

American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1869.

REV. JOHN W. MEARS, D. D., Editor.
No. 1334 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE.
Rev. Z. M. Humphrey, D. D., Pastor of Calvary Church.
Rev. Herick Johnson, D. D., Pastor of the First Church.
Rev. Danl. March, D. D., Pastor of Clinton St. Church.
Rev. Peter Straker, D. D., Pastor of N. Broad St. Church.
Rev. George F. Wiswell, D. D., Pastor of Green Hill Church.
Rev. E. E. Adams, D. D., Prof. in Lincoln University.
Rev. Samuel W. Duffield, Special Correspondent.

Mr. Robert E. Thompson will continue to act as Editor of the News Department. Correspondents in every Presbytery and Synod will promptly furnish us with fresh items of news from their respective fields.

The General Assembly.

[Continued from our First Page.]

Reunion Committee's Report.
Dr. Adams read the report of our part of the Joint Committee on Reunion, with whose action our readers are acquainted. It was referred to the Special Committee of ten. It is as follows:

In making their report at this time, the Committee on Re-union have thought it expedient for convenience of reference and a right comprehension of the case, to record in compendious form the several steps and stages of that important proceeding with which they have been connected.

In the year 1866, the two Assemblies then meeting simultaneously in the City of St. Louis, a delegation from the Old School Assembly appeared in the New School Assembly, and presented the following communication on behalf of the body which they represented:

Resolved, That this Assembly expresses its fraternal affection for the other branch of the Presbyterian Church, and its earnest desire for re-union at the earliest time consistent with agreement in doctrine, order, and polity, 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 feeling, to cultivate Christian intercourse in the worship of God, 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 appointed by the other Assembly now in session in this city—for the purpose of conferring in regard to the desirableness and practicability of re-union; and it, after conference and inquiry, such re-union shall seem to be desirable and practicable, to suggest suitable measures for its accomplishment, and report to the next General Assembly.

In reply to this communication, the General Assembly, N. S., adopted, the same day, the following resolutions:

Resolved, That this Assembly tender to the Assembly representing the other branch of the Presbyterian Church, its cordial Christian salutations and fellowship, and the expression of its earnest wish for re-union, on the basis of one common standard, received in a common spirit.

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

Resolved, That we enjoy upon this committee, and upon all our ministers and Church members, to abstain from whatever may hinder a true Christian fellowship, and to cherish and to cultivate those feelings and purposes which look to the peace and prosperity of Zion, the edifying of the body of Christ, and the complete union of all believers, especially of those who live in the same land, and have the same history, and the same standard of doctrine and polity.

Both Assemblies proceeded immediately to appoint Committees, in accordance with these resolutions.

These Committees, in discharge of the duties assigned them, met in joint session, in the months of February and May, 1867, and as the result of their conferences, agreed upon a document containing proposed terms of re-union between the two branches of the Presbyterian Church, which they represented; which document was reported to their respective Assemblies in May of the same year. One of the articles of this report was in these words:

12. The terms of the re-union shall be published, by direction of the General Assemblies of 1867, for the deliberate examination of both branches of the Church, and the Joint Committee shall report to the General Assemblies of 1868 any modification of them they may deem desirable, in view of any new light that may have been received during the year.

According to this recommendation, the terms of re-union were ordered to be published by both Assemblies, and the same Committees were continued for the purposes above designated.

In conformity to their instructions, the Joint Committee held a protracted conference in March, 1868, and in May of the same year, availing themselves of all the light and information they could

command, and presented their final report to the two Assemblies meeting that year, respectively at Albany and Harrisburg.

That report contained some "modifications" of the basis of union agreed upon the previous year, together with such explanations as were designed to prevent or correct misapprehensions, and adjust more fully the sentiments of the two branches.

The twelfth article of the basis of union thus reported was in these words:

"The terms of the Re-union, if they are approved by the General Assemblies of 1868, shall be overture to the several Presbyteries under their care, and shall be of binding force, if they are ratified by three-fourths of the Presbyteries connected with each branch of the Church, within one year after they shall have been submitted to them for approval."

The terms of reunion were approved and adopted by both Assemblies of 1868, and according to the agreement itself were sent down as an overture to the Presbyteries for their action.

On the afternoon of the last day of the session of the General Assembly (N. S.) at Harrisburg, a special delegation from the General Assembly (O. S.) at Albany, appeared and presented in behalf of that body a proposition to modify the basis of reunion, which had already been approved and overturned by both Assemblies. That proposition was in the following words:

"While the Assembly has approved of the report of the Joint Committee on Reunion, it expresses its preference for a change in the first item in the basis, leaving out the following words, namely: "[It understood that the confession is received in its historical—that is, the Calvinistic or Reformed sense. It is also understood that the various methods of viewing, stating, and explaining, and illustrating the doctrines of the confession, which do not impair the integrity of the Reformed or Calvinistic system, are to be freely allowed in the United Church, as they have hitherto been allowed in the separate Churches.]"

The Assembly believes, that by omitting those clauses the basis will be more simple and more expressive of mutual confidence; and, if the Assembly at Harrisburg shall concur in the amendment, it shall become of effect, as the action of this Assembly also.

After conference with those delegates, the General Assembly at Harrisburg adopted the following minute:—"The Assembly has heard with profound satisfaction, and reciprocates with cordial fellowship, the statement of the delegates from the General Assembly at Albany about the place of Reunion."

In respect, however, to the proposition for a change in Article 1st, as our Assembly is on the eve of adjournment and greatly reduced in numbers.

Resolved, That we regret that no action can be had upon this subject, as it cannot, according to our rules, be reconsidered and amended at the present session of the Assembly; nor can the proposed amendment be now sent down to our Presbyteries in such a form as that its adoption would be of any legal effect.

At the same time it was resolved by the same Assembly at Harrisburg, "That the Committee of Fifteen on Re-union be continued, and that the other Assembly be requested to appoint a similar Committee to co-operate with this in furnishing such information as they may deem best to the churches, in order to secure intelligent action on the subject of Re-union."

Considerable time elapsed, when it became evident that the constituent Presbyteries of the two Assemblies were taking action after entirely distinct methods.

The Presbyteries of our Branch were reported, in every quarter, as taking action of some kind directly upon the overture which had been sent down by the Assembly.

Meantime, it appeared that in accordance with the suggestions of several unofficial circulars which had been issued by members of the other Branch, their Presbyteries, very generally declining to vote directly on the Basis of Union overture by the Assemblies, were conducting their action upon another basis, which had been recommended as preferable.

This method, if sufficiently extensive, was, of course, equivalent to the defeat of the terms of Reunion approved by both Assemblies, and the substitution, by one of the concurring parties, of an amended basis.

Believing that the time has come when, in accordance with the terms of their continuance, some "information" might be "furnished" which might help to secure intelligent action on the subject of Reunion, your Committee held a meeting in this city in the month of January last.

As the result of their deliberation, all present unanimously agreed to issue the following address to the Presbyteries:

[Here follows the action taken in January, viz., the recommendation to drop the explanatory clauses of the First and the whole of the Tenth Article, with which our readers are already familiar. The Committee proceed.]

It will be seen by all who read this address with attention, that it was never designed in any way to disturb the previous action of the Assembly and the Presbyteries. To thrust any new and unauthorized terms of their own between the action of the Assembly and the Presbyteries would have been an unwarrantable assumption on the part of your committee. But it occurred to them that without overstepping the modest limits of their instructions they might venture to recommend a course, which, conforming essentially to the expressed "preference" of their brethren of the other branch, promised to extricate from any confusion which had occurred there—affording to the Presbyteries of both

branches, if disposed to adopt it, an opportunity, before the meeting of the Assemblies now in session, of giving, without further suspense, a final decision upon the overture of Reunion. The method suggested was not a substitute for the terms of Reunion, but a supplement thereto, designed to meet the wishes of those who, appealing to "mutual confidence," desired to simplify those terms in certain particulars. The action of your committee is based on the supposition that the terms of the overture adopted by the two Assemblies have been approved or voted upon by the Presbyteries, in which case they suggest an amendment of the same, such as has been desired and preferred in part, by our brethren of the other branch, not to supersede but to follow previous action. The recommendation was made with the design of evening, that having voted upon the terms of Reunion, approved by the highest Judiciary of the Church, we were ready to go further and accede to the wishes of those who desired a simpler basis resting largely on fraternal confidence.

What is the result of Presbyterian action on the subject of Reunion, your Committee are not informed. Due notice will undoubtedly soon be given in an official form. Should it appear that by the action of the Presbyteries on either side the terms of Reunion approved and overturned by the last General Assemblies have been defeated, we trust that there will be no disposition to deal in re-termination. It is to be assumed that the churches and the ministers of both branches, in the exercise of that liberty which is our common birthright, have acted in the premises according to their best light and wisdom. In the event that the conferences and proposals of the last three years are not immediately successful, your committee, as they were not charged so, would not presume to recommend other terms and measures; but reviewing all the steps and results of that proceeding which, with Christian magnanimity, was inaugurated by the other Assembly in 1866, it will be a source of pleasure to us to be assured by them, as we are by our own consciences, before God and the Church, that we have been disposed to meet their several successive proposals in a spirit of Christian frankness, honor, confidence, and affection.

W. ADAMS, Chairman.

Drs. Adams, Patterson, Fish, Stearns and Shaw, and Elders Strong, Heines, W. E. Dodge, Farrand and Knight were appointed the Special Committee of ten to confer with a like Committee of the other branch on Reunion.

Home Missions and Freedmen.

Dr. Kendall read the report on Home Missions, showing that the interest in the cause was greater than ever last year. The annual extension of railroads from 1855 to 1868 was 1,100 miles; in the last three years it has been nearly 2,000 miles, and last year 2,500 miles. This rapid opening of roads and the influx of new population are the great impulses to Home Missionary work. Allusion was made to the changing character of the immigration, the Protestant element being largely on the increase. The Scandinavians are especially numerous in Minnesota. The process of disintegration going on in the Papal ranks is remarkable. Four or five millions of people are calculated to have been lost to the Catholic Church in this country. The prospect of a large immigration from China, amounting perhaps to millions in the next twenty years, was referred to. Home Missions are the best agency to make the people homogeneous, orderly and peaceable. The reactionary influence of foreigners converted in this country, upon the well-nigh dead Protestantism, or the Papacy in Europe, exceed any other more direct method by which we might seek to evangelize that continent. We have access to more Chinese in California, and to more blacks in the South, than to either of these people in their own countries. The effort to supply feeble and decayed churches in the older States, by our Seminary students, has been very successful, sixteen of such in New York State alone having been re-suscitated and made self-sustaining. On city Evangelization, the facts of the enormous growth of our cities and the failure of Presbyterian Church Extension in cities are most significant. City churches grow larger but do not colonize. An alarming statement was made of the exceedingly few movements of this sort going on in our cities, and the contrast was drawn with other denominations, more zealous than ours. The inadequacy of mere Mission school effort was pointed out. Our plans must conform to divine plans. Expense must not be feared. Is not this the question resting on our churches to-day? The Committee reluctantly entered upon the work in cities, but they have found the results most satisfactory, as shown by churches aided in Chicago, Rochester and Philadelphia, which have since become self-sustaining.

Six missionaries have died; whole number employed 460. The receipts

and average appropriations are both increased; 332 missionaries report 2,111 additions on profession; 73 churches have been formed—a gain of 19 on last year. Thirteen students of the class of '68 of Union Seminary gave themselves to the work, and their presence on the frontier has so rallied the Church that the Presbytery of Kansas, which reported ten ministers last year, reports 26 this year.

The report discusses the need of men which, in spite of the gathering up of all available material in our own Church, and much from others, is still oppressively great. The Secretary thinks that a public sentiment to send every graduate from our Seminaries to the West for the next five years. Fifty more missionaries would be located in a month if they could be found. Our city and Eastern churches snatch up our young men because they can be had for less expense, thus cheapening the ministry as a whole. If our young men would prefer the Home Missionary field, they would elevate their profession and promote its interests every way.

Interesting reports from the District Secretaries were introduced.

Dr. Hatfield read the First Report of the Freedmen's Department. In this, the action, or rather inaction, of our body up to last May, was reviewed, and the scattering of our monies and the habit of giving to irresponsible bodies, were justly criticised. The final action of the Assembly at Harrisburg looked to the union of educational with religious efforts, instead of separating them, as too often has been done. The organization of the department was commenced in June. The propositions of the delegates of the Old School Freedmen's Committee in October for co-operation, were deemed inadmissible; but no Secretary was appointed, in view of the possibility of joint measures being taken by the two Assemblies of 1869; Dr. Hatfield was, therefore, designated to act in the interval as Secretary. The effort was fairly begun only about six months ago, when only two laborers were at work on the field. The proposals of the Freedmen's Union of Pittsburg to take charge of their schools and their whole field, were, after mature consideration, accepted. Mr. Oscar M. Waring, of Winchester, was one of the principal teachers received by this arrangement, and his full and very interesting report of his first quarter's work will be published. The Freedmen's Bureau has also turned over a number of its schools in Tennessee to our Committee. Instances of persecution of our teachers have not been wanting especially in Florence, Alabama; and two school houses have been burned down. The education given is Christian in character. The Sunday-school is regarded as a necessary adjunct. Two churches have been organized in Tennessee, there being seven freedmen's churches in that State, but only one pastor. Five brethren—mainly white—have been sent to the northern parts of South Carolina. Their efforts—especially educational—were most cordially responded to, their schools are flourishing, and all classes of the people seem well affected to them. The Freedmen's Bureau have, in some cases, built them substantial school-houses. The Committee intend to occupy this part of the State, which seems so open and favorable, to the full. The church in Charleston is prospering, and one thousand dollars have been appropriated by the Freedmen's Bureau toward finishing the basement for school purposes, the school now numbering 140 pupils, and having a very high character. Seven ministers and two licentiates are employed by the Home Missionary Committee, and 99 teachers had been commissioned up to the 1st of May. A good record for six months' work. Mr. W. F. Mitchell was appointed general agent in February, and his labors have been acceptable and prosperous. Less than one-eighth of the churches have contributed (189 in all); the amount received was \$15,906.79, including appropriations from Freedmen's Bureau and other sources. This has been attended by no diminution in the gifts to the general cause of Home Missions, but by a large increase.

Publication.

Mr. Dulles read the 17th Annual Report of the Publication Committee. Eight tracts and thirty-seven bound volumes, most of them for the very young class of readers, have been issued during the year. The prizes offered for new books were mentioned. *The Presbyterian Monthly* is still published, and is commended anew to pastors and churches. No call for donations in books and tracts, that seemed legitimate, has been refused. This is an agreeable feature of the year's work. The Synodical Colporteur in Minnesota, Mr. Wait, is doing a good work. This colportage work should be extended. The Home Missionaries say that the people regard our books as the very best that are published. A Sub-Committee on Sabbath-schools has been appointed. To this Committee belongs the supervision of the Sabbath-school literature and the suggestion of right methods of Sabbath-school instruction. The appointment of a Secretary is recommended, and the work heretofore cut out for the Assembly's Sabbath-school Committee is proposed to be assumed by the Publication Committee. The financial operations show marked advance. They are as follows:

Sales, \$48,409 00
Donations, 14,213 00
Total, including other items, 66,214 00

A fund of \$10,000 is asked, the interest of which shall be appropriated to furnishing gifts of books to needy ministers. It appears that Mr. Tenbroeck had attended 66 out of 74 meetings during the year.

Church Erection.

The Church Erection Committee reported that 59 churches received regular grants, against 34 last year; besides about 20, considered as special cases, most of which are secured to the denomination. The Board hereafter will only report such special contributions as are secured by bond and mortgage, to the body.

from individuals, \$3,861.98; from legacies, \$26,158.87. These amounts with interest on various funds, make a total for the year of \$162,420.82. The balance on hand this year is over twelve thousand dollars. The increase over last year is \$24,398.05, of which \$5,908.91 is from the churches. Four Synods: Albany (New York), and New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Michigan show an increase, all the others a decrease. 56 more churches contributed this year than last. Only 2 Presbyteries, Smoky Hill and Humboldt, reported every church as contributing; all but one of the 34 churches of Newark Presbytery, and all but two of the 34 of Philadelphia IVth have contributed. The contributions to the Freedmen's Department, \$15,941.09, added to the above amount make a total of \$174,906.54.

Education.

The Permanent Committee on Education commenced their report by a notice of Dr. John J. Owen, long Chairman of this Committee, who died April 14th. Rev. James P. Wilson, D.D., has been chosen Chairman of the Committee. 210 candidates have been under the care of the Committee during the year. Receipts, \$24,037.97; \$6,530.58 greater than last year and nearly \$4,000 greater than in any previous year. The congregations contributing have risen from 277 to 372 as compared with last year. Yet there has been a decided deficiency, so that only 25 per cent. of the fourth quarter's payment to the candidates could be made. A real movement of the churches is evident, but it does not keep pace with the missionary spirit of the Church. The causes of the want of interest were discussed. The impression that we have enough ministers and more, was considered. 400, or 23 per cent. of our enrolled ministers are unranked "without charge." The greater number of these are broken in health or superannated. Yet it is admitted that for many cases of unemployed ministers no satisfactory reason can be given. The Committee regard these facts as not disproving the need of more ministers. The congestion is local, the need general. Our work in Home and Foreign Missions is nearly at a stand still for want of men. Our candidates are well reported of. Twenty students complete their studies this year and receive license. Three colored young men have been added to our list of candidates; two of whom are in Maryville College. This last named institution has given honorable evidence of its emancipation from the power of caste by opening its doors to this hitherto proscribed race. The zeal of the Synod of East Tennessee in giving men and money was honorably mentioned. The deficiency at the beginning of the new year, is \$4,085, the amount due on the last quarter's appropriation to the students.

Ministerial Relief.

The Fifth Annual Report of the Ministerial Relief Fund was read by the Secretary, the Rev. Charles Brown, and gave an encouraging account of the condition of the enterprise.

There has been an increase in the number of applicants for aid, but a greater increase in the receipts for the treasury. The Report covers a period from May 1st, 1868, until May 1st, 1869,—within which there was received, from ordinary sources, thirteen thousand four hundred and sixty-eight dollars, (\$13,468.) or nearly three thousand dollars more than was received the year previous. But in addition to the collections from the churches, there was given to the permanent fund, by Henry M. Schieffelin, Esq., eight thousand two hundred dollars, (\$8,200), making the total received for the year, twenty-one thousand six hundred and sixty-eight dollars, (\$21,668.)

The Relief Fund went into operation in July, 1864. Since that date, fifty-one thousand seven hundred and thirty-four dollars, (\$51,734) have been gathered into its treasury.

During the last year, 29 ministers, 33 widows, and 4 orphan families were aided; who with the children of the widows, and aged wives of most of the ministers, make 200 persons now being benefited by the fund.

The ages of 24 of the ministers stand as follows:

Seven are between 81 and 89 years old,
Twelve " " 70 " 78 " "
Five " " 63 " 69 " "

Their ages will average each nearly 76 years, and the period of ministerial life, or years spent in the ministry, more than 46 years to each man.

Of the widows, 27 have children depending on them for support.

During the last year four ministers died, aged respectively 88, 75, 70 and 54 years.

The Report closes with a number of interesting facts, in relation to the history, character, and present circumstances of several of the persons who are, in part, supported by the fund.

The Trustees of the Publication House also reported the state of funds in their charge.

The Treasurer of the General Assembly reported expenditures of \$9,274.63 in mileage, printing, &c., for last year.

Adjourned, closing with prayer by Rev. Dr. Cox. This prayer was one of his most thrilling, surprising, and characteristic utterances, and held the whole audience rapt and breathless from the first to the last word.

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 22.

The prayer-meeting was more animated than that of yesterday.

Complaint was made that no one in the middle of the church or beyond could hear more than an occasional word from the platform. The

Sabbath-schools.

through Dr. Poor, reported that they could accomplish nothing of the pleasant and important work appropriate to them, without a paid Permanent Secretary which the Assembly had twice, in its wisdom, seen fit to refuse them. The Committee therefore renewed their request or asked to be discharged.

Bills and Overtures.

reported papers from 4 parties in regard to the reduction of assessments and withdrawal of delegates to corresponding bodies, and proposed.

1. The reduction of the assessments from 8 to 6 cents per member and

\$54,996 had been received during the year, \$36,918.59 being regular contributions to the fund. 329 churches have contributed this year, against 290 last year. 98 churches have sent contributions on account of old donations. Hereafter, no distinctions will be made between these and other contributions. The average amount given this year to the churches, has been \$475, less by \$200 than last year, and far too little to be a practical aid of much importance; indeed it is so small as often to be rather a discouragement. The whole sum raised last year, is no more than is needed in some single Synods. Many excuses are made by churches, when asked to contribute to this cause. They have their own work on hand from a hundred thousand dollar church, down to a new fence or a coat of paint. The Third church of Pittsburg was held up as maintaining its contributions in this cause, while heavily engaged in work of the same sort at home. While our churches have been spending between one and two millions in erecting suitable edifices for themselves during the last eighteen months, we have been giving but fifty thousand dollars for those who are unable to build houses of worship themselves. The experiment of Agents or District Secretaries to visit the churches and raise funds, has been but partially successful. 21 churches have given \$500, or more apiece; the Sabbath-school of Brick church, Rochester, gave \$1,000. Over one hundred of our churches are without buildings. From the Treasurer's Report it appears, that it has taken \$11,000, in expenses of various kinds, to secure the collection and distribution of about \$55,000. The value of the Permanent Fund in mortgages on church property and other investments, is \$126,000.