PRESBYTERIAN BANNER & ADVOCATE.

Presbyterian Banner, Vol. VIII, No. 3
Presbyterian Advocate, Vol. XXI, No. 50

"ONE THING IS NEEDFUL:" "ONE THING HAVE I DESIRED OF THE LORD:" "THIS ONE THING I DO."

WHOLE NO. 367

DAVID McKINNEY and JAMES ALLISON, Editors.

PUBLICATION OFFICE, GAZETTE BUILDING, FIFTH STREET, ABOVE SMITHFIELD, PITTSBURGH, PA.

Philadelphia: South West Corner of Seventh and Chestnut Streets

TERMS.—IN ADVANCE.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1859.

By Mail, or at the Office, $1.50 per Year. Delivered in the City, 2.00 " " } SEE PROSPECTUS.

Select Poetry.

An Ancient Hymn.

The following is a portion of a hymn by an Abbot of Clugni, France, dating prior to the maturity of Romanism. It would almost seem to have been the germ of "O Mother Dear, Jerusalem."

To thee, O dear, dear country,
Mine eyes their vigils keep;
For very love, beholding
Thy happy name, they weep;
The mention of thy glory
Is unction to the breast,
And medicine in sickness,
And love, and life, and rest.
O one, O only mansion,
O Paradise of joy!
Where tears are ever banished,
And joys have no alloy;
Beside thy living waters
All plants are, great and small—
The cedar of the forest,
The hyssop on the wall.
Thy ageless walls are bonded
With amethyst unprized.
The saints build up its fabric,
And the corner-stone is Christ.
Thou hast no shore, fair ocean,
Thou hast no time, bright day:
Dear fountain of refreshment
To pilgrims far away;
Upon the Rock of Ages
They raise thy holy tower;
Thine is the victor's laurel,
And thine the golden dower.

* * * *

They stand, those halls of Zion,
Conjubilant with song,
And bright with many an angel,
And many a martyr throng;
The Prince is ever in them,
The light is aye serene,
The pastures of the blessed
Are deck'd in glorious sheen.
There is the throne of David,
And there, from toil released,
The shout of them that triumph,
The song of them that feast;
And they, beneath their Leader,
Who conquered in the fight,
For ever and for ever
Are clad in robes of white.

The Synod of Allegheny.

MERCER, PA., September 22d, 1859.

The Synod of Allegheny met, according to adjournment, and was opened with a sermon by the Moderator, Rev. J. W. Dickey, from Num. xxiii; 18, 19, "Rise up, Balak, and hear; hearken unto me, thou son of Zippor: God is not man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"—after which, Synod was constituted by prayer.

The following members were present:

PRESBYTERY OF ERIE.

Ministers.	*Elders.*
Jno. V. Reynolds, D.D.,	J. H. Tiffany,
S. J. M. Eaton,	L D McCullough,
John W. McCune,	Wm. Campbell,
James W. Dickey,	John Condit,
James M. Shields,	S R Mason,
Wm. M. Blackburn,	J. L Reed,
John R. Findley,	J. Breckenridge,
John R. Hamilton,	John Mellon,
John D. Howey.	Alex. Brown,
	John McClelland,
	G. E. Lashelles.

PRESBYTERY OF BEAVER.

Ministers.	*Elders.*
Robert Dilworth, D.D.,	Nathan Moore,
Absalom McCready,	Wm Fruit,
William Nesbit,	Thomas B. Wells,
John W. Johnston,	J. F. Thompson,
Benj. C. Critchlow,	J. W. Johnston,
David Waggoner,	Alva Morris,
Henry Webber,	J. R. Hays,
Robert Dickson,	Daniel McConnell.
William T. McAdam,	
David C. Reed,	
Elliot E. Swift,	
Thomas G. Scott.	

PRESBYTERY OF ALLEGHENY.

Ministers.	*Elders.*
John Munson,	Adam Black.
John Coulter,	Wm McCalvin,
Loyal Young, D. D.,	Thomas H Bracken,
Robert B. Walker,	Robert Stevenson,
Newton Bracken,	J. W. Stewart,
William G Taylor,	Ezekiel Howe,
Alex. Cunningham,	Robert Stewart,
Ephraim Ogden,	Thomas King,
William F. Kean,	Wm A Davidson,
J. V. Miller.	James Wilson,
J. F. Boyd,	Joseph McJunkin,
David Hall,	John Moyn.
Samuel Williams,	
J. R. Coulter,	
James Coulter.	

PRESBYTERY OF ALLEGHENY CITY.

Ministers.	*Elders.*
Elisha P. Swift, D. D,	Alex. Cameron,
John F. McLaren, D.D.,	Robert Gilleland,
William Annan,	T. H. Nevin,
Leland R McAboy,	John Brown.
James Allison,	
David A Cunningham,	
M. L. Wortman.	

The following members were absent:

Presbytery of Erie.—David Grier, L. G. Olmstead.

Presbytery of Beaver—Robert Johnston.

Presbytery of Allegheny City—Nathaniel Todd, David Elliott, D D., Wm. S. Plumer, D D., Henry R. Wilson, D.D., Daniel E. Nevin, Edward S. Blake, Louis L. Conrad, John Brown, John Davis, H. W. Gutbrie.

The election of Moderator resulted in the choice of Rev. John F. McLaren, D. D.

Adjourned to meet to morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

FRIDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock.

Synod met, and was opened with the usual religious exercises.

The Minutes of last evening were read.

Rev. Wm. G. Taylor was elected Temporary Clerk.

The Rev. R. S Morton, of the Synod of Wheeling; Rev. George W. Zahniser, of the Synod of Philadelphia; Rev Thomas McDermott, of the Synod of Ohio; Rev. Robert McWatty, Rev. Edward Small, of the United Presbyterian Church; Rev. Mr. Lebberman, of the German Reformed Church; Rev. D. R. Barker, of the Congregational Church; and Rev. Mr. Gillett, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, being present, were invited to sit as corresponding members.

The Moderator announced the following Committees:

ON BILLS AND OVERTURES.

Ministers—James W. Dickey, David Waggoner, Robert B. Walker, William Annan. *Elders*—James W. Johnston, Robert Stevenson, Robert Gilleland.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE.

Ministers—Leland R. McAboy, Newton Bracken, William M. Blackburn, William T. Mc dam. *Elders*—S. R. Mason, Joseph McJunkin, Alexander Cameron

ON THE RECORDS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF ERIE.

Ministers—Henry Webber, David Hall. *Elder*—Thomas H. Bracken.

ON THE RECORDS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF BEAVER.

Ministers—James Allison, Ephraim Ogden. *Elder*—William McCalvin.

ON THE RECORDS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF ALLEGHENY.

Ministers—Absalom McCready, David A. Cunningham. *Elder*—William A. Davidson.

ON THE RECORDS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF ALLEGHENY CITY.

Ministers—David C. Reed, John Coulter. *Elder*—William Fruit.

ON DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES.

Ministers—John R. Findley, Benj. C. Critchlow. *Elder*—S. R. Mason.

ON THE NARRATIVE OF THE STATE OF RELIGION.

Ministers—John V. Reynolds, D.D., Loyal Young, D.D. *Elder*—Theo H. Nevin.

ON THE SYNODICAL DISCOURSE.

Ministers—Elisha P. Swift, D.D., Robert Dilworth, D.D. *Elder*—Robert Stevenson.

ON THE MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Ministers—John Munson, Robert Dickson. *Elder*—Jas. Wilson.

ON REASONS OF ABSENCE FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF SYNOD.

Ministers—John W. Johnston, J. V. Miller, James M. Shields. *Elders*—Thomas B. Wells, Ezekiel Howe.

ON GRANTING LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THIS MEETING OF SYNOD.

Ministers—William F. Kean, M. L. Wortman, James Coulter. *Elders*—D. A. M'Kee, John Condit.

Statistical Reports were called for, read, and placed in the hands of the Stated Clerk.

Presbyterial Records were presented, and placed in the hands of committees, for examination.

The Minutes of the last meeting of Synod were read.

A collection of twenty five cents from each member, was taken up to replenish the Contingent Fund of Synod.

Synod then proceeded to appoint the place and hour of its next meeting. It was resolved to meet in the *First Presbyterian Church, Allegheny City, on the Fourth Thursday of September next*, at 7½ o'clock P. M.

The Board of Colportage presented the following report, which was accepted, and committed to Messrs J W. Johnston, Wm. Campbell, and Alexander Cameron:

Another year of labor and toil, of duty and privilege, have passed away, and we make this, our Annual Report, to your venerable bodies.

This Board is the creature of these two Synods; it was created by you it has been sustained by you, and it can succeed in accomplishing its purposes, under God, only by your fostering care. The means placed at our disposal have been limited, but we have endeavored to employ them in the most economical manner, and so as to accomplish the greatest possible amount of good We have been able to meet all the expenses connected with keeping the rooms, in the way of salaries, rent, freight, postage, taxes, etc., from the profits of the sales So that every dollar contributed by the churches and individuals has been expended in actual colportage services.

We list the contributions received are very far below what they ought to be, we are gratified to state that the last year has witnessed considerable increase. The previous year gave us $241 81 in the way of contributions; but during the last year our contributions from churches and individuals have been $497.61. During this period, twelve colporteurs have been employed. Two of these have explored the cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny thoroughly, and have brought to the notice of your Board most striking evidence of the need of such a work as it is now attempting to do. And the reports of the colporteurs in general are full of encouragement to persevere in the enterprise they have undertaken.

The amount paid to colporteurs has been $405.84; colporteurs' donations, $49 69; total, $455.53. Ten of our colporteurs have labored for a per centage of twenty cents on the amount of their sales. The salary of Librarian, and other expenses, have been $746.11. The stock now on hand is $917.97. Our book accounts, considered good, amount to $2.082 39. The Treasurer's account is $184 63 Our furniture and office fixtures are estimated at $150.00. Indebtedness to Board of Publication, and others, $669.16. So that the whole amount of property now in the care of the Board, and belonging to the two Synods, is $2,738 85.

Thus have we laid before your venerable bodies the results of the labors of last year, and our present condition. Within our bounds, there are many calls for books and colporteurs. If you will place in our treasury the necessary means, every call can be met at once, and in the most economical manner. We only ask a small collection from all the churches within your bounds, and the prayers and encouragement of all God's dear people, while we endeavor to do the work entrusted to us.

It was made the order of the day for 9½ o'clock to-morrow morning, to inquire into the action of the Presbyteries in the matter of the Endowment of the Fourth Professorship in the Western Theological Seminary.

Synod took a recess until 2 o'clock.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, 2 o'clock.

The Committee on Devotional Exercises presented the following partial report, which was accepted and adopted:

Presbyterian Church—Saturday evening, at 7 o'clock, Rev. James Allison; on Sabbath morning, at 11 o'clock, Rev. David Hall; Sabbath evening, at 7. o'clock, Rev. W. G Taylor; Communion services at 2 o'clock, Rev. Drs. Dilworth and Swift, and Rev. Wm Annan, under the direction of the Moderator.

United Presbyterian Church, (Mr. McWatty's,)—Sabbath morning, at 11 o'clock, Rev. L. Young, D.D.; in the afternoon, Rev. L. R. McAboy; in the evening at 7 o'clock, Rev. D. A. Cunningham.

Methodist Episcopal Church—Sabbath morning, at 11 o'clock, Rev. Robert Dickson; in the evening, at 7 o'clock, Rev. W. F. Kean.

The matter of Church Extension within the bounds of Synod, was discussed at length.

The time fixed by the standing rule, for devotional exercises having arrived, Synod spent one hour and a half in exhortation, prayer, and praise, under the direction of the Moderator. During these exercises, the Narrative of the State of Religion was read by Rev. W. M. Blackburn, Chairman of the Committee; and after the close of this service, it was unanimously adopted, and is as follows:

NARRATIVE OF THE STATE OF RELIGION.

"Sing praises to the Lord, which dwelleth in Zion; declare among the people his doings." "Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. Cry and shout thou inhabitants of Zion, for great is the Holy One in the midst of thee." In such language would the watchmen lift up the voice; and with the voice together would they sing, of the Lord's loving kindness, and his faithfulness toward every member of this Synod. Each one may say, "Thou hast magnified thy mercy which thou hast shown unto me, in saving my life." No watchman has been taken from the walls, no laborer from the vineyard, no pastor from the feeding of the flocks. The fathers yet remain, to "bring forth fruit in old age;" "to show that the Lord is upright." And upon many young men have been laid the hands of the Presbytery. And the "best of all is, God is with us." He has made beautiful, "the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, thy God reigneth." He has given to many of his servants "the tongue of the learned that *they* should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary." He has caused many to set their faces to the Lord to seek by prayer a Father's promise, and "their prayer came to his holy dwelling." The inhabitants of one place have said to one another, "Let us go speedily to pray before the Lord and to seek the Lord of hosts: *I will go also.*" And to his people others have said, "We will go with you, for we have heard that God is with you" In some churches "the cloud tarried long upon the tabernacle, many days." In mercy the Lord said "drop down ye heavens from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness;" and with them it has been, "as when the harvestman gatereth the corn, and reapeth the ears with his arm." In several churches, visited last year, "the Lord has set his hand the second time to recover the remnant of his people," and they have found the high way of our God.

The minutes of the General Assembly show that during the last year, Assembly's year, there were added to the churches of this Synod, on examination, one thousand and seventy-two. Only *five* churches, of which any report was made, are reported as having received no additions. We think some of these, and some others, not reported, have not been without accessions. The minutes report a membership in this Synod of nearly ten thousand.

The columns in our reports, pertaining to the children of the Church, deserve attention. It is cheering to observe that many parents have said at the altar of dedication, "Here am I, and the children thou hast given me." Nearly one thousand children, as per minutes, have been baptized within a year. About one tenth as many as our entire adult membership! The number in 1858 was about seven hundred. In 1856, about six hundred.

What a flock of lambs to be fed! Are there not more children not yet in communion with the Church, who have been taken under her care, than there are communicants? Truly praying fathers, "nursing mothers," and devoted shepherds are needed to feed these lambs! In Sabbath Schools and Bible Classes, there are reported more than five thousand children! In 1858, there were six thousand! In 1856, four thousand two hundred.

May we not ask, if this Synod cannot do a good work by bringing before the minds of our people, the relation of baptized children to the Church, and the best means of securing the religious instruction of all these little bands of youth, so that "the Lord their God shall save them as the flock of his people?"

Any one who looks over the lists of this Synod, may be struck with the fact that the number of churches is nearly double that of the ministers. There are *ninety* churches. Two Presbyteries, Allegheny and Erie, have thirty each. Two fifteen each. These two large Presbyteries have about twice as many churches as ministers. The extent of the Erie Presbytery is worthy of notice, covering about three fifths of the entire ground occupied by the Synod. For these thirty churches of Erie Presbytery, scattered as they are over a large field, there are, at present, but twelve ministers. There is certainly "much land to be possessed." For these ninety churches, the minutes report fifty-eight ministers. Eight of these are without charge, and three are laboring in other bounds, leaving but forty seven engaged in the field. Truly "the harvest is great, but the laborers few."

Unless the large number of vacant churches can be supplied, it must one day be said, if not already, "They went their way as a flock, and they answered, *because* there was no shepherd." It is gratifying to know that dissension, that common enemy of feeble enterprises, has not been among them "like a torch of fire in a sheaf." Many of them "sit solitary," saying "From the uttermost part of the earth, have we heard songs, even glory to the righteous; But I said, my leanness! my leanness! Woe unto me!" Of this one and that one, the Lord seems to be saying, "I the Lord do keep it; I will water it every moment; lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day.

The prophet Isaiah refers to intemperance as not only a "prevalent iniquity, but a crying one, and one contributing to many others." The moral and spiritual consequence of this vice demand the attention of all Christian men. The law has done little, perhaps almost nothing, to stay the evil. Moral suasion has lost much of the enthusiasm once connected with it. Philanthropists are rolling the burden of effort on the Church, and many of the pastors in our bounds have been laboring with that temperate zeal, by which alone the Temperance cause can be successfully promoted. But there is a general complaint of the increase of tippling and drunkenness. It is not an evil afar off. It is in our streets. It threatens to pervade every precinct, like an olden plague, from the Nile. The press alone cannot stay it. It calls for the power of the pulpit, the power of prayer, the force of persuasion, and the heart of sympathy. If it be true that there is little hope of a man's thorough reform, until he is regenerated, then, how much depends upon the Church of God in arresting the evil, and recovering those who are already victims of the cause, so that a fallen man may not only subscribe to a pledge, but "subscribe with his hand unto the Lord!"

Sabbath desecration is mentioned in some of the Presbyterial Narratives, as an increasing evil. Ways of public travel will soon be increased, through our Synod; and shall these highways lead to further prevalence of the evil? May we not suggest, using the language of the General Assembly in 1836, "that Sabbath breaking has already become a sin of giant growth in our land? It is, indeed, a wide spread, deep-seated, unblushing evil. It enters boldly into almost every commercial interest in the country; and embraces directly, or indirectly, in its broad sweep of mischief, a vast multitude of individuals, and what is still worse, an alarming proportion of these offenders belong to the Church of the living God" In that same deliverance there are also these words, most appropriate to our whole land, at this very time: "It is certain that whatever is done to rebuke and arrest the profanation of the Sabbath, must be done immediately. The work of reform cannot be delayed without hazarding the irretrievable loss of all the blessings which flow from the observance of that day." "Nothing that is pure and holy can flourish without the Sabbath. The Sabbath Reform is the fundamental enterprise. It is utterly vain to think of substituting any other conservative power. The question of rescuing the Sabbath from general profanation, is absolutely a question of life and death to every Christian denomination in the world. And there is work for all. The Church must revive her wholesome discipline; the ministry must cry aloud and spare not; the press must be enlisted; the whole community aroused."—*Assembly's Digest, Revised Edition, p.* 811.

It is proper to notice the strange work of the Lord during the past season, at the time when he "caused the bud of the tender herb to spring," and "the earth to bring forth and bud" Before "the harvest, when the bud was perfect," he "scattered the hoar frost like ashes. "The frost consumes by night" the beauty of the fields, the orchards and the vines. Perhaps in no part of the Union was the earth so "stayed from her fruit," as in the bounds of this Synod. The people who hoped that "He should have fed them with the finest of the wheat," were disheartened. He seemed to say to many a toiler, "thou mayest not eat tythe of thy corn." And yet this strange work has been acknowledged as coming from God. "By the breath of the Lord the frost is made." And does not every Christian heart say, "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines: the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls; yet will I rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation."

There is another topic, which a review of our condition and labors brings to notice. How much has this Synod cast into the treasury of the Lord? Figures are not uninteresting, when they pertain to matters that enlist our attention and sympathy. We beg leave to present a few statistics in reference to the support given to the enterprises of the Church. The sum total of moneys reported through the minutes, from this Synod, is about $85,500, i. e. about $3.55, by each member of the Church, if the average be made. This includes the items of Presbyterial, Congregational, and Miscellaneous. Is not this a small sum per member? Consider that many give their fives, tens, twenties, and some their fifties and hundreds. Many of these, too, are not members of the Church; and how small must be the amounts from many in the membership of the Church? Leaving out these three items, and there remains for the five objects of our own Church, about $8,600—eighty-six cents per member. Much of this, too, in large individual contributions. This, however, is better than the previous year. It was then but about $4,800—forty-eight cents per member.

May we look further? The Presbytery of Allegheny contribute about fifty-two cents per member, Beaver, fifty five, Erie, fifty-one, and Allegheny City last, but *not least*, $1.93 per member. May we come closer still? One of our churches has given *in all*, about $30 per member, and for the five Boards, $2 60. Another for the Boards alone, $24 per member. Another for the Boards, fifty cents. Another thirty-two cents. Another of nearly one hundred and sixty members, to three Boards, twenty one! Another of nearly one hundred and twenty members, to three Boards, twenty! These instances have been selected at random, and are sufficient to lead each church to inquire into its own proportion. May we not ask if these things do not call for our attention, as a Synod? Have we laid by, as God has prospered us, a proper amount for these causes so dear to us as a denomination and as Christians?

In reference to the Western Theological Seminary, Dr. Elliott writes:

"We desire to record with gratitude the tokens of Divine favor shown to our Theological Seminary during the past year. With a greatly increased number of students, its influence in the promotion of vital practical godliness in the community, in the midst of which it is located, is constantly extending, and is largely felt. Its students are not only taught to think, but also to act, and rightly to apply their theological attainments for the benefit of their fellow men, and the glory of God. And, what ought not to be overlooked, the hearts and the hands of its friends have been opened to help it forward in its mission of love. During the past Summer, an extensive building has been erected, by the munificence of a Christian lady, for the accommodation of the students, and is now occupied by them.

"The Library has lately received a very liberal donation of upwards of five hundred volumes, from the Rev. Dr. Wm. M. Engles, of Philadelphia, and other donations of less extent, from various individuals. The whole number of volumes now in the Library is from eight to nine thousand.

"Our session opened on the 12th, with very encouraging prospects. The number of new students already entered, is in advance of the number entered at the same early stage of the session last year. We hear of many yet to come in. We greatly need the prayers of God's ministers and people. 'Brethren, pray for us.'"

Brethren, these are days of good cheer to every heart that loves the Redeemer's work. From afar come good tidings. Across the waters come shouts of salvation to our God. Men are asking, "Is not the end at hand? Some are theorizing as to the mode by which the world is to be converted. Shall it be by the means now employed? Or by some more extraordinary manifestations? One thing is certain of the field before us, discouraging as we think parts of it are, that there are *means enough and men enough to secure its conversion in a day.* In one day every man, woman and child could be told the story of the Cross. In one day there could be groups of men gathered around some devoted Christian here and there, to be told what they must do to be saved. If our people would crowd to the sanctuaries, or tents, and throng the by-ways, as in parts of Ireland, the people have lately done, they might every one be enlightened in a day. An interest in the people is needed. What will arouse this spirit of inquiry? Not the pleading of men alone; not the plans which men may adopt, nor the resolutions accompanying them. Oh, we need the Holy Ghost! the baptism of holy fire! Are we not, brethren, in possession of these means, which are so mighty? May we not draw from the treasury and the armory of Heaven? Is the Church to have the Holy Ghost first, and that, too, while waiting for the promise of the Father? Then might one among us become a thousand, and our ten thousand, become like the full number of the people. Shall we complain of our small numbers, and say "Woe is me, for I am as when they have gathered the Summer fruits, as the grape-gleanings of the vintage; there is no cluster to eat; my soul desireth the first ripe fruit?" Rather let us remember that God our Redeemer is mighty, and take courage from the power which he can impart to these means of grace, these ministers of the Word, and these gifts of the Holy Ghost. "Of Zion it shall be said, this and that man was born in her, and the Highest himself shall establish her. The Lord shall count when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there"

Your Committee would convey to you, the general free offering of gratitude to the Great Shepherd and Bishop of all these churches, expressed in the Presbyterial Narratives, for all the tokens of his mercy, and the refreshings from his glorious presence. Now are disheartened. All would take fresh courage from the past experiences, and the unfailing promises, looking for the fullness of that glorious future which is to come from the Lord, to whom be glory forever and ever.

Synod took a recess until 7 o'clock P. M.

FRIDAY EVENING, 7 o'clock.

Synod met and heard a sermon from Rev. Newton Bracken, on the subject assigned him at the last meeting of Synod—"The Connexion Between Ministerial Devotion and Ministerial Success," from 2. Tim. iv: 16—"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them; for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."

The Committee to whom was re-committed the report on the Means of Making the Meetings of Synod More Useful, presented their report again, with resolutions: The time for adjournment having nearly arrived, it was resolved, that so much of the Paper as related to the meeting of to morrow evening, be adopted.

Adjourned, to meet to morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

SATURDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock.

Synod met and was opened with prayer. The allotted half hour was spent in devotional exercises.

Rev. Thomas S. Lemon, of the Synod of Pittsburgh, being present, was invited to sit as a corresponding member.

The Committee on Leave of Absence from Former Meetings of Synod, reported that they had received satisfactory reasons of absence from the last meeting, from Rev. R. Dilworth, D.D., W. T. McAdam, and Rev. Ebenezer Henry.

The Committee on Late Attendance at the Present Meeting, reported that they had received satisfactory reasons for late attendance, from Rev. Alexander Cunningham and John Brown and G. E. Lashelles, elders, and recommended that they be sustained. These reports were accepted and adopted.

The order of the day was taken up, when the following resolutions were passed in relation to the Endowment of the Western Theological Seminary:

Resolved, That the Presbyteries be instructed to continue their efforts in the matter of the Endowment of the Fourth Professorship in the Western Theological Seminary.

Resolved, that the importance of an early completion of the enterprise of the Endowment of the Fourth Professorship, demands the attention of every pastor and congregation; and that each Presbytery is hereby directed to inquire, at least semi annually, of its members, as to their diligence herein, and that this subject shall again be called up at our next Synodical meeting.

The report of the Committee on the Means of Rendering the Meetings of Synod More Useful, was made. The report was received and laid upon the table, by the following resolutions:

Resolved, That Synod highly approve of the sentiments embodied in the report of the Committee, as it was originally presented, and would desire that its suggestions on ministerial character and influence be impressed on all our hearts.

Resolved, That as the adoption of the resolutions appended to that paper, which are now before us, would be equivalent to making important additions to our standing rules, and as a very suitable proportion of our time, as a Synod, is now employed in Devotional Exercises, we therefore lay the above mentioned resolutions on the table.

Resolved, That as Devotional Exercises often derive their great interest from the fact that they are not regular, but special arrangements, and as it is desirable that we be governed in the observance of such special exercises by the indications of Divine Providence, we are willing to leave the whole matter of a convocation for prayer and praise on the day before the opening of Synod, and any other appointments which do not interfere with our standing rules, to the judgment of the pastors and Sessions in whose congregations we may meet.

The reports of the Committees appointed to Examine the Records of the Presbyteries of Erie, Beaver, Allegheny, and Allegheny City, recommending their approval, were accepted and adopted.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures presented the following partial report, which was accepted:

Overture No 1—An Overture from the Presbytery of Beaver, requesting this Synod to take some action calculated to produce uniformity of effort in securing a prohibitory liquor law, and to communicate the same to the Synod of Pittsburgh, that there may be a concerted action among the friends of the cause of Temperance in Western Pennsylvania.

With respect to this matter, the Committee recommend that however desirable the object contemplated by the Overture may be, the present is an inauspicious time to make any movement in this direction, other than that it be recommended to the pastors throughout all our bounds to give due prominence to the subject of Temperance, in the preaching of the Gospel, and that the people of their respective charges be faithfully instructed and appealed to, to discourage the use of all intoxicating liquors, as a beverage.

Overture No. 2—Requests that the congregation of Plains be detached from the Presbytery of Allegheny City, and set over to the Presbytery of Allegheny.

The Committee recommend that this request be granted.

Overture No 3—Requests that the standing rule requiring this Synod to meet on the Fourth Thursday of September, be so amended, as that the Fourth Tuesday shall be the day of meeting.

The Committee recommend that no action be taken in this matter.

Overture No. 1 was taken up and referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Rev. William T. McAdam, Rev. William M. Blackburn, Rev. James Allison, and Elders Theo. H. Nevin and Alexander Brown.

Overtures No. 2 and 3 were taken up, and on motion, the recommendations of the Committee were adopted.

Rev. William French, of the United Presbyterian church, being present, was invited to sit as a corresponding member.

The matter of the Park church, Erie, being called up, the following paper was passed:

WHEREAS, This Synod have heard of the efforts of the churches in the matter of redeeming the pledge of Synod to the Park chu ch, Erie,

Resolved, That the Presbyteries be enjoined to complete this matter, according to the basis adopted last year, before our next annual meeting.

The Committee on Devotional Exercises reported further:

That at the meeting this evening, Rev. Loyal Young, D D., be requested to address professing Christians, Rev. John F. McLaren, D D., to address the baptized youth, and Rev. Elisha P. Swift, D.D., to address non professors.

The report was adopted.

Synod then adjourned to meet a 4 o'clock this afternoon.

Concluded with prayer.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, 4 o'clock.

Synod met and was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

The Committee on the Synodical discourse, reported, recommending Rev. Wm. T. McAdam as the preacher, and "The Duties and Responsibilities of Ruling Elders," as the subject. The report was accepted and adopted.

Rev. Leland R. McAboy and Richard Bard, elder, were appointed a Committee to confer with Mr. J. D. Williams, the present Receiving Agent for our Board of Domestic Missions, Education, and Publication, to see if he will act in this capacity, without compensation; and in case of his refusal, to select some one who shall, by virtue of this resolution, be considered the regularly constituted Receiving Agent of the Synod of Allegheny.

The Committee to whom was referred Overture No. 1, on the subject of Temperance, made a report, which was accepted and adopted, and is as follows:

WHEREAS, There has, for some time past, been an alarming increase of intemperance in the use of intoxicating drinks; therefore.

Resolved, That Synod recommend to all our ministers, elders, and members, to increase their efforts in order to check the evil, and to use every legitimate means in the compass of their power for its final and complete suppression.

The Committee on the Board of Colportage presented the following report, which was accepted and adopted:

That we have examined with careful attention the report of the Executive Committee, with the accompanying papers and find them in order, with the accounts of the current fiscal year carefully stated, audited, and duly certified.

In view of what has been accomplished in this department of the Church's effort during the past year, and of what is asked from the churches by the Executive Committee for the year on which we have just entered, your Committee would submit the following resolutions to the consideration of this Synod.

Resolved, That this Synod has the fullest confidence in the executive power, fidelity, industry, and economy of the Board to whom they have committed the interests of Colportage within their bounds, and rejoice in the success which, under the blessing of God, has attended their efforts during the past year.

Resolved, That we heartily respond to the modest request made at the close of said report. "that a small collection be made in all the churches within our bounds, during this year, for this object," and that they be accompanied with "the prayers and encouragement of all God's dear people;" that his blessing may rest upon this instrumentality for the diffusion of Christian Literature; and to this and we would urge upon the pastors and Sessions of our respective churches to bring this matter, at some suitable time, before the people, and press its claims as one of the objects of systematic benevolence in our beloved Church.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

The following persons were chosen to fill the vacancies in the Board of Colportage:

Ministers.—L. L. Conrad, E. E. Swift, William F. Kean.

Elders.—James Schoonmaker, B. R. Bradford, and William Campbell.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported Overtures No. 4, a paper from sundry individuals, asking this Synod to take action on the subject of slavery, reaffirming the act of 1818.

Your Committee recommend the adoption of the following preamble and resolution:

WHEREAS, By the declaration of the General Assembly of 1846, the action of 1818 is now, as formerly, in full force, and is acquiesced in by this Synod; therefore,

Resolved, That no further legislation is deemed necessary.

The report was accepted and adopted.

The Treasurer presented the following report, which was accepted:

Paid Stated Clerk,	$11.25
" Permanent Clerk,	5.00
" Janitor,	5.00
	$21.25
Balance in Treasury,	$10.16
Synodical Collection,	16.27
	$26.43
	21.25
Balance in Treasury,	$5.18

The Committee on the Minutes of the General Assembly, reported that the following things are recommended to the consideration of ministers and churches, in connexion with the subject of education for the sacred ministry.

That parents be urged to dedicate their sons, which they in their judgment possess the proper qualifications, to the Gospel ministry.

That ministers preach on the subject of a call to the Gospel ministry.

That caution be exercised by Presbyteries in receiving candidates under their care

Your Committee recommend that the foregoing subjects be urged upon the attention of those to whom they are respectively addressed.

The report was accepted and adopted:

The thanks of the Synod was returned to the pastor and Trustees, and to the citizens of Mercer for the use of their church, and for their generous and most cordial hospitality extended to us.

The editors of the *Banner and Advocate* were requested to publish the Minutes of Synod in their paper.

Synod then took a recess until 7 o'clock this evening.

SATURDAY EVENING, 7 o'clock.

After recess, Synod met and united in the devotional exercises which had been previously appointed.

After these services had been concluded, Synod adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That all our congregations, and the friends of the Lord's day, be recommended to use all suitable means to secure the proper observance of the Christian Sabbath.

It was also

Resolved, That while in the judgment of this Synod no Presbyterian in relation to the memorial on slavery is culpable, or is at all likely to promote the interests of oppressor or slave, yet at the same time Synod would express their deep sympathy for all who sustain either of the very undesirable positions toward each other, and in view of the resulting evils, would unite in earnest prayer that these relations may speedily be dissolved under the transforming influence which always marks the progress and power of the Gospel; so that the happy period may arrive when not only shall it be said that "in Christ Jesus there is neither bond nor free," but when under the same blessed influence it shall be proclaimed that politically, socially, morally, and ecclesiastically, all men are free.

Synod then adjourned with singing, prayer, and the Apostolical Benediction.

S. J. M. EATON, Permanent Clerk.
E. E. SWIFT, Stated Clerk.

From our London Correspondent.

A Plot Proposal of Austria—Her Impenitence—Resistence to a Congress—Hatred of Piedmont—Victor Emmanuel and the Tuscan Deputies—French Ambassador withdrawn from Florence—Why?—Increase of French Navy—British Army and Navy—Cobden and Reductions—Flogging in the Army—The Discipline of Public Schools—"The Rod and Reproof"—London "out of town," and whither—Ireland for Tourists—The Blight of Popery—The Romish M. P.'s; the Prelates, and National Education—Hope for Ireland—General Inquiry in Dublin—Revival Scenes—Reports and Records of Visits to Ireland—Meetings at Woolwich—Letters Received—A Specimen Letter—The Illuminated Book.

LONDON, Sept. 9th, 1859.

A FRESH CONSPIRACY against liberty is threatened, and Austria is the author of the scheme. Prince Metternich (the race is not extinct, nor the policy either, with the recent entombment of the *old* statesman of that name,) is the agent of Austria in this foul business. Under pretext of ascertaining in person, the intentions of Napoleon with respect to Italy, he is instructed to propose a fresh interview between the two Emperors, with the view of bringing about an alliance between France and Austria. He is to commence by stating that it is the fixed resolve of Austria *never to recognize the principle of allowing a people to choose their own government!* Neither will she admit the aggrandizement of Piedmont, without guarantees that it shall not be turned against Austria in Italy. If the Emperor of the French come to an understanding on that head, Austria will make concessions on the subject of the debt which she has wished Lombardy, or rather Sardinia, to take, either in whole or in part, upon herself; and should the Emperor even wish to confer on his cousin, Prince Napoleon, the crown of Tuscany, he will meet with no opposition on her part.

Austria wishes the restoration of the Grand Dukes, but she will endeavor to find compensation for them elsewhere, and would not refuse to annul the clause of the Treaty of Villafranca, on that point. She will, in fact, make great sacrifices, if she can but divert the Emperor from his avowed policy of expelling Austria from Italy, through the instrumentality of Piedmont, and of those principles of constitutional government which Piedmont represents.

You will thus perceive that this wicked Power is still impenitent, as is the Pope, her spiritual director, after all the heavy chastisement she has received. Hatred of the King of Sardinia, and of Count Cavour—hatred of true liberty, either civil or religious, increased tyranny over unhappy Venetia, as if to revenge herself for defeat and disappointment—such is her present condition of mind and heart. She even suggests to Napoleon III. that it is most important that France and Austria should exercise great vigilance, and jointly put a check on the too ambitious pretensions of Russia! Here, again, is revenge. For Russia, to whom Austria behaved with ingratitude during the Crimean war, exults in her present humiliation, and her journals are instructed to write up the cause of freedom in the Duchies, and to assert the right of the people to choose their own rulers, rather than recognize which, Austria would perish. In truth, like all double-minded intriguers, both Emperors cannot be very comfortable at this moment, although the iron will of Napoleon is pretty sure to have its own way, or, if it bend, it will have compensation. Even if the Emperor Napoleon, as is likely, will not yield to Austria, he may point to Russia how the former is entrapped, and say, "Now is the time for you and me, and her to unite, and so regulate the affairs of Europe." And so three great despotisms would stand up together to bring back midnight to Europe.

A CONGRESS is becoming more probable every day. But to this Austria is bitterly opposed. Hence her present device; and the prayer of every lover of freedom must be,

"Confound her politics,
Frustrate her knavish tricks!"

The funds drooped in London when the news of the proposal of Austria to France was received. The French Ambassador at Florence has been suddenly recalled. The *Times'* correspondent, writing on the spot, attributes it to his over zeal in urging the Tuscans to take back the Grand Dukes, his inscrutable master not liking such pressure. But that does not say that he has no designs to place the Prince Napoleon in power there. Meanwhile, the Tuscan Deputies waited, on the