

Would he had another life to live—another life to spend in the ministry of reconciliation. My brethren seek pity in your own hearts. Pity the ministry for its Author, and its enjoyments; pity it for its toils; conserve all its joys and have to this great work, labor on to the last breath. Preach even upon the dry bones; the power on high—the breath of the Lord will make them live. There is no longer time—pray for the Church. He was looking for days of mercy—of days of the power of the right hand of God. They will not be long—pray for them—labor for them. Never was there a ministry so well qualified for the work of the Great Master, as that which he (the speaker) was leaving behind him. He thanked God for such a ministry, and prayed that they might be plentifully endowed with his Holy Spirit. And now, brethren, I leave you. My voice will never hear again; your faces I will look upon no more. God of all graces, bless you and keep you. Farewell; beloved brethren, my last farewell—farewell.

Amid tearful silence, Dr. Edgar led in prayer. After this, an aged Elder, Mr. ISAAC SPENCER, from Mississippi, said that he could not speak. In 1842 he had heard Dr. Spenser preach his first sermon after ordination, from 1 Cor. ii: 2. "For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." Under God Dr. SPENCER had been the means of bringing him to the Saviour of sinners; and on the day he united with the Church, he had preached from—"Fear not little flock." From that day to this his heart was knit with that of Dr. Spenser, though far removed from him. Now in company with his former pastor, he looked upon the General Assembly for the last time. With the passing cloud of that pastor, he coincided most earnestly with the prayer that will never see your face again in this world; but we will all meet in heaven. Farewell, for the last time. Again, I say, dearest brethren, farewell.

The remembrance of this hour will ever be cherished by those present. The remainder of the session of the Committee on the Board of Domestic Missions, appointed last year, was then taken up. On motion of Mr. VANNEY, the second resolution, which recommended that no change be made, at present, in the location of the Board, was passed. The third resolution, which was that there be no Executive Committee except the one at Philadelphia, and that the Executive Committee at Louisville be abolished, was also passed. Rev. J. H. RICE, Chairman of the Committee at Louisville, opposed. He said that this Committee had been in existence for fifteen years, and had worked well. If the abolition of the Committee was now pressed, he would insist on the right of discussing the subject in full, whatever time might be necessary.

Mr. VANNEY said that since this seemed to be an organic change, and therefore inconsistent with the first resolution passed, he would move to lay it on the table.

Dr. DELANCEY inquired if there was any provision in the original constitution of the Board for two boards, or which is the same thing, for two Executive Committees. The answer was in the affirmative. Dr. BOARDMAN protested against laying aside any part of the report in this summary manner. It was not courteous to the Committee; it was unworthy of the General Assembly. Some members of the Committee had travelled hundreds of miles in the performance of the duties of their appointment. The Executive Committee had been instituted merely as an experiment; and many gentlemen at the West, missionaries and others, thought it worked injuriously.

Dr. CHURCHMAN said the Board at Philadelphia agreed with the sentiment of the report, but did not wish to press it if too violently opposed. The fourth resolution, that there be an advisory Committee at San Francisco, was then considered.

And the resolution recommending that there be one Secretary at Philadelphia, and one travelling Secretary, was brought forward. Mr. VANNEY moved that the question be divided, and that the first part of the resolution be adopted.

At this point, Dr. CHURCHMAN moved, as a substitute, that the Assembly approve of the existing arrangement, which divides the duties in and out of the office equally between the two Secretaries.

Dr. THORNTON warned the mover against the danger of asking any action as that contemplated in the resolution at this stage of the proceedings. It was not the report of the Board that was approved without asking the Assembly to do anything more. Such a course might prove very prejudicial.

Dr. SPENCER then said that this whole matter he laid on the table for the present. Carried; the members becoming exceedingly impatient for adjournment.

The Moderator announced Messrs. Dr. Locke, Coe, Dr. Dickson, and Dr. Junkin, as the Committee on Systematic Benevolence, according to the provisions of the resolution previously passed.

Dr. Wm. A. SCOTT called the attention of the Assembly, and through the Assembly the Board of Domestic Missions, to the great fields open for missionary effort in Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. In coming to this Assembly he had travelled three thousand miles through territory belonging to the United States, and into which vast multitudes were rushing, and along the entire route there was but one minister that could have greeted him.

Judge LOAN said that he had a motion to make, at the request of a number of members, upon which he was better prepared to vote after the full discussion that had taken place, than the next Assembly could possibly be. If any debate was likely to be held, he hoped the proposition would be voted down at once. He moved that the members of the Boards of Foreign Missions, Domestic Missions, Education, and Publication, be reduced from ninety-two to forty-eight, one-fourth to be elected annually. The operation was to begin next year, when twelve members would be retired from membership, and in four years the entire change would be made.

Laid on the table, on motion of Mr. HAMILTON.

Dr. B. M. SMITH said it was generally his fortune to be placed on Committees, all the members of which disagreed with him. This was the case with the Committee of which he had been made Chairman this morning. The Committee opposed him. He found all the members so strangely and pertinaciously rebellious that he could not bring them to his way of thinking. The Committee had prepared a report and ordered him to present it, although he had said another and far better report in his pocket; to which they would not agree. He then presented the Report of the Committee, which recommended that the Revised Book of Discipline be recommissioned; that it be corrected, printed, and distributed to the State Clerks of Presbyteries, by whom it is to be distributed among the members of the Presbyteries at the Spring meetings; and that the Committee be enlarged by the addition of three ministers and three Ruling Elders. The report was adopted.

Dr. E. T. BATES moved that this Committee be also charged with the duties of such articles as may be necessary in the Revised Book of Discipline on the relation of baptized children to the Church, and the training to which they are entitled, also that the memorial for the Presbytery of Tombecbe, on this subject, be referred to this Committee. Adopted.

Dr. THORNTON inquired whether the Committee on the Revised Book of Discipline could also have the Form of Government so far under consideration as may be necessary to report changes therein, that it may be made conformable to the changes recommended in the Book of Discipline. He was answered in the affirmative.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported the memorial from the Presbytery of Kaskaskia, asking the Boards to publish their "Rules" in the Appendix to the Minutes of this year, and once every five years hereafter.

The Committee recommended that the request be granted.

Mr. LOWRIE replied that he could not see any necessity for this action; nor could he understand what was desired. The Board of Foreign Missions had no other "Rules" than those published every year.

The report was laid on the table.

Dr. E. T. BATES asked leave to withdraw the memorial from the Presbytery of Tombecbe, on the Denomination of the Ministry. Granted.

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Dr. THORNTON confirmed the remarks of Dr. Hodge. To pass such a recommendation as this would be an unwarranted invasion. He referred to Tombecbe, on this subject, be referred to this Committee. Adopted.

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