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# REUNION.

## OLD AND NEW SCHOOL PRESBYTERIANS.

### Adjourned Meeting of the General Assemblies.

### THE PUBLIC SCHOOL QUESTION.

### Final Report of Committee on Reunion.

### UNION OF THE CHURCHES TO BE DECLARED TO-DAY.

### Closing Up the Business.

### ORDER OF TO-DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

### THE REFORMED AND UNITED PRESBYTERIANS.

### Basis of Union Agreed Upon by the Joint Committee.

### ORGANIC UNION NOW CERTAIN.

The General Assemblies of the Old and New School Churches continued in session yesterday. The Joint Committee on Union presented their final report, and all business pending in each body was disposed of finally. All that remains to be done is the formal announcement through committees of the adoption of the Basis of Union overtured; the declaration, simultaneously in each body, of the "binding force" of the same, and the dissolution of the separate Assemblies, which will take place at ten o'clock to-day, to be followed immediately by the "throwing together" of the members in public meeting in the Third Church.

The Joint Committee of the United and Reformed Presbyterian Churches also continued in session, and agreed upon a Basis of Union.

OLD SCHOOL ASSEMBLY.

The Assembly reconvened at the appointed place, at nine o'clock, and was called to order by the Moderator, who opened the proceedings with prayer.

The first half hour was spent in devotional exercises.

The order of the day, the election of Trustees to fill the vacancies in the Board of the General Assembly, was, on motion, postponed until eleven o'clock.

The election of a faculty for Danville Seminary was next in order.

Dr. Cross, of Baltimore, moved to postpone this matter until the meeting of the General Assembly next May, so that next year the New School Assembly could have a voice in the selection of the men.

Dr. Dickson favored prompt and immediate action. It was proposed to hold a session of the Seminary during the winter, which could not be done of course without teachers.

Dr. Imbrie coincided in the views advanced by Dr. Dickson. He thought that the woman about to be married had confidence enough in the man she was about to wed, to let him settle his own affairs. This matter should not be hastily passed over. A little delay would do no harm, and would, perhaps, result in the greater benefit.

The Moderator stated in answer to an inquiry that the question was not one of postponement for a day, but one of postponement until the meeting of the General Assembly in May.

Dr. Skinner said, as a member of the Committee, that they were all in favor of settling this matter at once, cordially, but forever. The question of adjourning this election until May came up before the Committee, and a strong feeling was in favor of postponement, but a subsequent consultation with the friends interested in the case, developed that it was the general opinion that the matter should be fixed up as soon as possible, and forever, but quiet and emphatic manner. The Committee thought the Synod of Kentucky should have their wishes consulted. The nominations before the Assembly were practically the same as would be made after the two bodies had united, and had received the entire approval of all but two persons with whom the Committee had consulted.

Dr. Cross was now allowed to explain his motion to postpone, but as he was proceeding at some length, was interrupted by a call to order, the point being taken that his explanation was taking the form of an argument.

A vote was then taken on the motion to postpone, which was lost.

A motion was made that the election by viva voce. Carried.

The Secretary then read the following list of nominations:

Dr. E. P. Humphreys, Didactic and Polemic Theology.

Dr. Stephen Yerkes, Biblical Literature and Exegetical Theology.

Dr. N. West, Biblical and Ecclesiastical History.

Dr. J. J. Halsey, Church Government and Pastoral Theology.

On motion the list was voted upon as a whole, and the persons nominated unanimously elected.

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES.

Dr. Hornblower, from the Committee on Theological Seminaries, reported that a great number of papers had been placed in the hands of the committee by the Directors of the Danville Seminary, none of which, however, require action on the part of the Assembly, except the one referring to the action of the Board of Directors of the Danville Seminary, in regard to their last annual report, that the Directors approve of their action, even that part censuring the Board for the loose and irresponsible manner of making its report; but the Directors think in justice to themselves it should be made known that the "irresponsible manner" had not been the habit of the Board of Directors.

The following were now declared elected Directors of the Northwestern Seminary at Chicago:

*Ministers*—S. M. Buchanan, D. D., Robt. Patterson, D. D., Rev. J. D. Mason, Rev. S. M. MacAnderson, Rev. Robert Beer.

*Ruling Elders*—J. L. Williams, Chas A. Spring, J. C. Grier, S. M. Moore, Chas A. Vandergrift.

The report was apopted.

Dr. Musgrave at this point made a verbal report from the Joint Committee on Conference, in order that the Assembly might be prepared to receive it, and that the Moderator might have time to consider the appointment of certain committees recommended, if it passed.

Dr. Hall presented the following report on the memorial of the Presbyterian Board of Publication.

REPLY TO MEMORIAL.

The Committee to which was referred the memorial of the Board of Publication touching the order of the General Assembly in May last to the said Board, to pay the Committee, of which Dr. Humphrey is Chairman, appointed by the Assembly to counsel and co operate with parties to a suit at law, involving the rights of property of the Presbyterian Church in Kentucky, respectfully report

1. That the memorial be admitted to record by this Assembly.

2. That the order of the Assembly above recited shall not be hereafter recorded as a precedent for any appropriation of the funds of said Board made from the legitimate objects of their creation.

Following is the memorial.

The Board of Publication respectfully begs leave to lay before the General Assembly the following paper:

*Beloved Fathers and Brethren*.—In obedience to the injunction of your venerable body in its late sessions in the city of New York, we have paid to the order of the Committee in Kentucky, of which the Rev. Dr. Humphrey is chairman, the sum of two thousand dollars, that being the only sum the Board has yet been called on to pay under the resolution of the Assembly. In connection with this subject the Board asks permission, very respectfully, to express their profound and conscientious conviction that the appropriation of the funds of the Board to any other objects, however excellent and praiseworthy in themselves than that of a free, yielding cheap and sound religious literature, is in serious conflict with the one object aimed at in the organization and constitution of the Board with the principles that should rule in the control of funds entrusted by the Church in the management of the Assembly, and with these express directions of the Assembly as found in its records; and that such appropriation to any great extent would seriously impede the Board in its work.

First. It is in conflict with the one object aimed at in the organization and constitution of the Board. This appears from the following facts:

1. At the organization of the Board in 1838, the General Assembly, by formal vote accepted the office and property of the Synodical Tract and Sunday School Board on these terms: "All property, houses, lands, tenements and permanent funds belonging to said Tract and Sabbath School Board shall be taken in the name of the Trustees of the General Assembly and held in trust by them for the use of the Board of Publication, etc." [See Digest, p. 419.] This property was subsequently transferred by authority of the General Assembly to the Board of Publication, and has ever also formed a part of its capital.

To what work the Board of Publication was to apply itself is seen in the initial "Resolution" of the Assembly upon this subject to "superintend and conduct by its own proper authority the work of furnishing the churches under its care with suitable publications," &c. Digest, page 400.

2. According to the Constitution of the Board, the object for which it was to employ funds entrusted to its management was the publication of "such works, permanent and periodical, as are adapted to promote social learning and true religion." [Digest, p. 402.] And in 1853 the Assembly, in the adoption of the Report of the Special Commitee on the Board, affirmed that the great work for which the Board was primarily established was to advocate the principles of the Reformation, and to spread abroad religious truth, &c. [Report, p. 71.]

3. In the year 1858 a fund of between $30,000 or $40,000 was raised and put into the hands of the Board for this work.

It thus appears, in the humble but confident judgment of your Board, that the Assembly in accepting the work and funds of the Synodical Board, and making this Board its successor in the organization and constitution of this Board, and in the acceptance of the fund of 1858, as devoted to this purpose, formally pledged itself to employ this fund solely in the work of publishing and spreading a sound religious literature, and consequently that the appropriation above mentioned by the Assembly in May last, was a departure from the object aimed at in all the previous actions of the Assembly in this important branch of service.

In the second place—as to the principle that should rule in the management of that trust, the Board is fully persuaded, and in this persuasion it is confirmed by the judgment of eminent jurists, that all the proceeds securing from a given fund through its legitimate use, whether of interest from its investments, profits or sales, as well as any additions thereto by donation, are to be as sacredly held for the work for which the original fund itself was intended, and therefore the division of any portion of these funds to other objects is a grave departure from a very important principle.

In the third place this diversion is in conflict with express and repeated directions of the General Assembly. In the adoption of the report of the Special Committee on the Affairs of the Board in 1853, the Assembly then expressed its said: "What these walls of strength and *profits* be expressed in *the Boards benevolent operations*." [Report, page 71.] But the appropriation of the Assembly of last May withdrew just so much from the benevolent operations of the Board. Again, the Assembly urges the Board to a rigid system of economy in every department of its outlay. So earnestly other things, to afford their publications at the lowest . . . But the above appropriation, in so far as it goes, is in direct conflict with the important aim of reducing the price of the publication of the Board.

Fourthly, that such appropriation aside from the very serious principle involved to any great extent, would seriously interfere with the work of the Board, is obvious from the fact that the present working capital of the Board is barely sufficient to enable it to meet the claims upon it with that promptitude which has thus far distinguished its operations. The average monthly balance in its hands is about $12,000, and any great diminution of this sum by appropriation to other objects would impede and mar its work.

These facts and considerations, the Board submits, with all humility and respect to your venerable body, and they request that should the Assembly coincide with the Board in these views you would by formal vote request donations for the purpose of replacing the amount thus withdrawn, and appoint a special committee to secure the necessary amount, and pass a resolution to the effect that the said appropriations shall not be held as a precedent for future action.

This course has been suggested by the voluntary declaration of certain wealthy members of our beloved Zion of a willingness to aid in the contribution of a sum for this object, and thus relieve this whole matter from all its perplexities, whether of principle or practical inconvenience.

By order of the Board of Publication,
W. M. EICS,
Recording Clerk.
Philadelphia, Oct. 28, 1869.

REVOLUTIONARY.

Rev. A. D. Mitchell stated he was requested by the Presbytery of Carlisle to ask permission to enter the name of Rev. Joseph Nelson, who had been on probation in that Presbytery for the past year.

On motion of Dr. Dickson the request was granted.

The Moderator stated that it had been suggested that a Union Prayer Meeting in the First Church could be held with great profit, similar to the previous one in the Third Church.

Dr. Dickson favored the idea and asked that arrangements be made for such a meeting, and that the Committee of Conference be requested to appoint said meeting.

The suggestion was agreed to and Dr. Dickson was appointed to confer with the other Assembly in relation to the matter.

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM.

Rev. J. M. H. Knox presented the following paper:

WHEREAS, The Heidelberg catechism, unquestionably states and defends the doctrines of God's word, held by the churches in common with the other Reformed Churches, and inasmuch as the Reformed (late Dutch) Church has by an act of its General Synod formally placed the shorter catechism of the Westminster Assembly by the side of this, its own standard, allowing its churches the use of either one at their option, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That this Assembly is of opinion that if any churches desire to employ in the instruction of their children the Heidelberg catechism, such usage may be permitted.

The gentleman, in offering the paper, stated he thought the resolution should not be passed as it would be of no practical effect.

Dr. Blackwood coincided in the views of Dr. Knox, and contended that although there was something of a desire in the Church named for union, still there was not a large body of them in favor of organic union with the bodies which were now about to unite. He thought the matter simply one of paper legislation which, though innocent, could do no particular good, and would not do anything toward increasing the desire for union.

Rev. Mr. Plumley stated that this matter was arranged at the last General Assembly. He, however, thought this not exactly a question of paper legislation, but one which, judging from the history of the past, would be productive of good, and would be received in a friendly spirit by the body for whom it was intended. He closed by moving the reference of the whole matter to a committee of five to report to next General Assembly. The motion was carried.

Dr. Dickson reported the New School Assembly, with which he communicated, had already made provisions for a Union Prayer Meeting in behalf of House Missions for Thursday night, and one in behalf of Foreign Missions for Friday night.

Dr. Skinner presented a small tract prepared by a select Committee from the last General Assembly, on the subject of Systematic Beneficence. He characterized it as one of the best papers of the kind ever prepared, and moved that two printed copies be sent to each member of the Assembly. The motion was carried, and the Secretary ordered to forward the tracts as designated.

THE OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH.

Rev. Dr. Rodgers presented the following circular letter from the Congregational Conference of Ohio, on the subject of Sabbath observances:

*To the General Assembly Presbyterian Church, Old School.*

DEAR BRETHREN:—At the 67th annual meeting of the Congregational Conference of Ohio, held at Akron in June last, the undersigned were appointed a Committee for correspondence with different ecclesiastical bodies, in reference to the question of the better observance of the Sabbath. This action was taken in hope that the voices of the Christian Churches might be more effectively heard in protest against the desecration of the holy Sabbath, through resolutions passed and to be published by our ministers and churches in deliberative body assembled—the more especially to influence the Railroad Companies that disregard God's holy day, and on behalf of employes who are deprived of its sacred privilege.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted by the Ohio General Conference at the meeting above alluded to:

*Whereas*, The first day of the week, commonly called Sabbath, is of Divine appointment; and *Whereas*, Obedience to the commands of God is our only hope of peace, and permanency, and prosperity as a people; and *Whereas*, There is a painfully growing tendency among our people to desecrate the Sabbath, therefore,

1. *Resolved*, That we urge upon parents the solemn duty of instructing and training their children to reverence the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

2. *Resolved*, That we call upon the religious and secular press of our country to present more fully and earnestly the claims of our Christian Sabbath.

3. *Resolved*, That the Christian pulpit ought to be faithful, and fearless, and constant in declaring the command and counsel of the Lord in reference to the Christian day.

Supplementary resolutions offered by Rev. Samuel Wolcott, D. D., and passed unanimously:

1. *Resolved*, That the Congregational churches of Ohio, in annual State conference assembled, utter their united and solemn protest against the desecration of the Sabbath by the railroad companies in running their trains on that day, as an invasion of the sanctity of the day, as a disturbance of its peace and worship, as a day of sacred rest, and as a depriving of the employes of the road of their inalienable privileges, to which, by the command of God, they are entitled on this day of sacred rest.

2. *Resolved*, That the Hon. Reuben Hitchcock of Painesville, Hon. Wm. H. Upson of Akron, Hon. Douglas Putnam of Marietta, Rev. Dr. Andrews of Marietta, and Rev. Pres. Fairchild of Oberlin, be a committee on the part of the Conference to invite action officially and respectfully before the several boards of railroad directors whose trains traverse this State.

3. *Resolved*, That our thanks are due to the Grand River Conference for calling our attention to this important subject; and that this Conference, now dissolved, be reported to be continued as a committee of this body, and instructed by correspondence with the Ecclesiastical bodies, and in other ways which they may deem feasible, to secure the end contemplated in the above action, and save the Sabbath from desecration.

According to the census of 1860, the Protestant church membership in the United States was 4,355,000—the best, about *one sixth* of the entire population, and only a small part of those who love the quiet worship of God's holy day.

Of these, what is the vast number shall speak without effect?

It is to urge your body to adopt such measures as will be most effectual to secure such a protest, that we send you this letter.

In the name of our common Lord, let us urge you to take such action in the matter as your wisdom shall dictate.

[Please send notice of your action to Rev. Edward Anderson, Philadelphia, that we may be able to report to our body at *that* next meeting, to be held at Oberlin, O., in June, 1870.]

Affectionately your brethren,
EDWARD ANDERSON,
J. C. BURNELL,
ABEL D. SMITH,
Committee on Sabbath, of Congregational Conference, Ohio.

REPORT CALLED FOR.

The report of the Stated Clerk in reference to the votes of the Presbyteries, on the subject of union, was called for.

Mr. Plumley objected on the ground that the paper had been referred to the Committee on Conference, who still held it, and he had reason to believe that they desired that it be not reported until they had prepared their report.

Mr. Dickson contended that the purpose of the meeting of the Assembly was principally to consider this matter of union. That was what people were here for. The report should have been presented Wednesday morning. He strongly insisted upon the reading of the report.

Mr. Plumley moved that the matter be allowed to rest until the report of the Committee on Conference.

The Moderator stated it had been represented to him that if this matter was brought up and acted upon now, that it would necessarily close the business of the Assembly, according to the basis of union, which provided for the reception of this vote, and, if favorable to union, a consummation accordingly.

Judge Skinner contended that the Committee on Conference had thought it best to postpone the matter, and that he thought their judgment should be complied in.

The debate was interrupted by the special order of the day, it being eleven o'clock, the elections to fill vacancies in the Board of Trustees of the General Assembly.

In a short time Dr. Dickson, from the Committee on Elections, presented as the result of this election the following persons elected:

*Ministers*—Geo. Hall D.D., D. A. Cunningham, I. Findley, Archibald McIntyre.

*Ruling Elders*—Hon. Robert Cornelius, H. Lennox Hodge, D.D.

On motion of Rev. Dr. Hornblower, Rev. Joseph Hawthorne, D.D., Rev. A. O. Gill, and Elder Belknap were appointed a committee to notify the newly chosen Faculty of Danville Seminary of their election.

Rev. Dr. Bear presented the following report of the Select Committee on Annuities in reference to bequests of Rev. Joseph Coe, deceased.

CERTAIN ANNUITIES.

The special committee to whom were referred matters pertaining to certain annuities bequeathed by Rev. James Coe, deceased, to each of the five Boards of the Presbyterian church in the United States, known and designated as the Old School Branch of the Presbyterian Church, viz: the Board of Foreign Missions, Board of Domestic Missions, Board of Education, Board of Publication and Church Extension Committee, said annuities being the sum of one hundred dollars per annum to each of said Boards, reports as follows: That the said Boards be and are hereby directed by the General Assembly to execute by their proper officers to the heirs and executors of the estate of James Coe, deceased, a full release of all their claims upon said estate on the payment by said heirs and executors of the sum of one hundred thousand dollars to each of said Boards.

REPORT ON THE REUNION VOTE.

Dr. Magill, Stated Clerk, presented the following report of the vote of the Presbyteries on the subject of union.

The Presbyteries in connection with this General Assembly have all reported in writing on the overture of reunion as ordered in the "Brick Church" at New York, except the following twelve, viz: Austin, Crisco, Knox, Knoxville, Logansport, Maury, Milwaukee, Ogdensburg, Shantung, Siam, Stockton and Western Africa. The Stated Clerk of the Santa Fe Presbytery has reported by letter that it is impossible for the Presbytery to have a meeting in present circumstances. The Presbyteries of Allahabad and Canton, being unable to meet within the time specified, have sent circulars, signed by a majority of each, to indicate their will of the favor of the reunion as now proposed; but these are not counted in declaring the result. Another Presbytery, Lahore, formed by the Synod of Northern India in December last, but not regularly reported as yet by any officer of that Synod, has sent its answer to this overture, in written form, and this has been counted, on the presumption that the Assembly will recognize at this meeting the existence of that Presbytery on our roll.

We have thus one hundred and forty-four Presbyteries. One hundred and twenty-five of these have answered the overtures sent down affirmatively in writing. Three, viz: Hudson, Rio de Janeiro and West Lexington, have answered in the negative. Fifty-eight have been unanimous in the vote. Not including Presbyteries in which the divided vote is not specified in the answers and those in which the want of unanimity is expressed only by "non liquet" and "excused from voting," there may be counted two hundred and forty-five negative votes, detailed in these returns and distributed among sixty Presbyteries and in about equal proportion of ministers and of ruling elders. The Presbytery of Nassau has reported a formal protest, along with the detail of negative votes.

Various reasons have been made in great diversity of form. They have not generally come with the categorical precision, which seems to be required on the part of the Assembly, and many of them must be read along with the whole action of the Assembly, to be understood. Sometimes it is "the plan," sometimes "the overture;" sometimes "the question;" sometimes "the basis," and sometimes merely the "principle of reunion," which has been reported as carried in the affirmative, without any precise reference to the 3d article of the 1st part, in the document the Assembly adopted at New York.

That whole document was printed and sent down in due time for reflection and action. Yesterday, by the Stated Clerk, that the Presbyteries might judge for themselves what the Assembly intended to take under consideration. In the printed minutes of proceedings at New York, [p. 917] we have a resolution "requiring the Committee of Conference to bring in this memorial with copies of their action on the plan of reunion." Now the plan of reunion as it was designated by the joint committee, and adopted the day before, is a whole series of six articles or subscriptions. The resolution referred to, unlike the special memorial first made and carried, is all for a categorical answer to one question seems to have contemplated action by the Presbyteries on the whole six particulars embodied in the "plan," adopted by the Assembly, and embracing of course the details of the agreement of the boundaries of the Presbyteries and Synods, and the ratio of representation, and any amendments of the Constitution which might think necessary to secure efficiency and harmony in the administration of the Church so greatly enlarged and yet simplified in its requirement of

4. That the Assemblies do meet at nine o'clock on Friday next, and that the vote of the Presbyteries be then taken by the 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 3d Church, there to hold a joint meeting for prayer and thanksgiving, and a joint communion service be held on the same day at three o'clock in the afternoon.

That all business before each Assembly shall be concluded on this Thursday evening, as no new business will be taken up.

That a committee of arrangements of two from each Church be appointed to decide upon the hymns, tunes, and order of the public meeting, and to prepare a statement on the subject of raising funds for the use of the church to also prepare a form of a call for the committee of arrangements, and that the Rev. Saml. W. Fisher, D.D., Rev. A. G. Hall, D.D., Mr. Robert Carter and Hon. W. B. Ewing be the committee.

Dr. Musgrave said committee.

The report was then read.

R. W. Childlaw made a few remarks, heartily concurring in the proposal to unite the Old School Presbyterian Church had ever been the friend of popular education, and repudiated the idea of Church and State. He hoped the subject presented would receive earnest attention, and that prompt action might be had.

A motion was made to refer the paper to the Committee on Bills and Overtures.

An amendment was offered that it be referred to the Joint Committee on Union.

Dr. Darling opposed the amendment. If referred to the Assembly's Committee, it feared no action would be taken at this time. That Committee had quite as much on their hands as they could well dispose of, and the matter now under consideration could not receive, in consequence, that attention from them that it should and demanded.

The amendment did not prevail, and the original motion was also lost.

It seeming to be the design of the Assembly that the paper should go to a special Committee, a motion to that effect was offered and carried. The Moderator announced as the Committee Rev. Dr. Darling, Rev. Dr. Sunderland, Rev. Dr. Johnson, and Elders Massey and Burnham.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Dr. Booth presented a paper from the Permanent Committee of the American Board, embracing the following resolution:

*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 the support of the missionary work 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 further, 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.

The resolution was referred to the standing Committee on Missions.

Dr. Chester read a report from the Committee on Overtures, which was amended slightly and adopted.

Dr. Booth presented a partial report from the Committee on Delegates to British churches, which was adopted.

The Clerk then read a report of the Committee on Missions, accompanying which was the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That a special Committee be appointed to inquire of the various Presbyteries what has been and is being done by the congregations towards providing manses for their pastors, the report of the same to be sent up to the next Assembly.

The report was adopted, after which Rev. Mr. Wilson, who has taken a deep interest in this subject, was introduced, and delivered a very interesting address, concluding by urging the churches to take hold of the movement, so that every minister will be in his own manse.

DEVOTIONAL.

The Assembly then joined in singing three stanzas of the 23d hymn, commencing:

"There is a fountain filled with blood,"

After which Rev. Mr. Riggs offered a prayer.

PROGRESS OF REUNION.

Rev. Dr. Adams, from the Joint Committee on Reunion, here made his appearance. He stated that the Committee had a very protracted session; that all matters had been carefully considered, and that on every legal point the best talent that could be obtained was secured. He stated that it had been deemed proper to report generally to the Assembly, but that the formal report would be presented. He said that the committee had agreed upon the mode in which the reunion shall be consummated. Among the arrangements made were: That all the business of the Assemblies shall be finished to-day, after which no new business shall be introduced. That a joint service, with special reference to home evangelization will be held this evening in the First church. That both Assemblies will meet to-morrow morning, and that at 10 o'clock precisely both shall be simultaneously dissolved in legal form. That immediately afterward the two bodies shall flow together in a public meeting, the arrangements for which had not yet been perfected. That a public celebration of the union will be held in the morning, and that in the afternoon a sacramental service will be held in the First church, Wood street. In the evening a public meeting in reference to Foreign Missions would be held. He also stated that the Committee had agreed upon suggesting the appointment of a joint Committee of five from each Body, whose duty it shall be, in the interval between the present time and the meeting of the Assembly in May next, to prepare a report on the changes in Synods and Presbyteries, and changes necessary in the constitution in reference to ratio of representation. A joint committee of five from each body would also be suggested to consider the position of the several Boards and Committees which are now the channels of evangelical action, and a joint committee of the same number, to prepare and report some method showing our desire to accomplish, with greater zeal, our work of evangelization.

Dr. Adams' report was for the purpose of apprising the Assembly of the action taken by the Joint Committee, so that no action was necessary on the part of the Assembly.

The Assembly then took a recess until half past two o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Assembly was called to order at half-past two o'clock, and business resumed after prayer by the Moderator.

The minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

AN AUTOGRAPH BOOK.

Rev. Dr. Rodgers, of the Old School branch, was introduced and made a few remarks on the subject of the union about to be consummated. He announced that a book had been provided in which every member of the Assembly would be permitted, and was solicited, to subscribe his autograph, in order that it may be known in time to come who those were that participated in the work of bringing about the union of the two churches after a separation of thirty years. The book had been presented in each other branch and over two hundred names subscribed therein. He proposed that this body begin at the other end of the book in recording their autographs, and meet with the members of the other body in the middle. There was now the book, which would be lithographed, and then placed with the archives of the Presbyterian Historical Society.

The Moderator announced that an arrangement would be made for members to record their names without interfering with the business of the Assembly.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AGAIN.

Rev. Dr. Darling presented the report of the Special Committee on Public Schools, as follows:

The General Assembly, observing with deep solicitude 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 under the exclusive control of a Church whose design is to teach the peculiar tenets of its theology and ecclesiasticism, desires to draw to those facts the special attention of its constituency.

Should this movement be successful, it must surely ultimate in the complete disintegration and final destruction of our present admirable system of common schools, a system that is the glory of our land, and that has already brought to it inestimable blessings. Moreover, as this movement for sectarian legislation 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 support to which the secular education of all is yours.

The Assembly would, therefore, request of its constituency to employ all of the measures within their reach to avert from our country so fearful a calamity. Through the pulpit, and the press, and by petitions to Congress, State Legislatures of petitions and remonstrances, let our people speak on this great subject, so vital to the highest interests of Christianity and liberty.

The report was accepted.

Dr. Crosby, of New York, said he was glad Dr. Darling had introduced the subject. He desired, however, to ask a slight modification of the report, by striking out the clause having reference to the Bible in the Public Schools. The object aimed at by the Committee was non-sectarianism in the schools. As there was an earnest difference of opinion among ecclesiastical men, and by striking reference to the Bible he thought the report would be the stronger.

After some discussion Dr. Darling said that perhaps it was an infelicity in the Committee in framing the clause, but it would be a greater infelicity in the Assembly to strike it out. Upon examining the report it would be found that the leading ideas only inserted in a rhetorical of the general movement referred to.

Considerable feeling being manifested on the matter, Dr. Crosby said he would withdraw his motion to strike out the clause, although he felt that its presence weakened the argument against the use of public money in sectarian schools.

Dr. Cowells, of Elmira, objected to the withdrawal of the motion.

The Moderator stated permission had been given to withdraw it, and no objection being made it had been withdrawn.

A motion was made to indefinitely postpone the whole subject.

Judge Strong thought it would be unfortunate if this were done. The subject was of too much importance for the members not to be outspoken upon it.

Remember, considered that insisting upon the presence of the Bible in the schools was putting an argument in the mouths of the Catholics and others for a division of the school funds. He coincided in the view expressed by Dr. Crosby.

There were some further remarks, and a disposition manifested to prolong the discussion.

Dr. Crosby said if the matter was to be discussed, he would renew his motion to modify.

The motion to postpone was put and lost, and the report adopted as read, unanimously.

MORE REPORTS.

The Committee on Unemployed Ministers reported, recommending that the matter be deferred until the next General Assembly.

The Permanent Clerk read reports from the Committee on Missions, which were referred to the Committee, to be raised on Increased Efficiency in the Church.

THE UNION FEVER SPREADING.

Dr. Fisher offered the following resolutions, which, after some discussion, were adopted:

*Resolved*, 1. That rejoicing in the immediate reunion of the two 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*, 2. 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 form of government.

Dr. M. Baird said the resolution had caused some unpleasant feelings, one having been made of it not contemplated. It was one of three adopted by the Assembly on Wednesday, and acted on by the New School Assembly to-day. [See proceedings N. S. Assembly.]

He then moved that the second resolution in relation to the reception of individuals and ministers be stricken out.

The resolution was read.

The Moderator stated the question was upon the adoption of the second resolution.

Dr. Skinner thought the resolution should be expunged. He thought it rather undignified for a strong body to hold out the idea that they would receive any stray member, or officer, or weak struggling organization. They would gladly receive them as a body, but not in this form.

A vote was then taken and the second resolution was expunged.

Rev. Mr. Beer then moved to expunge the third resolution on the ground that it merely was dependant upon the second.

Dr. Hall, of New York, made a few remarks against the passage of this third resolution. He would be very glad to pass anything which would show a fraternal feeling toward any other body, but he thought it rather undignified and indelicate to take a position which seemed to infer that as a large re-united body, they were glad to see the other organizations going down.

Dr. Waterbury favored the sentiments expressed by Dr. Hall.

Dr. Beer moved to refer the paper to a committee of three, with Dr. Hall as Chairman and report a paper expressive of the sentiments of the Assembly.

Senator Drake—We have no time for that now.

Dr. Taylor, of Philadelphia, said in the committee it had been said that the united body would not tolerate psalm singers at all with them, and hence the necessity of the resolution. Now, if after being adopted, it were reconsidered, it would have a bad influence.

Other speakers briefly referred to the resolution, after which a vote was taken, and it was expunged. The report as thus amended was then adopted.

Rev. Dr. Rodgers offered a resolution appointing Lafayette Cattell, now traveling in Europe, a delegate to the Belgian Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. Adopted.

Elder Day offered a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of three, to act in conjunction with a similar committee from the other body, to make arrangements for the meeting of the General Assembly in Philadelphia next year. Carried, and Rev. Alex. Reed, D. D., minister, and Morris Patterson and Mr. Gardner, ruling elders, appointed.

On motion of Dr. Rodgers, the thanks of the Assembly were returned to railway managers, the entertainers of delegates, the trustees and pastor of the First Presbyterian Church and to the members of the press for kindnesses and attentions received.

Elder Day moved the appointment of a Committee of two to acquaint the New School Assembly of the result of the vote on the question of union, as it had been recorded in the minutes.

Carried, and Rev. Dr. Musgrave and Elder Henry Day appointed.

The Moderator now announced the following committees as provided for in the report of the Joint Committee.

*Church Extension*—Rev. E. R. Wilson, D.D., Rev. Oscar Hills, J. C. Hoovers, Jesse L. Williams, and Rev. A. E. Taylor.

*Disabled Ministers*—Rev. Dr. J. H. Skinner, Rev. Dr. Hall, Rev. Dr. Alexander Reed, Robert Carter and A. R. Belknap.

*Freedmen*—Rev. A. C. McClelland, Rev. E. E. Swift, Rev. A. McLain, J. E. Brown and Wm. McArthur.

*Reconstruction*—Rev. Dr. Musgrave, Rev. Dr. Beatty, Cyrus Dickson, Henry Day, Wm. Francis.

*Foreign Missions*—Rev. Dr. John C. Lowrie, Rev. Dr. Wm. M. Paxton, Rev S. F. Scovel, Elder Judge Skinner, and Judge Ryerson.

*Domestic Missions*—Dr. Musgrave, Rev. Dr. D. A. Cunningham, Rev. Dr. M'Kinney, Rev. Dr. J. T. Bacchus, Elder H. D. Gregory.

*Publication*—Rev. Dr. Schenck, Rev. Dr. Craven, Rev. Dr. Beer, Elders J. T. Nixon and George Junkin.

*Education*—Rev. Dr. Speer, Rev. S. J. Nicholls, Rev S. C. Logan, Geo. Hill, and Judge Kennedy.

*Committee to Raise Funds*—Rev. Dr. John Hall, Rev. Dr. Imbrie, Elders W. S. Gilman, R. M'Keigh and J. D. Vermilye.

Announcements for the evening meeting were then read, and the preliminaries for the meeting to day made, after which the Doxology was sung, and the Assembly adjourned with prayer by the Moderator, until this morning at nine o'clock.

THE NEW SCHOOL ASSEMBLY.

The General Assembly of the New School Church met at the appointed time, nine o'clock, and spent an hour in devotional exercises, commencing with the hymn,

"How sweet the name of Jesus sounds,
For a believer's ear."

Rev. W. E. Moore (occupying the chair in the absence of the Moderator) read as a Scriptural lesson the 15th chapter of the Gospel according to St. John.

Rev. Mr. Moore offered up a prayer.

A portion of the 35th hymn was next sung, commencing

"When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of glory died."

BUSINESS MATTERS.

At ten o'clock, Rev. Dr. Fowler, the Moderator, called the Assembly to order for business, and offered up a prayer.

The minutes of Wednesday afternoon session were read and approved.

The Moderator announced as the Committee on Deceased Ministers, Rev. John Waugh, of Utica Synod, Rev. Levi Parsons, of Genesee Synod, and Elder Albert A. Luce, of Michigan Synod.

Absentees at Wednesday's Session were called and a number reported themselves.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Rev. Dr. Henry Darling, of Albany, N. Y., called the attention of the Assembly to the subject of public schools, supported by states, and mentioned the fact of a bill having been introduced in the Legislature of New York, last winter, and passed to its third reading, before its real object was discovered. The bill was carefully and shrewdly drawn, and was nothing more nor less than a proposition for appropriations for the support of Roman Catholic Schools. Ministers of the city of Albany were prevailed upon to enter their protest against it, and to this more than anything else, the defeat of the measure was attributable. This speaker deemed it his duty to call the subject to the attention of the Assembly. He had been affiliated so closely with a distinguished politician since he (the speaker) had been in attendance at this present session. He had prepared, and would read, a minute on the subject, which he had hastily prepared and desired to have referred to a committee for their consideration. The paper was read.

Dr. Crosby, of New York, said he was glad Dr. Darling had introduced the subject. He desired, however, to ask a slight modification of the report, by striking out the clause having reference to the Bible in the Public Schools. The object aimed at by the Committee was non-sectarianism in the schools. As there was an earnest difference of opinion among ecclesiastical men, and by omitting reference to the Bible he thought the report would be the stronger.

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