

The General Assembly.

(Continued from page 173.)

our efforts will be in vain without God's blessing; and it is true that pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall; and if God shall see this in us, He may humble us by defeat in the very prospect of the union. Dr. M. hoped and believed this union was to be consummated. [Great applause.]

Elder Robert Carter [applause] was introduced. He said his heart was too full to say much. There were many reasons why he had been anxious, with others, to see the union consummated at once. We have felt our Sabbaths trampled down; our people cannot get to the house of God through processions; and this is one of the reasons why we long to get together and labor to stem the incoming flood of worldliness. But our dear country—to plant the Banner of the Cross over all its fair fields—this is our greatest desire and reason.

The Moderator said he was happy to see officially confirmed the rumor of the approval of the basis of reunion by the brethren of the Old School. He was happy to say that the New School Assembly had been perfectly unanimous in accepting the proposed basis. For his part, he rejoiced most heartily at the happy termination of the labors of the Conference Committee. He thanked the venerable Father Musgrave for his kind cautions, but, though some of the Old School brethren might be indiscreet, he trusted that the feeling of Christian cordiality would prevent any dissension.

The delegates having retired, other business was entered upon. The hearing of the Bohemian clergymen was postponed to day; and by special consent, the Rev. Charles Brown, Secretary of the Ministerial Relief Fund, was given an opportunity (having been reported absent on Wednesday) to urge that cause. He said perhaps the best illustration he could give of ministerial relief was to relieve the Assembly of a long speech. He merely called attention to two points: the need of more churches contributing to this cause (1,300 do not), and that of presbyterial investigation into the needs of superannuated ministers in Presbyteries.

A communication, proposing special prayer for the preservation of peace between this country and Great Britain, was received from the Assembly, and referred to the Committee on Bills and Overtures.

The Rev. W. E. Moore, one of the Temporary Clerks, offered the following resolution, similarly referred:

Resolved, That the growing disposition of the members of the Church to attend the opera and theatre, and to participate in the social dance, requires some further remonstrance from the General Assembly, or an emphatic reaffirmation of its past action.

The following action of the other Assembly was adopted:

Resolved, That the Basis of Reunion now passed be sent down to the Presbyteries for their approval or disapproval, to be expressed in the manner named in the plan of Reunion, and that they be required to forward their answers previous to Nov. 1, 1869.

Committee on Church Polity.

The Committee on Church Polity (Dr. Darling's) reported on a number of overtures, one of which requires Presbyteries to send to Synods a list of ministers without charges, and a list of churches without regular ministers, desirous of having a stated supply. This was referred to the following Special Committee, to report to the next Assembly: The Rev. J. F. Stearns, D.D., and J. G. Atterbury, D.D., both members of the Permanent Education Committee; the Rev. Henry Kendall, D.D., Secretary of Home Missions; Judge Strong and Judge Williams.

The Bills and Overtures Committees (Dr. Chester's) reported, recommending that the Missionary causes which were discussed on Wednesday, be made recipients of regular collections in the churches. This report caused a brief but vigorous debate, terminating in recommendation.

Resolved, That the Committee of Conference on Reunion, together with the Moderator, be appointed a Committee, in conjunction with a corresponding Committee and Moderator of the other Assembly, to prepare and send down to the Presbyteries and churches a pastoral letter in reference to the momentous question of reunion, now submitted to their decision.

The following minute from the Special Committee on the Decoration of Soldiers' Graves was adopted:

The General Assembly (N. S.) of the Presbyterian Church takes pleasure in acknowledging the invitation of the Kings County Department of the Grand Army of the Republic, to attend and take part in the ceremony of decorating the graves of our dead soldiers on Monday next. It gives us great pleasure to observe that this ceremony is not to take place on the Sabbath; and we commend that as many of the members of the Assembly as can be spared from their other duties shall engage in offering this beautiful and appropriate tribute of patriotic memory and love. Your Committee recommend that this paper be communicated to the Kings County Department of the Grand Army of the Republic.

No reply to the protest adopted the other day had been received from the Executive Committee G. A. R. of New York City.

The Rev. E. D. Murphy, representative of the Port Society, addressed the General Assembly. It was incorporated in 1819; religious meetings are held every night, and twenty-two public religious services in a week. The sailors we seek to benefit are from all parts of

the globe, generally men between sixteen and forty-five years of age. There are 120,000 of them going about the globe. This society aims to reach these. A church numbering over 1,000 of them is existing in this city. Converted sailors are bold, fearless Christians; it is generally the brightest and best who are on shipboard.

**SATURDAY MAY 29.**  
In the morning after the Joint Prayer-meeting the report of the Committee on the General Re-union of the Presbyterian Church, recommending the continuance of the Assembly's Joint Committee (Drs. Fisher and Humphrey), was adopted.

The committee on army and navy chaplaincies, through Dr. Fisher, reported proposing a joint committee of five to unite with similar committees from other Evangelical bodies, in urging the Government to deal more fairly with non-Episcopalian denominations in its appointments. Adopted. Drs. Fisher, Hatfield, Rev. J. C. Smith, and Elders Dodge and Miller were appointed.

The delegates of the Reformed Church of Bohemia, Revs. Tardy and Kaspar were received rising, after Dr. Kendall had described his visit to their Assembly last year when he advised them to send this delegation, and after the reading of a letter from a Free Church missionary in Prague. Dr. Poor read an address drawn up by themselves. Mr. Kaspar spoke briefly in broken English and Counsellor Von Tardy spoke at length in German, Dr. Poor acting as interpreter, in regard to their Church's needs—a Theological Seminary, itinerant ministers, a Protestant Normal School for teachers, &c. In all they want raise for the 500th anniversary of Huss's birth (July 6th) the sum of \$30,000, and have got \$6,000 already. Their Church has 80,000 members in 60 congregations.

The Moderator made an appropriate reply, referring to their illustrious history.

The Mileage Committee reported a balance of \$2,067.24, after paying \$10,053.57 mileage, and proposed that a special tax of 4 cents per member be levied to pay the expenses of the November session. The rate of 8 cents per member, for May sessions, was reaffirmed, and the report adopted.

The Welsh Calvinistic Methodists (in session at Newark, O.), having sent a dispatch of sympathy and congratulation to the two Assemblies, it was voted that the words of Moses to Hobab be sent as a joint reply. Mr. Chidlaw (a Welshman) spoke highly of the body in question and its work.

Dr. Prime, of The Observer, spoke for the Evangelical Alliance; Dr. Cuyler for the National Temperance Union; Mr. Norman White for the Sabbath Committee; Dr. Fisher for the American and Foreign Christian Union. Resolutions expressive of the Assembly's blessing in learning that the World's Evangelical Alliance will meet in New York in 1870, were offered and adopted.

MONDAY, MAY 31ST.

In the morning Judge Strong urged the legal importance of a full attendance at Pittsburg and explained the means by which the legal continuity of the two Assemblies is to be secured. He and Judge Haines were appointed a committee to decide some doubts as to who could be properly recognized as members.

Reports of Committees, declining to recommend action as to Protestant places of worship in Europe, and fixing the list of delegates to corresponding bodies, were adopted.

A resolution commending the proposed German Theological Seminary at Newark, was adopted after a speech by Dr. Poor, and remarks by other brethren. His Presbytery have seven German churches, one of their pastors being the Editor of the Am. Tract Society's Botschafter. One church supports a missionary in Germany and contributes generously to our own causes. The Presbyterian Church (he claimed) was best fitted to mediate between Lutheran and Reformed, and while all these people are yet to be Americanized, they must not be neglected till then. To supply them German pastors, this measure was undertaken, (since the attempt to make Union Seminary do the work had failed), a large lot secured for a building, and two able Professors had undertaken the work. He appealed for money and for students, and hoped that we would not be behind the Methodists and Baptists in the work. Had we had such a Seminary twenty years ago in this city, it would not have been the case to-day that we have not here a German Church of our name, and that intemperance and Sabbath-breaking abound among them.

A resolution deprecating war with Great Britain was indefinitely postponed, being especially opposed by Dr. Sunderland as implying equal faultiness in each party to the pending difficulties.

Additional reports from delegates to foreign bodies were received, and ordered to be printed. The Bohemian churches were commended to the sympathy and aid of our people, and to the American and Foreign Christian Union, and a delegation to their next Assembly was ordered.

The Report on the recommendation of the Reformed [Dutch] General Synod, approved of the suggestions of a general advisory council of the Evangelical churches and recommended Revs. Drs. Hancock and Hastings, and Arthur Mitchell with Elders, Strong and Harris as our Delegates thereto. Adopted.

In the afternoon the reports of the Standing Committees on Home Missions

Freedmen, Church Erection and Education were taken up and adopted, and the Committees discharged.

Revs. J. Few Smith, Dr. S. D. Burchard (for three years) Dr. Norman Seaver (two years) were elected Trustees of the Church Erection Fund; and Elders J. C. Farr and C. S. Wentz, Revs. Drs. March and Shepherd with Mr. Eva were elected Trustees of the Presbyterian House; Elder Ketchum was appointed Auditor of the Church Erection Fund.

After some unimportant business and the usual complimentary resolutions, the Assembly adjourned to meet in Pittsburg in November.

SPEECH OF DR. HERRICK JOHNSON ON THE BASIS OF REUNION.

I speak, sir, at this time and in this presence, with great hesitation and with the utmost diffidence. But I cannot forbear giving expression to convictions that I believe ought to have utterance now and here. There are some things that should be fully and distinctly understood. I speak in the interests of the future, in the interests of harmony, in the interests of an abiding peace. And lest my position should be misunderstood, let me say by way of preface, that I have been earnestly in favor of the reunion of the two branches of the Presbyterian Church from the first, provided that union could be consummated on a satisfactory basis. My voice and vote were given in favor of the basis submitted to the consideration of the Presbyteries in 1867. They were given again, in favor of the basis overtured to the Presbyteries in 1868. They were given still again, in favor of final amendments suggested by our Reunion Committee. And they are given now, to the basis before us.

Let me also say that, theologically, my leanings have been and are, rather in the direction of the other Branch. My doctrinal position would probably be regarded as more distinctively Old School than New School. It is not, therefore, because of any opposition to reunion, or because of any fear of interference with my own personal rights and liberties, that I speak. Concerning this, I have no apprehension.

But it is not the part of wisdom to ignore the truth, or to attempt to be blind to the facts. There are differences between the Old School and the New School. They are differences that are known. They do really exist. And they ought to be recognized and acknowledged. To my mind, they are not differences that justify the continued separation of the two great branches of the Presbyterian Church. I confidently believe they are consistent with a hearty and harmonious union. Perhaps they could not be better expressed than in the words so happily used by Dr. Adams, yesterday, in his address to the other Assembly as the delegate from this body,—an address, by the way, which should be put in permanent form and go on record, as meeting in all respects the demands of the great occasion. "You," said he, "are the conservators of orthodoxy,—we, the conservators of liberty." Who does not regard that as a fair statement of what may be called the characteristic bias of each body?

Now, in the proposed Reunion on the Basis as presented, is it expected that the Old School are to yield their conservation of orthodoxy? No! Are we to yield our conservation of liberty? No! Perish the union, rather than that. God forbid the union forever, rather than that. A liberty within the limits of sound Calvinism, the liberty always enjoyed in the body, and exercised to day as fully as it was twenty years ago, it is neither our wish nor our purpose to surrender. Let it be distinctly understood. There should be no misapprehension in regard to the matter. Let it go forth to the other Branch of the Church and to the world. If I am wrong in my judgment, I ask to be corrected here and now. Not a dozen votes in this Assembly, not a half-dozen Presbyteries in our whole connection, would favor this Basis of Reunion, if its acceptance and adoption were thought to involve the giving up of this liberty—such liberty, e. g. as recognizes and freely allows those views in theology that are held by Albert Barnes. Albert Barnes! revered, honored, beloved—ripened now to a golden completeness—ready to go to his grave in a full age like as a shock of corn cometh in, in its season, and ever presenting himself to my thought as of all men in the world, the guileless man.

The plan of Reunion now submitted for our consideration does not, in express terms, name and concede this liberty; but the clearest recognition of it is implied. The preamble says, "Each recognizing the other as a sound and orthodox body according to the principles of the Confession common to both." Our present liberty, therefore, is an orthodox liberty. It is so regarded—so stated. We are orthodox now in our free exercise of it. And hence no restraints are to be put upon it in the united body.

But, it is said, this is not in the basis itself to be overtured to the Presbyteries. Other words are, however, that are just as explicit and satisfactory, viz.: "The Confession of Faith shall continue to be sincerely received and adopted as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures." Only what has been and is, can "continue to be." And the words are applicable to each body alike. So that our sincere reception and adoption of the Confession of Faith in the union, is to be as it is now in the separation. Our brethren take us

as we are. We, in like manner, take them. Their orthodoxy is to put no clamps upon our hitherto enjoyed liberty. Our exercise of liberty is not to contaminate, or pervert, or in any way impair their orthodoxy. Liberty and orthodoxy meet together. Liberty and orthodoxy kiss each other. Henceforth they are to live in the same house, to sit at the same table, to worship at the same altars, to work in the same grooves, to evangelize through the same organization. Henceforth they are to go hand in hand, in mutual affection, fidelity and trust. I thank God for it. It does seem as if the cherished yearnings of our hearts were prophecies true, and that the time of their fulfillment draweth nigh.

I trust it is to be the privilege of Philadelphia, City of brotherly love, in 1870, to welcome in the old First Church, the united Assembly. And let it be the fervent, earnest, constant prayer of all hearts, that we may go forth from that sanctuary of God for our country's and the world's evangelization, one Church, banded and bonded and welded together, holding the cross, held by the cross, irradiated by the glories of it, stirred by the inspirations of it, our hearts swelling with the memories of it, and the outreach of that anguished heart of love that broke on Calvary, when Jesus with outstretched arms, embraced a dying world.

News of the Week.

May 26—June 3.

**The President** attended the examination at the Naval Academy, in company with Mr. Stuart. He fixed the close of August or beginning of September for the Mississippi election, and will submit the test oath, disfranchising and other objectionable clauses to a separate vote. He has instructed Gen. Terry (a rigid disciplinarian) to render hearty aid to the civil authorities of his Department (the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida) in the suppression of all disorders and the punishment of assassinations. Spain has acceded to the demands for the restoration of the Lizzie Major, and makes apologies and offers indemnity.

**The Departments.**—The revenue receipts for the month have been so great that a reduction of ten or twelve millions in the national debt is promised. The Attorney General opines that State Governments have no right to alter in any way the duties and liabilities of the national banks, while they may provide for their establishment; also that the dissolution of such a bank is not legally complete until the redemption of all its circulation has been provided for. [This interferes with the plans of sundry New York banks to withdraw themselves from Congressional control.] The Indian Commission has been in session to discuss the disbursement of the \$2,000,000 entrusted to the President's charge, all other appropriations being in charge of Col. Parker. They are in favor of abolishing the treaty system. Sec. Boutwell persists in his weekly sale of gold in spite of the "hulls."

**Army.**—Gen. Sheridan recommends a proclamation declaring that all Indians absent from and not on the way to their reservations will be treated as hostile. The Cheyennes have refused to go where directed, and have started for the North. A party of Sioux and Cheyennes attacked a Scandinavian settlement near Lake Sibley, May 26th, killing five whites. Also 300 mules have been stampeaded from Sheridan's army. Brig. Gen. Badeau retires with the rank of Captain.

**General.**—The decoration of the graves of Union soldiers was very generally observed May 29th and 30th throughout the Union. May places (Philadelphia, Brooklyn, &c.), changed the day from the Sabbath fixed by Gen. Logan to Saturday or Monday. The Ladies Aid Society of St. Louis refused to take part because the Sabbath was appointed. The New York correspondent of The Ledger says of that city: "Many are the regrets that this beautiful ceremony was not held on a secular day, so that thousands of church-going people could have participated, but as these are unavailing now, the hope is expressed that on future occasions of the kind things will be so managed as to leave no room for complaint in any quarter." The National Executive Committee of the Union League met in New York and agreed on measures in regard to the canvass of Virginia. In ten years Ireland has sent us 573,753 emigrants; Germany 623,243. Since the German war the immigration from Germany has outnumbered that from Ireland.

**New England.**—Maine is to have a Temperance Party, which will run Ex-Senator Morrill for Governor. The 33 Savings banks of barren New Hampshire have \$17,266,780 in deposits, an increase of nearly \$3,000,000 within a year. Massachusetts is to have a State Asylum for Inebriates. The Women's Suffrage people threaten to organize a National Association. The Rhode Island Legislature has met; Gov. Paddock has been inaugurated; the XVth Amendment has passed the Senate and has been postponed till January in the House.

**Middle States.**—At a double election for Trustees of a Methodist camp-meeting the women not only voted, but gave us a taste of "things to come" by inspecting their husbands' tickets. The thieves of "the Metropolis" have robbed the police headquarters. The R. roads are fighting in the Courts for the control of the Michigan Southern road. The seizure of The Quaker City is to be decided on by the Courts. The Women's Rights people are holding "Working Women's Conventions" at which no real workwomen are allowed to speak. The Water Street Mission is not dead, though little talked of. Nearly a hundred outcast women have been reclaimed, and twenty-eight of them converted.

Our Grape crop will be great beyond precedent. The Court of Common Pleas decides that residents in hotels, taverns and boarding houses cannot legally be assessed as voters. The High Church Lutheran Synod has been in session at Reading. Thirteen candidates for the ministry were ordained.

**City.**—Our death rate is still on the decrease, although scarlet fever carried off 23 children last week. The Common Coun-

cil refuse to reconsider their vote giving the section of the city property in West Philadelphia to the University of Pennsylvania. Petitions in favor of the measure are being presented to the Select Council. Hester Vaughan has been sent back to England, with a sufficient outfit for the voyage. Dr. James Rush, son of Dr. Benj. Rush, and author of a "Treatise on the Human Voice," died in his eighty-fourth year. His Will will enrich the Philadelphia Library Company.

**The South.**—The Freedmen of Virginia petition Gen. Canby to grant them representation on the bench and in the jury-box. They support Wells for Governor.

The La. planters can't stop the craveses in the Mississippi for want of funds. Vessels from Central and South America and the West Indies are proclaimed under quarantine. Alabama is to buy West Florida for \$1,000,000, payable in her bonds. The Supreme Court of Tennessee declares the registration in several counties to be illegal and void, has no legal weight. As to the constitutionality of the Disfranchising Laws the Court reserves its decision.

**The Interior.**—Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa have each a Temperance party who will run their own candidates. A similar movement is on foot in Illinois. The Chicagoans are proposing to build a R. road through Vermont and Portland to New-Foundland, so as to shorten the passage to London by eight days. Many Canadians are about to settle in Kansas.

A terrible hail-storm at Wheeling, Va., and vicinity, ruined vineyards and crops, killed sheep in the fields and seriously injured several persons and (it is reported) laid the town of West Liberty in ruins. The chief witness against the Covington tobacco manufacturers, confesses that he perjured himself at the instance of Government officials. The Republicans have nominated candidates for State offices in Kentucky. Rich silver mines have been found in N. W. Arkansas.

**Canada.**—The Dominion Parliament votes to incorporate the N. W. Territory. The Nova Scotia anti-Unionists propose to renew their demand for separation.

**England.**—The rumored alliance with France and Spain against the U. S. is without foundation. A C. S. A. general (Ripley) has gone through the bankrupt court. The Liverpool Chamber of Commerce have voted an address of welcome to Mr. Motley. In supporting the motion our old and staunch friend, Mr. Patterson, expressed his regret that such a bad precedent as the tolerated escape of the Alabama had been established. Mr. Motley landed on Sunday, and was received by the Mayor. George Peabody has sailed for New York.

**France.**—The Irish Church Bill has finally passed the House of Commons by a vote of 361 to 247 amid enthusiastic cheers. A Tory motion that it be rejected was first made and defeated after being debated. Mr. Motley's speeches are of the most pacific character.

**France.**—In spite of the efforts of the Government the opposition have carried the leading cities of the Empire, and have shown such an opposition to the Imperial policy as will compel a policy of conciliation. Twenty-eight opposition to 198 Government members in a decided gain. Jules Favre is declared "not elected" in Paris, but he will contest the point. The Government had notified all saloon-keepers to support the official candidates or their licenses would not be renewed. The Great Eastern will start from Brest for Duxbury, Mass., with the French Cable, early in June.

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