Proceedings of the Synod of Wheeling

The Synod of Wheeling met at Washington on the evening of Friday, October 17th, and was opened with a sermon by Rev. Thos. R. Crawford, the last Moderator, from Mark xvi: 15.

There were present at the opening of the sessions, fifty-six ministers and thirtyfive ruling elders. Two ministers and five ruling elders were afterwards enrolled. This summing up shows a smaller attendance than usual.

A noticeable feature of the meeting was the presence of so many honored brethren as corresponding members, no less than thirteen being welcomed as such; among whom were Dr. Chester, Dr. Wm. Smith, Dr. McKinney, Revs. Doolittle, and Alex. Reed, of the Synod of Philadelphia; Rev. Rosberough, of the Synod of Pittsburgh; and Rev. Holloway, of the Synod of Ken-

The organization of the Synod was as follows: Rev. Robt. Herron Moderator; Dr. Eagleson, Permanent Clerk; Rev. R. Hays, Temporary Clerk; and Rev. James Black, Stated Clerk.

The religious exercises of the meeting were truly refreshing. The sermon of the retiring Moderator was followed by one on Saturday night; by Rev. Robt. Hays, from Gen. v: 24. On Sabbath morning the Moderator preached from Heb ii: 10; on the afternoon of the day the Lord's Supper was administered, and in the evening a discourse was preached by Rev. John Moffat. The lust half hour of each morning session was devoted to praise and prayer in addition to the session on Monday night, except so much of it as was taken up with an impressive address from Dr. Chester on the condition of the Boards, and the duty of Systematic Beneficence.

The following is the minute adopted in reference to Dr. Chester's address: "Synod having heard with pleusure, the statements and appeals of the Rev. Dr. Chester in behalf of the several Boards of the Church, and being deeply convinced of the amazing perils of the cause of Christ as represented by these agencies, and the consequent and proportionate obligations resting upon the ministers, elders, and mem-

bers; therefore,
"Resolved, That it be most earnestly and affectionately urged, in the name of the Lord Jesus, upon pastors and Sessions to present these Boards to the congregations under their care, for their contributions during the current year, and that the Presbyteries be enjoined to inquire into their fidelity in carrying out the General Assembly's plan of Systematic Benevolence."

Upon the State of the Country, Synod, "re-affirming her attachment to our Federal Government, and that it is the imperative duty of all our people to maintain the same," and holding that "the united prayers of God's people might be prevalent with the Most High to remove from our beloved land and nation the chastening hand with which he is so severely afflicting

us; therefore, "Resolved 1. That the Synod of Wheeling do respectfully but earnestly ask His Excellency, the President of these United States, to appoint a day of humiliation, fasting and prayer, to be observed by all the people of this land, in view of the distracted state of our country.

"Resolved 2. That if His Excellency, the President, should fail to appoint said day, then the Synod do appoint the first Thursday of December next, as a day of humiliation, fasting and prayer within our bounds; on which our people be recommended to meet in their respective churches and confess their individual and national sins, and pray to Almighty God in behalf of our beloved and bleeding country-its government, its army and navy, and its people—that armed rebellion may be overthrown and cease, and that the constitutional authority of the Government may be vindicated, and that we may obtain a speedy, honorable, and permanent peace." By recommendation of Committee on the Minutes of the General Assembly, Synod calls the attention of the churches under its care to the appointment of "the last Thursday of February next, to be observed throughout our bounds as a day of earnest prayer for children and youth, &c., &c." (See Min., p. 619.) The collection to be taken up on said day, by recommendation of the General Assembly, for the College Fund, was, by vote of Synod, recommended to be sent to the Treasurer of the Synodical College at Washington.

The action of the General Assembly, as expressed in the paper on the state of the country, (see Min., p. 624, et seq.,) was heartily endorsed by Synod; and the churches under its care were addressed in the closing words of the first paragraph : "It is the clear and solemn duty of the National Government to preserve, at whatever cost, the National Union by force, and to restore the reign of public order and peace to the entire nation, by whatever lawful means that are necessary thereunto And it is the bounden duty of the people who compose this great nation, each one in his several place and degree, to uphold the Federal Government, and every State Government, and all persons in authority, whether civil or military, in all their lawful and proper acts, unto the end herein before

-The Committee in regard to the endowment of the Fourth Professorship in the Western Theological Seminary, reported that "the amount contributed for this object, within the bounds of the Synod, was a little less than one fourth of the amount required by the apportionment of fifty cents per member;" in view of which fact the committee recommended the following, which Synod adopted:

Your Committee cannot but regret that this enterprise, so long and so earnestly cherished by this Synod, has failed to meet a response from so many of our churches. And in view of this fact, and that the power of our Church to carry out any of her enterprises, lies in the Presbyteries, so that. if there is a failure in any of them, it arises from a defect in Presbyterial cooperation; therefore your committee recom-mend that all our Presbyteries be enjoined to bring this matter before their several churches, and urge upon them the duty of contributing to this object, at least, the amount suggested by the Directors of the Seminary.

The condition of the Synodical College at Washington, came in for a large share of the attention of the Synod during its dosing sessions on Tuesday evening; the committee on the same presenting to the otion of the Board of Trustees, the Board of Trust, the Committee " ad interim," and the Committee of Examination, which ac tion had been before them in the reports of these several bodies presented to Synod, and passed into their hands. Among the resolutions recommended by the Committee and adopted by the Synod, were these: First, in relation to the report of the Board

of Prustees, Resolved, That the efforts of the Board to the raduction of the expanses of the

in the future, all the funds of the College forth the all-important truths of man's meeting. entrusted to them will be wisely and eco- guilt, helplessness, and accountability, and nomically disbursed.

bilities during the year of nearly \$700. mercy from Jesus to the people of this of Foreign Missions.

The Board was recommended to proceed Synod! One fruit of the labor is, that Fairmount.—Third Sabbath of Novemhands of the travelling Agent, Mr. A. L. | three hundred less than were added during of Foreign Missions. Littell, so far as they may deem expedient, the preceding year. Let the falling off who is authorized to enforce all collections be pondered by all concerned, and mourned vember, Mr. Marquis; to administer the after Jan. 1st, 1863.

The Committee also recommended that a plan of endowing the President's Chair be submitted to the people of the Synod, and the friends of the Institution elsewhere, larly mentioned—Cadiz, St. Clairsville, to supply t and that said endowment be fixed at \$20,- Concord, Rockhill, and Bellair—in the meeting. 000. The recommendation was adopted, and a committee of three from each Presby- | year. tery was appointed to carry out the action contemplated in the recommendation. The

success of their labors."

in the Board of Trustees, occasioned by the | souls. death of Dr. Comingo; and James Paull, Esq., of Wheeling, was elected to fill that Synod, for the support and extension of occasioned by the removal of Mr. Fitzhugh, the Gospel, the Lord's treasury has re-After tendering a vote of thanks to the ceived, during the year, almost sixty-nine citizens of Washington for their hospitality thousand dollars, more than ten thousand to its members, and to the officers of the of which have been sent to the Boards of Hempfield Railroad for their liberality in the Church. In this last item, the compassing them at half-fare, Synod adjourned parison with the preceding year is not in at 9:30 P. M., on Tuesday the 21st, to favor of the present. This is not as it meet at New Lisbon on the third Friday of October next, at 4 P. M.

The property fourteen dollars which the people of this Synod gave to

JAMES I. BROWNSON, JAMES BLACK, Com. of Publication.

NARRATIVE.

This Synod embraces more than fourteen thousand professed disciples of the Re- land, what grounds of lamentation still redeemer, whose mission in the world, in its mains! Let each member of the comeffects upon the condition of the human munion, of whose spiritual state the presfamily, is, in some sense, the same in kind ent narrative is an imperfect sketch, be as his own. How have they fulfilled their warned against the sin of beginning to remission during the past year? and what trench with the house of God. Let it be signs of spiritual life does the body this remembered that there is now a special day show? The present narrative has to call to increased self-denial for the good of do with such inquiries.

posing the Synod, have been collated in the gone forth, and each one who remains is formation of this. Of these, all take note summoned to extend the limits of the space of the manner in which the condition of which he cultivates. the nation has affected the interests of true | Synod does not forget that this narrative, the nation has affected the interests of true to reach all for whom it is intended, must to drive our troops back upon our inner religion. This is the prominent idea, as needs go where dangers are thickest. To batteries. But this, I believe, was calcuin the Church are powers in the Government, and their connexion therewith is tation to be faithful, with assurances of now one of suffering, and has been so for continued intercessions in their behalf. twelve more months. Suffering can be made to promote piety in the heart. Since the last narrative was sent forth, it has pleased the glorious Head of the Church to continue this, as the chief providential means of perfecting the saints herein referred to. The inquiry is pertinent, What invoked richest consolation and sustaining fruits of righteousness have been wrought thereby?

There are some which can be mentioned. This Synod has, to-day, the spiritual watch of many who have had grace given them to yield what is most dear when an ordinance of God is threatened, and because it is threatened. This is no common attainment. Then, too, Synod believes that, as the result of this discipline of trial, there are within its bounds more vivid apprehensions of the unity of the body of Christ in on the 7th, and 8th insts., at Annapolis. suffering, and of its exceeding value. There You will please publish the following items is an increase of real, heartfelt supplications for mercy. The value of intercessory prayer is felt as it was not before. The the actual Sovereign Disposer of events, God's Spirit. The awful storm has discoviness," &c. ered more fully where the righteous can marshalling of ithe hosts to fight the country's battles. The membership of this

Synod has not lagged behind in such effort. from the trial. They are here mentioned to the praise of God

And yet, it must be admitted that the effects of the trials through which the nation is passing, are, in too many cases, detrimental to the interests of true religion! The reports from the Presbyteries complain of the tendency of this condition to distract and secularize. With many, it has become the all-absorbing interest, and because of this, new obstacles have arisen in the way of conversions. In some cases the interest in the means of grace is lessened. The condition has tended to coripple the pecuniary energies of the Church, as well as to the increase of profanity and similar to that of Mr. Aughey, Presbytery kindred vices. The members of this Synod deplore these facts, and exhort their people Mr. Henry Woods, a licentiate of the deplore these facts, and exhort their people prayer, on account of them.

It can be reported that, during the year, the ministers of this Synod—nearly one hundred in number—have been diligently employed in preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ, as opportunities presented; three of them having shared the privations of camp, as chaplains. Within the year, one of the number, Dr. Comingo, has been called to his rest. The beloved brother stood before the Synod on last Autumn, and, very near the emblems of a suffering Saviour, forewarned those who heard him of the coming of more troublous times. It cannot be said that, in his impressions, he took in the fact of his own removal, nevertheless the same has come to

-reports marked encouragement in conver- bath of March, Mr. Eaton. sions, five of its churches being particulast of which, forty were added during the

Of the little ones belonging to the households under the supervision of this Synod, members of the committee were—from the upwards of seven hundred have been Presbytery of Washington; Ministers, John brought to the house of God, during the Mr. Watson. Mr. Price, one day, at dis-Stockton, D.D., and James I. Brownson, year, and presented in baptism. "Does this cretion." D.D.; and Ruling Elder, Jacob Slagle.

From the Presbytery of Steubenville; Concerning this class? Such interest is Ministers, C. C. Beatty, D.D., and John S. well seconded by the efforts made in the Marquis; and Ruling Elder, A. L. Littell. sphere of Sabbath School instruction. The From the Presbytery of St. Clairsville; reports from Presbyteries make no mention Ministers, Benj. Mitchell, D.D., and Robt of religious instruction in the family, but Armstrong; and Ruling Elder, Wm. Reed. they give statistics which show increasing And from the Presbytery of New Lisbon; interest in the Sabbath School. Throughout Ministers, Robt. Hays, and John R. Dun- the bounds of the Synod, upwards of seven dass, D.D.; and Ruling Elder, John Ram- thousand children in the Sabbath School are grouped around more than one-tenth as Upon the report of the Committee of many teachers. What an influence for Examination, the Committee on the College used the following language, at the close of their report: "We simply express pleasure to this band of laborers, and hopes our approbation of the conduct of the Prest that the Lord is bringing his people up to ident and Professors, and rejoice in the the time when every member of every communion shall feel himself charged with the Dr. Beatty was elected to fill the vacancy duty of active effort for the conversion of

From the means of the people of this these objects in the preceding year, they have given but about five in the present! Admitting that an extenuation for this falling off is had in the repeated calls which have been made upon the charities of individuals, arising out of the distress of the Zion. Many who hitherto stood side by Reports from the four Presbyteries com- side with them, within these bounds, are

these brethren is sent the word of exhor-And for the various households throughout the bounds of this Synod, from which sons and fathers have been put far away to fill the ranks of war, and especially for those bereaved because the ones who have gone shall not again return, for these are

"Peace be to the brethren, and love, with faith, from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ: Amen." ROBERT HERRON, Moderator.

Presbytery of Steubenville.

JEWETT, O., Cot. 8, 1862.

and Rev. T. V. Milligan was elected Temconviction is deepening, that God alone is porary Clerk. Rev. Mr. Swaney, Moderator, being absent, Mr. George W. Fisher, the race not being to the swift, nor the bat candidate for ordination, preached his trial tle to the strong. There is a growing feel sermon for ordination instead of the opensermon for ordination, instead of the opening that civil rulers can alone discharge ing sermon by the Moderator; as directed their duties for the greatest goods of the by Presbytery, from Rom. x:4-" For greatest number, as they are imbued with Christ is the end of the law for righteous-

Rev. John H. Aughey, of the Presbyfind refuge. They have now more com tery of Tombeckbee, was received as a plete possession of the precious truth that member of Presbytery. Mr. Aughey was night, and had not fully completed the task, all this commotion is meant to hasten the forced to leave his field of labor, and his when the enemy's shells began to fall day when Jesus, the King in Ziou, shall home in Mississippi, on account of his loybe owned as he is not now. And the true alty to the United States Government, and was severely injured in the part of the hosreligion has successfully encountered a was unable to procure a dismissal from his pital where I am now sitting. A wounded fresh test of its adaptation to meet every Presbytery. He was therefore received man was killed at the Tishomingo House. emergency of duty. A new field for according to the principle established by The enemy's surgeons, who are now with Christian effort has been opened up by the last General Assembly, in reference to us, say that they thought that house was such cases.

Mr. George W. Fisher was ordained as These are certainly good fruits resulting in the churches of Evans' Creek and Lin- with unusual bravery; they tried to enter om the trial. They are here mentioned ten. Coshocton County, Ohio. ten. Coshocton County, Ohio. From the reports from the churches on

encouraging progress has been made on that subject during the past year.

Presbytery spent a delightful season in interests of our country, in her present devotions.

Rev. W. C. Neely, of the Presbytery of Presbytery. The case of Mr. Neely being

to greater humiliation, watchfulness, and Presbytery of Baltimore, was taken under the care of Presbytery. A call was presented to Mr. Woods, from Steubenville First church, and Maving been accepted, on Wednesday evening, October 22d. An adjourned meeting is to be held in

Steubenville, on Thursday, 16th inst.

SUPPLIES APPOINTED BY THE PREBYTERY

OF STEUBENVILLE. Cross Creek .- Second Sabbath of November, Mr. Reid. Third Sabbath of February, Mr. Laverty; with leave to supply

SPECTATOR.

themselves till next stated meeting.

Two Ridges.—First Sabbath of Novempass, and it has been one of the trials of ber, Dr. Beatty; to administer the Lord's the year. The number, thus broken, has Supper, and take collection for the Board had added thereto, four additional names of Education. Fourth Sabbath of Janu-

New Cumberland .- First Sabbath of Deof a proffered salvation through a vicarious comber, Mr. Aughey. Third Sabbath of Second, in relation to the Board of Trust, atonement—an average, perhaps, of more Committee reported a reduction in the liathan ten thousand public proclamations of Lord's Supper, and take collection for Board

without delay to collect all outstanding eight hundred and eleven souls have been ber, Mr. Eaton. Third Sabbath of Februnotes and subscriptions of contributors; to added to the churches of Synod, during the ary, M. Aughey; to administer the Lord's put the notes and subscriptions into the year, upon profession of their faith—some Supper, and take a collection for the Board

Big Spring .- Fourth Sabbath of No-Lord's Supper, and take a collection for One Presbytery—that of St. Clairsville Board of Domestic Missions. First Sab-Fairmount and Big Springs have leave

to supply themselves until the next stated

Rev. Thomas G. Scott, pastor of Corinth and Monroeville, being unwell, the following supplies were appointed for those churches: Corinth.—Second Saboath of December

Monroeville. Second Sabbath of November, Dr. Beatty.

ROBT. HERRON, Stated Clerk.

For the Presbyterian Banner. From the South-western Army.

COBINTH, Miss., Oct. 11, 1862. MESSRS. EDITORS :- I meant to have written a second letter to you before this time: but the great battle we have recently had here, has afforded me so much work to do, that I have had no time for gossip. Having been ill, I had been sent to the general hospital at this place before the battle of luka, and I am still here, though capable of duty.

After the battle of Tuka I went to that

place, and accompanied the wounded of my own regiment to the hospital. My Colonel was shot in the lungs, and is gone home, still in danger. Over a hundred of our men were killed or wounded. One who has not witnessed the scenes following a battle, has very little notion of war. The left wing of my regiment was hotly engaged on that occasion. They came out of the contest scarred and mutilated, but proud and happy. I have never travelled with a more cheerful—or, so to say, jolly—com pany of men, than those who suffered there. One, with a large, triangular piece of his scalp carried away by a fragment of shell, was exultant. A quiet, good lad

with a severe cut across the breast from a musket ball, was apparently thankful for his hurt. A country served by such men, ought not to give up a righteous contest until it shall have reached a complete and satisfactory result: 270 1110 4 10 1110 We knew that the enemy was concentra ting his force around Corinth for some days before he made the attack; but we could not know what part of our line he would more especially assail. Our outer line of defences was very much extended, in order to protect our position on all sides and consequently it was too weak to with stand a consecrated attack at any particular point: therefore, in the battle of Friday, October 3d, the enemy was able to take

possession of a part of this outer line, and lated upon by our commander. He learned. by this day's proceedings where Price and Van Dorn expected to enter the town, and where our forces must be placed for the final struggle. It was sad, however, to see our broken regiments falling back upon the town; to see the wounded arriving at the hospital; to hear the usual tales of the stragglers-"We are all cut up;" "We had five to one against us;" "We were outflanked everywhere." One man told me that the enemy fairly laughed and jeered at his regiment when it was flanked on both sides, and they had to run like deer to prevent being made prisoners. I soon had something to do besides listening to such tales. The wounded came in fast. Water!" was their first cry. The amputating tables were brought into use. Mino MR. EDITOR :- The stated (Fall meetings operations were going on upon all hands of the Presbytery of Steubenville, was held One nice-looking boy came to see what was the matter with his lip. A surgeon told him to stand on his knees while he stood of business transacted by Presbytery: and behind, took his head into his bosom, and Rev. A. M. Reid was elected Moderator, out a buckshot out of the lip, and giving it to him, said: "There, keep that to show to your grandchildren!" A few minutes later the boy was marching up and down with his rifle, as sentry, to keep back the crowd that pressed upon the surgeons. It was soon discovered that the battle o

Saturday would sweep the ground on which a part of our hospital tents stood, and the order was given that the whole hospital should be removed to the other side of the town before morning. We worked all

Gen. Rosecraps' headquarters. By day-break, the battle had become fuan Evangelist, with a view to his laboring rious. The enemy assaulted our batteries ceeded in doing so to a short distance. Systematic Benevolence, it appears that But the batteries were so skilfully placed encouraging progress has been made on that, one supported the others; and the heavy guns poured forth a storm of shell and cannister, that literally mowed down the assailants and laid them in heaps. The social worship on Wednesday forenoon, sec-ond day of the sessions, during which the supporting infantry on our side were not idle. The enemy retired; the storm was lulled. troubled state, occupied a large portion of only to break out afresh, as assault after the attention of those leading Presbytery's assault was made; until, toward noon, the attempt to capture the garrison and tempting stores of Corinth was abandoned. My Green Brier, was received as a member of reg ment occupied, the extreme right of the line, where was but little fighting. I went out to see them; but finding no wounded or sick, I returned to the hospital, where

there was work to do The wounded of both parties came in fast. It would be impossible to convey to your readers a notion of the horrible scene. Desperately wounded and dying men were Presbytery took steps preparatory to the lying on all sides; and in many cases all ordination and installation of Mr. Woods, we could do for them was to move them from a sunny to a shady place. I talked with and comforted as many as I could; and many a poor man whom I saw alive on Saturday night, I found lying stiff in death on Sunday morning. The rebel sodiers were more fearfully wounded than ours; and they had recently been made to endure such severe marching and such poor living, that very little recuperative energy was left to them. I hear that two hundred of them have died in our hands, though I think this number somewhat exaggerated Our army has been in pursuit of the flying foe; about forty-five miles have they driven them, forcing them to abandon wagof those newly ordained to the work of the ary, Mr. Samuel Patterson; with permissions of ammunition and food, and to throw Gospel ministry. And what ground of sion to supply themselves until the next away muskets and blankets; and thousands thanksgiving is had in the religious influences thus adverted to ! For twelve more months, among churches favored with a disoretion. First Sabbath of March, Mr. tinue so hopeless a netreat course of the men have preferred to give themences thus adverted to ! For twelve more months, among churches favored with a disoretion. First Sabbath of March, Mr. tinue so hopeless a netreat course of the men have preferred to give themences thus adverted to ! For twelve more disoretion.

College, and their success therein, greatly large measure of harmony, and seconded commend them to the confidence of this in effort by hundreds of godly Ruling Synod; and afford a strong guarantee that, Elders, nearly one hundred lips sounding ville, as stated supply, until the next stated town; many are boasting; and a few are saying, as our bulletin board did when announcing the Emancipation Proclamation, "Glory to God!"

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