

American Presbyterian.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1869.

REV. JOHN W. NEARS, D. D., Editor. No. 1334 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

UNION.

Continued from Page 362.

istent and loving remembrance of our Lord. Amusements that undermine the health and waste vitality; amusements by which the weak and the lame are so often turned out of the way only to stumble and perish; amusements that make it appear as if God's children were as eager after, and as intent upon, the gayeties and festivities of the world as the children of the world themselves; amusements making it essential for Christians to take positions that ought to bring, if they do not bring the blood to their faces; and amusements that compel Christians to witness scenes and hear quips and jests soiling their spirits with suggested uncleanness,—these all, and all like these, are branded with condemnation by this divine precept. No true disciple of Christ can give himself to such amusements "in the name of the Lord Jesus."

We close as we began. This whole question must be taken out of the domain of abstract casuistry. It is not so much a question of absolute right and wrong, as of conscience and charity. The spirit of our life is far more important than the letter of our law. The rule of love is higher than the law of liberty. Christianity antagonizes worldliness; it does not conform to it. The Church should deal with it not so much by the axe of discipline as by the sword of the spirit. Yet, without a doubt, the very law of love may sometimes require a kind, considerate, thoughtful exercise of the disciplinary power of the Church; but our chief appeal should be to the conscience. Our main reliance must be on the spirit and the life demanded by the love of Christ, can scarcely allow themselves indulgence in any business or recreation, any work or play, into which and through which and out of which they cannot consistently go with ever present and affectionate remembrance of Him "who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

(HERRICK JOHNSON, WM. E. MOORE, ALEX. WHILLDIN, Committee.)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—SECOND DAY.

After devotional exercises, led by Rev. W. E. Moore, the Assembly was called to order. New arrivals of delegates have brought the number present to 206.

The Moderator announced the Committee on Members of the Assembly deceased since May: Rev. John Waugh, Rev. A. Parsons, Rev. A. Luce.

THE STATE LEGISLATURES AND THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Dr. Darling said there is one subject to which I desire to invite the special attention of the members of the General Assembly, and if I need any apology for presenting this subject it must be found in the fact that in the providence of God, I am exercising my ministry in the capital of one of our States, and I cannot, perhaps, better introduce the paper which I propose to read, than by making a very brief statement to the Assembly.

Last winter in the Senate of New York there was introduced by a distinguished Senator, a bill—asking the unanimous consent of the Senate to its introduction. That consent was granted, and the bill was passed to its third reading without a single member of the Senate knowing what was the spirit and intent of the bill. Just before its third reading the purpose of the bill was discovered, and one of the members of the Senate personally called upon several of the ministers of that city, requesting they should immediately meet and issue a protest against the passage of that bill. The bill was exceedingly well framed, so as to conceal its purpose, but the object was to appropriate from the State sufficient funds to support every Roman Catholic school in the Commonwealth. The protest of these ministers was published, and I think that did as much as anything else to prevent the passage of that bill, and just before I came to this General Assembly, I was called upon by one of the prominent politicians, with an earnest request that all our ecclesiastical bodies should issue some kind of a decided expression of opinion with reference to this movement. It is not a question that is peculiar to the State of New York, but I have in my possession a bill of substantially the same purport, which I am assured will be pressed during this coming winter, before every Legislature in this country, in which there is the slightest prospect of success. It is with these convictions that I propose to read a paper, not for the adoption of the Assembly, for it is too important a matter to be thus hastily acted upon. But after I shall have read the paper, I shall move it be referred either to a special committee, or to the Standing Committee on Bills and Overtures; who can consider whether it is the duty of the Assembly to take action, and if they do so, to act wisely. Perhaps the paper that shall finally pass should be more carefully drawn than the one I have hurriedly sketched before the meeting of the Assembly this morning.

Dr. Darling then read the following paper: The General Assembly, observing with the profoundest concern the attempts that are now being made in various portions of our country, not only to remove the Bible from the place that it heretofore, generally, has had in our common schools, but also to secure from the State the pecuniary support of sectarian schools—schools under the exclusive control of a Church, and designed to teach the peculiar tenets of its theology, and ecclesiasticism; desires to draw to these facts the special attention of its constituency.

Should this movement be successful, it must obviously ultimate in the complete disintegration and final destruction of our present admirable system of common school instruction—a system that is the glory of our land, and that has already brought to it inestimable blessings. Moreover as this movement is entirely in the interest of Romanism, it will, if successful, be so far a virtual establishment of that religion as the State religion of our land, securing from the public treasury to which all our citizens contribute, the religious as well as the secular education of all its youth.

The Assembly would, therefore, earnestly request of its constituency to employ all the instrumentality within their reach to avert from our country so fearful a calamity. Through the pulpit and the press, and by the presentation to our State Legislature of petitions and remonstrances, let the voice of our people be heard, on this great subject, so vital to the highest interests of Christianity and liberality.

Rev. Mr. Childlaw said: I feel this is an important question, and that the Presbyterian Church throughout the length and breadth of this land, should feel a deep interest in the work that is now going on. The Presbyterian Church has ever been the firm and earnest friend of our public schools and of popular education from the very beginning, and when that great system which would educate every child in the land, is threatened, it is time for

us, as Christian men, and for the Presbyterian Church, in its power, to speak out in favor of popular education. We loathe the idea of Church and State united. A great demonstration should be made in behalf of popular education. The efforts made in the State of New York, and which we believe will be made in very many of our States the coming winter, we ought to meet, and I hope the action of this and the other assembly will be decided.

After further discussion, on the disposal to be made of the paper, it was referred to a special committee, consisting of Drs. Darling, Sunderland, Johnson, and Elders Massey and Burnham.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Dr. Booth read the following Communication from this Committee: At a meeting of the Permanent Committee of the General Assembly for Foreign Missions, held at New York, November 4th, 1869, it was unanimously

Resolved, That our Chairman, Rev. Dr. Booth, be requested respectfully to represent to the General Assembly at Pittsburgh, that the appropriations of the American Board to support the missionaries for the ensuing year have been made, relying on the contributions of our churches as heretofore, to enable the Board to meet their appropriations, and to suggest that the Assembly will instruct this committee to request our churches not to divert their accustomed contributions from that Board during its present financial year.

[Attest.] WALTER S. GRIFFITH, Secretary. Dr. Booth added some remarks, explanatory of the position of the Board and Permanent Committee. He said: It is not the object of the Committee or the American Board to dictate or forecast the future of the work of Foreign Missions, but it is our duty as the Committee to accept the situation, and whatever may be determined upon by individual churches or bodies of churches, and whatever may be our minds in view of the past, it is our desire as a Committee to carry out in the future earnestly the new principle that has been adopted; and I may say, speaking as a member of the Prudential Committee of the American Board, that so far as that Board is concerned, they have no desire to reach out their hands, and lay hold upon the churches of this body, and by that means retain them in their connection. They only desire to know what the churches are to do, and are also prepared to accept the situation. It is also possible that our churches in the state of suspense between this point and the coming Assembly, may become indifferent to the matter, and it is necessary that the Assembly should give authoritative utterance on that point, and as perhaps we take leave of that grand organization whose works have been so preëminently blessed among the missionary organizations of the world, we shall go out with flying colors, having discharged our obligations to the uttermost and leaving a grand record behind. I move you that this be referred to the Standing Committee of this Assembly on the American Board of Foreign Missions. Carried, and Rev. Dr. Booth was appointed on the Standing Committee on Foreign Missions, in place of Dr. Hancock.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported a paper from Kansas Presbytery on the inadequate support of the ministry, and arguing for a Sustainment Fund. No action was taken, it being regarded a matter for the consideration of the entire Church.

The Presbytery of Dacotah was exempted from one half of its assessment, on account of the poverty of the churches and the inability of the Indian elders attending the sessions of the Assembly, whose language they could not understand.

REPORT ON FOREIGN CHURCHES.

Dr. Booth made a partial report on the report of delegate to the Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church in Scotland and Ireland.

The Committee find in this paper several suggestions which they deem eminently worthy of the consideration of the General Assembly, and which, in their opinion, are calculated, if carried into effect, to enlarge the influence and promote the prosperity of our branch of the Church.

The suggestions referred to relate to the propriety of opening a correspondence with those branches of the Presbyterian family in Great Britain with which we have up to this time had no formal or official communication, and also they propose an inquiry as to the wisdom of attempting to embody in our practical polity such institutions and customs as have been found useful and salutary among these sister churches.

In reference to the propositions for an enlarged correspondence with the Presbyterian Assemblies of Great Britain, the committee would recommend that it be referred to the next General Assembly, with request that such action shall be taken as will bring all these different branches of the Presbyterian family abroad into more intimate and regular intercourse with the Presbyterian Church in the United States, to the end that mutual sympathy may be promoted, and that each may, if possible, obtain increase of practical power and efficiency from the wisdom and experience of the other.

Adopted. Action on the Memorial of the Presbyterian Historical Society was, on report of the committee to whom the matter had been referred, postponed. On Menses the following report was adopted: WHEREAS, The importance of securing manses or comfortable homes for Presbyterian ministers free of rent cannot be over-estimated; therefore,

Resolved, That the Moderators of the Presbyteries under the care of the General Assembly be instructed to inquire of the churches under their care what they have done or what they propose to do in order to secure a manse for their minister, and the results of said inquiries be reported in the narrative of the state of religion to the next Assembly.

An address on the subject was made by Mr. Wilson, of the Presbyterian Almanac.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REUNION.

Rev. Dr. Adams, from the Committee on Union, gave the substance of the report, which is found in full in the afternoon proceedings, and moved that we have the meeting that has been recommended in the interest of Home Evangelization at the First Presbyterian Church. Carried.

Also, that the Moderator of the Assembly be authorized to appoint a Committee of Five from this body, to serve upon the Committee on Reconstruction, to consider the subject of the boundaries of Synods, Presbyteries, etc.; and also that a similar committee be appointed in reference to evangelical action; and that similar committees be appointed on each of the great causes of the Church, to provide for a consolidation of the various Boards and Committees. The motion did not prevail, on account of the informality of the Committee's report, but it was understood the Moderator would act on the hint.

SECOND DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

AUTOGRAPH BOOK.

Dr. R. K. Rodgers, of the other Assembly, was introduced. He said: I feel greatly obliged for the privilege of saying a word to the brethren of the Assembly. I was not a member of the Assembly when the disruption took place. But I was in Philadelphia. I was born in the Presbyterian Church, and I hope by the blessing of God to die in it. My father and grandfather were members of the Presbyterian Church. My grandfather was forty years pastor of the first Presbyterian church in the city of New York—the founder of that over which the venerable Gardner Spring has been pastor for almost sixty years.

The Moderator—Dr. Rodgers will permit me to say

that his grandfather was also the first Moderator of the General Assembly.

Dr. Rodgers—He was, sir, the first Moderator of the General Assembly. [Applause.] My heart was sickened as I went home after the disruption, not knowing what was to befall our Church. But God has led us by his wonderful providence, and now, after wandering apart for thirty years, I bless God, as one of the sweetest recollections of my life, that I have been enabled to take part in this work of coming together. A book has been provided, and has been presented to the other Assembly. I bring the book here to-day, that it may be laid upon your table, and it has been handed to your Moderator, and I hope the name of every officer and member of this Assembly will be recorded in it. The other Assembly has commenced at this end of the book, and I propose this Assembly shall commence at the other, and that they go on and write and come together in the middle and become one [applause], that it may be known in time to come who the fathers were that consecrated this glorious work. I leave then, sir, this book to be filled up so far as the members of the body will be pleased to add their names, in the hope that by and by we will be permitted to lithograph those names for this book, and it be placed among the records of the Presbyterian Historical Society.

BIBLE IN THE COMMON SCHOOLS.

Dr. Darling, Chairman, introduced the action he had proposed to the Assembly in the morning, as the report of the committee to whom it had been referred. On the motion to adopt, Dr. Crosby proposed a division of the question, and desired a vote, not upon the question of retaining the Bible in the schools, on which, he said, evangelical men were divided, but on that of distributing the public money to sustain schools, on which he did not believe one dissenting voice would be heard among the evangelical Christians of the country.

A debate arose, in which Dr. Crosby's motion met with little favor. But in view of the limited time for considering the matter, a member moved for a postponement, when Judge Strong said he would consider it most unfortunate, now that the subject was introduced, if it was not adopted. He hoped the report would be adopted as presented.

The report was unanimously adopted.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The following report from the Standing Committee on Foreign Missions was presented:

The Standing Committee on Foreign Missions would report upon the paper emanating from the Permanent Committee of the Assembly, which was referred to us, as follows: That in view of the fact that appropriations of the American Board to support its missions have been made in advance for the year ending September, 1870, and as not only a great embarrassment to the Prudential Committee, but also great injury to the cause of missions will result from a sudden contraction in the receipts of the Board, therefore,

Resolved, That the Permanent Committee be requested to urge upon the churches, hitherto contributing to the American Board, that they do not withhold their contributions from it during the present fiscal year.

Resolved, 2d, That the Permanent Committee be also directed to call the attention of our churches to article six of the concurrent resolutions passed by the Assembly at the May meeting, which reads as follows: "There should be one set of committees or boards for Home and Foreign Missions, and the other religious enterprises of the Church, which the churches should be encouraged to sustain, though free to cast their contributions into other channels if they desire to do so,"—since in this resolution the Assembly has represented its matured and well-balanced judgment in regard to the future relations of our churches to the method in which the work of Foreign Missions should be carried on.

The report was accepted and adopted.

Dr. Booth from the Committee on Foreign Presbyterian Churches reported the following questions, which on his motion were referred to the Joint Committee hereafter to be appointed, on promoting the efficiency of the United Church:

1. Is it practicable and would it be advantageous to introduce some new method which shall engage the whole Church in the effort to regulate the support of their ministers, and to provide, from a general fund, a sum which should be paid to each pastor as a maximum compensation for pastoral services?

2. Would it be advantageous to originate some provision by means of which the Church properties should be controlled by the Church itself rather than by Boards of Trustees appointed from the congregations?

3. Would it be desirable that measures be taken to secure uniformity among all the Churches in the mode of admission to the fellowship of the Church, and in the administration of the ordinances, baptism and the Lord's supper?

4. Would it be desirable to have prepared special forms for use in the marriage and burial services, which might be adopted by the ministry at their option as occasion may require?

5. Can any plan be suggested for increasing the effective participation of the membership of our churches in the different methods of Christian work which we have undertaken, and more especially of increasing the system and thoroughness in benevolent contributions to the objects recommended by the General Assembly?

6. Is it not desirable to adopt the rule of the Scotch churches, allowing only pastors and those engaged in the direct and immediate work of the Church, votes in Presbytery and representation in the General Assembly?

GENERAL UNION OF PRESBYTERIANS.

Dr. Fisher presented the report of the Committee on the general union of the Presbyterian Church. He wished to state facts that all would understand where the blame rested, if anywhere. During the summer, the Chairman of the Committee, Rev. Dr. Pressly, called a meeting of the Committee at this place, many of the members of the Committee did not attend it, and the meeting adjourned sine die. Subsequently Rev. Dr. Musgrave, who was Chairman of the Committee from the other branch, and the Chairman of this branch, united in a letter to Dr. Pressly, requesting him to call a meeting of the Joint Committee during the session of the General Assembly. He answered that, as the meeting had adjourned sine die, he did not feel authorized to call another meeting. I propose to read the resolutions which were adopted in the other Assembly:

Resolved, That rejoicing in the immediate reunion of the Presbyterian bodies, so long separated, we would gladly hail a Pan-Presbyterian union, embracing all branches of the Presbyterian family holding to the same Confession of Faith and Form of Government.

Resolved, That until such desirable union shall be accomplished, we will gladly welcome to our church connection all congregations, pastors and members who embrace the doctrines of the Confession of Faith and Form of Government.

Resolved, That all uniting with us may freely enjoy the privilege of using such songs of praise to Almighty God as their conscience may dictate, as indeed is already allowed to, and variously enjoyed in and by, the several congregations now in our communion.

Dr. Fisher said the church was ready to receive them upon these terms, and give them a hearty welcome.

The report was accepted.

Dr. Crosby asked whether it was Pan-Presbyterian or Pan?

A member said the church had been criticized in the New Englander for using the word Pan. The report was adopted, but afterwards on the urgent representations of Dr. Taylor, of Cincinnati, and others, the question was reconsidered, and the

second resolution was stricken out, as lacking in courtesy to those churches and likely to defeat the object in view.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE ON UNION.

Rev. Dr. Adams presented the report, which was being offered at the same time, in the other body, by Rev. Dr. John Hall.

The Joint Committee of Conference on Reunion, met on the 10th of November, 1869, at the Lecture-room of the First Presbyterian Church.

The following resolutions and plans of procedure for the consummation of the reunion of the churches were adopted and recommended as proper to be passed by the respective Assemblies.

1. That each Assembly should declare the vote of the Presbyteries in the following language: "This Assembly having received and examined the statements of the several Presbyteries on the basis of reunion of the two bodies now claiming the name and rights of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, which basis is in the words following:

"The reunion shall be effected on the doctrinal and ecclesiastical basis of our common standards. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments shall be acknowledged to be the inspired word of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. The Confession of Faith shall continue to be sincerely received and adopted as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures, and the government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in the United States shall be approved as containing the principles and rules of our polity."

"Do hereby find and declare that the said basis of reunion has been approved by more than two-thirds of the Presbyteries connected with this branch of the church.

"And, whereas, the other branch of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, now sitting in the First Presbyterian Church, in the city of Pittsburgh, has reported to this Assembly that said basis has been approved by more than two-thirds of the Presbyteries connected with that branch of the Church; now, therefore, we do solemnly declare that said basis of reunion is of binding force."

2. That this committee do recommend that a special committee of five from each branch of the Church shall be appointed to take into consideration the affairs of each of the Boards and Committees of both branches of the Church, to recommend to the Assembly of the United Church, next to be held, what changes are required in said Boards and Committees.

3. That each Assembly also pass the following: WHEREAS, It is apparent from the size of the two Assemblies, that some changes must be made in the present method of representation; therefore,

Resolved, That each of the Assemblies of 1869 do appoint a committee of five, to constitute a joint committee of ten, whose duty it shall be to prepare and propose to the General Assembly of the united Church a proper adjustment of the boundaries of the Presbyteries and Synods, and the ratio of representation, and any amendments of the constitution which they may think necessary to secure efficiency and harmony in the administration of the church so greatly enlarged and so rapidly extending.

4. That the Assemblies do meet at nine o'clock on Friday morning next, and that the vote of the Presbyteries be declared in each Assembly at ten o'clock, and that each Assembly be then dissolved in the usual manner prescribed by the form of Government. That each Assembly do immediately repair to — there to hold a joint meeting for prayer and praise, and that a joint communion service be held on the same day, at three o'clock in the afternoon. That all business before each Assembly be concluded on this (Thursday) evening, and no new business taken up. That a Committee of Arrangements, of two from each church, be appointed to decide upon the form, manner and place of our public meeting, and that a statement on the subject of raising funds for the use of the church be also prepared for said meeting by said Committee of Arrangements—the Rev. Samuel W. Fisher, D. D., Rev. A. G. Hall, D. D., Mr. Robert Carter, and the Hon. Wm. E. Dodge to be said committee. That the first meeting of the Assembly of the united Church be held in the First Presbyterian church, in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Tuesday of May, 1870.

That a committee of five from each branch of the Church be appointed to take into consideration the subject of raising funds for the use of the united church, and the best methods of doing the same, and the objects to which the same should be directed, and to report at the next General Assembly.

That a joint meeting on the subject of Home Missions be held this evening at the First church, on Friday evening, at half-past seven o'clock.

Rev. Dr. S. W. Fisher reported

PROGRAMME FOR FRIDAY.

A Business meeting will be held by both branches at nine o'clock, A. M.

The New School Assembly will close at ten o'clock, when the commissioners will form a procession, two and two, headed by the Moderator, Clerks, and members of the Union Committee; proceed down Sixth avenue to the First Presbyterian Church, forming a line on the opposite sidewalk, looking to Fifth avenue.

The Old School will adjourn at ten o'clock, and form a procession, two by two, headed by the Moderator, Clerks and members of the Union Committee. They will pass out of the church, turning to the left on the sidewalk, and proceeding towards Fifth avenue to a point sufficient for the entire line to form from the church to the Moderator.

The two lines being opposite each other the two Moderators will pass to the centre of the street, join arms and proceed up Fifth avenue followed by the procession, which will be formed by the two lines joining in the centre of the street, so that an Old School and New School companion will join, walking arm in arm. The line will pass up Fifth avenue into Smithfield street; thence into Sixth avenue, to the Third church, which will have been closed and kept empty till their arrival. After the platform shall have been filled, the Commissioners will occupy the body of the house, filling the centre pews, each with seven, and the side pews, each with six, in order that there may be room. There will be no seats in the aisles, but gentlemen are requested to stand close to ladies as much accommodation in the side pews to ladies as possible.

Both sessions were unanimously adopted.

Rev. Mr. Waugh, from the Committee, presented the following:

REPORT ON DECEASED MEMBERS.

The Committee appointed on Deceased Members would respectfully report:

Since the meeting of this General Assembly in New York, in May last, the Great Head of the Church who says, "Behold I come quickly, and my reward is with me to give unto every man as his work shall be," has taken from us three of those who participated with us in that memorable gathering; namely, Rev. F. R. Gallagher, of Coldwater Presbytery, Elder Dr. Horatio G. Tarbell, of Utica Presbytery, and Elder Loring Danforth, of Buffalo Presbytery. While we remember that we are commanded not to sorrow for those who have fallen asleep in Jesus, we cannot but regret the withdrawal of such noble laborers from the Master's earthly work, never more inviting or needful than now—regret because they have not been permitted to witness that consummation of reunion, for which they prayed and voted; nevertheless as we regard them as gathered to the reunion of all saints in glory, we would express our tears, and express our sympathy for their dear relatives, they have left behind deprived of their fellowship and support, and pray that God would sustain them in their loss by His watching Providence

and paternal love, and enable all of us to be more diligent in the work for which He has appointed us.

The report was accepted and adopted.

The reports of the delegates to corresponding bodies were ordered to be printed in the appendix to the minutes.

The minutes of this Assembly were ordered to be printed.

Dr. Darling, from the Committee on Church Polity, read a paper from Ruling Elder H. Scott Howell, in the Church of Keokuk, asking advice as to the proper manner in which an Old and New School church, each having a pastor and full board of elders, should unite; and how dispose of their property. His letter concludes as follows: "I hereby respectfully petition said body to recommend in all such cases that both pastors and all elders of both churches resign and the united Church then choose a pastor and elders whom they please, and that each, at the union surrender their property to the united Church."

The Committee on Church Polity, reported on this paper:

That no recommendation be made at this time by this Assembly upon the subject presented, but that the subject be left for consideration of the Assembly of the united Church in 1870, and that in the meantime no action affecting the title to any of the property of the churches be taken, except under the advice and with the consent of the Presbyteries with which churches taking such action are now connected.

The minutes of the proceedings of the Assembly were read and approved.

Drs. H. Johnson, and Z. M. Humphrey, and Elder W. G. Crowell, were appointed a committee of arrangements for the next meeting of the General Assembly.

The Mileage Committee made a partial report.

A vote of thanks to the citizens and the members of the Third church for the hospitality extended to the Assembly, to the choir, to the various railway companies and to the members of the press, was passed.

Rev. F. A. Noble, pastor of the Third church, made the following response:

Mr. Moderator and brethren:—At the moment the resolution was read extending thanks to this church, I did not catch it, and I have just this moment been told what the purport of the resolution was. I do not rise now to make any special response to it. We have tried to make you feel you were welcome in Pittsburgh. We have tried to open our houses in such a way to you, and spread our tables in such a way, and to look in your faces in such a way, and to grasp your hands in such a way, that you would feel in coming to Pittsburgh you were coming to one of your dear old homes in this land. A great deal of apprehension was expressed in private letters, and the same thing was expressed also in many of the papers in our connection lest we should feel in the peculiar circumstances of this autumn that we were overburdened. I have taken all the pains I could in private conversation, and also in written communications, to ascertain, and I can say we have not felt ourselves overburdened, but we thank the Lord that we have been enabled to entertain the American Board, and to now offer our church to the General Assembly. The General Assembly that has come to us has already brought us its blessings. We feel that God has been with you, that the Holy Spirit has been brooding over us, and what has taken place and is still to take place is to go out to be historic—one of the marked events of this year; I trust it will be one of the marked events in the ecclesiastical history of this age, and it is our joy to have been witnesses to these proceedings. It is our joy at this time to have had with us the members of our General Assembly. Here it was that thirty years ago—a little over—the Presbyterian Church met not as two bodies, but as one, yet twain in heart and twain in thought, making under Providence preparations to be twain in ecclesiastical relations. Now you come as two bodies; you go out as one. You come as two bodies but one in heart, one in spirit, one in purpose from the beginning, henceforth to be one in form. Our prayer is that God will bless this act. Our prayer is that great blessings may come down upon us because of what our eyes have beheld here; because we have been able to share in these proceedings. Brethren you are welcome to come. Our only sorrow is, you go so soon, and here in behalf of this church and the other Churches represented by our faith in this city, I say to you in all sincerity and all earnestness, come again. [Applause.]

COMMITTEES DISCHARGED.

The various standing committees were discharged.

The Assembly adjourned, with prayer.

THIRD DAY—REUNION ACCOMPLISHED.

Friday, November 12th, 1869.

The Assembly met at 9 o'clock, A. M., and opened with prayer by the Moderator.

A deputation from the other Assembly, consisting of Rev. Dr. Musgrave and Mr. Day, was introduced. Dr. Musgrave said: I appear before you as a delegate from the General Assembly in session in the First church, to communicate to you specially the vote of our Presbyteries on the subject of reunion. We have brought a certified copy of the vote; the majority has been much more than two-thirds—the number required, and the votes of your Presbyteries have been almost unanimous. I never discharged any duty in my life with a greater pleasure than this. I have had many duties during the course of my ministry that have filled my heart with praise and thanksgiving to God, but I may say nothing has so excited my gratitude and joy as this. I believe it has been brought about by the Spirit and providence of God, and I firmly believe that He will continue to guide and bless us, and make this union a blessing to our land and our world.

Mr. Day then read the certified vote of the Old School Presbyteries on the overture of reunion. The reading of the vote was greeted with applause.

Mr. Day said: Brethren, I trust that perhaps at this very moment an overture or statement similar in character has gone forth from this Assembly to the Assembly from which we have come, and that it is, I trust, being read there at this very moment. These two churches, so long divided, are now united by the hand of God; and what God hath joined together, brethren, let us never sunder. [Applause.]

The Moderator—This General Assembly feel renewed within them the joy they experienced on being unofficially informed of the result of the vote in your Presbyteries, and we fully sympathize with you in your hopes for the future. Bear to your Assembly the assurance that we are in full accord with them. [Applause.]

JOINT COMMITTEES.

The Moderator then announced the following committees, as suggested by the Joint Committee of Reunion. Similar committees were appointed in the Old School Assembly.

Committee on Reconstruction of Synods and Presbyteries and Change of Constitution—Revs. Drs. Fisher, Patterson, Hatfield, Wing and Tuttle.

Committee on Church Work and Progress—Hon. Wm. E. Dodge, Hon. Wm. Strong, and Revs. Drs. Stearns, Goodrich and Hawley.

Committee on Home Missions—Drs. Adams and Kendall, Arthur Mitchell, H. W. Williams, L. L. D., and Mr. Farrand.

Committee on Church Erection—Elder George W. Lane, Drs. Ellinwood and Taylor, and O. H. Lee and Samuel T. Bodine.

Foreign Missions—Drs. Nelson and Booth, Rev. F. A. Noble, and elders A. Whilldin and T. P. Handy.

On Publication—Drs. Humphrey, J. G. Butler, Dulles, and elders Brown and Knight.

On Freedmen—Drs. Hopkins, Hatfield, H. Johnson, and elders Wm. Thaw and J. W. Edwards.