MINUTES, 1843.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met, agreeably to appointment, in the First Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Thursday of May, 1843, at 11 o'clock A. M., and was opened with a sermon by the Rev. William Wisner, D. D., Moderator of the last Assembly, from Col. 4 : 17—"Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it."

After public worship the Assembly was constituted with prayer.

The Committee of Commissions reported that the following persons present, had been duly appointed Commissioners to this General Assembly:

I. SYNOD OF ALBANY.

PRESBYTERIES.	MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
Londonderry.		
Newburyport.		
Champlain,	Ashbel Parmelee,	A. C. Moore.
Troy,	Amos B. Lambert,	*2 Marvin Freeman.
Albany,	Charles Wadsworth,	Timothy Fassitt.
Columbia.		
Delaware,	Shubaell G. Spees,	Wm. Wheeler.

II. SYNOD OF UTICA.

St. Lawrence.		
Watertown,		Reuben E. Bacon.
Oswego.		
Oneida,	Robert C. Brisbin,	Gilbert M. Gifford.
Otsego,	Wm. C. Boyce,	James M. Peake.
Utica,	Charles Jones,	Edward Vernon.

III. SYNOD OF GENEVA.

Geneva,	Samuel H. Ridley,	Luther Redfield.
Chenango.		
Onondaga,	Joseph Myers,	Curtis J. Hurd.
Cayuga,	Baxter Dickinson, D. D.,	Salem Town.
Tioga,	David S. Morse,	Dene Relyea.
Cortland,	Eleazer T. Ball.	
Bath,	Robert E. Wilson.	
Chemung,	Philemon H. Fowler,	Wm. T. Jackson.
Ithaca,	William Wisner, D. D.,	Joseph Esty. [4]

*The figures refer to the day of the sessions upon which the members took their seats.

IV. SYNOD OF GENESSEE.

PRESBYTERIES.	MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
Genessee,	Ebenezer Mead.	
Ontario.		
Rochester.		
Niagara,	Wm. N. M'Harg,	2 Zelotes Shelden.
Buffalo,	Zechariah Eddy,	Samuel Allen.
Angelica.		

V. SYNOD OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY.

Hudson,	Wm. Y. Miller,	Calvin G. Sawyer.
North River,	Sumner Mandeville.	
New York, 2d,	Henry A. Rowland,	Elijah Houghton.
New York, 3d,	Mason Noble,	Marcus Wilbur.
Long Island,	Ezra Young.	
Brooklyn,	Wm. B. Lewis,	Abijah Fisher.
Newark,	Ansel D. Eddy,	Abraham Harrison.
Montrose,	Adam Miller,	R. L. Seely.
Rockaway,	Wm. Torrey,	Ebenezer Fairchild.

VI. SYNOD OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Wilmington,	James C. How,	John C. Clark.
Lewes,	James J. Graff.	John Fassitt.
Philadelphia, 3d.	George Chandler,	George W. Forbes.
Harrisburg,	B. J. Wallace,	Wm. D. Slayneaker.

VII. SYNOD OF WEST PENNSYLVANIA.*

Pittsburgh,	D. H. Riddel, D. D.	
Erie,	Richard Craighead.	
Meadville,	James F. Read.	

VIII. SYNOD OF WESTERN RESERVE.

Grand River.		
Portage,	Wm. C. Clark.	
Huron,		Eli Kitts.
Maumee.		
Trumbull,	3 Rev. N. B. Purinton.	
Cleveland,	Daniel C. Blood,	Stephen Whittaker.
Medina,	Lewis F. Laine.	
Elyria,	David A. Grosvenor.	

IX. SYNOD OF MICHIGAN.

Detroit,	George Duffield, D. D.	
Monroe,	Nathaniel West.	
St. Joseph,	Norman Kellogg.	
Marshall,	2 Erasmus J. Boyd.	
Washtenaw.		
Kalamazoo.		

[5]

* Erected during the present sessions of the Assembly.

X. SYNOD OF OHIO.

PRESBYTERIES.	MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
Athens,	J. H. Lindsley, D. D.	
Lancaster,	Edward Garland,	James Young.
Marion.		

XI. SYNOD OF CINCINNATI.

Cincinnati,	Andrew Benton,	Andrew L. Bushnell.
Dayton,	John W. Hall,	Peter Odlin.
Ripley.		

XII. SYNOD OF INDIANA.

Salem,	Alex. M'Pherson.	
Madison,	Henry Little,	George Briggs.
Crawfordsville,	Caleb Mills,	3 James M. Grooms.
Indianapolis,	Wm. N. Stimpson.	
Logansport,	2 Asa Johnson,	3 Gardner Mudge.

XIII. SYNOD OF ILLINOIS.

Illinois,	Edward Beecher, D. D.	
Sangamon,	3 Albert Hale.	
Desmoines,	3 James A. Clarke.	
Schuyler,	Wm. Fithian.	
Alton,	Lemuel Foster,	A. L. Sanders.
Palestine,	2 Enoch Kingsbury.	

XIV. SYNOD OF PEORIA.*

Peoria,	Romulus Barnes.	
Ottawa,	Chauncey Cook,	4 Wm. H. Brown.
Knox,	Hiram H. Kellogg.	
Galena,	Aratus Kent.	

XV. SYNOD OF MISSOURI.

Missouri.		
St. Louis,	8 Artemas Bullard, D. D.	
St. Charles,	Ezra Stiles Ely, D. D.	

XVI. SYNOD OF VIRGINIA.

Winchester,	William Hill, D. D.	
Dist. of Columbia,	Joshua N. Danforth,	Jacob Gideon.
Hanover,	A. J. Leavenworth,	John R. D. Payne.

XVII. SYNOD OF TENNESSEE.

Union.		
Holston,	Philips Wood,	Samuel Rhea.
Kingston.		
New River,	Stephen Taylor.	
Clinton.		

[6]

XVIII. SYNOD OF KENTUCKY.

Harmony,	8 Joseph C. Stiles,	8 Alex. Hamilton.
Providence,	8 Thomas Clelan, D. D.	

* Erected during the present sessions of the Assembly.

XIX. SYNOD OF WEST TENNESSEE.

PRESBYTERIES.	MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
W. Tennessee,	Conway P. Wing.	
Shiloh.		
N. Alabama,	John Allen, D. D.	

General Association of Connecticut,	Rev. Joseph Eldridge.
General Association of Massachusetts,	Rev. John Fiske.
General Conference of Maine,	Rev. Ray Palmer.
Evangelical Consociation of Rhode Island,	Rev. Constantine Blodgett.
General Convention of Vermont,	Rev. H. F. Leavitt.
General Association of New Hampshire.	

The Committee further reported, that William T. Jackson, a Ruling Elder from the Presbytery of Chemung, had appeared without a Commission.

Messrs. Noble, Brisbin, and Redfield were appointed a *Committee of Elections,* and the case of Mr. Jackson was referred to them.

Nominations were made for Moderator. The Roll was called, and the Rev. Ansel Eddy, of the Presbytery of Newark, was elected and duly inducted into office.

Adjourned to half-past 3 o'clock P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Thursday, half-past 3 o'clock P. M.

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was opened with prayer.

The Roll was called, and the Minutes were read and approved.

The following additional Commissioners appeared and took their seats: viz. Rev. A. J. Leavenworth, of the Presbytery of Hanover, and Mr. John Fassitt, Ruling Elder of the Presbytery of Lewes.

The Rev. William B. Lewis was chosen Temporary Clerk.

The Stated Clerk presented a Docket of Business.

The printed Minutes of the last General Assembly were distributed among the members.

The Committee on Elections reported, that there was satisfactory evidence that Mr. William T. Jackson had been duly elected a Commissioner to this Assembly, and recommended that he be admitted to a seat. The report was adopted.

Dr. Wisner, Dr. Lindsley, Mr. Myers, Dr. Riddle, and Messrs. Rowland, J. C. Clark, and Bushnell were appointed a *Committee of Bills and Overtures.*

Messrs. Wilbur, Ray, and Whittaker were appointed a *Committee of Mileage.* [7]

Messrs. Danforth, Benton, Mandeville, Chandler, and Fiske (of Mass.) were appointed a *Committee on the Narrative.* Messrs. Leavenworth, J. W. Hall, West, Harrison, and Houghton, were appointed a *Committee on Leave of Absence.*

Dr. Ely, Mr. Gridley and Mr. Fisher were appointed a *Committee on Devotional Exercises.*

These Committees were directed to meet on the rising of the Judicatory, and afterwards on their adjournment.

The Stated Clerk reported, that a Delegate was present from the "General Association of New York," requesting correspondence with this body.

On motion, the subject was referred to Dr. Beecher, Dr. Riddle and Mr. Vernon.

The subject of Correspondence with the "Evangelical Lutheran Church" was, on motion, referred to the same Committee.

Dr. Cox, chairman of the Committee *ad interim*, presented, by leave of the Assembly, the report of that Committee. The minutes of their proceedings were read. Inquiries were made and answered. After which the report was referred to a select Committee, consisting of Messrs. Myers, Ely and Rhea.

The following Committees were appointed to examine the Records of the several Synods: viz. on the Records of the Synod of

Albany, ... Dr. Hill, and Messrs. Kent and Gideon.
Utica, ... Messrs. Parmelee, Morse and Odlin.
Geneva, ... Messrs. M'Pherson, Garland and James Young.
Genessee, ... Messrs. Cook, Howe and Fowler.
N. York and N. Jersey, . . Messrs. Gridley, Wing and Kitts.
Pennsylvania, ... Messrs. Blood, Z. Eddy and Fairchild.
Western Reserve, ... Messrs. A. Miller, Graff and S. Allen.
Michigan, ... Messrs. Fithian, Ball and W. T. Jackson.
Ohio, ... Messrs. Taylor, Fowler and Gifford.
Cincinnati, ... Messrs. Morse, Jones and T. Fassitt.
Indiana, ... Messrs. Spees, Boyce and Esty.
Illinois, ... Messrs. Wilson, Mead and Relyea.
Missouri, ... Messrs. Dickinson, Hall and Gideon.
Virginia, ... Messrs. Torrey, M'Hay and Sawyer.
Tennessee, ... Messrs. H. H. Kellogg, Laine and Seeley.

Dr. Beecher, from the Committee to whom was referred the subject of Correspondence with the General Association of New York, made a report, which, after some discussion, was recommitted to the same Committee.

Mr. West, Dr. Dickinson, Dr. Duffield and Mr. Spees were added to the Committee.

The subject of Correspondence with the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and also with the "Presbyterian and Congregational Convention of Wiskonsin," was referred to the same Committee.

Resolved, That it be the order of the day for to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock, to receive Statistical Reports from Presbyteries; and the order of the day for Monday next at 10 o'clock, to hear the Narratives on the State of Religion. [8]

The subject of the election of Trustees of the General Assembly was taken up for consideration; when it was *Resolved*, That it is inexpedient to make any election of Trustees the present year.

The subject of the election of Directors of the several Theological Seminaries was committed to Messrs. Rowland, Dr. Allen and Mr. Payne, to consider and report.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

Friday Morning, May 19, 9 *o'clock.*

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was opened with prayer.

The Roll was called, and the Minutes were read and approved.

The following additional Commissioners appeared and took their seats: viz.

Marvin Freeman, Ruling Elder from the Presbytery of Troy.
George Briggs, " " " " Madison.
Zelotes Sheldon, " " " " Niagara.
Rev. Enoch Kingsbury, " " " Palestine.

The subject of the Commissioners' Fund was referred to Dr. Ely, Mr. Parmelee and Mr. Fisher.

Statistical Reports from Presbyteries were called for, received, and committed to the Stated Clerk.

The Rev. Erasmus J. Boyd, of the Presbytery of Marshall, who had appeared without a Commission, was, on the recommendation of the Committee of Elections, admitted to a seat.

The Stated Clerk reported a letter from the Congregational Union of England and Wales addressed to this Assembly. *Ordered*, that it be read in connection with the Narratives on the State of Religion.

Dr. Dickinson, Dr. Duffield, and Messrs. Fowler, Fisher and Wilbur were appointed a *Committee on the Polity of the Church.*

A communication from the Presbytery of Desmoines, Iowa, requesting to be annexed to the Synod of Illinois, was made, and referred to that Committee.

Resolved, That the first Sabbath in January, in each year before the next Assembly, be observed as a day of special prayer for the salvation of the world.

The subject of Correspondence with Foreign Bodies was made the order of the day for 4 o'clock this P. M.

Reports were called for from those who had been Delegates to Foreign Bodies during the last three years.

Dr. Wisner, from the Committee of Bills and Overtures, reported Overture No. 19, in reference to daily devotional exercises, which was adopted, and is as follows:

Whereas the temper and spirit with which the General Assembly conduct their business is a matter of deep interest to the cause and Church of God; and believing that the influence of a season of prayer in immediate connection with the meetings of this body, would have a most happy influence on our own souls, and upon the harmony and [9] success of our deliberations; therefore *Resolved*, That this body will spend three-quarters of an hour, at the opening of their morning session, daily, in devotional services, conducted under the direction of the Moderator.

They reported also Overture No. 8, from the Presbytery of Rockaway, on the subject of a Uniform system of benevolent action; which was put upon the docket.

Also Nos. 9 and 15, which were referred to the Committee on the Polity of the Church.

At the recommendation of the same Committee, it was *Resolved*, That the Assembly will hear Dr. Edwards on the subject of the observance of the Sabbath, this afternoon at 5 o'clock.

A communication was received from Mr. Bokum, in reference to the conversion of the Jews; which was referred to the Committee on Bills and Overtures.

The Report of the Stated Clerk was called for, and the hearing of it was made the order of the day for to-morrow, 12 o'clock M.

Overture No. 8 was taken up for consideration, and after some discussion, was referred to a select Committee, consisting of Messrs. Gridley, Little and Briggs.

At 11 o'clock, with a view to give committees time to meet and prepare business, the Assembly adjourned to 3 o'clock this P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Friday, P. M., May 19, 3 *o'clock.*

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the preceding session were read and approved.

The Rev. Asa Johnson, from the Presbytery of Logansport, appeared and took his seat.

Printed copies of the Minutes of the Evangelical Consociation of Rhode Island were presented and distributed among the members.

Dr. Wisner, from the Committee on Bills and Overtures, reported Overture No. 27, on the "Division of the Synod of Pennsylvania;" which was referred to the Committee on the Polity of the Church.

Also No. 21, from the Presbytery of Utica, on the subject of a "Change of the Constitution so as to restore annual Assemblies."

In reference to which it was *Resolved*, That no action of this Assembly is required on the subject, as the present organization is desirable, and ought to be continued.

Also No. 23, in reference to the "Jews," which was put upon the docket.

Also No. 26, on the subject of the "Committee *ad interim*," which was referred to the Committee already appointed on the proceedings of the Committee *ad interim*.

Also No. 20, from the 3d Presbytery of New York, on the subject of "Dancing."

A motion was made to refer the subject to a select Committee. [10] After some discussion, the farther consideration of the subject was for the present postponed, to take up the order of the day.

Agreeably to previous appointment, nominations were made of Delegates to Corresponding Bodies; after which, the election was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning, 10 o'clock.

The Rev. Dr. J. Edwards was then heard at some length, on the subject of the Observance of the Sabbath.

After which the Assembly adjourned to meet to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

Saturday Morning, May 20, 9 *o'clock.*

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was opened with prayer.

The Roll was called, and the Minutes were read and approved.

The Rev. Albert Hale, of the Presbytery of Sangamon; Gardner Mudge, Ruling Elder from the Presbytery of Logansport; and James M. Grooms, Ruling Elder from the Presbytery of Crawfordsville, appeared and took their seats.

Agreeably to previous order, three-quarters of an hour were spent in devotional exercises.

Mr. Rowland, from the Committee to whom was referred the subject of the election of Directors of the several Theological Seminaries, made the following report, which was adopted:

Resolved, That without intending to relinquish any legal claim, as the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, to the direction of the Theological Seminaries, it is inexpedient at present to proceed to this election.

Overture No. 20 was taken up and referred to Messrs. Duffield, Mills and Fairchild.

The Delegates of the last year to the General Association of Connecticut, and the Evangelical Consociation of Rhode Island, reported that they had attended and were cordially received.

The question of sending Delegates to Corresponding Bodies, for the two

years next succeeding the present year, was referred to the Committee on the Polity of the Church.

The Rev. N. B. Purinton, from the Presbytery of Trumbull, whose Commission wanted the regular signatures, was, on the recommendation of the Committee of Elections, admitted to a seat.

The Assembly proceeded to the order of the day, viz. the election of Delegates to Corresponding Bodies.

Messrs. Myers and H. H. Kellogg were appointed a Committee to receive and count the votes for Delegates to Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Messrs. Noble and Rowland, ... New Hampshire.
Messrs. Wing and Clark, ... Vermont.

The following persons were duly elected:

To the *General Association of Connecticut*, Rev. Edward Beecher, D. D., Rev. Ansel D. Eddy and Rev. Aratus Kent. [11]

General Association of Massachusetts, Rev. Edward Beecher, D. D., and Rev. A. D. Eddy.

Evangelical Consociation of Rhode Island, Rev. Aratus Kent.

General Association of New Hampshire, Rev. Albert Barnes and Rev. A. T. Hopkins.

General Convention of Vermont, Rev. Joseph Myers and Rev. Henry Little.

General Conference of Maine, Rev. N. S. S. Beman, D. D.

The Assembly proceeded to determine the place of its next meeting. Several places were put in nomination. The Roll was called, and it was decided that the next meeting be held in the First Presbyterian church in the City of Philadelphia.

A communication was received in reference to the Union Theological Seminary of New York, which was read and referred to the Committee of Bills and Overtures.

Dr. Dickinson, from the Committee on Church Polity, reported on the subject of the division of the Synods of Illinois and of Pennsylvania; and on their recommendation, it was

Resolved, "That a new Synod be erected within the bounds of the Synod of Illinois, embracing the Ministers and Churches connected with the Presbyteries of Ottawa, Peoria, Knox and Galena, to be known by the name of the 'Synod of Peoria.' That the first meeting of the new Synod be held at Galena, on the second Thursday of October, 1843, at 6 o'clock P. M., to be opened with a sermon by the Rev. George W. Gale, or in his absence, by the oldest minister present, who shall preside till another Moderator shall be chosen.

Resolved, also, That a new Synod be erected within the bounds of the Synod of Pennsylvania, embracing the Ministers and Churches connected with the Presbyteries of Erie, Meadville and Pittsburg; to be known by the name of the 'Synod of West Pennsylvania.' That the first meeting of the new Synod be held at Meadville, Crawford County, on the third Tuesday of October, 1843, at 6 o'clock P. M.; to be opened with a sermon by the Rev. D. H. Riddle, D. D.; or in his absence, by the oldest Minister present, who shall preside till another Moderator shall be chosen."

On the recommendation of the same Committee, the request of the Presbytery of Desmoines, to be annexed to the Synod of Illinois, was granted. They were thus annexed; and their Commissioner, the Rev. James A. Clarke, was admitted to a seat accordingly.

An invitation from the Principal of the "Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind" to visit the institution, was presented, and accepted for 4 o'clock this afternoon.

A communication was received from the American Sabbath-School Union, which was referred to the Committee on Bills and Overtures.

Dr. Beecher, from the Committee to whom was referred the subject of Correspondence with the "General Association of New York," reported, recommending that the whole subject be referred to a *Committee of five*, to report to the next General Assembly.

The report was adopted; and Dr. Wisner, Dr. Dickinson, Dr. Duffield, Dr. Riddle, and Rev. S. G. Spees were appointed that Committee. [12]

Dr. Ely, from the Committee on Devotional Exercises, reported; and on their recommendation, it was

Resolved, That on Wednesday next, at 11 o'clock A. M., a discourse shall be delivered in the First Presbyterian church, before the Assembly, preparatory to the celebration of the Lord's Supper, by the Rev. Dr. Hill, aided in the preparatory services by such brother as he may desire.

That at half-past 3 o'clock P. M. of the same day, the Assembly will meet in the same place, to unite in celebrating the Lord's Supper with such fellow-Christians, in good and regular standing in sister churches, as may choose to unite with them in this holy ordinance: And that in this service,

1. Mr. Palmer, of Maine, offer Prayer and read 1 Cor. 11 : 17–34.
2. Moderator give out some sacred Song.
3. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Fiske, of Massachusetts.
4. Psalm or Hymn, by Dr. Allen.
5. Administration of the Bread, by Dr. Cleland.
6. Administration of the Cup, by Mr. Myers.
7. Short Address to Communicants, by Dr. Linsley.
8. Address to non-Communicants, by Mr. Stiles, of Kentucky.
9. Hymn and Benediction, by the Moderator.

At 12 o'clock, the Assembly, agreeably to previous appointment, held a meeting with closed doors, and proceeded to hear the report of the Stated Clerk.

The report made by him on the subject of Finances was referred to Messrs. Seeley, Haymaker and Mudge, as an Auditing Committee.

The report of the Stated Clerk on the subject of correspondence with the counsel engaged in the law-suit, and on other subjects, was approved.

The reports of Committees appointed to examine Synodical Records were made the order of the day for Tuesday morning next, at ten o'clock.

Adjourned to Monday morning next, at 9 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

Monday Morning, May 22, 9 *o'clock.*

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

The Roll was called, and the Minutes were read and approved.

Mr. William H. Brown, a Ruling Elder, from the Presbytery of Ottawa, appeared and took his seat.

The usual time was then spent in devotional exercises.

At 10 o'clock the Assembly proceeded to the order of the day, viz. hearing the Narrations on the State of Religion.

Before this business was finished, the Assembly adjourned to half-past 3 o'clock P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Monday, P. M., half-past 3 *o'clock, May* 22, 1843.

The Assembly met, pursuant to adjournment, and was opened with prayer. [13]

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved. The unfinished business of the morning was then resumed and finished.

The letter from the Congregational Union of England and Wales was read; and Dr. Riddle, Dr. Allan, and Mr. Wheeler were appointed a Committee to prepare a reply.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported Overture No. 28, in reference to the Observance of the Sabbath. On this subject the following resolutions were adopted:

1. *Resolved*, That as the Sabbath was made for man, and the observance of it is essential to the highest social, civil and religious interests of man, it is not only the duty, but the right and the privilege of all men to remember it and to keep it holy.

2. *Resolved*, That the loading and unloading of vessels, the sailing of vessels from the harbor, the running of stage-coaches, rail-cars, and canal-boats, and the travelling in them; the visiting of post-offices, reading-rooms, and other places for secular reading, business or amusement, are not only unnecessary, but are violations of the law of God, and ought to be abandoned throughout the community.

3. *Resolved*, That it is the duty of Christians when travelling, to stop on the Sabbath, and during the whole of the Sabbath.

4. *Resolved*, That all pastors be requested fully to instruct their people as to the duty and utility of observing the Sabbath; and to be especially careful always to add to their instruction the influence of a uniformly consistent example.

5. *Resolved*, That it be recommended to all families to supply themselves with some good Sabbath Manual, that the rising generation may all be taught the reasons for the universal and perpetual observance of the Sabbath; and teachers of Sabbath-schools also are requested to exhibit this subject with frequency and plainness to their pupils.

6. *Resolved*, That all persons who are acquainted with facts which illustrate the duty and utility of keeping the Sabbath, and the evils of violating it, are requested to cause them to be published and circulated as extensively as possible; that the voice of God in his providence as well as in his word with regard to this subject, may be heard by all the people.

7. *Resolved*, That such is the fundamental importance of the Sabbath to all the great interests of men; and such its influence upon all efforts for the intellectual elevation, the moral purity, the social happiness, and the eternal good of men, that its due observance ought to receive the earnest attention, the fervent prayers, and the hearty, active and persevering co-operation of all friends of God and man throughout the world.

Also No. 29, from the Presbytery of Brooklyn, in reference to the "Second Centenary Anniversary of the Westminster Assembly;" which was put upon the docket.

Also No. 30, application of Dr. Peters, Professor in the Union Theological Seminary of New York, to be heard in behalf of that institution. *Resolved*, that the Assembly will hear Dr. Peters on that subject for fifteen minutes this P. M.

Also No. 31, "Overture on Slavery,"—report of a majority of the [14] Committee. Placed on the docket, and made the order of the day for half-past 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

The Rev. Mr. Fiske, the Delegate from Massachusetts, after a short address, respectfully took his leave.

Dr. Duffield, from the Committee to whom was referred Overture No. 20,

viz. the memorial from the Third Presbytery of New York, relative to "Dancing," presented the following resolution, which was adopted:

"*Resolved*, that the fashionable amusement of promiscuous dancing is so entirely unscriptural, and eminently and exclusively that of 'the world which lieth in wickedness;' and so wholly inconsistent with the spirit of Christ, and with that propriety of Christian deportment and that purity of heart which his followers are bound to maintain, as to render it not only improper and injurious for professing Christians either to partake in it, or to qualify their children for it, by teaching them the art; but also to call for the faithful and judicious exercise of discipline on the part of church sessions, when any of the members of their churches have been guilty."

Dr. Peters was then heard in behalf of the Union Theological Seminary of New York. After which Dr. Linsley, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Redfield were appointed a Committee on the subject of the Theological Seminaries which sympathize with this body.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

Tuesday Morning, May 23, 9 *o'clock.*

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was opened with prayer.

The calling of the Roll was dispensed with. The Minutes were read and approved.

Mr. A. L. Sanders, a Ruling Elder from the Presbytery of Alton, appeared and took his seat.

The usual time was spent in devotional exercises.

At 10 o'clock, the Assembly proceeded to the order of the day, viz. receiving reports on Synodical Records.

On the recommendation of the respective Committees, the Records of the Synods of Geneva, Genessee, New York, and New Jersey, were approved so far as written.

In reference to the Records of the Synod of Cincinnati, it was moved that the Records be approved so far as written, with the exception of the resolutions and proceedings on the subject of Slavery; in regard to which resolutions and proceedings the Assembly express no opinion.

Pending the discussion, it was moved and carried that the further consideration of this subject should be for the present postponed, with a view to take up the order of the day, viz. Overture No. 31, on the subject of "Slavery," which was taken up.

On motion of Dr. Dickinson, it was *Resolved*, that any member of this house who has charge of a memorial or remonstrance on the subject of Slavery, be allowed to call for the reading of the same. [15]

The memorials of the Presbyteries of Cincinnati, Lewes, Onondaga and Erie, and from the Elders of the churches in Philadelphia, and also from the church of Fly and Oaks Creek, were read.

Mr. Rowland moved that the preamble and resolutions of the Committee of Overtures be adopted.

Mr. H. H. Kellogg moved that the consideration of the overtures be postponed, to take up the following as a substitute. The motion to postpone was carried.

"*Whereas* the subject of Slavery has engaged the attention of our churches to a considerable extent for years past; and although the General Assembly of 1818 unanimously declared, 'We consider the voluntary enslaving of one part of the human race by another a gross violation of the most precious and sacred rights of human nature, as utterly inconsistent with the law of

God, which requires us to love our neighbor as ourselves;' and as totally irreconcilable with the spirit and precepts of the Gospel of Christ, which enjoins that all things 'whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them;' yet inasmuch as different and discordant views have since been expressed in relation to this institution as it exists in our country, and to some extent within our own communion, it becomes proper and important to the purity, peace and prosperity of our Church, that the views of this Assembly should be kindly and distinctly expressed."

Therefore,

Resolved, 1. That we regard the enslaving and holding in slavery human beings, as practised in our country, a sin against God, a violation of the rights of man, and an invasion of the Divine prerogatives.

Resolved, 2. That we affectionately and earnestly urge upon the ministers, sessions, Presbyteries, and Synods connected with this Assembly, that they treat this as all other sins of great magnitude; and by a diligent, kind and faithful application of the means which God has given them, by instruction, remonstrance, reproof and effective discipline, seek to purify the Church of this great iniquity.

After due discussion, Mr. Gideon moved the postponement of Mr. Kellogg's resolutions, with a view to a substitute proposing an indefinite postponement of the whole subject.

Mr. Gideon's motion was lost.

The discussion of Mr. Kellogg's resolutions was then postponed till P. M.

Dr. Ely, from the Committee on the Commissioners' Fund, made the following report, which was adopted:

Resolved, 1. That the regulations of the Assembly passed in 1838, be and the same are hereby repealed.

2. That hereafter any Presbytery, which had formerly obtained leave to pay the expenses of their own Commissioners to the Assembly, shall have liberty to pursue the same course if they shall desire it.

3. Nevertheless, the Assembly would earnestly desire and recommend that all the churches and Presbyteries under care of this Assembly, should make common cause in raising an adequate fund to defray the necessary expenses of all Commissioners whose circumstances may constrain them to apply for the same. This course of [16] conduct the Assembly deem most equitable, paternal and Christian; for thus the strong will help to bear the infirmities of the weak, and all the parts of the Church be best tempered together and edified.

4. That every Presbytery be and hereby is earnestly requested to cause a contribution for the Commissioners' Fund to be taken up in all their churches in the winter preceding each future General Assembly, and transmit the whole amount of the same to the Assembly by their own or some neighboring Commissioner.

5. That such Commissioners to this or any future General Assembly, whose Presbytery has not preferred to defray his expenses by the application of their own funds, and who has returned his mileage, or at any time within four days from and after the opening of any future Assembly, returns to the Mileage Committee the number of miles which he has necessarily travelled from home in going to the Assembly, shall be entitled to receive his share of the Commissioners' Fund, provided the Presbytery from which he comes shall have made any reasonable contribution to the said fund out of which his mileage is to be drawn; of which the Mileage Committee, subject to an appeal to the Assembly, shall be competent to judge.

6. That all funds sent up to the Assembly for this purpose, shall be, at every General Assembly, committed to the Mileage Committee, to be divided between the lawful applicants for the same, in proportion to the number of miles which they have necessarily travelled.

7. That should the Commissioners' Fund in any one year be sufficient to allow each applicant Commissioner for allowance of mileage more than five cents for each mile travelled in coming to the Assembly, then the surplus at each Assembly, after paying five cents a mile to the applicants, shall be reserved and paid to the Treasurer for the time being, for the purpose of being divided at the next Assembly, if needful.

Dr. Dickinson, from the Committee on the Polity of the Church, made a report in reference to a petition of the Presbytery of Athens; and on their recommendation, it was

Resolved, That the boundary line between the Synods of Cincinnati and Ohio be so altered as to transfer to the Synod of Ohio the territory lying in those parts of Ross, Pike and Scioto Counties, which are west of the Scioto River; and also that part of Adams County which is east of Brush Creek.

The Moderator announced an invitation from the Americal Philosophical Society to attend their hundredth anniversary on Thursday next.

Adjourned to half-past 3 o'clock P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Tuesday, P. M., half-past 3 *o'clock, May* 23.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer by Dr. Dickinson.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

The Committee on the Records of the Synod of Utica reported, and their report was put upon the docket. [17]

The Resolutions of Mr. Kellogg on the subject of Slavery were taken up, and discussed till near the close of the afternoon, when the discussion was interrupted for the present.

On motion of Dr. Dickinson, the time of commencing the religious service of to-morrow morning was reconsidered, and the hour was altered from 11 to 10 o'clock; the sermon to be followed immediately by the communion service.

The Moderator announced an invitation from the Young Men's Bible Society to attend their anniversary this evening.

Mr. Blodgett, the Delegate from Rhode Island, respectfully took his leave.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

Wednesday Morning, May 24, 9 *o'clock.*

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

The Roll was called, and the Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

In view of the special religious services of the day, in the church, the usual morning devotional exercises were dispensed with.

The Records of the Synod of Illinois were, on the recommendation of the Committee, approved, with the exception of a censure, on p. 209, of the action of Knox Presbytery, for ordaining a man when there was no call from any part of the Church.

The Committee on the Records of the Synod of Pennsylvania made a report, which was accepted, and committed to Dr. Ely, Mr. Taylor, and Dr. Wisner.

The Records of the Synod of Virginia were approved.

At 10 o'clock the Assembly removed to the body of the church, to attend to the sermon and communion service previously appointed.

After which the Assembly adjourned to half-past three o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Wednesday, P. M., half-past 3 o'clock, May. 24.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

The unfinished business of yesterday, viz. the consideration of Mr. Kellogg's resolutions, was resumed.

Dr. Hill moved a postponement of Mr. Kellogg's resolutions, with a view to take up the following substitute:

"*Whereas* divers memorials and remonstrances have been presented to this Assembly, some asking for action, and others deprecating all action of this body on the subject of Slavery;

"Therefore, *Resolved*, That as the two last Assemblies have committed this business exclusively to the lower Judicatories of the Church, [18] to whom it properly belongs, and who alone are competent to judge and act with a full knowledge of this intricate and delicate subject; therefore, the Assembly determine to leave this matter as it exists at present, without taking any action in the premises."

The motion of Dr. Hill was carried, and the resolution was discussed until the hour of adjournment.

The Moderator announced an invitation to attend the anniversary of the Philadelphia Home Missionary Society, Auxiliary to the American Home Missionary Society, and also a meeting of the Colonization Society.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

Wednesday Morning, May 25, 9 o'clock.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

The usual time was spent in religious exercises.

Mr. Wilbur, from the Committee on Mileage, reported, that the sum of $361 10 cts. had been received, which they had apportioned agreeably to the resolutions lately adopted by the Assembly, to the several Commissioners entitled to the same; being a little more than one cent and a half per mile of reported travel.

The report was approved, and they were directed to divide any additional sums which may come into their hands by the same rule.

Mr. James Hurlbut, a Ruling Elder from the Presbytery of Angelica, whose Commission wanted the signature of the Clerk, was, on the recommendation of the Committee of Elections, admitted to a seat.

Mr. Seely, from the Committee appointed to audit the accounts of the Stated Clerk and Treasurer of this Assembly, reported that they had examined the said accounts, together with the accompanying vouchers, and had found the same correct as therein stated. The report was accepted and adopted.

The Records of the Synods of Indiana, and of the Western Reserve, were, on the recommendation of the Committee, approved.

Dr. Ely, from the Committee to whom was referred the report of the proceedings of the "Committee *ad interim*," made a report, which was accepted, and placed on the docket.

At the request of Dr. Cox, the Assembly agreed to hear a statement of

the result of conference with the counsel engaged in the late law-suit, just before the adjournment this morning.

The unfinished business, viz. the consideration of Dr. Hill's resolution on the subject of Slavery, was resumed.

Dr. Dickinson moved the postponement of Dr. Hill's resolution, for the purpose of taking up the following as a substitute:

"*Whereas* there is in this Assembly great diversity of opinion as to the proper and best mode of action on the subject of Slavery; and *whereas*, in such circumstances, any expression of sentiment would carry with it but little weight, as it would be passed by a small [19] majority, and must operate to produce alienation and division: and *whereas* the Assembly of 1839, with great unanimity, referred this whole subject to the lower judicatories, to take such order as in their judgment might be adapted to remove the evil,

"*Resolved*, That the Assembly do not think it for the edification of the Church, for this body to take any action on the subject."

The motion for postponement was carried; and the discussion of it was continued to the hour of adjournment without being completed.

The hearing of Dr. Cox, which had been made the order of the day, was postponed till the completion of the discussion on Slavery.

Adjourned to half-past 3 o'clock P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Thursday, P. M., half-past 3 o'clock.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

The unfinished business of the morning, viz. the consideration of Dr. Dickinson's resolution on Slavery, was resumed and continued till near the hour of adjournment.

On motion of Mr. Benton, the Ayes and Noes were demanded, and ordered to be recorded.

The Roll was called, and the following persons voted in the AFFIRMATIVE. Messrs. Lambert, Wadsworth, Timothy Fassitt, Specs, Wheeler, Brisbin, Dickinson, Town, Relyea, Fowler, Jackson, Wisner, Allen, Hurlbut, Wm. Y. Miller, Sawyer, Mandeville, Rowland, Houghton, Noble, E. Young, Lewis, Fisher, Harrison, Seely, Torrey, Fairchild, How, Graff, John Fassitt, Chandler, Forbes, Wallace, Slayneaker, Riddle, Blood, Whittaker, Grosvenor, Duffield, West, Norman, Kellogg, Linsley, Garland, James Young, Hall, Oldin, Little, Briggs, Mills, Grooms, Stimpson, Johnson, Beecher, Brown, James A. Clark, Ely, Hill, Danforth, Gideon, Leavenworth, Payne, Wing, Wood, Rhea, Taylor, Allan.—66.

The following persons voted in the NEGATIVE. Messrs. Parmelee, Moore, Bacon, Gifford, Boyce, Peake, Jones, Vernon, Gridley, Redfield, Myers, Morse, Ball, Wilson, Esty, Mead, M'Harg, Z. Eddy, Adam Miller, Craighead, Read, Wm. C. Clark, Laine, Benton, Bushnell, M'Pherson, Mudge, Cook, Fithian, Barnes, Foster, Saunders, Kent.—33. The resolution therefore was passed.

The Moderator then called on the Rev. Dr. Lindsley to lead the Assembly in rendering thanks to Almighty God, for the peaceful and harmonious spirit which had pervaded the Assembly during this whole discussion.

The hearing of Dr. Cox was made the order of the day for 10 o'clock to-morrow.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer. [20]

Friday Morning, May 26, 9 *o'clock.*

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

The Minutes were read and approved.

The Rev. Thomas Cleland, D. D., from the Presbytery of Providence; the Rev. Joseph C. Stiles, of the Presbytery of Harmony; the Rev. Artemas Bullard, D. D., of the Presbytery of St. Louis, appeared and took their seats.

On the report of the Committee of Elections, Mr. Alexander Hamilton, Ruling Elder from the Presbytery of Harmony, (Synod of Ky.) who had appeared without a Commission, on good and sufficient evidence was admitted to a seat.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures presented an Overture on "Church Music," which was put upon the docket.

Dr. Beecher, from the Committee on Correspondence with Foreign Bodies, made a report on the subject of Correspondence with the Evangelical Lutheran Church, recommending that a Delegate be appointed to attend their next meeting, and also to open a Correspondence with them.

The Report was accepted and adopted.

The Synod of Missouri, with the Presbyteries attached to it, viz. Harmony, Lexington and St. Louis, was received into connection with the Assembly.

The Synod of Kentucky, at the request of the Delegates from that region, was also received into connection with the Assembly.

The Presbytery of St. Charles was, on motion, attached to the Synod of Missouri; and it was recommended to said Synod so to arrange their Presbyteries as that the division between them may be by territorial lines, according to the common principle of our system of discipline.

Mr. Leavenworth, from the Committee on Leave of Absence, reported that leave of absence had been given to Mr. H. H. Kellogg on Wednesday morning; Messrs. Benton, Bushnell, Kitts, Wadsworth and Boyd yesterday morning; and Messrs. Wilbur, Blood, Moore, Vernon and Young this morning.

The Assembly then sat with closed doors to hear a communication from the Stated Clerk and from Dr. Cox, in reference to the pecuniary concerns of the Assembly.

A letter respecting a legacy of Mr. William Brown, of Greenville, Tennessee, was read and referred to the Stated Clerk of the Assembly, with power to act in the premises.

Dr. Cox reported the result of a conference with the counsel engaged in the late law-suit; and this report was approved.

Presbyteries were called, and moneys were paid or pledged for the payment of the debt of the Assembly.

The report of the Committee on the proceedings of the Committee *ad interim*, was taken up for consideration.

On that part of the report which related to Psalmody, the following resolution, on the motion of Dr. Duffield, was adopted:

Whereas the General Assembly of 1840, for the purpose of bringing about a greater degree of uniformity in the Psalmody used in our [21] churches, appointed a Committee on this subject, and after much consultation and reports in part, committed "the whole subject, with the procuring and furnishing an edition of Psalms and Hymns for our general use, in a way involving no pecuniary responsibility to the Assembly," to the Consulting Committee, or Committee *ad interim.*

And *whereas* that Committee, agreeably to the powers entrusted to them, have, after much time and labor devoted to the subject, procured and fur-

nished such a book of Psalms and Hymns as they deem suited to general use in our Church; and *whereas*, so far as we are enabled to judge, the said book, entitled the "Church Psalmist," fully merits the recommendation the Committee have given it:

Therefore, that this General Assembly recommend the collection of Psalms and Hymns, entitled the "Church Psalmist," to the churches under our care, leaving them at the same time free to continue the books now in use, if they deem it most for edification.

Ordered, that the Stated Clerk pay to Dr. Beman $400, the amount of his claim, out of the first funds which may come into his hands, after discharging the debt due to the counsel engaged in the late law-suit.

Adjourned to half-past three o'clock P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Friday, P. M., half-past 3 o'clock.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

Messrs. Danforth, Noble and Morse were appointed a Committee to take into consideration the Minutes of the last General Assembly, particularly with reference to the deficiencies in the Statistical department, and to report thereon at this session of this Assembly.

The agent of the American Sunday-School Union, agreeably to previous appointment, addressed the Assembly.

The agent for the Society for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Jews was then heard for a short time.

The unfinished business of the morning, viz. the report on the proceedings of the Committee *ad interim*, was resumed.

Resolved, That this Assembly would commend the zeal and fidelity manifested by the Committee *ad interim*, in the novel circumstances in which, by the providence of God, they have been placed; and their proceedings are hereby approved.

This Assembly further declares, that the withdrawing the suit against Ashbel Green and others, in the nature of a *quo warranto*, and the ceasing for the present of this Assembly to prosecute its claims for property belonging to it in law and in equity, shall not be considered as any waiving or relinquishment of any of its legal and equitable rights in and to any property which did, now does, or hereafter may belong to the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

The Moderator announced an invitation from the American Pro[22]testant Association, and from the Foreign Evangelical Society, to attend their anniversaries.

Dr. Riddle reported an answer to the letter of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, which was adopted. Adjourned to 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

Saturday Morning, May 27, 9 o'clock.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved. The Committee on Leave of Absence, reported that leave of absence had been given to Dr. Duffield and Messrs. Brisbin, Fairchild, Redfield, Peake, Sawyer, Slayneaker and Fisher.

The usual time was spent in devotional exercises.

Mr. Gridley, from the Committee to whom was referred Overture No. 8,

on the subject of a Uniform system of benevolent action, made the following report, which was adopted:

"*Whereas* no particular method of collecting funds for charitable purposes can be suggested by this body, which will apply to all the churches under our care; and *whereas* the last General Assembly made all the general suggestions which, in the view of your Committee, the wants of the Church under our care demand: Therefore,

Resolved, That this body refer the Presbytery of Rockaway to the doings of the Assembly of 1840, on the subject of Charitable Collections, as containing all the instructions which this Assembly is prepared to give in relation to this matter."

Mr. Danforth, from the Committee appointed to prepare a Narrative on the State of Religion, made a report, which was adopted, and ordered to be published.

The Records of the Synod of Utica were, on the recommendation of the Committee, approved, with the exception that, on page 275, the Synod recognizes a reference to them as an appeal which should have been considered and acted on merely as a complaint against, and not as an appeal from, the decision of Presbytery concerning the settlement of a pastor.

On the recommendation of the Committee of Correspondence with Foreign Bodies, it was *Resolved*, That Delegates be appointed to attend the Presbyterian and Congregational Convention of Wisconsin, to the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and to the German Reformed Church.

Nominations were made of Delegates to more bodies; and the election was made the order of the day for this P. M.

The following minute was adopted in reference to the interest of this Assembly in the publication of the "Church Psalmist."

The proprietor and publisher of the "Church Psalmist," the Rev. N. S. S. Beman, D. D., and Mark H. Newman, have proposed to this Assembly, that they will, in all future times, so long as the "Church Psalmist" shall continue to be approved by the General Assembly, pay to the Treasurer of this Assembly ten per cent. on all sales which [23] shall be made, to any minister, elder, or congregation within the bounds of this Assembly, provided at least fifty copies of the "Church Psalmist" shall be purchased at the same time.

The Assembly has accepted, and does hereby accept of this proposition; and directs its Stated Clerk and Treasurer, from time to time, to audit the accounts of the publisher, receive such sums as may be due to the Assembly, and pass the same to the credit of the Contingent Fund of this body.

Dr. Ely, from the Committee to whom was referred the subject of the admission of Corresponding Members to seats in our Ecclesiastical Judicatories, made the following report, which was adopted:

Resolved, That while this Assembly would not interfere authoritatively with the lower judicatories in the exercise of their prerogative, they would recommend that no ministers should be invited to sit as correspondents who do not belong to some body in correspondence with this Assembly.

The Moderator announced an invitation to attend the anniversary of the Pennsylvania Bible Society.

Adjourned to half-past three o'clock P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Saturday, P. M., half-past 3 o'clock, May 27.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

Dr. Riddle, from the Committee of Overtures, reported an Overture from the Presbytery of Lewes, inquiring as to the right of children of baptized parents who are not communicants, to the rite of baptism: in answer to which the Presbytery was referred to the Digest, pages 327–330, as sufficiently definite.

On motion of Dr. Lindsley,

Resolved, That this Assembly are called upon to express their profound gratitude to God for the special manifestations of the presence and power of his Spirit in our churches during the past year, and that the spirit of paternal kindness and interchange of ministerial services have prevailed to so great an extent between the two portions of the Presbyterian Church during these blessed seasons; and we recommend to all our ministers and churches to cultivate brotherly love and Christian fellowship as the best means of commending the religion, and advancing the honor of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Also, *Resolved*, That this Assembly earnestly recommend to the churches under our care, the observance of the last Thursday of February, annually, as a day of fasting and prayer in behalf of the literary and theological institutions of our country.

On motion of Dr. Bullard, Dr. Erskine Mason, Judge Darling, and Charles Butler, Esq., were appointed a *Committee* to consider and report to the next General Assembly, what, in their opinion, it is best for that Assembly to do *in relation to the election of Trustees of the Assembly.* [24]

The report on the Records of the Synod of Cincinnati was taken up, and it was *Resolved*, That the Records be approved, with the exception of certain resolutions on the subject of Slavery, concerning which resolutions and proceedings the Assembly express no opinion.

On the subject of "Church Music," the following resolution was adopted:

"*Whereas* sacred music forms a pleasant and profitable part of the worship of God; and *whereas* there is reason to believe that this subject does not hold that prominent place in the public mind which its importance demands;

"Therefore, *Resolved*, That the General Assembly recommend to the churches in their connection to devote more attention to the subject, and especially that the rising generation be instructed in this science; and to this end the Assembly advise the ministers in their connection to bring the subject before their congregations, and urge its importance upon their consideration."

Resolved, As the General Assembly holds its meetings triennially, and can receive delegates from Corresponding Bodies only once in three years, it is expedient to send delegates to such bodies only triennially.

Ordered, That the salaries of the Stated and Permanent Clerks be paid out of any moneys in the Contingent Fund.

The janitor's bill was presented and allowed, and ordered to be paid.

The Assembly proceeded to elect Delegates to Corresponding Bodies.

To the Presbyterian and Congregational Convention of Wisconsin, the Rev. R. W. Patterson, of Chicago.

To the Evangelical Synod of the Lutheran Church, the Rev. B. J. Wallace.

To the German Reformed Church, the Rev. D. H. Riddle, D. D.

On motion of Rev. Mr. Danforth, it was *Resolved*, that it be enjoined on all the Presbyteries under the care of the General Assembly, to send up written reports of the State and Progress of Religion within their bounds for the three current years, together with statistical reports; and that the following Presbyteries be reminded that the Assembly has no triennial

reports from them, either verbal or written: Londonderry, Columbia, Oswego, Ontario, Rochester, Athens, Kalamazoo and Arkansas.

In reference to the Second Centennial Anniversary of the Westminster Assembly, the following minute was adopted.

Whereas the meeting and the acts of the Westminster Assembly, now 200 years ago, are honorably associated in the history of theology and of the Protestant cause, with eternal principles of truth that are dear to every genuine Christian, to every friend of God and the progress of human society; to every lover of the Church and the Reformation—especially to the Puritans of illustrious memory, and to the pilgrims from whom many of us lineally, and all of us morally are descended, therefore *Resolved*, That we approve with others the measure proposed by many ecclesiastical bodies throughout the Protestant world, and respectfully recommend to our whole Church, that the first day of July next, or the first Sabbath, that is the second day of the month, being the second centenary anniversary of the first meeting of the Westminster [25] Assembly, be solemnly celebrated by them, with gratitude to God for his mercies, with a suitable review of events historically connected with it, and with ardent prayers that the spirit of true religion may be diffused through all countries, and perpetuated through all ages to the end of time; and that Presbyteries and Sessions in our Church be instructed to take order accordingly.

The records of the Synod of Missouri were approved.

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Assembly be printed, and a copy forwarded to each minister of our Church.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Assembly be tendered to the Trustees of the First Presbyterian church, and to the inhabitants of this city, for their kindness and hospitality during these sessions.

Rev. Messrs. Lewis, Mason and Gilbert were appointed a *Committee to review the Minutes* and publish such items as they may think important and interesting, in the *New York Evangelist*, the *New York Observer*, the *Christian Observer*, and such other papers as they may deem proper.

The Records of the Synods of Albany, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee not being in the house, the Committees were discharged.

Ordered, That the Synods who have not sent up their Records to this Assembly, be admonished of their delinquency.

The Assembly having finished its business, it was *Resolved*, That this General Assembly be dissolved, and that another Assembly, chosen in like manner, be required to meet in the First Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Thursday of May, 1846, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Accordingly the Moderator dissolved the Assembly with prayer and singing, and the apostolic benediction.

E. W. GILBERT, *Permanent Clerk.*

Philadelphia, May, 27, 1843.

TRIENNIAL NARRATIVE

Of the Progress of Religion within the Bounds of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

The history of the Church of God, from that memorable hour when, in consequence of the resurrection and ascension of her Lord, the promised

Spirit was sent down upon his apostles, to the present period, has been a history of singular mutations, severe trials, and splendid triumphs. Whenever and wherever that fundamental principle of the Redeemer, "*My kingdom is not of this world*," has been respected and cherished, then and there have the chartered blessings of the Holy Spirit been enjoyed in their purity and power.

It is a time when the voice of God's providence, in deep harmony with that of the sacred oracles, warns the Church to hold fast that sure word of prophecy, which is as "a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in our hearts." Our lot is cast in a land, than which none on earth affords a nobler field for the development of intellect, the propagation of principles, and the growth of moral influences. Whether that intellect shall move in obedience to the law of God—whether those principles shall be true or false—whether those influences shall be pure or corrupt, depends, under God, upon the fervid aims, the fearless fidelity, and the aggressive holiness of the Church.

Standing on the broad basis of that glorious Protestant principle, "The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the only infallible rule of faith and practice," recognizing no establishment but that spiritual structure which rises upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets—acknowledging no ministerial orders, but maintaining that parity divinely instituted by Christ, and holding up the voluntary principle which is involved in the holy commission, and in the last injunction of our ascending Lord to his disciples —by these alone we expect to conquer in the conflict to which we are called by the great Captain of our salvation. These principles are congenial with the spirit of our civil institutions, the sovereignty of the people, and the union of the States. They have enabled us to present an example to other and older portions of the Church, which indeed they are now beginning to copy, as they feel the pressure of political power, and are painfully taught to hope nothing from the secular arm.

Presbyterian Scotland is breaking the shackles that have so long bound her sinewy limbs, that she may try the energy of her own long-neglected principles. Rejected by the State, she has cast herself on the strength of God, and is summoning her people to declare their liberty, and, as the freemen of the Lord, to go forth to his work. May the prayers of American Christians speed them in their blessed enterprise. "For the divisions of Reuben," there as well as here, may there be great searchings of heart. May our respective bows abide in strength, and the arms of our hands be made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob. May the "blessings of our progenitors be unto the utmost bounds of the everlasting hills. They shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren."

In the midst, then, of this great republic, her moral interests expanding with her territorial surface every hour, are we, in common with sister denominations, "placed and planted for weal or for wo."

How faithfully this branch of the Church has hitherto performed her duty, is not for us to declare. The works that we do, or neglect to do, speak to the eye of the cloud of witnesses around and above us, while the motives and intentions are inspected by the impartial Judge who is enthroned above all. We are a spectacle unto angels and to men. And though our course will be quickly finished, others will press into the arena. We shall transmit to our children and our successors the doctrines we preach, the principles we maintain, and the influences we create. Shall they go down through the channel of a sweet and heavenly charity, binding our interests together, and blessing

all as they go? Shall they, because brethren dwell together in unity, be "as the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion, where the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore;" or shall they, by reason of a discordant brotherhood, be as the frost that blights the fair fruits of the earth? The progress and results of the freest and largest discussion of great questions during this Assembly, furnish a satisfactory answer.

Since the last meeting of the General Assembly we have been rebuked by an act of Providence as singular in the history of nations as it was sudden in its occurrence, surprising in its announcement, and far reaching in its influence.

In the death of our Chief Magistrate so soon after his elevation to the summit of political power and the culmination of his civic fame, the voice of Providence re-echoed in the ears of seventeen millions of people the divine oracle, "Cease from man, whose breath is in his nostrils. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes."

We have reason to believe that this solemn and affecting event was duly improved by our ministers and members, and that the day of fasting and prayer subsequently recommended by the successor of the departed President, was universally observed in our churches. A pause was produced in the public mind. Contemplation succeeded. The reflections of the past and the anticipations of the future concurred in subduing that spirit of self-reliance so easily generated in the breast of a people too proud, perhaps, of the prerogative of self-government to suspect the danger that lurks beneath its exercise. Prayer was continually offered to God for our country—for our public servants invested with authority—for the ministers of the sanctuary—for all classes and conditions of men. More especially was the Spirit of God invoked to descend with healing power, and save our guilty, beloved land. He had carried us through the perils of that revolution, in the progress of which it was a common thing for our fathers, civil and ecclesiastical, to set apart days of fasting and prayer. Would he desert us when we had more dangerous internal enemies to contend with—when prosperity itself, engendering pride, had precipitated us into calamities, from which no legislative wisdom, however profound, no tactics of men, however skilful, have yet been able to extricate us? In these circumstances, when the ordinary objects of eager pursuit by men have eluded their grasp, and the wealth of the people has been scattered on the wings of the wind—when the disjointed fragments of political fabrics are floating in chaos, and nothing seems certain but the uncertainty before us, it is cheering to turn our eyes toward the hill of Zion, and say, "Behold, what hath God wrought!" to exclaim, "Lo, this is our God, we have waited for him, and HE will save us: this is the Lord, we have waited for him; we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

The Assembly has under its care nineteen Synods, and one hundred and one Presbyteries. Of these Presbyteries, seventy-three have sent up their reports. Among all these there is scarcely an exception to the good tidings of great joy which they bear to our ears. From the Northern Lakes to our Southern borders, and from the Atlantic to the far West, the voice of thanksgiving and melody is heard from the churches. Beginning with the Presbytery of Champlain, nearly all the churches under whose care have been blessed with the outpouring of the Spirit, and passing on to that of Buffalo and Niagara, on which floods of salvation have been poured from the fountains of heaven, we can only pause for a moment to hear of the wonderful works of God in the Presbyteries of Ithaca, Chemung, Geneva, Cayuga, Otsego, Genesee, Oneida, Utica, Bath, Angelica, Albany, Troy and Hudson, besides precious blessings on Tioga, Delaware, Cortland, Onondaga and North River.

Arriving in the city of New York, we learn of the goodness of God in the conversion of multitudes in the Second and Third Presbyteries; also in Long Island, in Brooklyn; and in the Presbytery of Newark; and especially in that of Rockaway, where so glorious a work has not been known since the memorable year 1740. Passing on to the Third Presbytery of Philadelphia, which embraces 41 ministers and 35 churches, we learn that in 21 of those churches the power of the Spirit has been manifested, not only formerly, but during the past year, in which about 1400 individuals, a large number in the meridian of life, have publicly dedicated themselves to God. In the Presbyteries of Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, and Erie, too, has the grace of God been signally displayed; while those of Wilmington and Lewes, in Delaware, testify that the Lord has been among them. All the Presbyteries in the Synod of Virginia have been blessed throughout their bounds, embracing the cities of Baltimore, Washington, Alexandria, Winchester, Richmond, Petersburg and Lynchburg, and numbering thousands of converts, from whose lips the song of grateful praise has ascended to the Redeeming Lamb. Each annual meeting of that Synod, for the last three years, has been crowned with the special blessing of God.

If now we enter the northern gate of the Mississippi valley, we meet the Presbytery of Cleveland rejoicing over the numerous new-born souls in her borders; Elyria, Dayton, whose ministers have increased threefold; Portage, Ripley, Medina, and the churches of Trumbull, Lancaster and Cincinnati taking up the strain, and sending it to Detroit, Monroe, Marshall and St. Joseph's, which has doubled her communicants; then crossing to Indiana and Illinois, we hear of revivals in the Presbytery of Indianapolis, which has increased her numbers two or threefold; in those of Salem, Madison, Logansport and Crawfordsville; in those of Knox, Alton, Palestine, Schuyler, Ottawa, Sangamon and Peoria. Some of these Presbyteries have doubled, others have tripled their numbers; and all speak of the extensive work of God among them. The Presbyteries of the Synod of Kentucky have enjoyed seasons of refreshing. Iowa has thirty churches, many of which have been blessed. The Synod of Missouri rejoices in the progress of truth and righteousness. Much ground has been gained in that Commonwealth. In West Tennessee, North Alabama, Holston and Shiloh Presbyteries, the achievements of Divine grace have been glorious.

Our Colleges and Theological Seminaries are reported as in a flourishing condition. Auburn, New York and Lane Seminaries, and Western Reserve College, are furnishing many faithful young men for the ministry and missions, who, we trust, will "study to show themselves approved unto God."

In adverting to the means by which these great ends have, under God, been accomplished, the Assembly has observed a remarkable coincidence in the tenor of the Presbyterial Reports. With the increasing permanence of the pastoral office. and the augmented confidence in that sacred relation, has been the growth of inward piety and outward activity. The preaching of the word publicly and from house to house—the exposition of the doctrines of the cross—prayer without ceasing to God—the distinct recognition of the agency of the Divine Spirit acting on the powers of the mind and the affections of the heart—continued religious exercises, sometimes with more, at other times with less frequency—a strong conception in each church of the necessity of awakening its own resources, combined with a deep sense of the indispensableness of Divine aid—the co-operation of the eldership and of the brethren; in fine, a certain increased activity in all the departments of Christian enterprise, have, through the blessing of the Eternal Spirit, yielded these abundant fruits. May they endure unto life eternal.

Along with these rich and spiritual blessings are others second only in importance to them, flowing out of them, and fitted to meet the evils that have threatened the cause of truth, the peace of the Church, the comforts of social life, and even the weal of our common country.

Not the least in importance is that mighty impulse applied to the temperance cause, by a sort of resurrection from the dead of a host of men, who, consigned in public opinion, and in their own conscious degradation, to a moral grave, had been abandoned to their melancholy fate. Encouraged by the voice of hope, they have burst their bonds and sprung into a new existence, raising themselves once more to the dignity of men, and, in the act, revolutionizing public opinion. These cases are reported not by hundreds but by thousands, through the length and breadth of the land. In multitudes of instances, too, the rescued victim has passed from the hall of temperance through the gates of the sanctuary to the sacramental table, rekindling the almost extinguished affection of a devoted wife, giving back to his wondering children their father, and glorifying the grace of God in all.

The cause of Home Missions is advancing. In one State, where 15 years ago there was not a Presbytery, there are now five Presbyteries, one of them embracing 17 ministers and 28 licentiates, all united under one Synod. Our brethren in the West have a great work on their hands, and we trust they will prosecute it with increased vigor and success.

It is by the extension of active and aggressive movements that the Church of God must outflank those numerous heresies and sub-heresies, which, in a land of physical enterprise and intellectual freedom, array themselves on every side. The Assembly would earnestly commend this cause to the hearts of the people.

Nor would they forget the foreign missionary interest, which, we hope, will be sustained with new energy and enlarged liberality.

The spirit of the age is demanding a wider and more thorough distribution of that word of truth and life, which, as it was the grand instrument of the Reformation, must, as read and preached, be still regarded as the means of the world's regeneration.

We are happy to learn that Bible classes are so numerous, and that so much attention is paid to the work of catechetical instruction; that in the Sabbath-schools the young mind is taught not only to acquire a lesson, but to practise the art of thinking, and that in numerous instances, truth thus contemplated and compared with truth, has, under the blessing of the Spirit, resulted in deep conviction and saving conversion to God.

The Assembly would earnestly enjoin the faithful use of the Westminster Catechism in the instruction of the young. The most effective antidote to error, so multiform in this land, is the pre-occupation of the mind with truth.

With the General Associations of Massachusetts and Connecticut, the General Convention of Vermont, the General Conference of Maine, and the Evangelical Consociation of Rhode Island, all represented by their delegates in this Assembly, as well as with the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and other ecclesiastical bodies, we maintain fraternal intercourse, and rejoice to learn how God has visited his people in those sections of the Church, in giving life and salvation to multitudes of souls.

From the Congregational Union of England and Wales we have received a letter abounding in sentiments which it is our highest pleasure to reciprocate.

We pray for those brethren and their churches who seek to propagate the

truth, independently of the civil authority; who, while they enjoy the protection of law, invoke none of its sanctions to sustain the sacred interests of the Church of Christ.

In reviewing the personal history of the last three years, we are reminded by the death of twenty-one honored and beloved brethren in the ministry,* that the time of our own departure is at hand: that while some, perhaps, may attain to the venerable years of Hillyer, others, like Baldwin, may fall in the meridian, and others still, like Downer and Allen, in the morning of life. Let us therefore gird up the loins of our mind, watch and be sober; weep as though we wept not; rejoice as though we rejoiced not; work while the day lasts; and be "followers of them who, through faith and patience, inherit the promises." We have met here in the city of our solemnities, and mingled our counsels in love and harmony. We shall not all meet again till we reach "the General Assembly and Church of the first-born, who are written in heaven." But while ministers die, the ministry lives; though "the godly cease, and the faithful fail," the Church cannot die, nor shall her living energies expire on earth till the remotest purpose of God shall be accomplished, and the last heir of glory shall ascend to heaven!

A. D. EDDY, *Moderator.*
ERSKINE MASON, *Stated Clerk.*

Philadelphia, May 27, 1843.

*Their names are:—Asa Hillyer, D. D., Presbytery of Newark; David R. Downer, Third do. New York; Edward D. Allen, Albany; Timothy Clark, Genessee; Ebenezer Kingsbury, Montrose; Thomson S. Harris, Second Presbytery, New York; John Frost, Presbytery of Chemung; Giles Doolittle, Joseph Treat, Portage; Thomas Moore, Lancaster; R. Montgomery Davis and Samuel P. Storrs, Otsego; Frederick A. Tuckerman, North River; William M. Adams, Galena; Elihu W. Baldwin, John S. Thompson, and Samuel Gregg, Crawfordsville; George Taylor, Cayuga; Aaron K. Wright, Medina; John W. Scott and Andrew Harris, Third Presbytery, Philadelphia.

SUMMARY.

PRESBYTERIES.	Ministers.	Churches.	Added on Examination.	Added on Certificate.	Total of Communicants.	STATED CLERKS.
1. Champlain	22	19	583	124	2319	C. M. Seaton.
2. Troy	23	24	346	153	2473	N. S. S. Beman.
3. Albany	10	7	64	36	1325	Thomas S. Wickes.
4. Columbia	20	18				
5. Delaware	11	20	44	57	813	Fordyce Harrington.
6. St. Lawrence	8	5	...	...	652	B. B. Hotchkin.
7. Watertown	15	21	332	...	1888	J. Brayton.
8. Oswego	13	...	...	...	*1040	
9. Oneida	12	8	...	...	340	R. C. Brisbin.
10. Otsego	13	18	235	145	1972	H. Pattingell.
11. Utica	16	20	218	93	2479	Ira Pettibone.
12. Geneva	47	31	438	313	4426	Thomas Lounsbury.
13. Chenango	15	16	...	...	1095	J. B. Hoyt.
14. Onondaga	24	26	266	233	3113	A. C. Tuttle.
15. Cayuga	33	25	168	76	1768	Seth Smith.
16. Tioga	12	15	77	101	1251	David S. Morse.
17. Cortland	13	15	253	202	1372	E. B. Fancher.
18. Bath	14	17	117	43	1258	B. Foster Pratt.
19. Chemung	20	30	207	245	1076	P. H. Fowler.
20. Ithaca	12	14	219	133	1379	Samuel Parker.
21. Genessee	19	20	...	...	2264	J. B. Preston.
22. Ontario	15	16	...	...	*1087	
23. Rochester	38	38	...	...	*2850	
24. Niagara	25	13	339	...	1707	William F. Curry.
25. Buffalo	38	34	540	332	2259	Timothy Stillman.
26. Angelica	13	20	212	...	2239	A. S. Allen.
27. Hudson	13	12	138	65	749	O. M. Johnson.
28. North River	11	14	357	113	960	Sumner Mandeville.
29. New York, 2d	6	4	103	288	1023	Henry A. Rowland.
30. New York, 3d	29	18	1145	1032	6934	Edwin F. Hatfield.
31. Long Island	9	6	10	6	575	Daniel Beers.
32. Brooklyn	21	6	549	319	1693	William B. Lewis.
33. Newark	19	14	290	215	2369	E. Seymour.
34. Montrose	21	23	237	137	1778	Sylvester Cooke.
35. Rockaway	17	17	464	224	2357	
36. Wilmington	9	14	234	50	1045	E. W. Gilbert, D. D.
37. Lewes	5	10	134	24	611	C. H. Mustard.
38. Philadelphia, 3d	43	34	1833	289	7587	Robert Adair.
39. Harrisburg	10	9	404	77	1288	William T. Sprole.
40. Pittsburgh	*7					
41. Erie	6	13	285	102	1287	Pierce Chamberlain.
42. Meadville	7	14	320	46	578	R. S. Lockwood.
43. Grand River	16	29	...	...	2325	Dexter Witter.
44. Portage	23	21	122	57	1698	William Hanford.
45. Huron	18	26	93	44	1653	J. B. Parlin.
46. Trumbull	15	20	250	93	1160	H. B. Eldred.
47. Cleveland	24	13	146	120	1136	J. H. Breck.
48. Medina	15	12	31	27	655	Lewis F. Lane.
49. Elyria	15	13	...	...	498	Xenophon Betts.
50. Detroit	17	20	105	55	1787	A. S. Wells.
51. Monroe	10	15	152	72	887	
52. St. Joseph's	12	18	163	93	533	Julius Steele.
53. Marshall	*13	*19	...	...	*783	
54. Washtenaw	12	13	148	59	1496	Ira M. Wead.
55. Kalamazoo	*4	*5	...	...	*335	
56. Athens	14	*18	...	...	*502	
57. Lancaster	15	22	319	149	3208	Alexander Duncan.
58. Marion	15	23	329	113	1820	F. Putnam.
59. Cincinnati	17	21	603	350	1985	A. Benton.

* [Last year's Report.]

PRESBYTERIES.	Ministers.	Churches.	Added on Examination.	Added on Certificate.	Total of Communicants.	STATED CLERKS.
60. Dayton	9	14	400	90	949	Benjamin Graves.
61. Ripley	11	14	346	93	1333	Jesse Lockhart.
62. Salem	7	16	367	76	357	S. Kittredge.
63. Madison	10	16	189	127	99	Windsor A. Smith.
64. Crawfordsville	13	15	218	42	717	E. O. Hovey.
65. Indianapolis	5	11	207	13	648	H. W. Beecher.
66. Logansport	5	13	489	116	631	M. M. Post.
67. Illinois	10	10	261	52	680	Hugh Barr.
68. Ottawa	17	17	46	61	539	G. W. Elliott.
69. Schuyler	10	14	194	130	691	L. P. Kimball.
70. Palestine	3	4	47	9	206	E. Kingsbury.
71. Peoria	6	7	...	...	271	
72. Alton	10	13	306	55	937	A. D. Norton.
73. Knox	11	11	110	511	571	George W. Gale.
74. Galena	7	5	94	69	322	Aratus Kent.
75. Desmoines	4	9	...	...	277	
76. Missouri	*7					
77. St. Louis	10	9	105	67	1100	
78. St. Charles	4	...	...	...	*823	
79. Harmony	5	7	68	...	140	
80. Lexington	8	8	82	...	146	
81. Winchester	6	14	181	19	646	Silas Billings.
82. District of Columbia	7	10	413	123	1315	J. N. Danforth.
83. Hanover	12	15	317	35	1215	
84. Union	19	27	458	43	2568	Fielding Pope.
85. Holston	9	12	643	60	1601	J. W. Cunningham.
86. Kingston	9	20	218	62	794	William B. Brown.
87. New River	4	7	159	...	549	George Painter.
88. Clinton	9	16	244	29	701	J. A. Ranney.
89. Green River	3	5	...	...	...	A. C. Dickerson.
90. Harmony	3	5				
91. Providence	5	5	...	...	315	T. H. Cleland, D. D.
92. Shiloh	5	15	371	59	1060	Amzi Bradshaw.
93. West Tennessee	8	11	105	9	676	Edward McMillan.
94. North Alabama	5	6	47	10	337	John Allan, D. D.
	1263	1496	20,715	8465	120,645	