on the Church for support. (Applause.) The discussion of the topic then became spirited and general.

Dr. John C. Smith would like to see the man to vote against that report. (Laughter and applause.) His heart had moved him to say that as a matter of justice to ourselves, we ought to see to it that the men who do the work, should be provided for.

Dr. Nelson spoke of this work as belonging especially to the care of the eldership. He felt that it was a delicate thing for the ministry to urge upon the churches that they should attend to matters which so directly benefitted ministers and their families.

Hon. Wm. E. Dodge spoke of providing for the support of the families of deceased ministers. He urged the importance of life-insurance when a minister enters upon the duties of his profession.

Dr. Spear also spoke earnestly, and was followed by elders Huntington and Egoe. Dr. Nelson alluded to the fact that the culpable modesty of which he might be accused, had passed away, for the last collection he had taken as a pastor was for this cause.

Monday Morning

Rev. Elias J. Richards, of Reading, Pa., led the opening exercises. It was at first supposed that the meeting would take up more particularly the topic of re-union, but that, through delay about telegraphing to the Albany Assembly, was postponed until to-morrow.

Dr. Prentiss reported from the Committee appointed to visit Gov. Geary. He had accepted the kindness of the Assembly with thanksgiving. It was with gratification, said Dr. Prentiss, not merely as chief magistrate of this State, but also as a Presbyterian, that he received into the fellowship of the Church.

Rev. Thomas H. Skinner, D.D., presented the report of the Standing Committee on Foreign Missions. It praises the report of the Permanent Committee in the highest terms. Last year's progress has been very encouraging as to the ways opened to the work.

Dr. Cox wished to bring up a small matter after this one of great magnitude. Some brother had taken his glove and left another in his hat. There was much amusement over this, and it was suggested that the Doctor might "throw the glove down," which he declined to do.

The committee of three just appointed were instructed to ask Gov. Geary to accompany us to Gettysburg if it met his convenience. [After this came that relic of the old barbarism—the calling off of the letters by the clerk, and the claiming of them by the Assembly.]

Dr. S. W. Fisher inquired whether Dr. Musgrave had communicated anything as to the report from the Philadelphia Convention. Dr. Hoffeld replied that a letter had been received and was now in the hands of the special committee who are in session in the city.

Elder Richard Edwards of Pittsburgh offered a resolution concerning the contributions to Foreign Missions, which was referred to the Standing Committee on that subject.

Rev. Geo. W. Wood, D.D., Secretary of the A. B. C. F. M., then addressed the Assembly. He recalled the fact that just thirty years ago, to a day, in the stormy times of the division of the Presbyterian Church, he had sailed from New York, a young and newly ordained missionary on his way to carry the gospel to the Isles of the Chinese and Indian Seas.

the cause of God endured still, while the workers in the cause had passed away like their fellows. The cause of Foreign Missions had not advanced as it might, because its wants had not been studied as they needed to be, and so the means at hand had not been used with the greatest possible effect.

Dr. Skinner seconded the amendment, hoping that this would be appended in full to the report which he presented. He hoped that President Edwards' "Humble Attempt," etc., would be read again by our ministry. The Monthly Concert is the test of the interest in missions and foreign work.

Rev. C. J. Hutchins suggested that we take the most practical means to get information as to the raising of money. Hon. Wm. E. Dodge said he wanted to see the rich men of the country, into whose coffers God had been pouring money, pressed harder in the way of benevolence.

The Governor's Reception. The delegates and members of the Presbyterian General Assembly reached the Executive Mansion at about twelve o'clock. Some two hundred and fifty gentlemen were present, and filled the upper parlor, being the largest chamber in the house.

Dr. Skinner said: "Governor, I have the honor to introduce to you: Excellency the delegates of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, now convened in the First Presbyterian Church in this city—a Church which explicitly recognizes, in its Confession of Faith, the authority of the civil magistrate, as ordained under God, over the people, for the glory of His holy name and the public welfare, with the authority to wage war on all just and necessary occasions; a Church which declares it the duty of the civil magistrate to maintain peace and justice in the land, and which claims for it the privilege and the right of protection in all its lawful acts, without distinction of denomination—enjoining it upon all its members that they pray for the civil magistrate, that they honor his person, that they pay him tribute and all rightful dues; that they obey all his lawful commands, and submit themselves to his authority for conscience sake."

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monthly concert it would be found that the material for missions would be more easily obtained. He offered an amendment regarding the Monthly Concert itself. It designs to reach the knowledge of where Monthly Concerts are held and how conducted, with what interest and what attendance.

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wonderful has been the martial prowess of our people, still infinitely more sublime and great are their achievements in peaceful pursuits. And while we may be engaged in unceasing conflicts with numerous and unrelenting foes, we should never close to do battle with untiring vigilance for law and order; but in that contest, let our weapons be the Bible, the Press, and the implements of industry; our fortifications the school-house and the church; and our watchword, unconditional loyalty to God and to our country. [Applause.]

Rev. S. H. Cox, D.D., said: I hope you will allow us to pay our respects to your excellent lady. A Delegate: I know of no one better able to do so than my friend, Dr. Cox. [Laughter and applause.] Dr. Cox, advancing, said: Governor, I trust you will allow me to say that great as is our respect and affection for you personally and for you as the Chief Magistrate of this illustrious Keystone State of our Nation's magnificent arch, we are not going to forget the moon because the sun is bright. [Applause.] We pay our cordial respects to the lady, her husband, believing that her brightness is not all reflection, whose influence will make our reflection all the more joyous and heartfelt when we remember this visit to the Governor's house. [Prolonged applause.]

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He spoke of the competitive examinations, and wished they might become common with us. He impressed happily and eloquently the importance of going into the foreign work. He regretted now very greatly that he had not gone.

Among the speakers was Mr. Linus Child, a merchant of Boston, and a member of the American Board of Foreign Missions, who was invited to the platform and introduced to the Assembly.

Rev. Wm. B. Macomber, of San Francisco, moved that a committee of three, to consist of Drs. Skinner and Conklin, and Elder Green, be appointed to draft a minute expressing the views of the Assembly in regard to the delinquency of the churches in the cause of Foreign Missions. Agreed to.

Rev. Dr. Spear, from the Committee on Church Policy, reported paper No. 3, being a memorial as follows: WHEREAS, The Spirit of Inspiration (1 Timothy iii. 13), has conferred, by implication, a "good degree" upon Deacons in certain cases, the undersigned being Deacons in the church at Summer Hill, N. Y., respectfully overture the General Assembly, requesting them to define the degree and to fix the proper mode of its recognition.

The Committee recommended that the memorial be referred by referring them to the Form of Government, Chapt. VI, and the Digest, pp. 47, 48, and 49.

Extract from the minutes of the Presbytery of Cayuga at its session at Auburn, April 16, 1868: Resolved, That our Commissioners to the General Assembly be instructed to present to the Assembly the matter of the revision of subjects for Church collections and a new issue of blanks corresponding to the revision, and to urge such action as shall progressively insure the annual collection for such authorized subjects, from every church in organic union with the Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Spear also reported the following, being paper No. 5: Extract from the minutes of the Presbytery of Cayuga at its session at Auburn, April 16, 1868: Resolved, That our Commissioners to the General Assembly be instructed to present to the Assembly the matter of the revision of subjects for Church collections and a new issue of blanks corresponding to the revision, and to urge such action as shall progressively insure the annual collection for such authorized subjects, from every church in organic union with the Presbyterian Church.

Rev. A. A. Wood moved to amend by referring the matter to the Stated Clerk, together with the several Secretaries named. Agreed to, and the recommendation as amended was adopted.

Monday Evening. Foreign Missions Meeting. The choir of the church opened the services of the evening with an anthem, in which the superb voice of Miss Briggs sustained the solo part. They have already added very greatly to the interest of all the outside meetings of the Assembly.

Dr. Cox: You are the only one that regrets it, sir! [Laughter and applause.] Calls were made for the Hon. William E. Dodge, who said: It is now half past twelve o'clock, and we are all anxious to shake hands with the Governor, so that we will not have time to make any more extended remarks. I can only say Amen to all that has been said.

Dr. Skinner then introduced a large number of delegates by name to Governor and Mrs. Governor Geary, and after a brief and pleasant social intercourse and exchange of sentiment, the delegates separated mutually pleased and gratified.

The Standing Committee's Report on Foreign Missions was in order, but was postponed to make room for two others.

The Report of the Standing Committee on Episcopacy, which was read by Dr. Hieck, speaks with favor of the labors of those connected with the Permanent Committee, and of their statement of work and results. The facilities for training a rising ministry were never greater. Dr. Mills worked out an admirable system by the aid of the Presbyteries, and this is in full strength and force at present.

(1.) The destitution in the Church, and the wants of Home and Foreign Missions make the Education cause an essential requisite to the progress of Christianity.

(2.) The Presbyteries are responsible if they allow the work to fall or linger, and they too may reap a rich reward if they are faithful to the work assigned them.

(3.) This General Assembly would enjoin upon the Presbyteries the full consideration of these solemn responsibilities and these inspiring encouragements.

Dr. Hieck, of Rochester, [well known to all good American Presbyterians,] addressed the meeting. He spoke of the missionary at home in the foreign field. How one whom he knew, after being unable to go, went to the city walls, and finally able to see so much result of his labor as to be accompanied on his way towards this country, when retiring from falling health, by at least one hundred, and fifty. Seventeen hundred villages and fourteen thousand families make up his parish at the present time.

That brother had labored all alone and the Board at Boston had felt that he must be supported. The thing which troubled him was how to sustain the churches, which grew out of those labors. And yet they could not get men to go out. The missionaries fail in health and have to return. And their demands must be met. Twenty for Turkey, twenty for China,—as many for the other fields, or the devoted men now there will break down. Dr. Bush read an extract from a private letter, to show just how the thing lay. It spoke of the meeting at Pittsfield, and the report made there, that only one man had offered to go abroad. It illustrated admirably the heart-sickness of the honest, earnest laborers who give their lives and are not reinforced in their weariness. And the heathens themselves want to know why Christians don't send aid. A daughter of a chief in the Micronesian Islands had to meet the question, "Why didn't you come sooner? Where are my father and my mother?" And one said, "Do they wish to keep heaven for themselves?" And, Dr. Bush added, "Do we?"

Rev. Wm. Tracy, of India, said that the promise was made to Christ that the uttermost parts of the earth should be given Him for a possession. Even where he had been it was proving so. Madura was where he wished to point out in the foreign field Africa one way, beyond China in the other, at the lower end of India, lay this land of darkness. If some angel had come down no ray of light would have cheered his heart. And there some years ago they began. From devil-worship, known to be such, up to magnificent Brahminism, the idolatry ran. Some seven hundred priests were attached to one Brahmin temple. After five or six years one proud Brahmin came and asked, "How many Christians were there?" Not one could be shown. But the workers labored on. They took the children, preached the Gospel, prayed and taught still. There are now some spots where God's angels can see glimmering light through the darkness. Two hundred and fifty villages have Christians in them. They have 600 organized congregations, with from 6,000 to 7,000 nominal Christians, and some 1,250 members of churches in good standing. Over 31 churches are regularly organized, with eight native pastors. The six or seven dollars a month—not very high salaries. About one hundred catechists, or licensed preachers are there also, sent out by the missionaries. Family prayer is established in the villages. Schools are in all the districts, with hundreds of children in attendance. But the trouble has been to get teachers. So they raised up native helpers—a hundred, school-masters, and strange to say, school-mistresses, too—filled so full of Bible and catechism that they could not help but teach well. And women are the last ones to reach—they are also kept out. Some of these people have borne the fiercest and most bitter persecution. Dr. Tracy told of headman, and who yet stood firm. Another man, a converted priest, was set upon and beaten and cast into the ditch. The Christians gathered round, as they once got about Paul, and helped him to a recovery. The heathen again falsely charged him with assault, and the English judge condemned him once more—but this was too much, and the heathen felt it to be so, and now his testimony had been greatly blessed. A day's labor in India is worth about nine cents. Here, in America, communicants give, on an average, one dollar to all benevolent objects, that is about one-third of a day's labor. There, they give about eight whole day's wages, on the average. The promise to Christ is being fulfilled, but the 7,000 Christians are but few, compared to the 2,000,000 in that Madura district. These must be men and money supplied to carry on these great enterprises.

Dr. H. H. Jessup of Syria said he had come to say a word for his Master and for the Syrian mission. "Would that he could lay upon the souls of all the young men the crushing sense he felt tonight! He must soon return, and for aught he knew, single [CONTINUED ON OUTSIDE PAGES.]