MINUTES, 1849.

Philadelphia, May 17th, 1849.

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 Thursday, May 17th, 1849, at 11 o'clock, A. M., and was opened with a sermon by the Rev. Samuel H. Cox, D. D., the Moderator of the last Assembly, from 1 Chron. xii. 32—"And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment."

After a recess, the Assembly met again at 4 o'clock, P. M., and was constituted with prayer.

The Committee on Commissions reported that the following persons present* had been duly appointed Commissioners to this General Assembly, viz.:—

I. SYNOD OF ALBANY.

PRESBYTERIES.	MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
1. *Champlain*,	Abraham D. Brinckerhoff.	
2. *Troy*,	Nathan S. S. Beman, D. D.,	Albert Wright, M. D.
3. *Albany*,	Josiah Fisher.	
4. *Columbia*,	Gideon N. Judd, D. D.,	Josiah W. Fairfield (2).
5. *Delaware*,	Charles Chapman.	

II. SYNOD OF UTICA.

1. *St. Lawrence*,	Baruch B. Beckwith.	
2. *Watertown*,	Peter Snyder.	
3. *Oswego.*		
4. *Otsego*,	George S. Boardman,	Hon. David H. Little.
5. *Utica*,	Orlo Bartholomew.	

III. SYNOD OF GENEVA.

1. *Onondaga*,	Richard F. Cleveland,	James M. Monroe.
2. *Cayuga*,	L. P. Hickok, D. D.,	Salem Town.
3. *Geneva*,	Geo. R. H. Shumway,	Arad Joy.
4. *Cortland.*		
5. *Chenango*,	Hiram Dyer,	Alamanzar Watson.
6. *Tioga*,	Philip C. Hay, D. D.,	Jonathan B. Hart.
7. *Bath*,	Levi Rose.	
8. *Chemung*,	Philemon H. Fowler,	Simeon Benjamin.
9. *Ithaca*,	George Spaulding,	Herman Camp.
10. *Pennsylvania*,	Joseph L. Riggs.	[164]

* The figures indicate the day of the Commissioner's appearance and recognition in the Assembly.

IV. SYNOD OF GENESEE.

PRESBYTERIES.	MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
1. *Genesee*,	Gabriel S. Corwin,	Lewis B. Parsons (4).
2. *Ontario.*		
3. *Rochester.*		
4. *Niagara*,	Henry Callahan.	
5. *Buffalo*,	Reuben Tinker,	Jesse Stone (2).
6. *Angelica*,	Samuel A. Rawson.	

V. SYNOD OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY.

1. *Hudson*,	Daniel T. Wood,	Hon. Robert Denniston (5).
2. *North River*,	Henry G. Ludlow,	Hon. Robert Wilkinson.
3. *Long Island*,	James T. Hamlin,	Franklin Tuthill, M. D.
4. *New York, 3d*,	Samuel D. Burchard,	David Hoadley.
5. *New York, 4th*,	James I. Ostrom,	David L. Dodge.
6. *Brooklyn*,	Samuel T. Spear.	John A. Davenport.
7. *Newark*,	Joseph S. Gallagher,	Hon. J. C. Hornblower (5).
8. *Rockaway*,	Daniel H. Johnson,	John Hill.
9. *Montrose*,	Adam Miller (4),	Benjamin S. Bentley.
10. *San Francisco.*		

VI. SYNOD OF PENNSYLVANIA.

1. *Wilmington*,	James McIntire,	Samuel Jefferson.
2. *Philadelphia, 3d*,	John Crowell,	Wilfred Hall.
3. *Philadelphia, 4th*,	Thomas Brainerd, D. D.,	Charles S. Wurts.
4. *Harrisburgh*,	Daniel H. Emerson,	Samuel W. Hays.

VII. SYNOD OF WEST PENNSYLVANIA.

1. *Erie*,	Pieree Chamberlain.	
2. *Meadville*,	George W. Hampson.	
3. *Pittsburgh*,	Alexander Porter.	

VIII. SYNOD OF WESTERN RESERVE.

1. *Grand River*,	Mead Holmes.	
2. *Portage*,	Elias C. Sharp (2).	
3. *Huron*,	Enoch Conger (3),	Andrew Hepburn.
4. *Trumbull*,	Hezekiah W. Osborn,	Walter King (2).
5. *Cleveland*,	William H. Beecher (2).	
6. *Medina*,	Sherman D. Taylor (2).	
7. *Elyria*,	Eldad Barber.	
8. *Maumee.*		

IX. SYNOD OF MICHIGAN.

1. *Detroit*,	John G. Atterbury.
2. *St. Joseph*,	Norman Kellogg.
3. *Monroe*,	Ebenezer Cheever.
4. *Marshall*,	Samuel H. Hall.
5. *Washtenaw*,	William S. Curtis.
6. *Kalamazoo*,	Ova P. Hoyt.
7. *Ionia.*	

X. SYNOD OF OHIO.

PRESBYTERIES.	MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
1. *Athens*,		George W. Cooper (2).
2. *Pataskala*,	Alexander Duncan,	James Young.
3. *Franklin*,	Henry Shedd.	
4. *Scioto*,	Franklin S. Howe (4).	

XI. SYNOD OF CINCINNATI.

1. *Cincinnati*,	D. Howe Allen, D. D.,	William B. Moores (2).
2. *Dayton*,	John W. Hall, D. D.,	Daniel Keifer.
3. *Hamilton*,	Joseph S. Edwards.	

XII. SYNOD OF INDIANA.

1. *Salem*,	Benjamin F. Stuart.	
2. *Madison*,	Henry Little.	
3. *Crawfordsville*,	John Fairchild (2).	
4. *Indianapolis*,	Phillip S. Cleland,	Henry G. Todd, M. D. (8)
5. *Logansport*,	Martin M. Post.	
6. *Fort Wayne*,	Isaac N. Taylor,	Jacob Bosworth.
7. *Evansville.*		

XIII. SYNOD OF ILLINOIS.

1. *Illinois*,	Livingston M. Glover.	
2. *Schuyler.*		
3. *Palestine*,	Charles H. Palmer (2).	
4. *Alton*,	Augustus T. Norton,	Asa L. Saunders.
5. *Des Moines*,	Thompson Bird.	

XIV. SYNOD OF PEORIA.

1. *Ottawa*,	George W. Bassett (5).	
2. *Peoria.*		
3. *Knox.*		
4. *Galena*,	Edward D. Neill.	
5. *Chicago*,	Abner W. Henderson,	Benjamin W. Raymond.
6. *Belvidere*,	Royal N. Wright.	

XV. SXNOD OF MISSOURI.

1. *St. Louis*,	Artemas Bullard, D. D.	
2. *Northern Missouri.*		
3. *Lexington*,	Edmund Wright (2).	
4. *Osage*,	William H. Smith (2).	

XVI. SYNOD OF VIRGINIA.

1. *Winchester*,	Thomas D. Bell,	Robert M. Campbell.
2. *D. of Columbia*,	James G. Hamner, D. D.,	William H. Campbell.
3. *Hanover*,	James H. C. Leach, D. D.,	Samuel Reeve.

XVII. SYNOD OF TENNESSEE.

1. *Union*,	Hiram F. Taylor.	
2. *Holston.*		
3. *Kingston*,	William B. Brown.	
4. *New River*,	David F. Palmer,	Abijah Thomas.
5. *Chattahoochee.*		

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XVIII. SYNOD OF KENTUCKY.

PRESBYTERIES.	MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
1. *Harmony*,	John H. Zivley.	
2. *Providence*,	Thomas H. Cleland.	
3. *Green River.*		

XIX. SYNOD OF WEST TENNESSEE.

1. *W. Tennessee*,	Edward McMillan.	
2. *Shiloh*,	Alfred H. Dashiell.	
3. *N. Alabama*,	William C. Dunlap.	

XX. SYNOD OF MISSISSIPPI.

1. *Clinton.*		
2. *S. Lexington*,	Fisher A. Tyler.	
3. *Newton.*		

DELEGATES FROM CORRESPONDING BODIES.

1. *General Association of Connecticut*,	Rev. Samuel W. S. Dutton,
" " "	Rev. Walter Clark.
2. *General Association of Massachusetts.*	
3. *General Association of New Hampshire*,	Rev. J. De Forest Richards.
4. *General Conference of Maine.*	
5. *General Convention of Vermont*,	Rev. James Anderson.
6. *General Evan. Consociation of R. Island.*	
7. *Presb. and Cong. General Convention of Wisconsin*,	Rev. Stephen Peet.
8. *General Synod of the Lutheran Church in the United States*,	Rev. Charles P. Krauth, D. D.
9. *General Synod of the German Ref. Ch.*	

The Committee on Commissions further reported, that the Commissions from the Presbyteries of Buffalo, Otsego, Bath, Elyria, and Logansport, want the signature of the Moderator. That the Commission from the Presbytery of Hudson wants the signature of the Stated Clerk; and that the Commissions from the Presbytery of Tioga, though regularly signed, are not after the form prescribed by the Constitution.

It was ordered that, where the form is substantially observed, and the Commission authenticated by either Moderator or Clerk, the name be enrolled; and the Commissioners from these Presbyteries were enrolled accordingly.

Nominations were made for Moderator. After which the Roll was called, and the Rev. Philip C. Hay, D. D., of the Presbytery of Tioga, was elected, and inducted into office in the usual form.

The Rev. Ova P. Hoyt was chosen Temporary Clerk.

Resolved, that the "General Rules for Judicatories," in the Appendix to the Constitution, be adopted, with the exception of Rules, 36, 37, 38, as the Rules of this General Assembly. [167]

Resolved, that the Assembly will spend one-half hour in devotional exercises, every morning, before proceeding to business.

Resolved, that the Assembly meet every morning at 9 o'clock, A. M., and adjourn at half-past one o'clock, P. M.; in the afternoon, at 4 o'clock, and adjourn at 6 o'clock.

The Rev. T. Brainerd, D. D., on account of sickness in his family, was permitted to be absent as occasion might require.

Copies of the printed Minutes of the last Assembly, agreeably to a standing rule, were distributed to the members, on a call of the Roll.

Ordered, that 500 copies of the Roll be printed for the use of the Assembly.

Adjourned until to-morrow, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Friday, May 18th, 9 o'clock, A.M.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

Half an hour was occupied in devotional exercises.

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

The Committee on Commissions reported the following additional Commissioners, and their names were placed on the Roll:

Rev. John Fairchild,	of the Presbytery of	Crawfordsville,
Rev. Charles H. Palmer,	"	Palestine,
Rev. Sherman D. Taylor,	"	Medina,
Rev. Elias C. Sharp,	"	Portage,
Rev. William H. Smith,	"	Osage,
Elder George W. Cooper,	"	Athens,
Elder Walter King,	"	Trumbull,
Elder Jesse Stone,	"	Buffalo.

The following Standing Committees were then announced by the Moderator, viz.:

On Bills and Overtures,—Ministers, N. S. S. Beman, D. D., J. H. C. Leach, D. D., and Henry Little. *Elders*, Robert Wilkinson, Simeon Benjamin, and Benjamin W. Raymond.

On the Polity of the Church,—Ministers, Gideon N. Judd, D. D., Artemas Bullard, D. D., D. H. Allen, D. D., and Ebenezer Cheever. *Elders*, David L. Dodge, Charles S. Wurts, and Samuel Reeve.

On Devotional Exercises,—Ministers, James G. Hamner, D. D., Henry G. Ludlow, and Joseph S. Edwards. *Elders*, Samuel W. Hayes, and Daniel Keifer.

On the Narrative,—Ministers, Laurens P. Hickok, D. D., John G. Atterbury, Livingston M. Glover, and John H. Zivley.

On Leave of Absence,—Ministers, Norman Kellogg, P. H. Fowler, and Daniel H. Johnson. *Elders*, David L. Dodge, and Robert M. Campbell. [168]

On Mileage,—Elders, Herman Camp, David Hoadley, and Samuel Jefferson.

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

Albany,—Ministers, William S. Curtis, William B. Brown, and Alexander Porter. *Elders*, Herman Camp, and Andrew Hepburn.

Utica,—Ministers, John Crowell, Mead Holmes, and W. C. Dunlap. *Elders*, Franklin Tuthill, M. D., and Jesse Stone.

Geneva,—Ministers, Augustus T. Norton, George W. Hampson, and Eldad Barber. *Elders*, Jacob Bosworth, and John Hill.

Genesee,—Ministers, Joseph S. Gallagher, Isaac N. Taylor, and Fisher A. Tyler. *Elders*, Asa L. Saunders, and Benjamin S. Bentley.

New York and New Jersey,—Ministers, Pierce Chamberlain, James McIntire, and Abner W. Henderson. *Elders*, Wilfred Hall, and James M. Munroe.

Pennsylvania,—Ministers, Samuel D. Burchard, Josiah Fisher, and Hezekiah W. Osborn. *Elders*, Abijah Thomas, and John B. Hart.

West Pennsylvania,—Ministers, G. R. H. Shumway, J. I. Ostrom, and Hiram F. Taylor. *Elders*, William H. Campbell, and Alamanzar Watson.

Western Reserve,—Ministers, Thomas H. Cleland, James T. Hamlin, and B. F. Stuart. *Elders*, Arad Joy, and John A. Davenport.

Michigan,—Ministers. Daniel T. Wood, Royal N. Wright, and David F. Palmer. *Elders*, Alfred Wright, and James Young.

Ohio,—Ministers, Samuel H. Hall, Hiram Dyer, and Edward D. Neill. *Elders*, Salem Town, and Daniel Keifer.

Cincinnati,—Ministers, Samuel T. Spear, Reuben Tinker, and Thomas D. Bell. *Elders*, Robert Wilkinson and D. H. Little.

Indiana,—Ministers, A. D. Brinckerhoff, Samuel A. Rawson, and Thompson Bird. *Elders*, Benjamin W. Raymond, and S. W. Hayes.

Illinois,—Ministers, Henry Shedd, B. B. Beckwith, and Peter Snyder. *Elders*, Abijah Thomas, and Jesse Stone.

Peoria,—Ministers, Edward McMillan, Henry Callahan, and Orlo Bartholomew. *Elders*, J. M. Munroe, and Charles S. Wurts.

Missouri,—Ministers, Alexander Duncan, Charles Chapman, and Joseph L. Riggs. *Elders*, Samuel Jefferson, and Jacob Bosworth.

Virginia,—Ministers, George S. Boardman, George Spaulding, and J. H. Zivley. *Elders*, Simeon Benjamin, and David Hoadley.

Tennessee,—Ministers, M. M. Post, Gabriel S. Corwin, and Levi Rose. *Elders*, James Young, and Franklin M. Tuthill, M. D.

Kentucky,—Ministers, D. H. Emerson, Joseph S. Edwards, and Hezekiah W. Osborn. *Elders*, Wilfred Hall, and Herman Camp.

West Tennessee,—Ministers, L. M. Glover, Mead Holmes, and Hiram Dyer. *Elders*, Jonathan B. Hart, and Benjamin S. Bentley.

Mississippi,—Ministers, Richard F. Cleaveland, Abner W. Henderson, and Alexander Porter. *Elders*, John A. Davenport, and Asa L. Saunders.

The answers to the Overtures sent down to the Presbyteries by the last Assembly were put into the hands of the Committee on the Polity of the Church.

The Narratives of the Presbyteries were put into the hands of the Com-
[169] mittee on the Narrative; and the Statistical Reports into the hands of the Stated Clerk.

The presentation of Synodical Records was made the order of the day for 4 o'clock, P. M.

A memorial from the Synod of Ohio, on the subject of "Slavery," was presented and referred to the Committee on Bills and Overtures.

Another memorial, on the subject of a "Division of the Church," was presented and referred to the same Committee.

Ordered, that the money for the Commissioners' and Contingent Funds of the Assembly be paid into the hands of the Treasurer of the Assembly.

The Rev. N. S. S. Beman, D. D., Delegate to the General Convention of Vermont, made a report, which was accepted.

The nomination of Delegates to Corresponding Bodies was made the order of the day for 4½ o'clock, this P. M.

The printed Minutes of Corresponding Bodies were distributed among the several Synods.

The Committee, appointed by the last Assembly to correspond with delinquent Presbyteries, made a report which was accepted; and that part of it, which related to the Presbyteries of Londonderry and Newburyport, was referred to the Committee on the Records of the Synod of Albany.

The Committee, appointed to correspond with the Presbyteries, on the necessity of more liberal contributions to the Commissioners' and Contingent Funds of the Assembly, made a report which was adopted.

The Treasurer of the General Assembly, Thomas Fleming, Esq., presented his report, which was accepted, and referred to an *Auditing Committee* consisting of Messrs. D. H. Little, W. King, and A. Joy.

The report of the Committee of the last Assembly, on the subject of the revision of the Standards, was made the order of the day for Monday, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The injunction, by the last Assembly, on the Synod of Cincinnati (Minutes, p. 31), was referred to the Committee on the Records of the Synod of Cincinnati.

Adjourned until 4 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Friday, 4 o'clock, P. M.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

The Committee on Commissions reported the following additional Commissioners, and their names were placed on the Roll:

Rev. Edmund Wright,	of the	Presbytery	of Lexington,
Rev. William H. Beecher,	"	"	Cleveland,
William B. Moores, Elder,	"	"	Cincinnati,
Josiah W. Fairfield,	"	"	Columbia.

The Records of Synods were called for, and committed to the respective Committees for examination.

A communication was received from J. R. Ingersoll, Esq., inviting the members of the Assembly to visit the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine [170] Arts. The invitation was accepted, and the Clerk was directed to return the thanks of this body.

A communication from Elliot Cresson, Esq., presenting 100 copies of the *Colonization Herald*, (containing a sermon of the Rev. Dr. Parker,) for the use of the members of this Assembly, was received. The Clerk was directed to acknowledge the donation, and return the thanks of the Assembly.

A nomination was made of Delegates to Corresponding Bodies; and the election was made the order of the day for to-morrow, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The Auditing Committee reported, that they had examined the Treasurer's accounts, showing a balance in the Treasury of $11.71, and had found them correct. Their report was adopted.

The subject of the election of ruling elders for a limited period, referred from the last Assembly, was taken up; and, after some discussion, was referred to the Committee on the Polity of the Church.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the churches to observe the first Monday in January next as a day of fasting and special prayer for the conversion of the world.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported Overture, No. 7, from several individuals in Galena, Ill., and its neighborhood, on the subject of a Theological Seminary in the North-West, with a recommendation of the appointment of a Committee to correspond with the memorialists and others, and report to the next General Assembly; which was adopted. N. S. S. Beman, D. D., and Rev. Albert Barnes, were appointed the *Committee of Correspondence.*

Also, Overture, No. 9, from the Presbytery of New York, 3d, suggesting the propriety of a sermon on Home Missions at each meeting of the General Assembly; recommending its adoption, and the delivery, if practicable, of such a sermon some time during the sessions of this Assembly. The report was put on the docket.

Adjourned until to-morrow, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Saturday, May 19th, 9 o'clock, A. M.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

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

The Committee on Commissions reported the following additional Commissioner:—Rev. Enoch Conger, from the Presbytery of Huron.

The usual time was occupied in devotional exercises.

The sudden death of Mr. James Hanna, a Commissioner, on his way to the Assembly, having been announced, Rev. Messrs. M. M. Post and J. Fairchild were appointed a Committee to bring in a suitable minute.

The Rev. J. G. Hamner, D. D., from the Committee on Devotional Exercises, made a report, recommending that the Assembly unite in the celebration of the Lord's Supper, on Thursday, at 4 o'clock, P. M., and that the following be the order of exercises: [171]

1. Reading the Scriptures and Hymn, by the Moderator,
2. Remarks on the Nature of the Ordinance, " " Rev. J. H. C. Leach, D. D.,
3. Administration of the Bread, " " Rev. J. W. Hall, D. D.,
4. Administration of the Cup, " " Rev. Thos. D. Bell,
5. Concluding Address, " " Rev. G. N. Judd, D. D.,
6. Hymn and Benediction, " " Rev. A. Bullard, D. D.

The report was adopted.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the place of next meeting. Nominations were made; the Roll was called, and the city of Detroit, Michigan, was chosen.

A letter was received from Prof. C. D. Cleveland, presenting, for the use of the Assembly, 150 copies of an oration of Charles Sumner, Esq., on the "True Grandeur of Nations." The donation was accepted, and the Clerk directed to express to Prof. Cleveland the thanks of the Assembly.

Proceeded to the election of Delegates to Corresponding Bodies. The Rev. Messrs. W. H. Beecher and G. R. H. Shumway were appointed a Committee to collect and count the votes.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported Overtures No. 17, 18, 19, 20, on the general subject of ruling elders, which, on their recommendation, were referred to the Committee on the Polity of the Church.

Also, Overtures, No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, on the general subject of Slavery, which were referred to a Committee, consisting of Rev. N. S. S. Beman, D. D., Rev. J. W. Hall, D. D., Rev. S. T. Spear, Rev. E. McMillan, and Rev. M. M. Post, and Messrs. J. W. Fairfield and R. Wilkinson.

Overture, No. 9, in reference to a sermon before the Assembly on "Home Missions," was taken up, and the recommendation of the Committee adopted. The Rev. Albert Barnes was requested to preach on the subject of Home Missions, at some time during the sessions of this Assembly.

On motion of the Rev. D. H. Allen, D. D., it was unanimously resolved that a Delegate be appointed to attend the next meeting of the General Association of New York. The Rev. Laurens P. Hickok, D. D., was appointed the Delegate, and the Rev. S. D. Burchard, alternate.

The Committee, appointed to collect and count the votes for Delegates to Corresponding Bodies, reported that the following persons had been duly elected; To the

General Association of Connecticut, Rev. Gideon N. Judd, D. D., Rev. Artemas Bullard, D. D., and Rev. Henry Little.

General Association of Massachusetts, Rev. Gideon N. Judd, D. D., and Rev. Artemas Bullard, D. D.

Evangelical Consociation of Rhode Island, Rev. Henry Little.

General Association of New Hampshire, Rev. N. S. S. Beman, D. D., and Rev. Royal N. Wright.

General Convention of Vermont, Rev. Edmund Wright.

General Conference of Maine, Rev. Edwin F. Hatfield.

Presbyterian and Congregational General Convention of Wisconsin, Rev. Ova P. Hoyt, and Rev. George S. Boardman.

General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States, Rev. J. H. C. Leach, D. D. Alternate, Rev. Charles H. Read. [172]

General Synod of the German Reformed Church, Rev. E. W. Gilbert, D. D.

The Rule on the compensation of Delegates to Corresponding Bodies (see Digest, p. 308,) was amended by adding to it the words, "not exceeding their necessary traveling expenses."

The Committee on Devotional Exercises were directed to confer with Rev. A. Barnes, as to the request of the Assembly, relative to the delivery of a sermon on Home Missions.

The report of the Committee, appointed by the last Assembly on Home Missions, was presented, and having been read, was accepted, and referred to a Committee, consisting of Rev. A. Bullard, D. D., Rev. D. H. Allen, D. D., Rev. A. T. Norton, Rev. H. Little, Rev. Thomas H. Cleland, and Messrs. Abijah Thomas, and William B. Moores, to report the proper action in the case.

Resolved, that the Stated Clerk of each Presbytery be directed to collect, and send to the Stated Clerk of the Assembly, a sum equal in amount to twenty-five cents for each member of the Presbytery, for the Minutes of the Assembly. And, that the Stated Clerk of the Assembly be directed to publish at least 1,500 copies of the Minutes of the Assembly, and send a copy to each minister, and each vacant church session, whose post-office address is given in the Statistical Report of their Presbytery, and whose Presbytery has complied with the above rule.

Rev. George Duffield, D. D., Rev. R. R. Kellogg, and Messrs. Alexander McFarren, E. P. Hastings, and Thomas Roland were appointed a *Committee of Arrangements* for the meeting of the next General Assembly.

An invitation was received, from the visiting inspectors of the State Penitentiary, to visit that institution on any day of next week between 2 and 5 o'clock, P. M. The invitation was accepted, and the Clerk directed to return the thanks of the Assembly.

Adjourned until Monday next, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Monday, May 21st, 9 o'clock, A. M.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

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

The Committee on Commissions reported the following additional Commissioners, and their names were placed on the Roll.

Rev. Adam Miller, from the Presbytery of Montrose,

Elder Lewis B. Parsons, " Genesee.

The usual time was occupied in devotional exercises.

The Rev. N. S. S. Beman, D. D., having declined the appointment of Delegate to the General Convention of Vermont, the Rev. Edmund Wright was chosen in his place.

The hearing of the reports of Delegates from Corresponding Bodies, in relation to the state of religion in their respective connections, was made the order of the day for this afternoon, at 4 o'clock. [173]

The Rev. E. F. Hatfield, from the Committee appointed by the last Assembly on the revision of the Standards, made a report which was accepted and referred to the Committee on the Polity of the Church.

The Committee, appointed to bring in a suitable minute in the case of the sudden decease of one of the Commissioners to this Assembly, presented a report, which was adopted, and is as follows:

1. *Resolved*, That the General Assembly have heard with deep emotion, of the death, by cholera, of a Commissioner, Mr. James Hanna, a Ruling Elder, from the Presbytery of Crawfordsville, on his way to partake in their deliberations.

2. *Resolved*, That, while we are penetrated with grief for the loss, in this bereavement, to our fraternal fellowship, and to the Church of God; and, while we affectionately condole with the family of our lamented brother; still, we would bow in peaceful submission to the Divine Sovereignty, whose wisdom has controlled the circumstances of this dispensation, and alike blesses when it gives, and when it takes away.

3. *Resolved*, That, while we thus humbly recognise a stern lesson of our frailty, and fresh motives to watchfulness, and a subdued and kind spirit in our deportment;—and, while we embalm the memory of one who, as an elder, ruled well; as a friend of education in the Sabbath-school and the college, was a distinguished laborer;—who, with a warm heart, much prayer, and a word in season, went about doing good, and crowned his life with a gratuitous and self-denying agency of some months, for the A. B. C. F. Missions;—while we cherish these remembrances, we would be moved to greater diligence and faithfulness, till we, too, shall be called by the Master to receive as our work shall be.

4. *Resolved*, That this testimonial of our sympathy be communicated to the family of the deceased.

Nominations were made for the appointment of the preacher on Home Missions before the next Assembly. After which the Rev. Artemas Bullard, D. D., was elected preacher, and the Rev. D. Howe Allen, D. D., his alternate.

Adjourned until 4 o 'clock P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Monday, 4 o'clock, P M.

The Assembly met and was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

The Committee on Commissioners reported an additional Commissioner,—the Rev. Franklin S. Howe, from the Presbytery of Scioto.

The Assembly proceeded to the order of the day, viz.: the hearing of the Delegates from Corresponding Bodies, on the state of religion in their respective Churches.

Reports were received from the General Association of Connecticut, by the Rev. Walter Clark, and Rev. S. W. S. Dutton; from the Gen. Association of New Hampshire, by the Rev. J. De Forest Richards; from the General Convention of Vermont, by the Rev. James Anderson; from the [174] Presbyterian and Congregational Convention of Wisconsin, by the Rev. Stephen Peet; and from the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, by the Rev. Charles P. Krauth, D. D.; which were accepted and referred to the Committee on the Narrative.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures, reported No 21, and No. 30, on "Slavery;" which were referred to the Special Committee on that subject.

Also, Overture No. 23, "Is it orderly for our Presbyteries and Synods

to invite ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church to sit as Corresponding Members?" which was answered by the Assembly unanimously in the affirmative.

Also, No. 24, from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, Third, on the restoration of appellate jurisdiction to the Assembly; which was referred to the Committee on the Polity of the Church.

Also, No. 25, on the division of the Synod of Geneva, which was put upon the docket.

Also, No. 26, an account of R. T. Haines, Esq.; which was referred to a special Committee, consisting of Messrs. D. H. Little, D. Hoadley, and C. S. Wurts.

Also, No. 27, from the Presbytery of New York, Third, in reference to the erection of a Presbytery in California, which was put upon the docket.

Also, No. 28, on the doings of the Synod of Michigan, which was put upon the docket.

Also, No, 29, on the boundary line between the Synods of Indiana and Michigan, which was put upon the docket.

Also, No. 22, an Overture in these words:—"*Resolved*, that a proposal be made to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, now holding its sessions in the city of Pittsburg, to institute fraternal correspondence by the interchange of Delegates," which was taken up and its adoption moved by the Rev. G. Spaulding.

The Rev. P. H. Fowler moved the indefinite postponement of the whole subject.

The discussion was continued until 6½ o'clock, when the Assembly adjourned until to-morrow, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Tuesday, May 22d, 9 o'clock, A. M.

The Assembly met and was opened with prayer.

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

The Committee on Commissions reported the following additional Commissioners, and their names were added to the Roll.

Hon. Joseph C. Hornblower, Elder from the Presbytery of Newark; Hon. Robert Denniston, Elder from the Presbytery of Hudson; and Rev. George W. Basset, from the Presbytery of Ottawa.

The usual time was devoted to religious exercises. [175]

The Committee on Devotional Exercises reported, that the Rev. Mr. Barnes had respectfully declined the appointment to preach a sermon on Home Missions, during the present sessions.

It was made the order of the day, for this P. M., at 4 o'clock, to hear the Rev. John Marsh, Cor. Secretary of the American Temperance Union, on the subject of Temperance.

The unfinished business of yesterday, viz.: the indefinite postponement of the notice to send Delegates to the Assembly at Pittsburgh, was resumed.

The motion to postpone was lost.

The Rev. G. R. H. Shumway then moved, to refer the whole subject to a special *Committee* of five, to report to the next General Assembly, which was carried, and Rev. Thomas Brainerd, D. D., Rev. James G. Hamner, D. D., Rev. Henry G. Ludlow, and Messrs. Ambrose White, and Frederick A. Raybold were appointed.

The Committee on the Polity of the Church, reported on the subject of the answers to the Overtures sent down by the last Assembly:

That it appears from the Roll, that there are 104 Presbyteries connected with the Assembly, of which 53 are a majority: that eighty-one Presbyteries have sent in their answers to the Overtures, and twenty-three have not.

That to the first and second Overtures which respect the return to annual Assemblies, the following sixty-three Presbyteries have answered in the AFFIRMATIVE:—

Champlain, Troy, Albany, Columbia, St. Lawrence. Otsego, Utica, Onondaga, Cayuga, Chenango, Tioga, Chemung, Ithaca, Genesee, Niagara, Buffalo, Hudson, North River, Long Island, New York Third, New York Fourth, Brooklyn, Newark, Rockaway, Montrose, Wilmington, Philadelphia Third, Philadelphia Fourth, Harrisburgh, Erie, Meadville. Pittsburgh, Huron, Cleveland, Detroit, St. Joseph, Monroe, Marshall, Washtenaw, Kalamazoo, Athens, Pataskala, Scioto, Cincinnati, Dayton, Salem, Logansport, Schuyler, Palestine, Alton, Des Moines, Ottawa, Galena, Chicago, Belvidere, St. Louis, Hanover, Union, Holston, Kingston, Providence, W. Tennessee, and Shiloh—63.

And the following twenty-six Presbyteries have answered in the NEGATIVE:

Delaware, Watertown, Oswego, Geneva, Bath, Pennsylvania, Grand River, Portage, Medina, Elmira, Maumee, Ionia, Franklin, Hamilton, Crawfordsville, Indianapolis, Illinois, Lexington, Osage, Winchester, District of Columbia, New River, Harmony, N. Alabama, S. Lexington, and Newton—26.

These Overtures, therefore, are affirmed and the Constitution is changed accordingly, viz.:

1. Section 7th of Chapter XI., Form of Government, is altered so as to read "annually," instead of "triennially."

2. The first sentence of Sec. 7th of Chapter XII., Form of Government, is altered so as to read "the General Assembly shall meet at least once in every year," instead of "the General Assembly shall meet at least triennially or once in every third year."

To the Overtures Nos. 3, 4, and 5, pertaining to appeals in the case of ministers, forty Presbyteries have answered in the AFFIRMATIVE, and forty-seven Presbyteries have answered in the NEGATIVE.

The changes proposed by these Overtures are, therefore, not adopted. [176]

The Committee farther reported in reference to the memorials, asking a change in the term of service of ruling elders, that they are not prepared to recommend any Overture on the subject.

The report was accepted; and the subject of the term of service of ruling elders was put upon the docket.

The Records of the following Synods were, on the recommendation of the Committees appointed to examine them, approved as far as written, viz.:

Albany, Geneva, New York and New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Pennsylvania, Western Reserve, Ohio, Indiana, Peoria, Missouri, Virginia, and West Tennessee.

The Records of the Synod of Michigan were, on the recommendation of the Committee, approved, with the following exception—that on pp. 137, 138, 139, 140, the Synod declined to receive two members whose names appear on the Minutes of two of the Presbyteries; and that the Synod also directed said Presbyteries to strike the names of said members of Presbytery from their Roll; one of the members belonging to the Presbytery of Monroe, and the other to the Presbytery of St. Joseph.

The Records of the Synod of Illinois were, on the recommendation of the Committee, approved, with the following exceptions, viz.:

1. At the sessions of Synod in October, 1846, it does not appear from the Records, that a Narrative of the State of Religion was prepared. Such an

omission is considered contrary to the general usage of Synods, and not for the edification of the Church.

2. On p. 299, the Committee on the Records of the Presbytery of Alton reported that the book be approved with exceptions: but no order was taken by Synod in reference to the report of the Committee on the Records of that Presbytery.

The Records of the Synods of Utica and Kentucky not being present, the Committees were discharged.

The Committee on Leave of Absence, reported that they had given leave of absence to A. Hepburn. M. D., Rev. L. P. Hickok, D. D., and Messrs. G. W. Cooper and B. S. Bentley.

Overture No. 27, on erecting a Presbytery in California, was taken up, and adopted as follows:

"*Resolved*, That the Rev. Timothy Dwight Hunt, of the Presbytery and Synod of Genesee, the Rev. John Waldo Douglass, of the 3d Presbytery of New York, the Rev. Samuel B. Willey, of the 4th Presbytery of New York, (the two latter being in connection with the Synod of New York and New Jersey,) and such other ministers of our Church, if any, who may choose to associate with them for this object, be, and they hereby are, detached from their respective Presbyteries, and constituted a Presbytery, by the name of the Presbytery of San Francisco; to be attached to the Synod of New York and New Jersey; to hold their first meeting at San Francisco, in the territory of California, on Wednesday, October 3d, 1849; or, if more convenient, at such other time and place as they may select; and the Rev. T. D. Hunt, or, in his absence, the next senior minister present, to preside, and open the meeting with a sermon; after which the Presbytery to meet on their own adjournment.

Overture No. 28, on the doings of the Synod of Michigan, in the matter of enjoining on the Presbyteries of St. Joseph and Monroe, to erase the [177] names of Rev. Marcus Harrison and Rev. A. L. Payson from their Rolls, was taken up.

On motion of the Rev. H. G. Ludlow, it was *Resolved*, that the action of the Synod in the premises is unconstitutional.

The Committee on the Records of the Synod of Genesee. made a report, recommending that the Records be approved; which was under discussion, when the Assembly adjourned until 4 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Tuesday, 4 o'clock, P. M.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

The Rev. John Marsh, Secretary of the Am. Temperance Union, was heard, agreeably to previous appointment, on the subject of Temperance.

After which, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, that having heard the declaration put forth by a Clerical Convention held in the city of New York, on the 8th of May, and extensively published, on the subject of Temperance, the General Assembly do fully approve of the same, and recommend the action it proposes to all the ministers and churches within their bounds.

The Committee, appointed to examine the Records of the Synod of Cincinnati, made a report, recommending that the book be approved as far as written, with the following exceptions:

1. The opening minute of each session is defective in not recording the meeting of the Synod before its being opened with prayer; pp. 124, 127, 136, 146, 149.

2. The record of recesses of Synod is defective, in not specifying the time to which said recesses were taken; pp. 125, 129, 139.

3. The omission, at the opening of each session, to read the Minutes of the previous session, with no evidence in the Records that the Minutes were approved by Synod.

4. The report of a Committee recorded, but no disposition made of it by the Synod; p. 127.

5. There is no record of calling the Roll for the remarks of the members, before taking the vote in the case of an appeal by A. King; p. 132.

The report was thus far adopted.

On the 6th exception, viz.: "6th. The vote of the Synod not to comply with the injunction of the last Assembly in the case of Mr. Graham; in respect to which vote the Synod is directed to re-consider their action, and proceed in conformity with the instructions of the last Assembly,"—a long discussion ensued. Mr. Spear moved to amend, by inserting "ought" in the place of "is directed." Before the question was taken, at 6¼ o'clock, on motion of the Rev. W. H. Beecher, the whole subject was indefinitely postponed. And then the Assembly adjourned until to-morrow, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

Concluded with prayer. [178]

Wednesday, May 23d, 9 o'clock, A. M.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

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

The usual time was devoted to religious exercises.

The Committee, to whom was referred the report of the Committee of the last Assembly on Home Missions, reported the following resolutions, which, after much discussion, were adopted:

1. *Resolved*, That the Providence of God, as indicated in the wonderful improvements of the age, in the commotions of the old world, the influx of foreigners, and the unparalleled increase of population in our extensive and extending country, calls for the entire consecration, and most self-denying and efficient action of the Christian ministry.

2. *Resolved*, That the friends of Christ are called upon to use all wise and Christian means to raise up ministers, and meet the emergencies of coming years.

3. That our Presbyteries are admonished to secure, so far as possible, a good supply for all the feeble churches under their care, and to gather congregations and organize churches in the towns and settlements in which it may be practicable; either by employing a permanent missionary agent, or by such other means as the circumstances and necessities of these destitute fields demand.

4. That those ministers, who preach to two or more congregations, should use their best endeavors to induce the elders of the churches to hold Sabbath-schools, in connection with some form of religious worship, at a regular hour every Sabbath day, when their ministers cannot be present.

5. That we should make efforts to induce the children of immigrants to attend our Sabbath-schools; and the adults, our congregations; and when they are converted to join our churches, or to organize churches of their own in connection with us; that as soon as possible they may be Americanized in their language and feelings, and become evangelical in their religion.

6. That every congregation which has no church edifice, should, without

unnecessary delay, build themselves a suitable house of worship; that generally this should be done by their own exertions, or by such aid only as can be secured in their own vicinity.

But if, in any case, a church, or churches of a district of country, really need assistance from abroad, then the strong ought to help bear the burdens of the weak; and, in all such cases, those asking aid should bear such testimonials from the Synods to which they belong, that the benefactors may know that their charities will be well bestowed.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported Overture 32, on "Slavery," which was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Also, Overture 33, from the Synod of Genesee, proposing the formation of a new Synod; which was referred to the Committee on the Polity of the Church.

The Committee, to whom was referred Overture 26, an account of R. T. Haines, Esq., made the following report which was adopted. The Com- [179] mittee have examined the account, from which it appears, that the Assembly are indebted to Mr. Haines in the sum of $252, for moneys advanced by him for the use of the Assembly; that the whole sum, with the exception of about $30, was advanced before the division of the General Assembly, viz. in the months of November and December, 1837, after the exscinding acts of that year; that the advance was made for counsel fees and publications, which it was thought necessary should be expended by the friends of constitutional order, for the preservation of the constitution of the Assembly.

Your Committee are of the opinion that the account is just and equitable; and that it ought therefore to be paid. They respectfully recommend to the Assembly, to direct their Treasurer to pay Mr. Haines the sum of $252, out of any funds which are unappropiated, which may come into his hands as Treasurer, upon the presentation by Mr. Haines of the vouchers showing the expenditure.

On motion of F. Tuthill, M. D., it was *Resolved*, that the Assembly close its sessions on Friday next.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported Overture 34, from the Presbytery of Knox, on "Slavery," which was referred to the Committee on that subject.

Also, Overture 35, proposing a return to the polity of 1837; referred to the Committee on the Polity of the Church.

Also, Overture 36, on the case of the Rev. Mr. Bridgman, which was referred to the Committee on the Records of Genesee, to report the facts in the case.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures, at their own request, were then discharged.

The Assembly having ascertained that the names of the Presbyteries of Londonderry, Newburyport, and Lewes, had been stricken from the Rolls of their respective Synods, resolved to erase their names from the Roll of the Assembly.

Resolutions in reference to the American Bible Society were presented by the Rev. G. N. Judd, D. D., which were adopted and are as follows:

1. Believing, as this Assembly does, in the great Protestant doctrine, that the Bible is indispensable to the well-being of the State and the Church, of families and individuals, therefore,

Resolved, That it becomes one of the clearest of duties to promote the diffusion of this sacred volume as extensively as possible.

2. As the history of Bible Society organizations, in the present century,

shows, that through their instrumentality an unparalleled increase of translations and distributions has been effected; that the best of all books has thus become the lowest of all in price, is kept clear from sectarian perversions, and is primarily and mainly furnished to the destitute, therefore,

Resolved, That this mode of preparing and circulating the Word of God has the hearty approbation of this General Assembly.

3. As the American Bible Society has co-operating branches and auxiliaries in most parts of the country, designed and calculated to facilitate the supply of our own population with the Scriptures, therefore,

Resolved, That the churches and congregations be invited to co-operate [180] with these local organizations, and render them efficient in furnishing destitute families, Sunday-schools, and all who need, with Bibles and Testaments.

4. As the parent Society, by the growth of new States and Territories, by the revolutions of Europe, and by the progress of missions in Mahommedan and Pagan countries, is now called upon annually for a much larger amount of means, than it can furnish towards preparing and circulating the Scriptures, (having a deficiency of nearly $30,000 the past year,) therefore,

Resolved, That it be considered the duty of our respective charges, where circumstances will permit, to assign a month in each year, when a collection shall be taken up, whether a Bible agent be present or not, in furtherance of this important object.

Overture 29, on the boundary line between the Synods of Indiana and Michigan, was taken up, and, at the request of the Commissioners from those Synods, indefinitely postponed.

Adjourned until 4 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Wednesday, 4 o'clock, P. M.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

The Committee on the Polity of the Church reported, in reference to the division of the Synod of Geneva, that there are not sufficient data before the Committee on which to found a report. They therefore return the paper for the action of the Assembly.

On motion of the Rev. P. H. Fowler, the whole subject was indefinitely postponed.

The Committee on the Records of the Synod of Genesee reported the facts in the case of the Rev. William Bridgman.

Whereupon, the Rev. A. Bullard, D. D., moved the indefinite postponement of the whole subject. The discussion of this question continued until the hour of adjournment.

The Rev. S. W. S. Dutton, one of the Delegates from the General Association of Connecticut, after a short address, which was responded to by the Moderator, took his leave.

Adjourned until to-morrow, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Thursday, May 24th, 9 o'clock, A. M.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer. The Roll was called, and the Minutes of the preceding session were read and approved.

The usual time was occupied in religious exercises.

The Rev. Robert Baird, D. D., one of the Corresponding Secretaries of the American and Foreign Christian Union, was heard, by request; after which, on motion of the Rev. G. N. Judd, D. D., it was [181]

Resolved, That the Assembly have heard with great pleasure the statements of the Rev. Dr. Baird, and cordially recommend the American and Foreign Christian Union, to the patronage of all our churches.

The Rev. J. De Forest Richards, Delegate from the Gen. Association of New Hampshire, after a short address, which was responded to by the Moderator, took his leave.

The Committee on the Polity of the Church, made a report in reference to a revised edition of the Standards.

The report was accepted and put upon the docket.

The unfinished business of yesterday, viz.: the case of Mr. Bridgman, was resumed; the question being on the motion for indefinite postponement.

The motion for indefinite postponement was lost.

The Rev. T. Brainerd, D. D., moved the reference of the case to a special Committee to bring in a minute expressive of the views of this Assembly.

Mr. S. Reeve moved to postpone the question before the house, with a view to take up the following substitute, viz.: "That this whole matter be referred to the Synod of Genesee, with a requisition that they review their action in the case."

The postponement was carried, and the substitute adopted.

Whereupon, on motion of the Rev. M. Holmes, it was *Resolved*, that the Records of the Synod of Genesee be approved with the exception already mentioned.

The Committee on Mileage made the following report, which was adopted; and the Treasurer of the Assembly was directed to pay the Commissioners accordingly.

The number of applicants for the benefit of the Commissioners' Fund is 41; of whom 33 are ministers, and 8 are elders; the number of miles traveled to reach Philadelphia, as reported by the aforesaid Commissioners, is 34,886; the amount contributed to the Commissioners' Fund, as reported by the Treasurer, Thomas Fleming, Esq., is $907.64; and they have apportioned to the Commissioners two cents and six mills for each mile traveled; the aggregate of which equals the above mentioned sum of $907.64.

The following resolutions, on the subject of Catechetical Instruction, were offered by the Rev. W. H. Smith, and unanimously adopted, viz.:

1. *Resolved*, That this General Assembly considers the practice of Catechetical Instruction, as well adapted to the prosperity and purity of our Zion.

2. *Resolved*, That this Assembly view also with deep regret the neglect, on the part of many of our churches, of this good old practice of our fathers —a practice which has been attended with such blessed results to the cause of pure and undefiled religion.

3. *Resolved*, That the institution of Sabbath-schools does not exonerate ministers and parents from the duty of teaching the Shorter Catechism to the children of the Church.

4. *Resolved*, That this Assembly earnestly and affectionately recommend to all the ministers and ruling elders in its connection, to teach diligently the young of their respective congregations, the Assembly's Shorter Catechism. [182]

A memorial on Slavery was presented by the Rev. M. Holmes, which was referred to the Committee on that subject.

The Committee on the Polity of the Church reported, that, since their former report, answers to the Overtures sent down by the last Assembly had been received from several other Presbyteries. *Ordered*, that a memorandum be made of all such answers, and entered on the record.

The Overture, on limiting the term of service of ruling elders, was, on motion, taken up for consideration.

The report of the Committee was read, and after some discussion, was adopted, and is as follows:

Whereas sundry memorials have been presented to the Assembly, asking for a change of the Constitution, respecting the term of service in the office of ruling elder;

Resolved, That while the Assembly sympathize with those churches which are more especially tried by the present rule; yet, believing that the evils of a change would far outweigh those of the present system, they are not prepared to recommend any Overture on the subject.

The Rev. B. B. Beckwith moved, that the following Overture be sent down to the Presbyteries:

"Shall the Form of Government, and Book of Discipline, be restored to what it was previous to 1837?"

It was put upon the docket, to be taken up with the report of the Committee on the Polity of the Church.

The report of the Committee on the Polity of the Church, was then taken up for consideration, and the discussion continued until the hour of adjournment.

Adjourned until 4 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Thursday, 4 o'clock, P. M.

The Assembly met, and engaged in the celebration of the Lord's Supper, agreeably to previous arrangement.

After which the Assembly resumed the unfinished business of the morning, viz.: the consideration of the report of the Committee on the Polity of the Church.

Pending the discussion, the Assembly adjourned, at 6½ o'clock, until tomorrow at 9 o'clock, A. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Friday, May 25th, 9 o'clock, A. M.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

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

The Committee on Commissions reported an additional Commissioner, viz.: Henry G. Todd, M. D., from the Presbytery of Indianapolis. [183]

The unfinished business of yesterday, viz. the consideration of the report of the Committee on the Polity of the Church, was resumed.

The usual time was devoted to religious exercises.

On motion of the Rev. A. Bullard, D. D., the Stated Clerk was requested to make a statement in reference to the revision of the Standards; and to suggest such Overtures as would best meet the present emergency.

Mr. W. B. Moores then moved the postponement of the report of the Committee, to take up a paper which had just been presented by the Stated Clerk, in connection with his statement.

The motion to postpone was carried.

The Rev. G. S. Boardman moved that the paper read by the Stated Clerk be adopted. The last resolution having been amended, on motion of the Rev. O. P. Hoyt, the paper was adopted, and is as follows:

Whereas, this General Assembly has ascertained, as is fully set forth in the report of the Committee on the Revision of the Standards, (which is

hereby directed to be published in the Appendix to the Minutes,) that the alterations made in the Constitutional Rules, by a Committee of the Assembly of 1840, were made in a manner so irregular and unconstitutional as to occasion great doubt and perplexity as to their authenticity;

And *Whereas*, one of the three Overtures on which these alterations were based, relating to the frequency of the meetings of the General Assembly, has now been constitutionally reversed;

And *Whereas*, serious doubt has been expressed as to the passage of the third Overture of the Assembly of 1839; and the occasion for its passage has now been taken away by the restoration of annual Assemblies;

And *Whereas*, a change in the basis of representation in General Assembly, as established in a constitutional manner by the Assembly of 1833, has never been submitted to the Presbyteries, and constitutionally adopted:

Therefore, in order to ascertain the wishes of the Presbyteries more clearly and fully, as to the expediency of restoring the Constitution, to its condition previous to 1840, and, if this be thought inexpedient, in order to incorporate the principles then introduced in a perfectly regular and constitutional manner.

Resolved, That the Book be restored to the form in which it was published previous to the year 1840, and that the following Overtures be submitted to the Presbyteries:—

I. Limitation of Appeal.

1. Shall Form of Government, Chap. XII., sec. 4, be altered so as to omit the words, "appeals and," before the word "references"?

2. Shall Book of Discipline, Chap. VII., sec. 2, be altered so as to insert the words—"the General Assembly and the Synod in judicial cases," instead of the words, "the highest"?

3. Shall Book of Discipline, Chap. VII., sec. 3, sub. sec. 2, be altered so as to read—"any judicatory not higher than a Synod," instead of "a higher judicatory"?

4. Shall Book of Discipline, Chap. VII., sec. 4, sub. sec. 1, be altered so as to read—"any judicatory inferior to a Synod," instead of "an inferior judicatory"? [184]

II. Pro Re Nata Assemblies.

5. In Form of Government, Chap. XII., shall a new section be introduced after section 7, as follows: "VIII. The last Moderator and the Stated and Permanent Clerks are empowered to call a *pro re nata* meeting of the General Assembly, in case of any emergency, which, in their opinion, demands such a meeting, by circular letter, addressed to each of the Presbyteries, at least four months before the time of holding such meeting?"—and the subsequent section be numbered IX. instead of VIII?

III. Representation in Assembly.

6. Shall Form of Government, Chap. XII., sec. 2, be altered so as to read—"The General Assembly shall consist of an equal delegation of bishops and elders, one of each from every Presbytery; and these delegates so appointed shall be styled, 'Commissioners to the General Assembly'"?

Resolved, further, That, until an expression of the will of the Presbyteries in regard to these Overtures be obtained, it be understood, that all appeals

and complaints shall terminate with the Synods, and that the basis of representation in the Assembly shall be the same as at present.

The Committee, appointed by the last Assembly on the subject of a correspondence with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, presented a report which was accepted, and the following article, agreed upon by the Committee of the two bodies, was unanimously adopted:

"The General Assembly of each Church, shall appoint and receive Delegates from the General Assembly of the other Church, who shall be possessed of all the powers and privileges of other members of such Assemblies except that of voting."

On motion of the Rev. T. Brainerd, D. D., the thanks of this Assembly were tendered to the Committee for their diligence and faithfulness in this matter.

Resolved, That the Rev. C. P. Wing be appointed a Committee, to inform the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, of the action of this body.

The Rev. Edward McMillan was then appointed a Delegate from this body to the next General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. C. P. Wing, his alternate.

The Rev. N. S. S. Beman, D. D., from the Committee to whom were referred the memorials on the subject of Slavery, presented a report, which was accepted.

A motion having been made for its adoption, the Rev. G. W. Bassett proposed the following as an amendment:

"*Resolved*, That slaveholding is a sin against God and man, and should be treated by the Christian Church as other gross immoralities."

Pending the discussion of this amendment, the Assembly adjourned until 4 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer. [185]

Friday, 4 o'clock, P. M.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

The unfinished business of the morning session was interrupted, to hear the Narrative on the State of Religion.

The Rev. J. G. Atterbury, from the Committee on the Narrative, made a report on the state of religion within our bounds.

The report was adopted, and ordered to be printed in the Appendix to the Minutes.

The unfinished business, viz.: Mr. Bassett's amendment to the report of the Committee on Slavery, was resumed.

The amendment was lost.

The report of the Committee was then adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee, to whose consideration were submitted sundry papers on the subject of Slavery, now present to the Assembly the following report, consisting of preamble and resolutions:—

These documents are nineteen in number, embracing memorials from four Synods, thirteen Presbyteries, one church, and one from certain individuals. The object of these papers is one and the same, namely, to free the Presbyterian Church from all participation and connection with slaveholding. The measures proposed are various—some more and some less stringent. Some ask for discipline, others for a pastoral letter, a third class for separation from the evil complained of without defining the mode; one proposes the

re-organization of the Church to which we belong into three General Assemblies; one threatens secession if something is not done, and others ask for nothing definite. While these voluminous papers furnish a considerable variety as to tone and manner, and intimations as to the future, and likewise as to a knowledge of the intrinsic difficulties attending this complicated evil, they are sufficiently respectful in their language, and grave and weighty in their opinions and arguments, to demand the wise and prayerful consideration of this Assembly. This consideration, we believe we may say, without boasting or arrogance, they have received from your Committee, and we have a cheerful confidence that they will now receive the same from this body.

This subject is not a new one; it has occupied the attention of the Presbyterian Church from the commencement of its organization—even before the General Assembly had an existence; and your Committee are happy to avail themselves of the lights of former times in presenting this difficult matter to you, and through you to the judicatories and churches under our care. Your Committee would deprecate two errors into which minds of different and opposite structures, on this and all similar subjects, are liable to fall. One class forget that we live in an age of progress, and the other forget that the first step in progress is not perfection. In relation to both of these great truths here alluded to, we should, as rational beings and as Christians, be ready to obey the intimations of Providence, and to follow the guidance of the torch-light of truth which the hand of God holds up before us—to go forward as that goes onward, and to move no faster than its blessed radiance is shed upon our pathway. All theories, when they come [186] to put on the forms of experiment, must yield to the authority of uniform and universal facts; and both progressives and conservatives might render themselves much more comfortable, as well as useful in our world, if they were more deeply imbued with this one practical truth. These remarks apply with great force to all evils which are interwoven with the very texture of social organizations; and Slavery is by no means an exception. Your Committee propose to embody the sentiments of this Assembly, in relation to this evil, in the following resolutions:—

1. *Resolved*, That we re-affirm the sentiments expressed by the Assembly of 1815, and especially in the following quotations:

"The General Assembly have repeatedly declared their cordial approbation of those principles of civil liberty which seem to be recognized by the Federal and State Governments in the United States. They have expressed their regret that the Slavery of the Africans and of their descendants still continues in so many places, and even among those within the pale of the Church; and have urged the Presbyteries under their care to adopt such measures as will secure, at least to the rising generation of slaves within the bounds of the Church, a religious education, that they may be prepared for the exercise and enjoyment of liberty, when God in his providence may open a door for their emancipation."

Again: "The General Assembly assure all the churches under their care, that they view with the deepest concern any vestiges of Slavery which may exist in our country."

And, again: "The Assembly observe, that although in some sections of our country, under certain circumstances, the transfer of slaves may be unavoidable, yet they consider the buying and selling of slaves by way of traffic, and all undue severity in the management of them, as inconsistent with the spirit of the Gospel. And they recommend it to the Presbyteries and sessions under their care, to make use of all prudent measures to

prevent such shameful and unrighteous conduct." See Digest, pp. 339, 340, 341.

2. *Resolved*, That this General Assembly re-affirm the opinions expressed by the General Assembly of 1818. The following extracts are commended to special notice:

"We consider the voluntary enslaving of one part of the human race by another, as 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 principles 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.' Slavery creates a paradox in the moral system; it exhibits rational, accountable and immortal beings in such circumstances, as scarcely to leave them the power of moral action. It exhibits them as dependent on the will of others, whether they shall receive religious instruction; whether they shall know and worship the true God; whether they shall enjoy the ordinances of the Gospel; whether they shall perform the duties and cherish the endearments of husbands and wives, parents and children, neighbors and friends; whether they shall preserve their chastity and purity, or regard the dictates of justice and humanity. Such are some of the consequences of Slavery, consequences not imaginary, but which connect themselves with its very existence." [187]

Again: "From this view of the consequences resulting from the practice into which Christian people have most inconsistently fallen, of enslaving a portion of their brethren of mankind.—for 'God hath made of one blood all nations of men, to dwell on the face of the earth,'—it is manifestly the duty of all Christians who enjoy the light of the present day, when the inconsistency of Slavery, both with the dictates of humanity and religion, has been demonstrated, and is generally seen and acknowledged, to use their honest, earnest and unwearied endeavors to correct the errors of former times, and as speedily as possible to efface this blot on our holy religion, and to obtain the complete abolition of Slavery throughout Christendom, and, if possible, throughout the world."—See Dig., pp. 341, 342, 343.

3. *Resolved*, That we re-affirm the "Declaration of the General Assembly on the subject of Slavery," made in the year 1846. The following sentiments are particularly commended to the serious and prayerful attention of our judicatories and churches:

"The system of Slavery as it exists in these United States, viewed either in the laws of the several States which sanction it, or in its actual operation and results in society, is intrinsically an unrighteous and oppressive system and is opposed to the prescriptions of the law of God, to the spirit and precepts of the Gospel, and to the best interests of humanity."

Again: "But while we believe that many evils, incident to the system, render it important and obligatory to bear testimony against it; yet would we not undertake to determine the degree of moral turpitude on the part of individuals involved by it. This will, doubtless, be found to vary in the sight of God, according to the degree of light and other circumstances pertaining to each. In view of all the embarrassments and obstacles in the way of emancipation, interposed by the statutes of the slaveholding States, and by the social influence affecting the views and conduct of those involved in it, we cannot pronounce a judgment of general and promiscuous condemnation, implying that destitution of Christian principle and feeling, which should exclude from the table of the Lord all who stand in the legal relation of masters to slaves, or justify us in withholding our ecclesiastical and

Christian fellowship from them. We rather sympathize with, and would seek to succor them in their embarrassments, believing that separation and secession, among the churches and their members, are not the methods that God approves and sanctions for the reformation of his Church."—See Minutes of 1846, pp. 28, 29.

4. *Resolved*, That, in the judgment of this Assembly, these declarations of former General Assemblies bear an explicit, frank, honest and honorable testimony against the evils of Slavery, and they ought to be "known and read of all men."

The following principles are clearly stated in the documents above referred to and quoted:—

1. That civil liberty is the right of man, as a rational and moral being.

2. That the institution of Slavery, in the language of a former Assembly, "is intrinsically an unrighteous and oppressive system," and injurious to the highest and best interests of all concerned in it.

3. That it is "the duty of all Christians who enjoy the light of the present day," "to use their honest, earnest and unwearied endeavors," "as [188] speedily as possible to efface this blot on our holy religion, and to obtain the complete abolition of Slavery throughout Christendom, and if possible throughout the world." This General Assembly do most solemnly exhort all under our care to perform this duty, and to be ever ready to make all necessary sacrifices in order to effect a consummation so much to be desired.

4. When circumstances, over which good men have not the control, inevitably prevent the attainment of this ulterior and desirable purpose at once, there are other important duties which cannot be neglected without great guilt; such as a watchful care for the interests of the soul, direct religious instruction, and the communication of that practical knowledge of life and its objects, which may prepare this portion of our fellow-men for "the exercise and enjoyment of liberty, when God in his providence may open a door for their emancipation."

5. There are incidental evils which belong to this system, which, when they occur in the Church, should be corrected by discipline; such as "buying and selling of slaves, by way of traffic, and all undue severity in the management of them." To these may be added the breaking up of the family relationships, and separating husbands and wives, parents and children; "thus rendering it impossible for rational, moral and immortal beings to perform the duties and cherish the endearments of social life."

All these things are fairly and fully presented in the declarations of preceding Assemblies, and quite as explicitly before the division of the Presbyterian Church, as since.

5. *Resolved*, That, while we bear this testimony against the system of Slavery as it exists in this country and elsewhere, and which testimony coincides with the almost uniform testimony of all good men in every age, and especially with that borne by the fathers of the Presbyterian Church to which we have herein referred, and while we commend these declarations of sentiment to the attention of all the judicatories, and all the churches under our care, we feel ourselves bound to add, that there has been no information before this Assembly to prove, that members of our Church in the Slave-States, are not doing all that they can, (situated as they are in the providence of God,) to bring about the possession and enjoyment of liberty by the enslaved; nor are there any facts before us, to show that they are living in the violation of the duties growing out of their relations to Slavery as it is continued in existence by the laws of their respective States; nor do we know that they tolerate any of those evils which ought to call forth the

discipline of the Church: but if there are such cases, we would direct the attention of the proper judicatories to them, in the exercise of a kind and salutary discipline.

Commending these views to the consideration of all under our care, and especially of those whose lot is cast where the institution of Slavery exists, and which the smallness of their numbers forbids us to suppose they have the power of controlling, we leave this whole matter with God and the consciences of all those that love his blessed cause.

A written report of the attendance of the Rev. Selden Haynes, Delegate from the last Assembly to the General Association of Connecticut, and of [189] his colleagues, and of their cordial reception by the Association, was presented and accepted.

The Assembly, having ascertained that the Presbytery of La Porte had been dissolved by the Synod of Indiana, ordered it to be stricken from the Roll.

The claim of William M. Meredith, Esq., for legal services, was referred to the Stated Clerk to correspond with Mr. Meredith, and report to the next General Assembly.

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of the preparation of a new Digest, reported that they could not learn that any progress had been made in this matter by the Committee who were appointed for this purpose by a former Assembly:

That it is desirable that a new and more complete Digest should be prepared; and that a Committee be appointed to accomplish this object.

The plan which has seemed to them most likely to be useful, is to publish a volume containing the text of our Standards, with marginal notes, exhibiting, in the proper place, the history of the changes in the Constitution, and the various acts of General Assemblies explanatory of our Standards; the whole forming a complete commentary on the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

The report was adopted; and the Rev. Messrs. E. F. Hatfield, S. T. Spear, and A. E. Campbell were appointed to prepare such a volume.

The janitor's bill of $27.62½ was ordered to be paid.

The bill of Mr. W. F. Geddes, for printing the Roll, amounting to $8.00, was ordered to be paid.

The salaries of the Stated and Permanent Clerks were ordered to be paid.

The thanks of the Assembly were tendered to the Trustees of the First Presbyterian church of Philadelphia, for the use of their house of worship during this meeting; and also to the families of this city who have so kindly, and with such readiness, extended to us their hospitality.

The Minutes were read and approved.

The business of the Assembly having been finished, and the vote having been taken for dissolving the Assembly, the Moderator, with prayer and the apostolic benediction, declared the Assembly dissolved; and required another General Assembly, chosen in the same manner, to meet in the city of Detroit, Michigan, at such place as the Committee of Arrangements shall designate, on the third Thursday of May, A. D., 1850, at 7½ o'clock, P. M.

E. W. GILBERT,
Permanent Clerk.

Philadelphia, May 25th, 1849.

APPENDIX.

TRIENNIAL NARRATIVE

Of the State of Religion within the Bounds of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, May, 1849.

In giving our attention to the progress and state of religion within our bounds, we are looking to the very ends and objects of our organization as a Christian society. Christ gave himself for us, that he might purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. And it is only as we witness piety in our churches, and an active spirit of holy benevolence, leading believers to hold their souls, bodies, and property, subject to Christ for the conversion of the world, that we can take complacency in regarding our system or its operations.

In reviewing the reports which have come up from our Presbyteries, and considering them in the light of the spiritual dearth and extensive defections which have been lamented in some past years, we cannot but find occasion for thankfulness to Almighty God, and congratulation among ourselves, in the degree of vital prosperity which has been vouchsafed us.

These reports tell us of revivals, with greater or less power, in some few churches in every part of the land; of grateful refreshings from on high within the bounds of nearly all our Presbyteries; of accessions to the body of disciples; of new churches organized; of feeble churches strengthened; of pastors settled; of new temples dedicated to the worship of the King of heaven; of increased attendance on the stated means of grace; of an enlarging sympathy with the benevolent movements of the day, and a corresponding increase of contributions to the various Christian charities. Many reports certify us of improved attention to catechetical instruction in the moral training of the young; of greater faithfulness and firmness in the administration of the discipline of Christ's house; of divisions healed; of union strengthened; of growing confidence in our standards of doctrine and polity; and of prevalent harmony and peace.

These are testimonies which come up to us, not from one or a few points, but from many points. They gladden us in reading the large majority of reports; and are limited to no sections of the land. They show us that God hath not forgotten to be gracious: nor in his anger entirely shut up his tender mercies from our Zion. They warrant us in pronouncing the past period one of decided advance in the real interests of the Church—of advance in the number of churches—in the membership of our churches and their religious culture; and in approximation to that unity of opinion and sympathy so indispensable to the successful working of any social organization. We do not rejoice, however, in these things chiefly as fruits, but rather as constituting the preparation and offering the promise of more abundant and blessed things, that we shall in due time reap if we faint not.

We think we are justified in encouraging one another, and sending out to our churches an encouragement, to look upon the future as colored with the hope of a spiritual harvest; not a hope resting upon the naked assurance that God's cause shall ultimately triumph against every obstacle, but a hope drawing life from the present aspect of the Divine providences in the midst of us, and looking to early triumphs of his powerful grace.

The slight refreshings already enjoyed in so many quarters, have but increased the longings and prayers of his children for more copious showers of heaven. The reports of them have evidently awakened other portions of

the Church to a keener sense of the dearth under which they have pined; and all have been aided to the exercise of confidence in the readiness of our Divine Head to bless them that call upon him.

The increasing order, pacification and general outward improvement, point the same way; for they indicate a special favoring providence, and the presence with us of a Divine energy. That so subtle an adversary as Satan, with such complete appliances at his command, has not succeeded to continue or multiply contentions, alienations and schisms, in a protracted season of spiritual declension, but that, on the contrary, such evils should be abating, cannot be attributed to the intelligence or virtue of God's people, but it stands a precious token of the present active favor of our gracious God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is an earnest of those more impressive blessings for which we look, for which we long, and for which we would pray without ceasing.

So also the increased attention to the indoctrination of the young with the treasures of Scriptural truth embodied in our catechisms, and a more systematic communication of doctrinal instruction in the Bible class and from the pulpit, which are extensively noticed, direct us plainly to the means by which we may expect the Holy Ghost to convert and sanctify the rising generation.

While such are the favorable aspects of things presented by the numerous Presbyterial reports that have come in, we have occasion for sorrow that from one or two quarters we receive few or none of these cheering tokens. All likewise lament the degree of apathy to spiritual things which prevails. All complain of the power of worldliness within the Church, and the intensity of worldliness out of the Church; of the small number of those who live as if Christ lived in them. Though many churches have been strengthened and established, very many still continue feeble. Though many pastors have been settled, and many churches supplied with the stated ordinances of the gospel, alas! many little flocks have no shepherd to watch over them, and to feed them with the bread of life. Though numerous pleasant houses of worship have been built, still numerous are the societies which have no tabernacle for their "ark and tables of covenant, and altar of incense," and wherein they may present their social offerings to God. Though enlarged contributions through different channels are reported, Oh! how urgent are the calls, how importunate the appeals which still come, in the name of the Lord, for the gold and the silver, as well as the prayers of the Church. Many of the Presbyteries in the South and West make emphatic mention of their extended and whitening fields, together with the utter inadequacy of the few laborers employed for the burdens of the day.

The relative destitution within our bounds seems to threaten an alarming increase; on the one hand, from the sudden expansion of our national territory, with the influx and spread of population; and, on the other hand, from the want (so far as we have evidence) of sufficiently extended and systematic endeavors to raise up among our youth a generation of prophets, to add to the number and take the places of those now in the field. And in this connection we would arrest the attention of all our churches to the duty of giving more earnest attention to the piety of their children, and selecting qualified individuals, and training them up as candidates for the sacred ministry.

We would not overlook in this narrative the interesting fact furnished us in the reports of our Southern Presbyteries, that a greatly increased attention is given to the religious interests of the colored people within their bounds. While their condition has of late years awakened an active sym-

pathy throughout the land. it is with lively satisfaction we learn that increasing attention is given to their instruction in the wonderful things of God's holy word, and that the labor bestowed has already been blessed to multitudes of hopeful conversions among them. We hail these facts as part of a providential preparation of the race for a sober, intelligent and wise use of that civil liberty, to which we have so many indications to persuade us, the Divine Governor designs to introduce them at no distant day.

We occupy an interesting era. The Almighty is shaking the earth. The movements of his providence are with a suddenness and rapidity that surprise us, in anxious expectations of the immediate future. Every day the position of the Church of God on the earth, and our American Church in particular, is becoming more responsible and critical. The walls which have so long shut in the millions of the remote East from the influence of Western ideas, are falling down; the masses of the heathen are losing confidence in their hoary superstitions; the transatlantic nations are agitated and tossed like vessels in a storm; their common mind has become awaked, and is heaving under and breaking through the old incrustations with which it has for centuries been confined, and seems ready to take new forms; the arts and sciences, in their rapid advance, are multiplying and perfecting the instruments of mind, increasing the energies of its movements, and extending the circles of its power at home. The war, whose prevalence at the time of the meeting of our last Assembly, alarmed us with apprehensions of judgments from Him who hath forbidden the shedding of blood, has in mercy been directed away; but its results, concurring with other causes, have revealed to this nation an emergency requiring the application of all her political energy, to maintain her stability under the moving tides of population sweeping through her extended boundaries; while the stimulus to ambition and covetousness furnished by the events of the past and present, have given energy to all the passions of our people.

Here in this interesting period of the world, and in this interesting part of the world, stands our beloved Zion—requiring all the earnestness of purpose, all the wisdom to direct, and all the power to work, which can be at her command. A world in its birth at our own doors, requiring to be baptized with the Gospel, and admitting no delay; the old nations of Christendom abandoning self-confidence, and in their perplexities looking to us for instruction in that liberty wherewith Christ can make a people free; and the whole heathen world lifting up their cry, "Come over and help us." How shall we meet our responsibilities? How shall we seem equal to the emergency which the Lord God has raised for us? How, but by seeking for ourselves a more entire consecration than we have yet known to the service of Him who has bought this world with his blood, and by all these movements is preparing to subdue it to his sway? How, but by seeking a baptism of the Holy Ghost—a baptism of power, which shall multiply our power, by multiplying our faith, and prayer, and spirit of self-denial, which shall bring us into such intimate union with Christ, that we may feel and make it manifest that we "can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth" us?

We therefore exhort each other, and exhort all the ministers, and elders, and members throughout our bounds, to study to prepare themselves for the claims of Christ upon them at this time; to study to be more holy, more zealous, more laborious, more earnest, in every good word and work.

To the ministry of the Church, the admonition to work diligently while the day lasts comes with peculiar impressiveness, from the fact that so large a number of our fellow-laborers have been called to their reward since the

last Assembly. We are called to record the death of 48 ministers of our Church, viz.:

DEATHS OF MINISTERS.

Stephen Ellis,	of the Presbytery of	Delaware,
Reuel Kimball,	"	Watertown,
Moses Gillett,	"	Utica,
Abijah Crane,	"	"
Seth Smith,	"	Cayuga,
Lemuel W. Hamblin,	"	"
Lucas Hubbell,	"	Geneva,
George W. Gridley,	"	"
Joseph Merrill,	"	"
Benjamin Bailey,	"	"
Lewis B. Howell,	"	"
Henry Ford,	"	Pennsylvania,
Gilbert Crawford,	"	Genesee,
Eber Child,	"	"
Norris Bull, D. D.,	"	Rochester,
Joshua Lane,	"	Buffalo,
Abiel Parmelee,	"	"
Asa T. Hopkins, D. D.,	"	"
George Coan,	"	"
Daniel Brown,	"	North River,
Jonathan Robinson,	"	Long Island,
Caleb Strong,	"	New York, Third,
Theodore S. Wright,	"	" "
George Monilaws,	"	" "
Ebenezer Mason,	"	" "
Wm. J. Armstrong, D. D.,	"	" Fourth,
Daniel T. Bagg,	"	" "
Daniel de F. Ely,	"	Brooklyn,
William R. Weeks, D. D.,	"	Newark,
Humphrey M. Perrine,	"	"
John M. Bear,	"	Philadelphia, Fourth,
Everson Judson,	"	Huron,
Ferris Fitch,	"	Elyria,
Julius Steele,	"	St. Joseph,
Solomon Kittredge,	"	Salem,
William Chamberlain,	"	Alton,
Jason Chapin,	"	Knox,
Elisha H. Hazard,	"	Galena,
Nathaniel B. Dodge,	"	Osage,
Alexander Mebane,	"	Hanover,
George A. Davis,	"	"
James M. Kimball,	"	"
John B. Meek,	"	Kingston,
David H. Mason,	"	Chattahoochee,
Charles Phillips,	"	Harmony,
Alexander W. Campbell,	"	Green River,
Thomas H. Parrish,	"	Shiloh,
Ebenezer McEwen,	"	N. Alabama.

How impressively do these brethren, being dead, speak to us, "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

"Blessed is that servant whom his Lord, when he cometh, shall find so doing."

By order of the General Assembly.

PHILIP C. HAY, *Moderator.*
EDWIN F. HATFIELD, *Stated Clerk.*

Philadelphia, May 25th, 1849.

REVISION OF THE STANDARDS.*

Report of the Committee on the Alterations in the Constitution.

The Committee appointed by the last General Assembly, at their sessions in Cincinnati, "to investigate and report in detail the entire history of the provisions of the Assembly and the Presbyteries, and the Committee *ad interim*, in reference to the elementary and verbal alterations in the Constitution of the Church," respectfully beg leave to report, as follows:—* * * * The Assembly of 1839, as appears from the Records, raised a Committee on the State of the Church, consisting of "Dr. Hill, Dr. Mason, Dr. Stone, Mr. Lathrop, and Judge Darling," who, on Friday, May 24th, presented a report, which, having been laid on the table at the time, was taken up on Tuesday, the 28th, and adopted after amendment, as follows:

"The Committee on the State of the Church, having had before them sundry petitions and memorials, requesting a modification of our present ecclesiastical organization, recommend that the following Overtures be sent down to the Presbyteries for their action:—

1. Shall the Constitution be so amended as to limit the power of the General Assembly, and make the Synods in all cases the courts of ultimate appeal and final authoritative jurisdiction; and the General Assembly an advisory council for all the churches?

2. Shall the Constitution be so amended as to require the General Assembly to hold its sessions triennially, as a bond of union between the churches, retaining its present functions, with the exceptions specified in the first Overture?

3. Shall the last Moderator and the Stated and Permanent Clerks be empowered to call a *pro re nata* meeting of the General Assembly, in case of any emergency, which in their opinion solemnly demands such meeting: Providing that four full months shall intervene between the call and the time of holding such meeting?

The Committee further recommend that, should the Presbyteries agree to the amendments above proposed, the next General Assembly make the arrangement of Synods and fix the ratio of representation best adapted to the organization of the Church as thus modified. The plan which best commends itself to the minds of the Committee is substantially that proposed, in the year 1832, by the Rev. Dr. Alexander, and published in the Princeton *Biblical Repertory*, vol. iv. of the new series, pp. 28–47."

The Overtures, it will be seen, were but three in number, and of a general character; proposing radical changes in the principles of order, but not specifying how many alterations it would be necessary to make in the phraseology of the formulas, nor in what parts of the Book, nor in what words, as had been done in every previous instance in which the Constitution had been altered. These Overtures to the Presbyteries were accompanied with a recommendation respecting the action of the next General Assembly, relative to some alteration in "the arrangement of Synods," and "the ratio of repre-

* Published, but not adopted. The reprint begins with the year 1839.—W. H. R.

sentation," in case the three Overtures should be affirmed by the Presbyteries. The very terms of the report of the Committee on the State of the Church, as adopted by the Assembly, showed that nothing more was meant to be submitted to the Presbyteries than the amendments proposed in the three Overtures.

The Assembly of 1840, on the first day of their sessions, appointed a Committee on "the Polity of the Church," consisting of "Dr. Hill, Dr. Cox, Dr. Hay, and Messrs. Kirk, Leach, Richards, and Naudain," to whom were referred "the reports of the several Presbyteries on amending the Constitution of the Church." The Committee subsequently presented a report, which, after amendment, was adopted, and is as follows:

"1. That the Overtures sent down to the Presbyteries, by the Assembly of 1839, have been affirmed in the responses, all three of them; there being 59 affirmatives for the first Overture, 57 for the second, and for the third 44.

The whole number of our Presbyteries last year was 85, of which, consequently, the lowest majority is 43; and this number the Committee have therefore assumed as their criterion of the majority, according to the words of the Constitution. See Form of Government, Chapter XII. section 17.

2. That the paragraph appended to the Overtures having been also affirmed by 49 votes, the Committee have digested their results accordingly, and recommend that the Assembly now rule and ordain the following changes in the polity of the Presbyterian Church in these United States, viz.:—

(1.) That the ratio of Presbyterial representation be reduced to its minimum, altering our Form of Government, (Chapter XII. section 2,) so that said section shall be hereafter alone, and in all, and read as follows, viz.: 'The General Assembly shall consist of an equal delegation of bishops and ruling elders from the Presbyteries, in the simple proportion of one minister and one elder from each Presbytery. And these Commissioners, so appointed, shall be styled "Commissioners to the General Assembly."'

(2.) That section 7 of the same Chapter be so altered in its first sentence as to read as follows, viz.:—'The General Assembly shall meet triennially, or once in three years, and ordinarily on the third Thursday of the month of May in every third year.'

(3.) That section 8 of the same be so practically modified, and every other part and provision of the Constitution with it conformably, that the present changes, as herein above specified, shall be maintained inviolate, and shall go into full force and operation as the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America."

The Committee, in drawing up their history of this transaction, have consulted the files of the Assembly, and obtained the original reports from the Presbyteries, as they were presented by the Commissioners. They found that not less than fifteen of these reports were irregular; some of them had been certified by the proper person, but did not exhibit anything more than the fact that the Presbytery had answered in a particular manner; some were certificates of the same kind, signed by one or more of the Commissioners only, and not by the Moderator or Clerk of the Presbytery; several of them are in pencil marks only; two of them are without any signature at all; one says, that his Presbytery "voted in favor of a re-organization;" two of them affirm that their Presbyteries had taken no action, but one says they "are in favor of change," and the other that he presumes their action would be in the affirmative; while yet another says, "I will assume the responsibility of answering for the Presbytery to No. 2 in the affirmative." Now, as one of these Overtures received only one more than the requisite number

of voices in its favor, it is really questionable whether that number, made up as it must have been in part, by uncertified documents of the most irregular character, was constitutionally ascertained to have been given. In fact, the manuscript copy of the report of the Committee on the Polity of the Church shows, that they had at first supposed, that "the third Overture was lost for want of two more affirmatives."

It further appears from an examination of these Presbyterial reports, that they make mention of only three Overtures; and that only two of these reports make any allusion at all to the recommendation attached to the Overtures, of which there is no evidence on record that it was sent down to the Presbyteries for their action, but the contrary. One of these two is an irregular report, signed by the Commissioners of the Presbytery, that affirms of the Presbytery that they respond in the affirmative, not only to the three Overtures, but to "the reduction of the ratio of representation of the Presbyteries to its minimum;" of which we can find no mention at all in the recommendation of the Assembly. Your Committee are entirely at a loss to understand by what process it was ascertained, "that the paragraph appended to the Overtures had been affirmed by 49 votes," when but two of the Presbyterial Reports made any allusion to it whatever.

The proposition, therefore, to alter for the fourth time the ratio of representation, has never been submitted to the Presbyteries; or if submitted has never been acted upon save in two instances, so far as appears from the files of the Assembly. But, as the ratio was fixed by a constitutional rule, it could only be altered by the affirmative action of a majority of the Presbyteries; which action was never taken in regard to this particular alteration of the rule.

The Assembly of 1840, however, proceeded to "rule and ordain"—"that the ratio of Presbyterial representation be reduced to its minimum," and to specify how the altered rule should be worded. If it be allowed that this rule had been constitutionally overtured, it does not appear that such an alteration as this had been proposed at all, but an entirely different one "proposed in the year 1832, by the Rev. Dr. Alexander." This recommendation was wholly set aside, and an arrangement adopted of quite another nature. Your Committee, therefore, are constrained to judge, that the action of the Assembly of 1840, in establishing a new ratio of representation, was altogether unconstitutional; can, and ought to be annulled by the Assembly; that the true ratio of representation, according to the Constitution, is that fixed by the Assembly of 1833; and that this ratio can be altered only by Overtures to the Presbyteries.

In their second enactment, the Assembly of 1840, on the recommendation of their Committee, proceeded to specify what words shall be inserted in the Constitution, in relation to the frequency of Assemblies, in which words they also declare at what time each Assembly shall (ordinarily) meet; establishing thus a Constitutional Rule in relation to the time, without having consulted the Presbyteries on the subject.

But the greatest difficulty growing out of these changes arises from the peculiar ordinance of the Assembly in their third enactment. This is truly a sweeping ordinance—a searching ordinance. It subjects one particular section, "and every other part and provision of the Constitution," to an inquisitorial and amendatory operation, the like of which had never before, in the whole history of the Church, been thought of. But by whom the work should be done, not one word is said. We have no hesitation in saying how and by whom it ought to have been done. The Presbyteries having expressed themselves in favor of the principle of these changes, a wise, care-

ful, and accurate Committee should have been appointed by the Assembly of 1840, to examine the Constitution, and report to the Assembly what changes, *totidem verbis*, it would be necessary to make, in order to engraft the principal of these Overtures upon our system of order and discipline. Such a work, it must be obvious, requires nice discrimination, rigid supervision, great accuracy, and final authoritative affirmation: a work which no previous General Assembly had executed without subjecting it in its complete and finished form, to the judgment of the Presbyteries. When, therefore, the Committee had accomplished their task, it should have been submitted to the Assembly for their revision, and then sent down to the Presbyteries, to give them an opportunity to determine, as in all previous cases, whether they were satisfied or not with the phraseology proposed to be substituted for that which they had formerly approved. The delay of a single year would have effected the change in an orderly manner, and obviated all the difficulty which has since been experienced in this connection.

In what other way can a principle, however unanimously approved, be converted into Constitutional Rules? Before such rules can be binding, or before any rules can become constitutional, even when "proposed by the Assembly," it shall be necessary to transmit them to all the Presbyteries, and to receive the returns of at least a majority of them in writing, approving thereof. The Rules themselves must be transmitted, else they are not "obligatory on the churches."

The Assembly of 1840, however, determined the case differently. They had appointed a "Committee *ad interim*," consisting of eight ministers and five elders; and "*Resolved* further, that the subject of publishing our Standards, with our form of Government and Book of Discipline, as now adopted by the Assembly, be referred to the Consulting Committee," *i. e.* the "Committee *ad interim*." It does not appear that any other provision was made for the proper and orderly alteration of our Constitutional Rules than this reference. The "Consulting Committee" were to do it, to make the changes requisite, erase, annul, modify, and wholly change those ancient rules, which had been adopted with so much care, word by word, by a constitutional majority of the whole Church, represented in their Presbyteries. They were also to add, as well as subtract, to an extent not previously known or prescribed, save by a general principle, in the application of which so much honest difference of opinion might well be entertained. And all this the Committee were to do on their own responsibility; not to report these particular changes to the next Assembly, but to alter, publish, and authenticate. A most strange proceeding, indeed! A report of their proceedings, it is true, was to be made at the expiration of the term of their appointment; but not until nearly three years after the revised Constitution was to go forth to the churches, as the authentic standard of faith and order.

The report of the Committee was submitted to the Assembly of 1843, and their proceedings approved. But not a word is put on record, from which it can be learned what changes were made by them in the Constitution, or in what manner. Your Committee have ascertained that this part of their work was intrusted, by the Committee *ad interim*, to a sub-committee of two individuals, and published without even submitting them to the inspection of the whole Committee.

The following extracts from the minutes of the Committee *ad interim* contain the whole record of their agency in effecting these alterations. At a meeting of the Committee, in the city of New York, November 6th, 1840, (present, three ministers and two elders,) "the subject of publishing an edition of the Confession of Faith and Form of Government was referred to

Messrs. Cox and Mason, with power." At a subsequent meeting in Philadelphia, May 22d, 1841, "the Committee on publishing the Confession of Faith and Form of Government reported progress, and were continued." Finally, at a meeting of the Committee in Philadelphia, May 19th, 1842, "the Committee on publishing the Confession of Faith and Form of Government of the General Assembly reported, that the Form of Government, containing the last alterations of the Constitution, has been published, and is for sale at the bookstores; which report was accepted."

Whether alterations thus effected are to be regarded as Constitutional Rules, or not, is respectfully submitted to the judgment of the Assembly.

What these alterations were, can be learned only by a comparison of the present revised edition with those published previous to 1840. That the Assembly may pass judgment on them, they are herewith presented.

1. In F. of Gov., Chap. XI., p. 372, a new section, numbered IV., has been introduced, and is as follows:—"IV. The Synod is the court of the last resort in all cases of a judicial nature, so that the whole appellate jurisdiction of the Church is limited to its final decision as a Provincial Assembly; having supreme control in its own appropriate sphere, though subordinate to the General Assembly as to the review and constitutional oversight of its acts." The introduction of this section seems not to have been warranted by any ordinance of the Assembly, who simply directed a modification of existing rules, not the introduction of new ones. It can, in no sense, be regarded as a Constitutional Rule. It owes all its authority to the Assembly of 1840, acting through its Commission, and may be displaced by any subsequent Assembly. Before it can become "obligatory on the churches," it must be submitted, word by word, to the judgment of the Presbyteries, and receive their approbation.

2. In F. of Gov., Chap. XI., p. 373, the word, "triennially" has been substituted for the word "annually," in sec. VII.

3. In F. of Gov., Chap. XII., p. 374, section II. has been altered so as to read as follows:—"The General Assembly shall consist of an equal delegation of bishops and elders, in the simple proportion of one minister and one elder from each Presbytery; and these Delegates so appointed shall be styled, "Commissioners to the General Assembly." In respect to this change, your Committee have already remarked, that nothing of the kind had ever been constitutionally submitted to the Presbyteries. Its original has been found in an anonymous Overture reported to the Assembly of 1839, by their Committee on Bills and Overtures, as "No. 16, on the basis of Representation, which was read, and referred to the Committee on the State of the Church," by whom no further notice appears to have been taken of it. Yet this Overture, thus neglected and set aside by the Assembly of 1839, in favor of a very different basis, is by the Assembly of 1840 transformed into a Constitutional Rule. The Assembly directed that this section should be modified in accordance with this anonymous Overture. The Committee *ad interim*, however, in making the change, departed in some particulars from the form of words ordained by the Assembly, omitting the word "ruling" before "elders," and the clause "from the Presbyteries," after the same word, and changing the word "Commissioners" into "Delegates."

4. In F. of Gov., Chap. XII., sec. IV., p. 374, the word "questions," has been substituted for the words "appeals and references." It may be doubted whether this substitution does not unduly restrict the powers of the Assembly.

5. In F. of Gov., Chap. XII., sec. V., p. 375, a proviso has been introduced, which is liable to the same objections as have been made relative to

the change on p. 372. It is as follows:—Provided, that all these powers and relations of the Assembly shall be construed as exclusive of all the proper appellate jurisdiction of the Church, in cases of a judicial nature; such jurisdiction being limited to the Synods, as Provincial Assemblies, charged with their final adjudication and decision, according to the Constitution." It is sufficient to say of this proviso, that it was never before the Assembly, much less had it been constitutionally submitted, word by word, to the Presbyteries. Introduced on the sole authority of one Assembly, it may and should be excluded by another. It cannot be "obligatory on the churches," as they have never made it a Constitutional Rule.

6. In F. of Gov., Chap. XII., sec. VII., p. 375, the clause "once in every year," has been altered so as to read "triennially, or once in every third year." In the ordinance of the Assembly of 1840, the original words "at least" were omitted; the Committee retained them. The Assembly directed that the remainder of the sentence should read "triennially, or once in three years;" the Committee made it read "triennially, or once in every third year." The Assembly had ordered the introduction of the clause, "and ordinarily on the third Thursday of the month of May, in every third year;" the Committee omitted this clause altogether.

7. In F. of Gov., Chap. XII., the Assembly of 1840 had ordered that section VIII. "should be modified." It has remained unaltered, except in the change of its number from VIII. to IX., while an entirely new section has been inserted in its former place, as follows: "VIII. The last Moderator, with the concurrence of the Stated and Permanent Clerks, is empowered to call a *pro re nata* meeting of the General Assembly, in case of any emergency, which, in their opinion, solemnly demands such meeting; provided, that four full months shall intervene between the call and the time of holding such meeting; which Assembly shall be considered as the same with the previous one, having been dissolved conditionally and in view of such possible emergency as that by which it is recalled; and which ought, as far as practicable, to consist of the same Commissioners." By a reference to the overture of the Assembly of 1839, No. 3, (of the constitutional passage of which serious doubt is entertained, as already suggested,) it will be seen that the power of calling a *pro re nata* meeting was to be entrusted to "the last Moderator and the Stated and Permanent Clerks." In the formula introduced by the Committee *ad interim*, the power is given to "the last Moderator with the concurrence of the Stated and Permanent Clerks." The latter part of the section, beginning with "which Assembly," is entirely new matter, never submitted to the Presbyteries, and not even ordered by the Assembly, having not the slightest claim to be regarded as a Constitutional Rule, and should be excluded until properly authorized.

8. In B. of Discipline, Chap. VII., p 413, a proviso has been added to paragraph II., as follows:—"Provided that the supreme appellate jurisdiction of the Synod be constitutionally maintained."

9. In B. of D., Chap. VII., section II., pp. 416, 417, paragraph X., has been added as follows: "References to the General Assembly may be made for advice and counsel, or for interpretation of constitutional or judicial law; but not for judicial trial or decision, since it has in such cases no appellate jurisdiction." In reference to these last two changes, it may be said, that the definition of the powers of the Assembly is so nice a matter, and of such vital importance to the welfare of the Church, as to demand that all Rules affecting these powers, and all changes in existing Rules, should be submitted, word by word, to the judgment of the Presbyteries for their approval, before their incorporation into the Constitution.

It is also to be observed, that some passages in the Constitution have been overlooked, which are inconsistent with these changes; *e. g.*: In B. of D., Chap. VII., section I., par. I., p. 414, we are told that "it is the duty of every judicatory above a church-session, at least once a year, to review the records of the proceedings of the judicatory next below." Of course this rule has been violated in the case of the General Assembly, ever since 1840, except in two instances. B. of D., Chap. VII., section III., par. II., p. 417, provides that "all persons who have submitted to a regular trial in an inferior, may appeal to a higher judicatory." This is evidently inconsistent with the termination of appeals at the Synods.

CONCLUSION.

In thus freely exhibiting and commenting upon the changes made in the Constitution by the Assembly of 1840, and their Commission, your Committee have not the slightest intention or thought of impeaching the motives of any by whose agency these changes were effected. The Assembly of 1839, in proposing the Overtures which have resulted in these difficulties, were unquestionably actuated by a sincere wish to bring about a long-desired reform. The Assembly of 1840 also endeavored to carry out the will of the Presbyteries, and properly to digest and codify the new principles of order which the Presbyteries had approved; while the Committee *ad interim*, with much self-denying, arduous and unrequited labor, strove faithfully to perform the responsible duty intrusted to their hands. The confusion and difficulty in which the whole matter is involved, are mainly to be ascribed, as already intimated, to the defective manner in which the original overtures of the Assembly of 1839 were framed. Instead of proposing the very language which it would be necessary to introduce into the Constitution, in every particular case, in order fully and conformably to engraft the principles of these Overtures upon the Constitution, the naked and abstract question of principle only was proposed.

Every attempt to remedy this primary defect has but increased the difficulty. The Presbyteries will not receive as Constitutional Rules such regulations as have been incorporated into our standards without the individual approbation, in the case of every Rule, of a majority of their whole number. The only practical course that remains is to return to the long-established and constitutional mode. In case of the determination of a majority of the Presbyteries to return to annual Assemblies, nothing more will be requisite in that particular than to restore the former language of the Book. Otherwise, it will be necessary to send down to the Presbyteries an Overture to alter the article that makes it the duty of the General Assembly to review the records of Synods "at least once a year," p. 414, in the words following:—

Shall the first sentence, of the first paragraph, of section first, of Chapter VII., Book of Discipline, be altered so as to read—"It shall be the duty of every judicatory above a church-session, with the exception of the General Assembly, to review the records of the proceedings of the judicatory next below, at least once a year; and, in the case of the General Assembly, at least once in every third year?"

In relation to the new matter, already mentioned, your Committee would recommend that it be stricken out, as it has never been constitutionally adopted; and that a Committee be appointed to examine what part of the Constitution, as it was previous to these alterations, needs to be altered, and how, in order to conform the Book more perfectly to our present system of

appeals and complaints, and to frame an exact series of overtures, covering all those cases, to be submitted to the Presbyteries.

In the judgment of your Committee, four overtures are all that are necessary for the purpose, and they are prepared to recommend, that they be submitted as follows:

1. Shall F. of Gov., Chap. XII., sec. 4, be altered so as to omit the words —"appeals and"—before the word—"references"?

2. Shall B. of Dis., Chap. VII., sec. 2, be altered so as to insert the words, —"the General Assembly and the Synod in judicial cases,"—instead of the words—"the highest"?

3. Shall B. of Dis., Chap. VII., sec. 3, sub-sec. 2, be altered so as to read —"any judicatory not higher than a Synod,"—instead of—"a higher judicatory"?

4. Shall B. of Dis., Chap. VII., sec. 4, sub-sec. 1, be altered so as to read —"any judicatory inferior to a Synod,"—instead of—"an inferior judicatory"?

If it be judged proper and expedient to retain the provision for *pro re nata* meetings of the Assembly, your Committee would suggest and recommend the transmission to the Presbyteries of an Overture in the words following, viz.:—Shall F. of G., Chap. XII., sec. 8, be altered so as to read—"The last Moderator and the Stated and Permanent Clerks are empowered to call a *pro re nata* meeting of the General Assembly, in case of any emergency, which, in their opinion, demands such a meeting, by circular letter addressed to each of the Presbyteries at least four months before the time of holding such meeting"?

In respect to the ratio of representation, your Committee recommend the restoration of the Rule as it stood before the recent change, inasmuch as it has not been constitutionally annulled; and that an Overture be adopted, if the recent basis of representation be deemed advisable, to be submitted to the Presbyteries, in the words following:—Shall F. of G., Chap. XII. sec. 2, be altered, so as to read—"The General Assembly shall consist of an equal delegation of bishops and elders, one of each from every Presbytery; and these delegates so appointed shall be styled Commissioners to the General Assembly"?

All which is respectfully submitted.

EDWIN F. HATFIELD,
HENRY A. ROWLAND,
JNO. L. MASON,
S. BENJAMIN.

STATISTICAL REPORT

Of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

Synods and Presbyteries.

The General Assembly has under its care twenty Synods, comprising one hundred and four Presbyteries, viz.:

1. The Synod of Albany comprises five Presbyteries, viz.: Champlain, Troy, Albany, Columbia, and Delaware.

2. The Synod of Utica comprises five Presbyteries, viz.: St. Lawrence, Watertown, Oswego, Otsego, and Utica.

3. The Synod of Geneva comprises ten Presbyteries, viz.: Onondaga,

Cayuga, Geneva, Cortland, Chenango, Tioga, Bath, Chemung, Ithaca, and Pennsylvania.

4. The Synod of Genesee comprises six Presbyteries, viz.: Genesee, Ontario, Rochester, Niagara, Buffalo, and Angelica.

5. The Synod of New York and New Jersey comprises ten Presbyteries, viz.: Hudson, North River, Long Island, New York 3d, New York 4th, Brooklyn, Newark, Rockaway, Montrose, and San Francisco.

6. The Synod of Pennsylvania comprises four Presbyteries, viz.: Wilmington, Philadelphia 3d, Philadelphia 4th, and Harrisburgh.

7. The Synod of West Pennsylvania comprises three Presbyteries, viz.: Erie, Meadville, and Pittsburgh.

8. The Synod of Western Reserve comprises eight Presbyteries, viz.: Grand River, Portage, Huron, Trumbull, Cleveland, Medina, Elyria, and Maumee.

9. The Synod of Michigan comprises seven Presbyteries, viz.: Detroit, St. Joseph, Monroe, Marshall, Washtenaw, Kalamazoo, and Ionia.

10. The Synod of Ohio comprises four Presbyteries, viz.: Athens, Pataskala, Franklin, and Scioto.

11. The Synod of Cincinnati comprises three Presbyteries, viz.: Cincinnati, Dayton, and Hamilton.

12. The Synod of Indiana comprises seven Presbyteries, viz.: Salem, Madison, Crawfordsville, Indianapolis, Logansport, Fort Wayne, and Evansville.

13. The Synod of Illinois comprises five Presbyteries, viz.: Illinois, Schuyler, Palestine, Alton, and Des Moines.

14. The Synod of Peoria comprises six Presbyteries, viz.: Ottawa, Peoria, Knox, Galena, Chicago, and Belvidere.

15. The Synod of Missouri comprises four Presbyteries, viz.: St. Louis, Northern Missouri, Lexington, and Osage.

16. The Synod of Virginia comprises three Presbyteries, viz.: Winchester, District of Columbia, and Hanover.

17. The Synod of Tennessee comprises five Presbyteries, viz.: Union, Holston, Kingston, New River, and Chattahoochee.

18. The Synod of Kentucky comprises three Presbyteries, viz.: Harmony, Providence, and Green River.

19. The Synod of West Tennessee comprises three Presbyteries, viz.: West Tennessee, Shiloh, and North Alabama.

20. The Synod of Mississippi comprises three Presbyteries, viz.: Clinton, S. Lexington, and Newton.

Of these Synods and Presbyteries a more particular view is given in the annexed Schedule.

SUMMARY OF THE TRIENNIAL SCHEDULE.

SYNODICAL ARRANGEMENT.	Date.	Presbyteries.	Ministers.	Licentiates.	Candidates.	Churches.	Added on Exam.	Added on Certif.	Whole No. of Communicants.	Ad. Bap.	Inf. Bap.	Comm. Fund.	Conting. Fund.	STATED CLERKS.
I. Synod of Albany	1803	5	94	2	...	87	263	153	10,658	87	161	$46 00	$18 62	A. Bordman Lambert.
1. Champlain	1814	...	23	...	...	20	77	44	2,623	10	54	.....	5 00	David Dobie.
2. Troy	1820	...	21	...	...	22	45	33	3,036	17	25	.....	.....	A. Bordman Lambert.
3. Albany	1791	...	10	...	...	8	18	22	1,497	6	17	.....	6 12	Thomas S. Wickes.
4. Columbia	1802	...	23	2	...	18	117	43	2,214	50	41	46 00	5 00	Josiah Leonard.
5. Delaware	1831	...	17	...	...	19	6	11	1,288	4	24	.....	2 50	Isaac D. Cornwell.
II. Synod of Utica	1829	5	86	6	...	96	384	574	9,100	105	304	53 25	19 08	George S. Boardman.
1. St. Lawrence	1818	...	7	...	...	8	33	29	842	10	25	5 00	2 00	Baruch B. Beckwith.
2. Watertown	1822	...	14	...	...	22	81	97	2,336	34	94	41 00	1 00	Isaac Brayton.
3. Oswego	1823	...	15	1	...	21	19	72	1,293	1	21	.....	.....	Robert W. Condit, D. D.
4. Otsego	1820	...	14	...	...	20	26	67	1,677	7	50	4 00	5 83	E. Vine Wales.
5. Utica	1842	...	36	5	...	25	225	309	2,952	53	114	3 25	10 25	Samuel W. Bracc.
III. Synod of Geneva	1812	10	199	35	11	198	1,110	1,198	20,845	348	720	184 00	6 30	Vacant.
1. Onondaga	1810	...	34	...	1	27	188	274	3,010	61	100	45 00	6 00	Richard F. Cleaveland.
2. Cayuga	1810	...	34	14	4	25	155	158	2,830	46	97	5 00	.....	Henry A. Nelson.
3. Geneva	1805	...	38	7	1	32	233	269	4,673	70	214	34 29	.....	William Hogarth.
4. Cortland	1825	...	11	...	...	15	.....	.....	1,724	.....	.....	.....	.....	Hercules R. Dunham.
5. Chenango	1826	...	13	2	4	16	66	35	1,689	18	33	32 00	.....	Amos C. Tuttle.
6. Tioga	1829	...	14	1	...	15	123	96	1,967	47	82	.....	.....	David S. Morse.
7. Bath	1817	...	14	1	...	18	82	94	1,487	35	48	15 58	30	Robert E. Willson.
8. Chemung	1836	...	17	1	1	23	75	196	1,352	28	89	.....	.....	Benjamin M. Goldsmith.
9. Ithaca	1839	...	13	9	...	14	176	64	1,736	37	51	44 67	.....	Solomon R. Scofield.
10. Pennsylvania	1845	...	11	...	...	13	12	12	377	6	6	7 46	.....	Samuel J. McCullough.
IV. Synod of Genesee	1821	6	130	...	...	133	567	892	15,516	198	475	39 48	2 00	Timothy Stillman.
1. Genesee	1819	...	17	...	...	19	123	113	1,882	49	58	13 14	.....	John B. Preston.
2. Ontario*	1817	...	16	...	...	25	.....	.....	2,831	.....	.....	.....	.....	John Barnard, Jr.

* The asterisk indicates that the report is that of a previous year.

3. Rochester	1819	...	31	...	...	23	.....	.....	3,662	.....	.....	.....	.....	John B. Richardson.
4. Niagara	1817	...	18	...	...	14	88	209	2,007	29	143	26 34	.....	William N. McHarg.
5. Buffalo	1823	...	38	...	...	33	356	570	3,279	120	274	.....	2 00	Timothy Stillman.
6. Angelica*	1828	...	10	...	...	19	.....	.....	1,855	.....	.....	.....	.....	Joel Wakeman.
V. Synod of N. Y. and N. J.	1788	10	182	34	17	125	1,890	2,342	22,249	508	1653	196 70	107 10	William B. Lewis.
1. Hudson	1797	...	14	...	2	12	71	88	1,690	37	113	10 00	10 00	Obadiah M. Johnson.
2. North River	1819	...	13	2	2	14	185	108	1,736	83	85	25 80	11 00	Sumner Mandeville.
3. Long Island	1791	...	11	...	...	6	109	38	621	50	58	16 00	2 25	George F. Wiswell.
4. New York, Third	1831	...	33	10	6	14	465	713	4,933	116	541	52 00	60 00	Edwin F. Hatfield.
5. New York, Fourth	1845	...	23	17	2	12	296	379	3,047	52	98	.....	.....	Erskine Mason, D. D.
6. Brooklyn	1838	...	20	2	3	7	217	330	2,034	16	106	.....	.....	Jonathan M. Rowland.
7. Newark	1824	...	28	2	2	16	279	411	3,579	71	471	70 00	18 25	Ebenezer Seymour.
8. Rockaway	1839	...	17	...	...	18	113	110	2,475	41	42	22 90	5 60	Joel Campbell.
9. Montrose	1832	...	20	1	...	26	155	165	2,134	42	139	.....	.....	Adam Miller.
10. San Francisco	1849	...	3											
VI. Synod of Pennsylvania	1838	4	69	7	3	60	1,147	665	10,917	277	1070	138 08	84 50	John L. Grant.
1. Wilmington	1833	...	13	...	...	14	80	71	1,158	27	60	13 75	.....	J. Edson Rockwell.
2. Philadelphia, Third	1832	...	18	3	2	15	393	161	3,548	99	502	.....	.....	John Crowell.
3. Philadelphia, Fourth	1845	...	25	4	1	22	586	369	5,131	139	392	94 33	77 50	Charles Brown.
4. Harrisburgh	1839	...	13	...	...	9	88	64	1,082	12	116	30 00	7 00	Daniel H. Emerson.
VII. Synod of West Penn	1843	3	23	...	1	35	272	194	2,574	60	264	46 24	5 00	George A. Lyon.
1. Erie	1801	...	8	...	...	14	96	82	1,054	34	86	29 83	2 00	Pierce Chamberlain.
2. Meadville	1842	...	6	...	1	13	68	25	765	12	63	16 41	3 00	Richard Craighead.
3. Pittsburgh	1839	...	9	...	...	8	108	87	755	14	115	.....	.....	Nathaniel West.
VIII. Synod of W. Reserve	1825	8	140	16	1	130	223	434	8,713	42	268	38 98	7 25	William Hanford.
1. Grand River*	1814	...	19	...	...	18	.....	.....	1,271	.....	.....	.....	.....	Alanson Saunders.
2. Portage	1818	...	30	7	1	18	35	36	1,401	4	31	17 25	2 50	William Hanford.
3. Huron	1823	...	20	2	...	22	96	167	1,675	22	115	.....	2 25	Jonathan B. Parlin.
4. Trumbull*	1827	...	17	1	...	20	.....	.....	1,388	.....	.....	....	.....	Charles A. Boardman.
5. Cleveland	1830	...	22	2	...	14	92	231	1,404	16	122	21 73	2 50	Samuel T. Mills.
6. Medina	1836	...	8	...	...	9	.....	.....	*401	.....	.....	.....	.....	Sherman D. Taylor.
7. Elyria*	1842	...	16	3	...	12	.....	.....	705	.....	.....	.....	.....	Alfred H. Betts.
8. Maumee*	1842	...	8	1	...	17	.....	.....	468	.....	.....	.....	.....	E. Richard Tucker.

SYNODICAL ARRANGEMENT.	Date.	Presbyteries.	Ministers.	Licentiates.	Candidates.	Churches.	Added on Exam.	Added on Certif.	Whole No. of Communicants.	Ad. Bap.	Inf. Bap.	Comm. Fund.	Conting. Fund.	STATED CLERKS.
IX. Synod of Michigan.....	1834	7	93	3	1	116	562	568	7,074	137	380	$108 81	.....	George Duffield, D. D.
1. Detroit.....	1826	...	20	2	...	25	103	145	1,793	12	123	.....	.....	Robert R. Kellogg.
2. St. Joseph.....	1833	...	17	...	1	25	211	158	1,266	62	68	56 00	.....	Norman Kellogg.
3. Monroe.....	1833	...	11	...	...	17	139	102	1,069	28	70	20 00	.....	Erastus N. Nichols.
4. Marshall.....	1838	...	17	1	...	18	65	96	1,163	23	48	10 00	.....	Samuel H. Hall.
5. Washtenaw.....	1838	...	14	...	...	16	34	53	1,189	8	59	15 06	.....	William S. Curtis.
6. Kalamazoo.....	1838	...	9	...	...	11	10	14	503	4	12	7 75	.....	Milton Bradley.
7. Ionia*.....	1845	...	5	...	...	4	.....	.....	91	.....	.....	.....	.....	Le Moyne S. Smith.
X. Synod of Ohio.....	1814	4	46	4	1	69	428	340	4,133	96	370	108 05	$6 75	Addison Kingsbury.
1. Athens.....	1822	...	14	3	...	19	77	27	622	16	57	.....	.....	Lucian C. Ford.
2. Pataskala.....	1809	...	12	1	...	21	136	130	1,674	25	192	54 50	.....	Alexander Duncan.
3. Franklin.....	1835	...	12	...	1	18	194	174	1,312	50	110	45 55	6 75	Henry L. Hitchcock.
4. Scioto.....	1845	...	8	...	...	11	21	9	525	5	11	8 00	.....	Joseph Chester.
XI. Synod of Cincinnati.....	1829	3	34	5	6	39	434	372	2,670	143	215	44 07	6 75	Thornton A. Mills.
1. Cincinnati.....	1828	...	17	5	6	15	171	214	1,335	28	93	10 00	5 00	David D. Gregory.
2. Dayton.....	1838	...	7	...	...	15	98	110	764	27	95	34 07	1 75	Daniel Rice.
3. Hamilton.....	1846	...	10	...	..	9	165	48	571	88	27	.....	.....	Daniel Tenney.
XII. Synod of Indiana.....	1826	7	69	2	1	96	746	364	4,389	181	364	71 40	13 75	Joseph G. Wilson.
1. Salem.....	1823	...	7	...	...	15	203	58	668	56	88	.....	5 00	John M. Bishop.
2. Madison.....	1825	...	12	1	...	15	224	84	806	40	95	10 00	5 00	Harvey Curtis.
3. Crawfordsville.....	1825	...	20	1	1	21	234	114	918	63	122	.....	.....	James H. Johnston.
4. Indianapolis.....	1830	...	11	...	...	19	85	108	779	22	59	61 40	3 75	James McCoy.
5. Logansport*.....	1835	...	8	...	...	11	.....	.....	741	.....	.....	.....	.....	Joseph G. Wilson.
6. Fort Wayne*.....	1845	...	8	...	...	13	.....	.....	340	.....	.....	.....	.....	Charles Beecher.
7. Evansville*.....	1846	...	3	...	...	2	.....	.....	137	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nathan L. Lord.

XIII. Synod of Illinois.....	1831	5	63	...	1	70	446	403	3,414	111	318	50 80	2 75	George C. Wood.
1. Illinois.....	1828	...	18	...	...	15	.....	.....	884	.....	.....	10 00	.....	Livingston M. Glover.
2. Schuyler.....	1833	...	11	...	...	14	35	52	793	10	27	.....	.....	Henry C. Abernethy.
3. Palestine.....	1833	...	5	...	...	4	9	13	173	2	51	10 00	.....	Enoch Kingsbury.
4. Alton.....	1836	...	21	...	1	26	344	272	1,316	99	222	20 00	.....	Augustus T. Norton.
5. Des Moines.....	1845	...	8	...	...	11	58	66	248	.....	18	10 80	2 75	Glen Wood.
XIV. Synod of Peoria.....	1843	6	49	1	1	43	285	385	2,356	62	170	39 65	1 50	Robert W. Patterson.
1. Ottawa.....	1834	...	8	1	...	7	.....	.....	79	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nahum Gould.
2. Peoria*.....	1836	...	5	...	...	9	.....	.....	305	.....	.....	.....	.....	Henry G. Pendleton.
3. Knox.....	1838	...	6	...	...	5	140	90	579	18	25	.....	.....	George W. Gale.
4. Galena.....	1842	...	10	...	1	12	43	40	455	12	41	13 15	.....	John C. Downer.
5. Chicago.....	1847	...	13	...	...	6	43	200	721	14	83	18 50	.....	Flavel Bascom.
6. Belvidere.....	1847	...	7	...	...	4	59	55	217	18	21	8 00	1 50	Royal N. Wright.
XV. Synod of Missouri....	1832	4	38	1	...	51	242	228	2,068	58	120	44 90	2 00	Fincelius R. Gray.
1. St. Louis.....	1831	...	11	1	...	10	190	195	836	40	96	44 90	2 00	Alfred H. Dashiell.
2. Northern Missouri.....	1845	...	8	...	...	15	.....	.....	*666	.....	.....	.....	.....	John Leighton.
3. Lexington.....	1845	...	11	...	...	10	21	21	244	10	14	.....	.....	Edmund Wright.
4. Osage.....	1845	...	8	...	...	16	31	12	322	8	10	.....	.....	Isaac B. Ricketts.
XVI. Synod of Virginia....	1788	3	42	7	8	45	445	162	3,666	90	427	130 00	27 75	John C. Smith.
1. Winchester.....	1794	...	11	2	2	16	120	13	912	33	78	67 00	2 75	Patterson Fletcher.
2. D. of Columbia.....	1831	...	14	3	1	12	202	94	1,449	23	254	10 00	10 00	Thomas J. Shepherd.
3. Hanover.....	1838	...	17	2	5	17	123	55	1,305	34	95	53 00	15 00	Henry Smith.
XVII. Synod of Tennessee...	1817	5	39	3	...	78	178	91	4,778	37	294	.....	3 50	Fielding Pope.
1. Union.....	1797	...	16	2	...	30	49	47	1,946	17	151	.....	.....	Fielding Pope.
2. Holston.....	1826	...	8	1	...	12	10	6	1,326	4	44	.....	2 00	Daniel Rogan.
3. Kingston.....	1838	...	5	...	...	17	76	32	799	16	27	.....	1 50	William B. Brown.
4. New River.....	1838	...	7	...	...	11	43	6	575	.....	72	.....	.....	George Painter.
5. Chattahoochee*.....	1845	...	3	...	...	8	.....	.....	132	.....	.....	.....	.....	Joseph McKee.
XVIII. Synod of Kentucky...	1802	3	14	...	...	22	218	42	1,023	117	109	.....	5 00	Archibald C. Dickerson.
1. Harmony.....	1842	...	5	...	...	9	121	26	417	80	40	.....	5 00	Eliphaz P. Pratt.

SYNODICAL ARRANGEMENT.	Date.	Presbyteries.	Ministers.	Licentiates.	Candidates.	Churches.	Added on Exam.	Added on Certif.	Whole No. of Communicants.	Ad. Bap.	Inf. Bap.	Comm. Fund.	Conting. Fund.	STATED CLERKS.
2. Providence	1842	...	5	...	...	5	63	9	423	28	57	.....	.....	Thomas H. Cleland.
3. Green River	1842	...	4	...	...	8	34	7	183	9	12	.....	.....	Archibald C. Dickerson.
XIX. Synod of W. Tennessee.	1826	3	27	3	3	40	197	50	2,055	87	85	$58 00	$5 00	William Eagleton.
1. West Tennessee	1810	...	13	1	3	15	106	50	787	52	40	.....	4 00	Edward McMillan.
2. Shiloh*	1816	...	7	2	...	16	.....	.....	863	.....	.....	.....	.....	Amzi Bradshaw.
3. North Alabama	1824	...	7	2	...	9	91	.....	405	35	45	58 00	1 00	Archibald M. Pickens.
XX. Synod of Mississippi	1846	3	16	1	3	22	153	52	849	68	97	76 20	1 25	Alexander Newton, D. D.
1. Clinton	1832	...	5	...	3	6	65	7	225	28	19	.....	.....	George Moore.
2. South Lexington	1845	...	7	1	...	8	33	32	356	17	59	76 20	1 25	Addison M. Morrison.
3. Newton	1845	...	4	...	...	8	55	13	268	23	19	.....	.....	Duncan A. Campbell.

SCHEDULE OF SYNODS.

NAMES OF SYNODS.	Date.	Presbyteries.	Ministers.	Licentiates.	Candidates.	Churches.	Added on Exam.	Added on Certif.	Whole No. of Communicants.	Ad. Bap.	Inf. Cap.	Comm. Fund.	Conting. Fund.	STATED CLERKS.
1. Albany	1803	5	94	2	...	87	263	153	10,658	87	161	$46 00	$18 62	A. Bordman Lambert.
2. Utica	1829	5	86	6	...	97	384	574	9,100	105	304	53 25	19 08	George S. Boardman.
3. Geneva	1812	10	199	35	11	198	1,110	1,198	20,845	348	720	184 00	6 30	Vacant.
4. Genesee	1821	6	130	...	...	133	567	892	15,516	198	475	39 48	2 00	Timothy Stillman.
5. N. York and N. Jersey	1788	10	182	34	17	125	1,890	2,342	22,249	508	1,653	196 70	107 10	William B. Lewis.
6. Pennsylvania	1838	4	69	7	3	60	1,147	665	10,917	277	1,070	138 08	84 50	John L. Grant.
7. W. Pennsylvania	1843	3	23	...	1	35	272	194	2,574	60	264	46 24	5 60	George A. Lyon.
8. Western Reserve	1825	8	140	16	1	130	223	434	8,713	42	268	38 98	7 25	William Hanford.
9. Michigan	1834	7	93	3	1	116	562	568	7,074	137	380	108 81	.....	George Duffield, D. D.
10. Ohio	1814	4	46	4	1	69	428	340	4,133	96	370	108 05	6 75	Addison Kingsbury.
11. Cincinnati	1829	3	34	5	6	39	434	372	2,670	143	215	44 07	6 75	Thornton A. Mills.
12. Indiana	1826	7	69	2	1	96	746	364	4,389	181	364	71 40	13 75	Joseph G. Wilson.
13. Illinois	1831	5	63	...	1	70	446	403	3,414	111	318	50 80	2 75	George C. Wood.
14. Peoria	1843	6	49	1	1	43	285	385	2,356	62	170	39 65	1 50	Robert W. Patterson.
15. Missouri	1832	4	38	1	...	51	242	228	2,068	58	120	44 90	2 00	Fincelius R. Gray.
16. Virginia	1788	3	42	7	8	45	445	162	3,666	90	427	130 00	27 75	John C. Smith.
17. Tennessee	1817	5	39	3	...	78	178	91	4,778	37	294	.....	3 50	Fielding Pope.
18. Kentucky	1802	3	14	...	...	22	218	42	1,023	117	109	.....	5 00	Archibald C. Dickerson.
19. W. Tennessee	1826	3	27	3	3	40	197	50	2,055	87	85	58 00	5 00	William Eagleton.
20. Mississippi	1846	3	16	1	3	22	153	52	849	68	97	76 20	1 25	Alexander Newton, D. D.
		104	1,453	130	58	1,555	10,190	9,509	139,047	2,812	7,864	$1,474 61	$325 85	