MINUTES, 1855.

Saint Louis, Missouri, May 17th, 1855.

THE General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met, agreeably to appointment, at the city of St. Louis, on Thursday, the 17th day of May, A. D. 1855, at 11 o'clock A. M., in the Union Presbyterian church—substituted by the Committee of Arrangements in the place of the First Presbyterian church, the building of which had not been completed—and was opened with a sermon by Rev. Thomas H. Skinner, D. D., the Moderator of the last Assembly, from 1 John 2 : 7, 8: "Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. * * * * Again, a new commandment I write unto you."

After the sermon, the Assembly was constituted with prayer.

The Permanent Clerk presented the report of the Committee on Commissions; and the following persons were thereupon enrolled as duly appointed Commissioners to this General Assembly: [4]

I. SYNOD OF ALBANY.

PRESBYTERIES.	MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
1. *Champlain.*		
2. *Troy*,	A. B. Lambert, D. D.	
3. *Albany.*		
4. *Columbia*,	Wm. S. Leavitt (2),	Josiah W. Fairfield (3).
5. *Catskill*,	Sanford W. Roe, M. D.	

II. SYNOD OF UTICA.

1. *St. Lawrence.*		
2. *Watertown*,		James K. Bates, M. D.
3. *Oswego.*		
4. *Utica*,	Erastus S. Barnes, Jonathan B. Hubbard,	Nic. H. Deering, M. D. (3).

III. SYNOD OF GENEVA.

1. *Onondaga*,	William L. Strong, Albert H. Gaston,	Jared N. Avery, James M. Monroe (2).
2. *Cayuga*,	Norton Crittenden, Edward D. Morris,	Charles Barnes.
3. *Geneva*,	Samuel H. Gridley, John Ward,	Albert F. Cressy.
4. *Cortland*,	Elisha B. Sherwood,	Amos Rice.
5. *Tioga*,		John F. Judd.
6. *Bath*,	S. Mills Day.	
7. *Chemung*,	Robert E. Willson,	W. D. Terbell, M. D. (2).
8. *Ithaca*,	Philos G. Cook,	Joseph Esty.
9. *Pennsylvania*,	Joel Jewell.	

IV. SYNOD OF SUSQUEHANNA.

PRESBYTERIES.	MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
1. *Otsego*,	William T. Doubleday,	Elias Parshall.
2. *Chenango*,	Samuel W. Bush,	S. Dewitt Beals.
3. *Delaware*.		

V. SYNOD OF GENESEE.

1. *Genesee*,	William Lusk,	Hon. Augustus P. Hascall.
2. *Ontario*,	Darwin Chichester.	
3. *Rochester*,	Ralph S. Crampton,	David Dickey.
4. *Niagara*,	Wm. C. Wisner, D. D.,	Eliphalet Gillett (2).
5. *Buffalo*,	Sylvester Cowles,	John R. Lee,
	J. Jermain Porter,	Seth Clark.
6. *Angelica*.		[5]

VI. SYNOD OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY.

1. *Hudson*,	Augustus Seward,	Hon. Robert Denniston.
2. *North River*,	George F. Wiswell (2),	L. W. Stanton, M. D. (2).
3. *Long Island*,	Daniel M. Lord (2).	
4. *New York, 3d*,	Thos. H. Skinner, D. D.,	Christopher R. Robert,
	Alf. E. Campbell, D. D.,	Austin Requa.
5. *New York, 4th*,	John Spaulding,	Jesse W. Benedict,
	Henry B. Smith, D. D.,	William P. Cook.
6. *Brooklyn*,	J. W. McLane, D. D. (2),	Hon. E. A. Lambert (2).
7. *Newark*,	James P. Wilson, D. D.,	Calvin Baldwin,
	John Crowell,	William R. Sayre.
8. *Rockaway*,	Daniel E. Megie.	
9. *Montrose*,	Hy. A. Rowland, D. D.,	Richard L. Seely.
10. *San Francisco*,	Sam'l H. Willey (3).	

VII. SYNOD OF PENNSYLVANIA.

1. *Wilmington*,	James McIntire (2),	John A. Reynolds (2).
2. *Philadelphia, 3d*,	Robert Adair,	Anthony Green.
3. *Philadelphia, 4th*,	Benjamin J. Wallace,	Rob't. W. Davenport (2),
	Thomas J. Shepherd,	J. Marshall Paul, M. D. (3).
4. *Harrisburgh*,	William Sterling (2).	

VIII. SYNOD OF WEST PENNSYLVANIA.

1. *Erie*,	James H. Rice,	William Townsend.
2. *Meadville*,	John McMaster.	
3. *Pittsburgh*,	James Cochrane,	Thomas J. Campbell.

IX. SYNOD OF MICHIGAN.

1. *Detroit*,	Henry Neill,	Edward C. Walker.
2. *St. Joseph*,	Ashbel S. Wells (2).	
3. *Monroe*,	Jonathan Cochran,	Charles Noble (2).
4. *Marshall*,	S. Dwight Pitkin (2),	William Brooks (2).
5. *Washtenaw*,	Lucius I. Root.	
6. *Kalamazoo*,	Ova Phelps Hoyt.	

X. SYNOD OF WESTERN RESERVE.

PRESBYTERIES.	MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
1. *Grand River*,	Hiram A. Babcock.	
2. *Portage*,	Carlos Smith.	
3. *Huron*,	Alfred Newton,	John W. Sprague (2).
4. *Trumbull*,		John Loughridge (3).
5. *Cleveland*,	Seth G. Clark,	George Mygatt.
6. *Elyria*,	Hubbard Lawrence.	
7. *Maumee*,	Perry C. Baldwin.	[6]

XI. SYNOD OF OHIO.

1. *Athens*,	Thomas Towler,	Harry McClure.
2. *Pataskala*,	Timothy W. Howe (2),	Hon. Elizur Abbott.
3. *Franklin*,	William H. Marble,	William Porter.
4. *Scioto*,	E. Perkins Pratt.	

XII. SYNOD OF CINCINNATI.

1. *Cincinnati*,	Clement E. Babb,	Robert Boal (2),
	James J. Blaisdell,	Philip Hinckle (2).
2. *Dayton*,	Samuel D. Smith.	
3. *Hamilton*,	Lorenzo Carey,	Alanson Grant.

XIII. SYNOD OF INDIANA.

1. *Salem*,	John G. Atterbury,	Ralph H. Hurlbut.
2. *Madison*,	John C. Bonham.	
3. *Indianapolis*,	Philip S. Cleland,	Thomas B. Noble.
4. *Greencastle*,	Benjamin F. Cole (2).	

XIV. SYNOD OF WABASH.

1. *Crawfordsville*,	Samuel S. Thomson.
2. *Logansport*,	Martin M. Post.
3. *Fort Wayne.*	
4. *Elkhart.*	

XV. SYNOD OF ILLINOIS.

1. *Illinois*,	Joseph M. Grout (3),	Samuel Crawford.
2. *Schuyler*,	Reuben K. McCoy,	Clark B. Church.
3. *Wabash*,	Enoch Kingsbury (2),	Andrew McKinney (2).
4. *Alton*,	Augustus T. Norton,	Hon. G. T. Allen, M. D. (3).

XVI. SYNOD OF PEORIA.

1. *Ottawa*,	Nahum Gould.	
2. *Peoria and Knox*,	V. Leroy Lockwood (2).	
3. *Galena*,	H. H. Hays, D. D. (2),	Charles S. Hempstead.
4. *Chicago*,	Ira M. Weed,	J. Ambrose Wight.
5. *Belvidere*,	Isaac E. Carey.	
6. *Minnesota*,	Edward D. Neill.	
7. *Milwaukee*,	William H. Spencer (3).	
8. *Fox River*,	Cyrus E. Rosenkrans.	

XVII. SYNOD OF IOWA.

1. *Des Moines*,	Asa Martin,	William D. Evans.
2. *Iowa City*,	James M. Phillips (2).	
3. *Keokuk*,	Samuel K. Sneed,	Solomon Beckley. [7]

XVIII. SYNOD OF MISSOURI.

PRESBYTERIES.	MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
1. *St. Louis,*	Artemas Bullard, D. D.,	Fred. E. Robinson (2).
2. *North Missouri,*	Allen G. Gallaher,	Robert Williamson.
3. *Lexington,*	Robert Glenn,	Francis W. Digges (3).
4. *Osage.*		

XIX. SYNOD OF VIRGINIA.

1. *Winchester,*	John T. Hargrave (2).	
2. *D. of Columbia,*	William T. Eva (2).	
3. *Hanover,*	Henry S. Osborn (3).	

XX. SYNOD OF KENTUCKY.

1. *Harmony,*	Fincelius R. Gray.	
2. *Providence,*	Thomas H. Cleland,	Robert A. Armstrong.
3. *Green River.*		

XXI. SYNOD OF TENNESSEE.

1. *Union,*	Gideon S. White,	Patten Howell.
2. *Holston,*	Ira Morey,	John Lynn.
3. *Kingston,*	George A. Caldwell.	
4. *New River,*		

XXII. SYNOD OF WEST TENNESSEE.

1. *West Tennessee.*		
2. *Shiloh,*	Alfred H. Dashiell.	
3. *Richland,*	Robert Caldwell.	

XXIII. SYNOD OF MISSISSIPPI.

1. *Clinton,*	Duncan A. Campbell,	John Smith.
2. *Lexington, South.*		
3. *Newton,*	James M. McLean (3).	

CORRESPONDING BODIES.

General Association of Massachusetts,	Rev. Samuel Harris.
General Association of Connecticut.	
General Association of New Hampshire.	
General Association of New York.	
General Conference of Maine.	
General Convention of Vermont,	Rev. Charles C. Parker.
General Evangelical Consociation of Rhode Island.	[8]
Presbyterian and Congregational Convention of Wisconsin,	Rev. Zephaniah M. Humphrey.
General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States.	
Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States.	
General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.	

The Permanent Clerk also reported the following persons as appearing without Commissions, and that their appointment is sustained by testimony satisfactory to the Committee:

Rev. Seth G. Clark,	of the Presbytery of	Cleveland.
Rev. John G. Atterbury,	"	Salem.
Elder Solomon Beckley,	"	Keokuk.
Elder William Porter,	"	Franklin.

Whereupon it was

Resolved, That the names of the above persons be inserted in the Roll as Commissioners.

The Assembly then adjourned to meet in this place at 3½ o'clock this afternoon.

Concluded with prayer.

Thursday, May 17th, 3½ o'clock P. M.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

The following new Commissioner was reported, and his name was entered upon the Roll:

Elder Ralph H. Hurlbut, from the Presbytery of Salem.

The Assembly proceeded to the election of a Moderator.

Whereupon Rev. William C. Wisner. D. D., of the Presbytery of Niagara, was chosen Moderator, and inducted into office in the usual form.

Rev. Ova Phelps Hoyt, of the Presbytery of Kalamazoo, was chosen Temporary Clerk.

The General Rules for Judicatories, contained in the Appendix to the Constitution, were adopted as the Rules of this Assembly.

Resolved, That the Assembly hold its daily sessions from 9 o'clock A. M. to 1 P. M.; and from 3½ o'clock to 6 P. M.; and that the first half hour of the morning session be appropriated to devotional exercises under the direction of the Moderator.

The printed Minutes of the last Assembly were distributed among the members. [9]

The docket of business was presented and read by the Stated Clerk.

Ordered, That the usual number of copies of the Roll be printed, under the direction of the Stated Clerk.

It was made the order of the day for to-morrow, immediately after the calling of the Roll, to receive Synodical Records, Narratives, Statistical Reports, Overtures, memorials, appeals, and complaints.

Ordered, That, in the absence of the Treasurer, all moneys intended for the Commissioners' Fund be paid, on the rising of the Assembly to-morrow morning, to the Committee on Mileage; and all moneys for the Contingent Fund be paid into the hands of the Stated Clerk.

Rev. Artemas Bullard, D. D., Rev. Ralph S. Crampton, and Elder Joseph Esty, were appointed a *Committee to nominate a preacher* on Home Missions for the next Assembly.

It was made the first order of the day for to-morrow afternoon, to hear reports from Theological Seminaries.

It was made the first order of the day for Saturday morning, to hear reports from the Delegates to Corresponding Bodies, and the second order to nominate Delegates to Corresponding Bodies.

The election of Delegates to Corresponding Bodies was made the order of the day for Monday morning, immediately after the devotional exercises, to be followed by the reception of communications from Corresponding Bodies.

The Assembly recommended the observance of the first Monday of January as a day of fasting and prayer for the Conversion of the World; and also the last Thursday in February, as a day of prayer for Colleges.

It was made the first order of the day for Monday afternoon, to hear the annual report of the Trustees of the Presbyterian House; to be followed by the annual report of the Standing Committee on Doctrinal Tracts.

Resolved, That it is inexpedient for the Assembly to proceed to the election, for the present year, of Trustees of the General Assembly, and Directors of the Theological Seminaries.

The Treasurer's report was received and referred to an *Auditing Committee*, consisting of Mr. Christopher R. Robert and Hon. Augustus P. Hascall.

It was made the order of the day for Tuesday morning next, immediately after the devotional exercises, to hear the annual report of the Trustees of the Church Erection Fund.

The Assembly proceeded to determine the place for the meeting of the next Assembly, and unanimously made choice of the Madison Square Presbyterian church in the city of New York.

It was thereupon *Resolved*, That the next General Assembly meet in the Madison Square Presbyterian church in the city of New York, on the third Thursday of May, 1856, at 11 o'clock A. M.; and that Rev. William Adams, D. D., Joel Parker, D. D., George L. Prentiss, D. D., Asa D. Smith, D. D., and the Elders, William A. Booth, Jesse W. Benedict, Hon. John L. Mason, and William P. Cook, be a *Committee of Arrangements* for the occasion. [10]

A bill of error from John A. Gray, printer of the General Assembly, was presented by the Stated Clerk, and referred to the Committee appointed to audit the Treasurer's report.

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.

The first half hour was occupied with devotional exercises.

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

The following new Commissioners and Delegates were reported, and their names were entered upon the Roll:

Rev. John T. Hargrave,	from the Presbytery of	Winchester.
Elder Charles Noble,	"	Monroe.
" William D. Terbell, M. D.,	"	Chemung.
Rev. Henry B. Smith, D. D.,	"	New York, 4th.
" Ashbel S. Wells,	"	St. Joseph.
Elder James M. Monroe,	"	Onondaga.
Rev. S. Dwight Pitkin,	"	Marshall.
Elder John W. Sprague,	"	Huron.
Rev. V. Leroy Lockwood,	"	Peoria and Knox.
" Timothy W. Howe,	"	Pataskala.
" Hervey H. Hays, D. D.,	"	Galena.
" James M. Phillips,	"	Iowa City.
Elder John A. Reynolds,	"	Wilmington.
Rev. Benjamin F. Cole,	"	Greencastle.
Elder Frederick E. Robinson,	"	St. Louis.
" Andrew McKinney,	"	Wabash.
Rev. Enoch Kingsbury,	"	"

Elder Robert Davenport, from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, 4th.
Elder Hon. Edward A. Lambert, " Brooklyn.
Rev. James McIntire, " Wilmington.
" William T. Eva, " Dist. of Columbia.
" William Sterling, " Harrisburgh.
" Geo. F. Wiswell, " North River.
Elder Luke W. Stanton, M. D., " "
" Eliphalet Gillett, " Niagara.
" Philip Hinckle, " Cincinnati.
" Robert Boal, " "

Rev. Samuel Harris, from the General Association of Massachusetts.

Rev. Charles C. Parker, from the General Convention of Vermont.

Rev. Zephaniah M. Humphrey, from the Presbyterian and Congregational Convention of Wisconsin. [11]

The Moderator announced the following Standing Committees:

1. *Judicial Committee. Ministers*—Thomas H. Skinner, D. D., William Lusk, Robert Adair, and Gideon S. White. *Elders*—Hon. Robert Denniston, Richard L. Seely, and Charles S. Hempstead.

2. *Bills and Overtures. Ministers*—James P. Wilson, D. D., Samuel H. Gridley, Henry Neill, Martin M. Post. and John T. Hargrave. *Elders*—Hon. Augustus P. Hascall, George Mygatt, and John Smith.

3. *Polity of the Church. Ministers*—Henry A. Rowland, D. D., Alfred E. Campbell, D. D.. A. Bordman Lambert, D. D., and Augustus T. Norton. *Elders*—David Dickey, Thomas J. Campbell, and Henry McClure.

4. *Church Extension. Ministers.*—Artemas Bullard, D. D., James W. McLane, D. D.. Benjamin J. Wallace, and Samuel S. Thomson. *Elders*—Christopher R. Robert, John R. Lee, and J. Ambrose Wight.

5. *Devotional Exercises. Ministers*—John Spaulding, Edward D. Neill, Philos G. Cook, and Alfred H. Dashiell. *Elders*—Austin Requa, Anthony Green, and Ralph H. Hurlbut.

6. *Narrative. Ministers*—J. Jermain Porter, Alfred Newton, John G. Atterbury, and Fincelius R. Gray. *Elders*—James K. Bates, M. D., Joseph Esty, and William P. Cook.

7. *Leave of Absence. Ministers*—Ralph S. Crampton, Ira M. Weed, James J. Blaisdell, and Ira Morey. *Elders*—Solomon Beckley, Hon. Elizur Abbott, and Jared N. Avery.

8. *Mileage. Elders*—Jesse W. Benedict, Calvin Baldwin, and Albert F. Cressy.

The Moderator also announced the following Committees on Synodical Records: namely, on the Records of the Synod of

1. *Albany. Ministers*—Albert H. Gaston and Jonathan B. Hubbard. *Elder*—William R. Sayer.

2. *Utica. Ministers*—Robert E. Willson and William T. Doubleday. *Elder*—William Townsend.

3. *Geneva. Ministers*—Sanford W. Roe, M. D., and John McMaster. *Elder*—Elias Parshall.

4. *Susquehanna. Ministers*—Thomas J. Shepherd and John Ward. *Elder* Charles Barnes. [12]

5. *Genesee. Ministers*—William L. Strong and Augustus Seward. *Elder*—Edward C. Walker.

6. *New York and New Jersey. Ministers*—Darwin Chichester and I. Norton Crittenden. *Elder*—John F. Judd.

7. *Pennsylvania. Ministers*—John Crowell and Erastus S. Barnes. *Elder*—S. Dewitt Beals.

8. *West Pennsylvania.* *Ministers*—Elisha B. Sherwood and Sylvester Cowles. *Elder*—Amos Rice.

9. *Michigan.* *Ministers*—Samuel W. Bush and James H. Rice. *Elder*—William Porter.

10. *Western Reserve.* *Ministers*—E. Perkins Pratt and James Cochrane. *Elder*—Alanson Grant.

11. *Ohio.* *Ministers*—Carlos Smith and Lorenzo Carey. *Elder*—Thos. B. Noble.

12. *Cincinnati.* *Ministers*—Philip S. Cleland and Thos. Towler. *Elder*—Samuel Crawford.

13. *Indiana.* *Ministers*—Lucius I. Root and Jonathan Cochran. *Elder*—Clark B. Church.

14. *Wabash.* *Ministers*—Nahum Gould and Asa Martin. *Elder*—Robert A. Armstrong.

15. *Illinois.* *Ministers*—Seth G. Clark and Robert Caldwell. *Elder*—John Lynn.

16. *Peoria.* *Ministers*—Reuben K. McCoy and Geo. A. Caldwell. *Elder*—Robert Williamson.

17. *Iowa.* *Ministers*—Samuel D. Smith and Duncan A. Campbell. *Elder*—Patten Howell.

18. *Missouri.* *Ministers*—Samuel K. Sneed and Thos. H. Cleland. *Elder*—William D. Evans.

19. *Virginia.* *Ministers*—William H. Marble and Clement E. Babb. *Elder*—Joseph Esty.

20. *Kentucky.* *Ministers*—Hubbard Lawrence and John C. Bonham. *Elder*—William P. Cook.

21. *Tennessee.* *Ministers*—Perry C. Baldwin and Allen G. Gallaher. *Elder*—Ralph H. Hurlbut.

22. *West Tennessee.* *Ministers*—Hiram A. Babcock and S. Mills Day. *Elder*—Jas. K. Bates, M. D.

23. *Mississippi.* *Ministers*—Edward D. Morris and Danel E. Megie. *Elder*—Anthony Green.

The Records of the Synods were called for and put into the hands of the Committees appointed to examine them.

The Narratives, the Statistical Reports, and several Overtures and memorials were received and put into the hands of the Stated Clerk, to be appropriately referred.

The Committee of the last Assembly, "On the memorial with reference to Infirm Ministers," made a report, which was accepted; and, together with a resolution relative to the report, was placed upon the docket.

The Assembly took a recess, to meet at the call of the Moderator. [13]

After the recess, an invitation was received from the ladies of the First Presbyterian church of this city, soliciting the company of the members of the Assembly to tea, in their "Society Rooms," on Wednesday next, at 7 o'clock P. M. The invitation was unanimously accepted.

Adjourned until 3½ o'clock P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Friday, May 18th, 3½ o'clock P. M.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

The following additional Commissioners were reported and their names were entered upon the Roll:

Elder William Brooks, from the Presbytery of Marshall.
Rev. William S. Leavitt, " " Columbia.
" Daniel M. Lord, " " Long Island.

Resolved, That the name of the Doctrinal Tract Committee of the General Assembly, be changed to "The Presbyterian Publication Committee."

An invitation was received from Rev. William Homes and others, to make an excursion to-morrow over the Pacific Railroad to the Missouri River.

The invitation of these gentlemen was accepted, and the thanks of the Assembly were returned to them.

The orders of the day for to-morrow were deferred until Monday morning, and those of Monday to the day following.

The Assembly heard reports and statements concerning our Theological Seminaries: from the Union Theological Seminary, through Rev. Henry B. Smith, D. D.; from Lane Theological Seminary, through Rev. Thornton A. Mills; from Auburn Theological Seminary, through the Moderator; and from Marysville Theological Seminary, through Rev. Gideon S. White.

A Committee, consisting of Rev. James W. McLane, D. D., Rev Benjamin J. Wallace, and Hon. Augustus P. Hascall, was appointed to prepare a suitable minute upon this subject.

The Committee on Devotional Exercises reported supplies for the various pulpits in the city and vicinity, on the ensuing Sabbath; and also public services for the ensuing week.

The Auditing Committee reported, that they had examined the accounts of the Treasurer, with the accompanying vouchers, and found them correct; also, that they had examined the bill of error presented to the Assembly by John A. Gray, and recommended that it be paid. The report was adopted.

It was made the first order of the afternoon session of Monday next to hear the reports of the Committees on Synodical Records. [14]

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported that Overtures have been before them from the Synod of Iowa, and from the Presbyteries of Chicago, Philadelphia, 3d, and Philadelphia, 4th, requesting that something be done by the Assembly to provide for the wants of the Church as yet unmet by the agencies of the American Home Missionary Society. The Overtures particularly direct the attention of the Assembly to the fact that no provision exists to furnish means for exploring destitute counties and districts, to supply needy churches in cities, or to seek out members of the Church in remote settlements. The Committee recommend that the subject be referred to the Standing Committee on Church Extension to report immediately. The report was adopted.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures further reported Overtures from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, 4th, and from the Synod of Missouri on the subject of Church Psalmody, desiring that some action be taken by the Assembly to secure greater uniformity in the use of the psalms and hymns in public worship; and recommended that, in view of the resolution of the Assembly of 1846, recommending the adoption of the "Church Psalmist," no action be taken in the premises. After some discussion, the subject was referred to a special *Committee*, consisting of Artemas Bullard, D. D., A. E. Campbell, D. D., James W. McLane, D. D., Rev. B. J. Wallace, and James P. Wilson, D. D., to report during the sessions of the present Assembly.

Adjourned until Monday, 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.

After the usual devotional exercises, the Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

The following additional Commissioners presented their credentials, and their names were placed on the Roll, viz.:

Rev. Henry S. Osborn,	from the Presbytery of	Hanover.
Elder J. Marshall Paul, M. D.,	"	Philadelphia, 4th.
Elder Francis W. Digges,	"	Lexington.
Elder Nichol H. Dering, M. D.,	"	Utica.
Elder Josiah W. Fairfield,	"	Columbia.
Rev. Samuel H. Willey,	"	San Francisco.
Rev. James M. McLean,	"	Newton.
Elder John Loughridge,	"	Trumbull.
Rev. Joseph M. Grout,	"	Illinois.
Elder Hon. Geo. T. Allen, M. D.,	"	Alton.
Rev. William H. Spencer,	"	Milwaukee.

An invitation was received from Messrs. John Sigerson & Brother to visit their grounds in the vicinity of this city, on Thursday after[15]noon next. The Assembly voted that thanks be returned to Messrs. John Sigerson & Brother for their kindness, but that the invitation be declined.

The Assembly proceeded to the order of the day. Reports were received from the Delegates appointed by the last Assembly to Corresponding Bodies, viz.: from Rev. J. W. McLane, D. D., Delegate to the General Association of Massachusetts; from Rev. Edward Taylor, Delegate to the General Association of New Hampshire; from Rev. Bela Fancher, Delegate to the General Convention of Vermont; from Rev. Samuel D. Burchard, D. D., Delegate to the Presbyterian and Congregational Convention of Wisconsin; and from Rev. Jonathan F. Stearns, D. D., Delegate to the Union of the Evangelical Churches of France.

The reports were accepted, and ordered to be published in the Appendix to the Minutes.

Nominations were made of Delegates to Corresponding Bodies.

A communication was received from Rev. Samuel T. Spear, D. D., informing the Assembly of the inability, both of himself and his alternate, Rev. R. W. Patterson, to preach, as appointed by the last Assembly, on Home Missions.

A communication was also received from the dean of the St. Louis Medical College, respectfully inviting the Assembly to visit in a body, or individually, that institution.

The invitation was accepted.

The Committee of the last Assembly on the publication of a new Digest reported progress, and asked to be continued. Their request was granted.

The Standing Committee on Education for the Gospel Ministry made their annual report.

The report was accepted, and referred to a *Special Committee of five*, consisting of Rev. Henry B. Smith, D. D., Rev. Gideon S. White, Rev. Thomas J. Shepherd, J. Marshall Paul, M. D., and Mr. Josiah W. Fairfield.

Adjourned until 3½ o'clock P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Monday, May 21st, 3½ o'clock P. M.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

The Assembly, agreeably to previous order, proceeded to hear the reports

of the Committees on the Synodical Records; and, on the recommendation of the respective Committees, the Records of the following Synods were approved as far as written: Albany, Utica, Geneva, Genesee, Pennsylvania, West Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, Cincinnati, Peoria, Iowa, Missouri, Virginia, West Tennessee, and Mississippi.

The Records of the Synod of Western Reserve were approved, with the following exception: [16]

On page 154, it is said: "Overtures No. 1 and 4 were taken up and acted upon," without stating what the Overtures were, either in full or in substance.

The Committee on the Records of the Synod of Tennessee reported, that after a careful examination of said Records, they find them correct; and, the attention of the Committee having been called to the report of a Committee of the Synod of Tennessee, relating to the constitutionality of a called meeting of said Synod, convened in accordance with a declaratory resolution of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, in 1796, and found on page 321 of the Digest published in 1820, after a careful examination of the whole subject, they recommend the following action in the case: That, in the judgment of this General Assembly, the meeting of the Synod of Tennessee, at Knoxville in said State, on the 9th day of November, was in accordance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church, and the Assembly do so declare. The report was adopted.

The Standing Committee on Church Extension, to whom was referred the Overtures on the subject of Home Missions, made a report, which was accepted, and ordered to be printed.

The Assembly voted to take up the order of the day for to-morrow morning; when the Trustees of the Church Erection Fund made their report, which was accepted, and referred to a special Committee, consisting of Rev. A. E. Campbell, D. D., A. Bordman Lambert, D. D., Rev. Augustus T. Norton, Rev. Samuel H. Gridley, Rev. William Sterling, Rev. A. H. Dashiell, Hon. E. A. Lambert, Robert Boal, George Mygatt, and Hon. Augustus P. Hascall.

The Judicial Committee reported that they have received a paper, purporting to be a memorial from the session of the Presbyterian church in Iowa City, relating to the case of Rev. W. W. Woods, which was acted upon and decided by the Synod of Iowa; and, having considered the same, they are unanimously of the opinion that the case cannot be regularly brought before the Assembly; because

(1.) This memorial is, in fact, a complaint against the decision of the Synod of Iowa; and it does not appear that any notice of intention to complain to the Assembly was given to the Synod by the complainants.

(2.) No evidence has been presented by the complainants of the injustice of the decision of the Synod.

The Committee therefore recommend that the paper be returned to the complainants. The report was adopted; and, no other business having been presented to the Judicial Committee, they were discharged.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported a memorial on the translation and publication, in the German language, of the Confession of Faith of the Presbyterian Church, and its Book of Psalmody; and recommended that it be referred to the Publication Committee.

The report was adopted.

A copy of a pamphlet, entitled, "Thoughts on the City of St. Louis," was presented to each member of the Assembly by the pub[17]lisher, Mr. George Knapp, and the thanks of the Assembly were returned to him.

The Committee on Leave of Absence reported that leave had been given to Elder Amos Rice, of the Presbytery of Cortland.

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.

After the usual devotional exercises, the calling of the Roll was dispensed with for the remaining sessions.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

The Assembly proceeded to the first order of the day, viz., the election of Delegates to Corresponding Bodies, which was referred to a Canvassing Committee.

The Stated Clerk was instructed to communicate with the Synod of the Free Church of Scotland, in Canada, with reference to opening a correspondence between that body and this General Assembly.

The Committee to whom was referred the framing of a minute on the Theological Seminaries, reported as follows:

The Presbyterian Church has ever taken a deep interest in the training of her sons for the sacred ministry. To this she has looked, as one great source of her influence and power for good among men. The General Assembly, therefore, has heard with great pleasure the evidence, presented at its present sessions, of the increasing prosperity and usefulness of its Theological Seminaries. It is matter of joy and of devout thanksgiving to God, that in these schools of the prophets the heart is cared for as well as the head; that, in the instructions there given, the religious element is developed along with the intellectual; and that the mind is turned off from speculations vainly curious, is kept near the Cross, and brought into sympathy with the wants of a perishing world. The Assembly regards it as a token for good, that among the students in these Seminaries the spirit of self-denial, the willingness to consecrate themselves to the missionary work, exists to so great a degree as it does; and that so large a number of them, from year to year, devote themselves to the work of preaching the Gospel to the heathen, or with equal readiness give their energies to the cause of home evangelization, of converting the wilderness into a fruitful field, and of making the solitary places glad. The Church has much to hope for from this increasing spirit of self-denial in her sons and daughters—from this willingness to endure hardships for Christ's sake. The Assembly regards with peculiar interest the mode of training introduced to a considerable extent in some of these Seminaries, and capable of much greater application in all, which unites the practical with the theoretical, and thus gives activity and life to every lesson, and increased meaning and importance to every precept. Great good must result from combining with studies and research that species of [18] preparation for the ministry which consists in instructing in Sabbath-schools and Bible-classes, in engaging in tract-distribution, and in teaching from house to house. Most heartily, therefore, does the General Assembly commend these Seminaries to the confidence and support of the churches, as the fountains which are to send forth the streams that gladden the earth. They should be put in a strong position, and have all healthful influences thrown around them. And the time of the students should not be taxed, as it now is in many cases, for their individual support, but be free from all such encumbrance, and devoted to study, to prayer, and to personal effort in the work of doing good. Any necessity of this kind which is laid upon students during their seminary-life, any tax upon their time and

energies of this character, tendeth to poverty. The churches, in permitting this necessity to exist, are in reality robbing themselves, are taking from their future pastors that which would increasingly enrich the intellect and the heart of the people to whom they are to minister in holy things.

The report was adopted.

The Assembly proceeded to hear the Delegates from Corresponding Bodies, in such communications as they desired to present; when Rev. Samuel Harris, from the General Association of Massachusetts; Rev. Charles C. Parker, from the General Convention of Vermont; and Rev. Zephaniah M. Humphrey, from the Presbyterian and Congregational Convention of Wisconsin, made statements in reference to the state of religion within their respective bounds.

Communications from Rev. R. S. Storrs, Jr., D. D., Delegate from the General Association of New York to this Assembly; from Rev. Samuel M. Gould, Delegate from the General Conference of Maine; from Rev. A. G. Loomis, Delegate from the General Association of Connecticut; and from Rev. H. A. Bomberger, D. D., Delegate from the Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States, were received and read.

The communication from the Delegate of the General Association of New York was referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Rev. A. E. Campbell, D. D., Rev. Henry Neill, and Christopher R. Robert.

The Committee to nominate a preacher on Home Missions for the next year, recommended Rev. Robert W. Patterson, of the Presbytery of Chicago, principal, and Rev. Grosvenor W. Heacock, of the Presbytery of Buffalo, alternate, and their recommendation was adopted.

The Assembly voted to take up the order of the day for this afternoon, when the Trustees of the Presbyterian House and the Publication Committee made their annual reports. Before the completion of the reading of the latter report, the Assembly adjourned until this afternoon at 3½ o'clock.

Concluded with prayer. [19]

Tuesday, May 22d, 3½ o'clock P. M.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

The reading of the report of the Publication Committee was completed; and, together with the report of the Trustees of the Presbyterian House, was referred to a *Special Committee*, consisting of Rev. James W. McLane, D. D., A. Bordman Lambert, D. D., Rev. Edward D. Neill, Rev. Wm. Sterling, Rev. Wm. Lusk, Rev. M. M. Post, Hon. E. A. Lambert, N. H. Dering, M. D., and J. Marshall Paul, M. D.

The Canvassing Committee reported that the following persons had been duly elected Delegates to Corresponding Bodies, viz., to the

General Association of Massachusetts—Rev. William W. Newell, principal; and Rev. Samuel T. Spear, D. D., alternate.

General Association of Connecticut—Rev. Joseph C. Stiles, D. D., principal; and Rev. Samuel H. Gridley, alternate.

General Association of New Hampshire—Rev. George F. Wiswell, principal; and Rev. Carlos Smith, alternate.

General Association of New York—Rev. Philos G. Cook, principal; and Rev. James H. Rice, alternate.

General Conference of Maine—Rev. Henry B. Smith, D. D., principal; and Rev. John Ward, alternate.

General Convention of Vermont—Rev. O. Phelps Hoyt, principal; and Rev. Wm. S. Leavitt, alternate.

General Evangelical Consociation of Rhode Island—Rev. Henry Darling, principal; and Rev. William C. Wisner, D. D., alternate.

Presbyterian and Congregational Convention of Wisconsin—Rev. Clement E. Babb, principal; and Rev. Henry Neill, alternate.

Synod of the German Reformed Church—Rev. Benjamin J. Wallace, principal; and James P. Wilson, D. D., alternate.

General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church—Rev. Gideon S. White, principal; and Rev. Alexander Newton, D. D., alternate.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Assembly be tendered to Rev. H. B. Smith, D. D., for his address, in behalf of the Presbyterian Historical Society, on the characteristics of the Reformed or Calvinistic Churches, delivered in this house last evening, and that a copy be requested for publication under the direction of the Stated Clerk.

The Committee on Leave of Absence reported, that leave had been given to Rev. J. M. Phillips and Rev. S. H. Gridley; Elders, J. W. Sprague, E. Parshall, A. Requa, and J. W. Fairfield.

The Assembly, having learned that the Clerical Commissioner, from the Presbytery of Ithaca, was, on his way to the Assembly, robbed of the money intrusted to him by his Presbytery for the Commissioners' Fund, voted that the Commissioner be allowed to draw his mileage from said Fund, although, for the reason specified, the money contributed by the Presbytery has not been paid into it.

The Committee on Church Extension, to whom were referred the Overtures on Home Missions, presented a report recommending [20] a particular course of action on this subject; the consideration of which occupied the remainder of the session.

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

Concluded with prayer.

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

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

After the usual devotional exercises, the Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

The thanks of the Assembly were returned to the Young Men's Christian Association of St. Louis, and the Medical Faculty of the University of Missouri, for their invitations to visit their respective institutions.

Rev. Samuel Harris, Delegate from the General Association of Massachusetts, after a short address, to which the Moderator responded, respectfully took his leave.

The Committee on Devotional Exercises reported, recommending that the Assembly celebrate the Lord's Supper in this house, on Thursday next, at 4 o'clock P. M.; that the services be conducted by Rev. William C. Wisner, D. D.; that Rev. Edwin F. Hatfield, D. D., administer the Bread, assisted by Rev. John T. Hargrave; that Rev. A. T. Norton administer the Cup, assisted by Rev. Thomas J. Shepherd; and that the closing hymn be read and the benediction pronounced by Rev. S. H. Willey. And further, that the distribution of the elements be committed to the following elders, viz.: Hon. A. P. Hascall, Robert W. Davenport, Robert Boal, Robert A. Armstrong, George Mygatt, James K. Bates, M. D., John F. Judd, Frederick E. Robinson, William P. Cook, John Smith, Charles S. Hempstead, and David Dickey. The report was adopted.

The Committee on Mileage presented their report, stating that there have been paid into the hands of the Committee from 34 Presbyteries the sum of

$864.28; and that an apportionment has been made on 43,022 miles of travel in coming to the General Assembly, at the rate of 2.0092 cents for each mile of travel in favor of 47 members, who have applied for their portion of the fund, and each of whose Presbyteries, excepting Ithaca, has contributed thereto.

The report was adopted, and the Committee on Mileage were directed to pay the Commissioners accordingly.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the report of the Committee on Church Extension, relative to the Overtures on the subject of Home Missions, when, after full discussion, it was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee on Church Extension, to whom were referred the Overtures and memorials on the subject of Home Missions, from the Third and Fourth Presbyteries of Philadelphia, the Synod of Iowa, and the Presbyteries of Chicago and Iowa City, respectfully report: [21] That their attention has been especially directed to those cases of Home Missionary effort, which are excluded by the rules of the American Home Missionary Society. Such are, for example, the employment of Synodical, Presbyterial, and generally of exploring or itinerant Presbyterian missionaries, and the planting of Presbyterian churches in advance of all others in towns and neighborhoods, and the founding of churches within the chartered limits of cities and large villages.

The Form of Government of our Church, Chapter XVIII., expressly authorizes the inferior judicatories to apply to the General Assembly for missionary assistance, and in express terms authorizes the Assembly to send missionaries to any part of the Church. The principles of our Presbyterianism, applicable to this subject, are, that the Church is one; that, in accordance with this idea, the stronger parts of the Church must assist the weaker, and that the reservoir into which the surplus shall flow to be equalized and distributed, is the General Assembly. It is obvious that the details of the reception and distribution of funds for this object cannot be arranged by the whole body of the Assembly, but that the Assembly must employ some agency for this purpose; and our opinion is that it is entirely free to choose any agency whatever. Of course it may operate through a voluntary association like the American Home Missionary Society; but your Committee do not conceive that its use of that Society for specific purposes either gives that Society a right to control the whole subject of Church Extension for our denomination, or releases the General Assembly from its own obligation to do so. The older and richer Synods, indeed, do not feel so much the pressure of this necessity, as they are able to afford the needed supplementary aid from their own resources; but it is urged upon us from the more new and destitute portions of our Church, that our interests are grievously suffering, because neither the American Home Missionary Society nor any other agency meets their wants in certain respects, such as those which have been already mentioned; and their appeal in this behalf is made just where the Constitution of our Church directs that it should be made—to the General Assembly itself.

This being obviously, therefore, a case which cannot be reached so effectually by any action of the inferior judicatories, your Committee cannot see how the Assembly can refuse to exercise, in regard to it, that power of "superintendence of the concerns of the whole Church," expressly confided to it by the Constitution. They therefore recommend the following action:

Resolved, 1. That the General Assembly hereby establishes a Standing Committee, to be called "The Church Extension Committee," a majority of whom shall reside in or near the city of Philadelphia. This Committee shall

have no other powers than those conferred by the Assembly; and the functions now assigned to them are those of employing Presbyterial, Synodical, and other Presbyterian itinerant or exploring agents, and affording aid in such exceptional cases as those already mentioned, and also the receiving and disbursing of funds for these objects. [22]

2. That, in recommending this course of action, the General Assembly distinctly declare that it is not their intention thus to establish an Ecclesiastical Board, or to interfere with the proper functions of the American Home Missionary Society, but, as heretofore, they recommend that Society to the confidence and co-operation of the churches under their care.

3. That the Standing Committee on Church Extension, now constituted, shall consist of fifteen members, to be chosen by the Assembly in such manner as the Assembly may direct, and the Committee shall, at its first meeting, divide itself into three equal parts, to serve respectively one, two, and three years, but the same persons shall be re-eligible at the pleasure of the Assembly.

4. Five members of the Committee shall be a quorum; but in order to elect any salaried officer of the Committee, or to increase or diminish the salary of the same, a majority of the Committee shall be necessary to constitute a quorum. The Committee shall have power to fill any vacancies occurring while the Assembly is not in session, and they shall make an annual report to the Assembly of all their proceedings.

Adjourned until 3½ o'clock P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Wednesday, May 23d, 3½ o'clock P. M.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

Resolutions on the subject of Temperance were moved, and ordered to be put upon the docket.

It having been stated to the Assembly, that the question, on the adoption this morning of the report of the Committee on Church Extension relative to Home Missions, was not fairly understood by the house, the vote was unanimously reconsidered, when after considerable discussion the report was again adopted.

The Special Committee on the Report of the Trustees of the Church Erection Fund, made their report, which was accepted.

Rev. B. B. Westhook addressed the Assembly in behalf of the American Sunday-School Union, after which the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That this Assembly highly appreciates the American Sunday-School Union, as an evangelical missionary agency; and, while we heartily rejoice in the continued prosperity of the institution, we most cordially commend it to the favorable regards of all our churches.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reported in relation to certain Overtures and memorials that had been before them upon the subject of Slavery. The report was accepted, and its consideration was made the first order of the day for to-morrow morning.

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

Concluded with prayer. [23]

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

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

After the usual time had been occupied with devotional exercises, the Minutes of the preceding session were read and approved.

The Committee on Leave of Absence reported, that leave had been given to Elder Hon. C. Noble, Rev. I. W. Rice, Rev. S. W. Bush, Elder Hon. A. P. Hascall, C. R. Robert, T. J. Campbell, R. H. Hurlbut, H. A. Babcock, Rev. J. B. Hubbard, and Elder R. L. Seely.

A *Committee* consisting of Rev. T. H. Skinner, D. D., Rev. R. Adair, and Hon. A. E. Lambert, was appointed *to nominate* "The Church Extension Committee."

Resolved, That the thanks of the General Assembly be presented to the ladies of the First Presbyterian church of this city under the pastoral care of Rev. Artemas Bullard, D. D., for the very elegant entertainment with which they honored us last evening.

A paper recommending a day of fasting and prayer, on account of the wide-spread immoralities of our land and the consequent divine judgments upon it, was presented by Rev. Samuel K. Sneed, and ordered to be placed upon the docket.

The Assembly entered upon the consideration of the report of the special Committee on the Report of the Trustees of the Church Erection Fund; and, after discussion, it was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee to whom was referred the report of the Trustees of the Church Erection Fund, having had the matters therein contained under consideration, present the following report:

1. The Charter.

The Trustees having, according to the direction of the last General Assembly, obtained from the Legislature of the State of New York an act of incorporation, and having accepted the same, which act they have reported to this General Assembly; therefore:

Resolved, That this General Assembly approve said act of incorporation and the acceptance thereof by the Trustees.

2. Election of Trustees.

The term of service of the following Trustees, Walter S. Griffith, William E. Dodge, and Oliver H. Lee, having expired, the Committee nominate them as suitable persons for re-election for three years, according to the provisions of the plan for the management and distribution of the Fund: and recommend that the election be held on Friday morning immediately after the opening of the Assembly.

3. Transfer of the Fund.

At the close of the last General Assembly, the Board not being incorporated or even organized, the amount of the Fund then collected was properly left in the custody of the Treasurer of the Assembly, but the Board now being fully organized, and having a legal existence, [24] it appears to the Committee desirable and proper, that the custody of the Fund as far as completed should be committed to those who are responsible for its future management, and they therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the closing sentence of the 15th article of the Plan for Distribution be altered to read as follows: "The Treasurer of the General Assembly is hereby directed to transfer the moneys and securities belonging to the Church Erection Fund, in his hands, to the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the General Assembly's Church Erection Fund, upon the written order of the Board, signed by its President and Secretary."

4. Thanks to the Treasurer.

Resolved, That the thanks of the General Assembly are hereby tendered to Anthony P. Halsey, Esq., its Treasurer, for the accommodating, patient, and faithful attention that he has bestowed on the reception and the management of the Church Erection Fund, while it has been in his hands; and that the Stated Clerk communicate this resolution to Mr. Halsey.

5. Auditing Committee.

Resolved, That the Auditing Committee appointed by the last General Assembly be re-appointed for the coming year.

6. Change of the Plan.

In reply to the memorial of the Presbytery of Kalamazoo, requesting a change in the conditions of the 12th and 14th sections of the Plan of Distribution, the Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That upon a careful examination it will be found, that the Plan contains no conditions or requirements not necessary to the permanence and perpetuity of the Fund; and that essentially to modify or change the conditions of distribution would jeopard its perpetuity.

7. Premature Distribution of the Fund.

In reply to the suggestion of the Presbytery of Ithaca, that the distribution of the Fund should be commenced before the amount originally contemplated is paid in, the Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That good faith towards many of the contributors to the Fund, and a becoming regard to consistency on the part of the Assembly in its reiterated declaration of its purposes and pledges on this subject, alike forbid any distribution till the whole sum is completed.

8. Injunction to the Synods.

Resolved, That the Synods be enjoined to give particular attention to Article XI. of the Plan of Distribution, requiring the appointment of [25] Committees of Church Extension, and the transmission of the names and residences of the members, to the Board of Trustees.

9. Completion of the Fund.

The Trustees having reported a proposed assessment on the several Synods, for the purpose of completing the Fund, as follows:

Albany	$1500	Indiana	$500
Utica	500	Wabash	500
Geneva	1500	Illinois	500
Susquehanna	500	Peoria	500
Genesee	1800	Iowa	100
New York and New Jersey	6000	Missouri	500
Pennsylvania	1100	Virginia	1500
West Pennsylvania	500	Kentucky	200
Michigan	1500	Tennessee	300
Western Reserve	1000	West Tennessee	300
Ohio	500	Mississippi	300
Cincinnati	500		

Resolved, 1. That the General Assembly recommend the several Synods now to assume these assessments.

Resolved, 2. That the members of the several Synods be now called upon to state what amount they have already secured by collections and subscriptions; and also what amount they will individually pledge themselves to raise.

Resolved, 3. That the Trustees be directed to secure the services of such special agency or agencies as they may think best, as soon as they are satisfied that such agency or agencies are necessary to the early completion of the Fund.

Rev. Zephaniah M. Humphrey, Delegate from the Presbyterian and Congregational Convention of Wisconsin, and Rev. Charles C. Parker, Delegate from the General Convention of Vermont, after short addresses, to which the Moderator responded, respectfully took their leave.

Adjourned to meet, in the lecture-room of this church, this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

Thursday, May 24th, 3 o'clock P. M.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

The Committee on the Polity of the Church made a report which was adopted, and is as follows:

1. The Committee on the Polity of the Church report, that an application has been made, by the Synod of Geneva, for the erection of a new Synod, to be composed of four Presbyteries of the Synod of Geneva; and, as the matter has been amicably arranged by those con[26]cerned, and no objection appears to such a course, they recommend that the Presbyteries of Onondaga, Cayuga, Cortland, and Tioga be erected into a new Synod, to be called the Synod of Onondaga.

They also recommend that the first meeting of the Synod of Onondaga be appointed at Cortlandville, on the second Tuesday of October, 1855, at 7 o'clock P. M.; that Rev. Levi Parsons preach the opening sermon and preside until a Moderator is chosen; or, in case of his absence, that the oldest member present preach and preside.

2. They also report an application from the Presbytery of St. Joseph, to be transferred from the Synod of Michigan to the Synod of Wabash. As this transfer would be convenient for the Presbytery, and has been arranged with the knowledge and consent of the Synod of Michigan, the Committee recommend that the transfer be made as requested.

3. The Committee further report an application, from the Fourth Presbytery of New York, for such a modification of the rules in the Digest, as will facilitate the reception of ministers from foreign bodies, with whom we are upon terms of fraternal correspondence. The Committee can see and appreciate the fact, that in the great changes which have occurred, bringing the ends of the earth near together, instances of seeming hardship may occur; still in their judgment the time has not yet come, when it is wise for this Assembly to introduce the change in our arrangements referred to; and they therefore recommend that no action be taken by the Assembly in the premises.

The Assembly entered upon the consideration of the report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures, relating to the subject of Slavery.

Pending the discussion of this subject, the Assembly suspended business, and proceeded to the body of the church, where, agreeably to previous ar-

rangements, the ordinance of the Lord's Supper was celebrated, in union with a number of Christian brethren and sisters, who accepted the invitation to participate with them.

The public services in the church having been brought to a close, the Assembly returned to the lecture-room and resumed business: when the special Committee on the report of the Standing Committee on Education for the Gospel Ministry, presented a report, which was accepted and placed upon the docket.

The special Committee, on the report of the Trustees of the Presbyterian House, and of the Publication Committee, presented a report which was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee to whom was referred the report of the Trustees of the Presbyterian House, and of the Publication Committee, have considered the same and report the following preamble and resolutions, for the adoption of the Assembly, namely:

Whereas, the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania, by an act approved by the Governor, April 21, 1855, incorporated "The Trustees of the Presbyterian House," in Philadelphia, who are by said act to be elected by this body, therefore [27]

Resolved, by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America: 1. That the said charter be, and the same is hereby, accepted; and that the Trustees, created by said act of incorporation, be directed to perform all the duties required by their appointment.

Resolved, 2. That the said Trustees be directed to give such official notification to the proper authorities of the State of Pennsylvania, as may be necessary, of the acceptance of the charter by the General Assembly.

Resolved, 3. That the Assembly do now elect ten Trustees, under this charter, five of whom shall be ministers, and five laymen, all of whom shall be connected with some Presbytery or church under the care of the General Assembly.

Resolved, 4. That the first meeting of the Trustees shall be at such time and place as shall be fixed by the Trustee first elected, or in case of his inability to act, the Trustee next elected, who shall act as Chairman, until the Board is constituted by the election of a President and Secretary.

Resolved, 5. That the Trustees, at their first meeting, be directed to divide themselves into two portions, and in such manner that there shall always be in the Board five ministers and five laymen.

Resolved, 6. That, in electing these Trustees, a nomination shall be made in the Assembly, and that the election shall be by ballot on the day following that on which the nomination is made,

Resolved, 7. That these Trustees be directed to keep an accurate record of all their proceedings, and report the same annually to the Assembly.

Resolved, 8. That these Trustees be directed to take such measures for raising the amount pledged by the last Assembly, for the purchase of the "Presbyterian House," as they may deem expedient and proper.

Resolved, 9. That the action of the Publication Committee, as reported to the Assembly, be approved, and the Committee instructed to proceed officially in discharging the duties of their appointment; and that a brief synopsis of their report be published in the Appendix to the Minutes, under the direction of the Stated Clerk.

Resolved, 10. That the members of the Committee, whose term of office expires during these sessions of the Assembly, namely, Rev. Albert Barnes,

Rev. Nathan S. S. Beman, D. D., Rev. Thomas Brainerd, D. D., Rev. William Eagleton, D. D., and Rev. Asa D. Smith, D. D., be re-elected.

Resolved, 11. That the report of the Treasurer of the Trustees of the Presbyterian House, and that of the Publication Committee, having been audited, be approved.

Resolved, 12. That the Trustees of the Presbyterian House be directed to report to the next Assembly a plan of rules and regulations for the government of said Trustees in the discharge of their duties.

Nominations for Trustees of the Presbyterian House were made; the election to take place to-morrow.

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

Concluded with prayer. [28]

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

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer. Half an hour was occupied with devotional exercises.

The Minutes of the preceding session were read and approved.

The Committee on Leave of Absence reported that leave had been given to Rev. E. D. Morris, Rev. S. Cowles, Elders J. R. Bates and Charles Barnes, Rev. A. H. Gaston, Elders E. Gillett and S. Beckley, Rev. A. G. Gallaher, and Elder P. C. Baldwin.

The Committee to nominate the *Church Extension Committee* reported the following names: Rev. Albert Barnes, Rev. Thomas Brainerd, D. D., Rev. Thos. J. Shepherd, Rev. Henry Darling, Rev. Benj. J. Wallace, M. M. Baldwin, John A. Brown, Thomas B. Sparhawk, Rev. Geo. L. Prentiss, D. D., Rev. Jonathan F. Stearns, D. D., Rev. Sam'l T. Spear, D. D., Rev. John C. Smith, D. D., Hon. John L. Mason, Joseph B. Sheffield, and Hon. Edward A. Lambert. The report was adopted.

The Committee on Devotional Exercises reported supplies for the various pulpits in the city and vicinity on the ensuing Sabbath.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures made the following reports, which were severally adopted:

Your Committee report an Overture from the Synod of Missouri, respecting the common version of the Bible. The said memorial sets forth the fact that strenuous efforts have been made for years, and are now made, especially in the West, to destroy confidence in, and set aside, our common and most excellent version of the Bible, as very defective and sectarian, and to introduce a new one.

The memorial, moreover, sets forth, that we, as Presbyterians, have been misrepresented, and the idea conveyed that some of our ministers favor this scheme. Our silence on the subject has resulted in making the impression, among some of our people, that the common version of the Bible is not worthy of confidence. Therefore,

Resolved, 1. That we have unshaken confidence in our common version, and a firm belief that a better one on the whole, for common use, cannot be had.

Resolved, 2. That we deprecate the incalculable evils that would inevitably result from such an attempt, by any denomination or denominations, to introduce a new version, destroying, as it would, confidence in our common version, ejecting it from our schools, opening the way for conflicting, sectarian versions, and sadly wounding and marring our beautiful Protestantism.

Resolved, 3. That, in the judgment of this Assembly, not one of our judicatories, and not one minister, approves of, or sympathizes with, this injudicious sectarian movement.

Resolved, 4. That all our ministers be careful, in expounding the word publicly, so to expound, as to inspire and sustain confidence in our excellent version, as truly the Word of God; believing, as we do, that the honest-hearted inquirer searching after the truth, with a teachable spirit, will find it.

An Overture has also been received from the Presbytery of Chi[29]cago, asking that measures be adopted by the Assembly to obtain an equal representation in the Prudential Committee of the American Board of Foreign Missions.

And that arrangements be made with the Board to secure the erection of Presbyteries on foreign shores.

The Committee report, in regard to the first part: That inasmuch as the Prudential Committee meet, of necessity, weekly, to transact the important business intrusted to them, it does not seem to be possible to make any arrangement different from that already existing.

In regard to the second part, they recommend that the matter be left with the Standing Committee of the Assembly, appointed for the express purpose alluded to in the Overture, and who are to make a report to this body at the present sessions.

An Overture has also been placed in the hands of the Committee, asking, that, in view of the present unbecoming and censurable variety existing in the churches in their form of admission of church members on profession of their faith, and in view of the fact that such an act is a universal one, and the same in all our churches, a special Committee be appointed to report to the next General Assembly some form of admission for general use by all our churches; and that the same, if approved, be recommended by the Assembly, that there may be uniformity and impressive propriety in such a public solemn act.

The Committee recommend that the Overture be accepted by the Assembly, and that such a Committee be appointed.

The Assembly proceeded to the election of three Trustees of the Church Erection Fund, in the place of those whose term of service is about to expire; and the following individuals were elected: Walter S. Griffith, Oliver H. Lee, and William E. Dodge.

As Trustees of the Presbyterian House, the following individuals were elected: John A. Brown, M. W. Baldwin, Charles S. Wurts, Samuel H. Perkins, John C. Farr, Rev. Albert Barnes, Rev. Thomas Brainerd, D. D., Rev. Benjamin J. Wallace, Rev. Henry Darling, and Rev. David H. Riddle, D. D.

The Assembly then took up the unfinished business of yesterday, namely, the consideration of the report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures relative to the subject of Slavery.

After protracted discussion, the previous question was moved and carried, after which, the report of the Committee, as amended, was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee of Bills and Overtures has received memorials on the subject of Slavery from the Synod of Iowa, the Synod of Western Reserve, the Presbyteries of Elyria, St. Joseph, Cincinnati, Champlain, Ithaca, Peoria and Knox, Wabash, Athens, Maumee, Hamilton, Indianapolis, Geneva, and the Congregational church of Colden; all couched in the most respectful language, all complaining that the orders of the Assembly of 1853 have not been complied with, and all of them calling for action on the part of the Assembly. [30]

They have also received a memorial from the Presbytery of Philadelphia,

3d, deprecating any action on the part of this body, out of a sincere regard for the peace, unity, and prosperity of the Church.

After protracted, deliberate, and prayerful consideration of the whole subject, the Committee are unanimous in recommending to the General Assembly the following action:

1. That the General Assembly address a pastoral letter to all the churches under their care, re-affirming the testimony of past Assemblies in regard to the sinfulness of the system of Slavery, as it generally exists in these United States, and expressing their deep regret at the intemperateness of word and action that has too often characterized the spirit of those who have conscientiously aimed at its overthrow; and that they urge upon their churches earnest efforts, by all Christian and constitutional modes, to remove the evil from the midst of us.

2. That a Committee be appointed to report to the next Assembly on the constitutional power of the Assembly over the subject of slaveholding in our churches; and that we recommend that this evil be removed from our Church, as soon as it can be done in a Christian and constitutional manner.

Resolved, That the Trustees of the Presbyterian House be, and they hereby are, authorized to receive and hold in trust the title to the property of any individual church which may be confided to them, provided that it be in accordance with the terms of their charter.

Adjourned until 3½ o'clock P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Friday, May 25th, 3½ o'clock P. M.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

The Moderator announced the following Committees:

On a Form of Admission to the Church—Rev. Edwin F. Hatfield, D. D., Rev. Samuel T. Spear, D. D., and Rev. Jonathan F. Stearns, D. D.

On the Pastoral Letter—Rev. James P. Wilson, D. D., Rev. Artemas Bullard, D. D., Rev. William Lusk, Rev. Samuel K. Sneed, and Rev. Samuel S. Thomson.

On the Constitutional Powers of the Assembly—Rev. Albert Barnes, Rev. Asa D. Smith, D. D., Rev. A. H. H. Boyd, D. D., Hon. Wm. Jessup, LL.D., and Hon. Augustus P. Hascall.

The resolutions upon the subject of Temperance were taken from the docket, adopted, and are as follows:

Whereas, Intemperance is the great antagonist of domestic peace and social happiness—of sound morality and pure Christianity, and at war with all the dearest interests of man for this world and the future; and *whereas*, the experience of two hundred years proves, that [31] this evil can never be removed or effectively resisted, while the traffic in intoxicating drinks is continued, it being necessary if we would stop the effect to remove the cause; therefore

Resolved, 1. That this Assembly, as lovers of our holy religion, of our country and our race, and as office-bearers in the Church, can but feel a lively interest in the progress of the Temperance reform.

Resolved, 2. That we here record our devout thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the recent unparalleled progress of this reform, as evinced by the action of the Legislatures of thirteen States and two Territories of our Union, in the passage of laws prohibiting entirely the traffic in all intoxicating beverages.

Resolved, 3. That, in the opinion of this body, laws prohibiting the sale of

intoxicating drinks, can interfere with the rights of no man; because no man has a right of any name or nature, inconsistent with the public good, or at war with the welfare of the community; it being a well-known and universally acknowledged maxim of law, that "No man has a right to use his own to the injury of his neighbor."

Resolved, 4. That we earnestly recommend to the ministers and congregations in our connection, and to all others, to persevere in vigorous efforts until laws shall be enacted in every State and Territory of our beloved country, prohibiting entirely a traffic which is the principal cause of the drunkenness, and its consequent pauperism, crime, taxation, lamentation, war, and ruin to the bodies and souls of men, with which the country has so long been afflicted.

The report of the special Committee on the Annual Report of the Education Committee was considered, adopted, and is as follows:

The special Committee, to whom was referred the first annual report of the "Standing Committee on Education for the Ministry," in view of the suggestions of that report, and of the urgent needs of the Education cause, recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, 1. That the first resolution adopted by the Assembly of the last year, as given on page 506 of the Minutes, be so amended as to read, that, "A Committee of fifteen ministers and members of the Presbyterian Church, of whom five shall always be laymen, shall be appointed by the General Assembly, to be called 'The Standing Committee on Education for the Ministry;' seven of whom shall reside in or near the city of Philadelphia. Five members of this Committee shall constitute a quorum; but for the election of a Secretary of Education, or for action upon his salary, a majority shall be necessary to a quorum."

Resolved, 2. This Committee, as thus enlarged, shall divide itself into three equal classes, the first, second, and third, whose terms of office shall expire, respectively, in one, two, and three years. The General Assembly shall annually elect after the present year, five members of this Committee for three years, to fill such vacancies. It shall also, each year, fill any vacancy which may have occurred in the other classes. The Committee shall have power, by the vote of a majority, to fill any vacancies occurring in the interval between the sessions of two Assemblies for such an interval. [32]

Resolved, 3. That it is inexpedient for this Assembly to proceed to the election of a General Secretary of Education; but that it direct the Standing Committee to procure for that office, if possible, the services of the Rev. Artemas Bullard, D. D., of St. Louis.

Resolved, 4. That this Assembly earnestly commend the whole subject of Education for the ministry to the special care of the Synods, Presbyteries, and churches, exhorting them to use all diligence in searching out suitable candidates for the ministry, and to increased faithfulness in training them for the whole work of the ministry; and that all the churches be requested to take up annual collections for this most important object.

The report of the Committee of the last Assembly "On the memorial with reference to Infirm Ministers," was referred to the Standing Committee on Education for the Gospel Ministry.

The Assembly took from the docket the report of the Committee on Church Psalmody; and the following substitute was adopted:

Resolved, 1. That the Publication Committee confer with the proprietors of the "Church Psalmist," and secure, if possible, the transfer, on reasonable terms, of the copyright of said book to the General Assembly, and that the Committee have full powers to close arrangements binding on the Assembly.

Resolved, 2. That, in case of failure, said Committee report to the next General Assembly, and at the same time recommend to that body the course which they deem it most advisable to pursue in the premises.

Resolved, That the Trustees of those colleges within our bounds which originated in the action of any of the Synods connected with this Assembly, and the colleges which now report to said Synods, be requested to make a report annually before the 15th of April to the Education Committee, to be incorporated in their annual report to the Assembly.

The following individuals were nominated and elected as members of the *Standing Committee on Education* for the Gospel Ministry, with power to elect their own chairman. Rev. Albert Barnes, Rev. Thomas Brainerd, D. D., Rev. John Jenkins, Rev. Geo. Duffield, Jr., Rev. Henry Darling, Rev. Thos. J. Shepherd, William Purves, Hon. Wm. Jessup, LL.D., Rev. Thos. H. Skinner, D. D., Rev. William Adams, D. D., Rev. J. J. Owen, D. D., Rev. A. A. Wood, I. B. Pinneo, Norman White, and J. W. Benedict.

The Standing Committee on Foreign Presbyteries made the following report, which was adopted.

The Standing Committee appointed by the last Assembly to correspond with the missionaries, and with the Prudential Committee of the American Board, in reference to the formation of foreign Presbyteries, report that their Chairman has failed to prepare and submit a report for their consideration, and that a majority of the Committee being present desire that Rev. A. E. Campbell, D. D., and Rev. Asa D. Smith, D. D., be added to the Committee.

The paper presented by Rev. S. K. Sneed, relative to the appointment of a *day of fasting* and prayer on account of the wide-spread [33] immoralities of our land and the consequent divine judgments upon it, was referred to a special *Committee*, consisting of Rev. P. G. Cook, Rev. S. Mills Day, and Hon. E. A. Lambert.

Resolutions upon the subject of *Mileage* were introduced, and referred to a special *Committee*, consisting of Rev. Robert Adair and Rev. John Crowell.

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

Concluded with prayer.

Saturday, May 26th, 9 o'clock A. M.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

After the usual time spent in devotional exercises, the Minutes of the last session were read and approved.

The Committee on Leave of Absence reported that leave had been given to Rev. D. M. Lord, Rev. C. E. Rosenkrans, Rev. W. F. Doubleday, Rev. R. S. Crampton, and Elders Wm. Brocks, J. R. Lee, L. S. Crawford, and Geo. Mygatt.

It was moved to reconsider the reference of the Overture from the Presbytery of Chicago on Foreign Presbyteries to the Standing Committee on Foreign Missions; and, after an extended discussion, the motion was lost.

The Committee on the Narrative of the State of Religion made their report, which was adopted, and ordered to be printed in the Appendix to the Minutes.

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of Mileage, made the following report, which was adopted:

Whereas, a full representation, both of ministers and elders, from all the Presbyteries, is essential to the efficiency and welfare of the Church; and *whereas* this can be secured only by the co-operation of all the Presbyteries in raising an adequate fund to defray the necessary expenses of all the Commissioners to the Assembly; Therefore

Resolved, 1. That Messrs. J. W. Benedict and W. P. Cook, together with the Stated Clerk, be a *Committee, to estimate* the probable amount that will be required to defray the traveling *expenses* of Commissioners, and the contingent expenses of the Assembly, to assess the same in equitable proportions upon the Presbyteries, and to inform each Presbytery of its quota, as soon as practicable after the rising of this Assembly.

Resolved, 2. That on the fourth day after the opening of the Assembly, the Presbyteries shall be called upon to report whether the amount assessed upon them has been paid into the Treasury of the Assembly.

Resolved, 3. That the Commissioners to the Assembly, whose Presbyteries have paid their assessment, shall, within four days from and after the opening of the Assembly, present a bill of their necessary traveling expenses to the Standing Committee on Mileage, to be [34] audited by them, and paid in equal proportions, according to the funds in the hands of the Committee.

Resolved, 4. That all prior regulations of the Assembly on the subject of Mileage inconsistent with these resolutions be, and they are hereby, rescinded.

The Committee appointed to prepare a Pastoral Letter made the following report, which was adopted:

The Committee appointed to draft a Pastoral Letter to the churches under the care of the General Assembly, report, that in view of the entire insufficiency of time allotted for the performance of the duty assigned, and the utter impossibility, in such a limited period, of doing justice to so important a subject, or satisfying themselves or the Assembly, it be recommended to the General Assembly to re-consider the report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures, with the view of amending it, so as to strike out the words, "address a Pastoral Letter to the churches under their care," and make it read as follows: "That the General Assembly hereby re-affirm the testimony of past Assemblies in regard to the sinfulness of the system of Slavery, as it generally exists in these United States, and express their deep regret at the intemperateness of word and action which has too often characterized the spirit of those who have conscientiously aimed at its overthrow; and that they urge upon their churches earnest efforts, by all Christian and constitutional modes, to remove the evil from the midst of us."

In accordance with this report, the previous action of the Assembly upon this subject was reconsidered, and the proposed amendment was made.

Adjourned until 3 o'clock P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

Saturday, May 26th, 3 o'clock P. M.

The Assembly met, and was opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the preceding session were read and approved.

The Committee, to whom was referred the paper on the appointment of a day of fasting and prayer, made the following report, which was adopted:

Resolved, That in view of the late drought, the effects of which have been so severely experienced throughout the land during the past year, we clearly discern the dispensation of an over-ruling Providence, who corrects in kindness and afflicts in love. That we humbly acknowledge our entire dependence upon our Father in heaven, for both temporal and spiritual blessings; that we devoutly pray for the forgiveness of those sins which have required the visitation of His chastening hand, and that we gratefully own that it is by reason only of God's abounding mercy that we are now permitted to rejoice in the hope of returning fruitfulness and plenty.

The Committee upon the communication from the Delegate of the [35] New York Association made their report, which, after amendment, was adopted, and is as follows:

Whereas, the General Association of New York, at their meeting in Madrid, held August 23, 1854, by resolution forwarded to this body, have addressed us in a discourteous and objectionable manner; Therefore

Resolved, That the Assembly would respectfully request that the future communications of the Association to us be couched in courteous language.*

The Standing Committees of the Assembly respectively reported that no business was before them, and asked to be discharged. Their request was granted.

Resolved, That the thanks of this General Assembly be, and they are hereby, returned to Rev. W. C. Wisner, D. D., for the prompt, the able, the kind, the patient, the impartial and Christian manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of this body during its present sessions.

The traveling expenses of the Delegates to Corresponding Bodies, to Rhode Island, Wisconsin, and Vermont; the bill for printing and stationery, the janitor's bill, with the salary and traveling expenses of the Clerks, were ordered to be paid.

The expenses of Rev. O. P. Hoyt, in the performance of duties as a Delegate to the Presbyterian and Congregational Convention of Wisconsin, in the year 1849, were allowed, and ordered to be paid.

Resolved, That the thanks of the General Assembly be presented to the several railroad companies who have generously permitted the members of this Assembly to attend their sessions in St. Louis at a reduced fare.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Assembly be tendered to the citizens of St. Louis, who have extended their hospitality to the Commissioners and others in attendance, and have contributed to make their stay in this city so peculiarly pleasant; with the assurance of our fervent prayer that the blessing of God, in connection with this Assembly, may rest upon them.

Also, that the thanks of this Assembly be tendered to the Committee of Arrangements, for their promptness and activity in providing for our comfort.

Also, that the thanks of the Assembly be tendered to the Trustees of the Union Presbyterian church for the accommodations extended to the Assembly during their present session.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Assembly be given to Rev. Wm. Bradford, editor of the *Daily New York Evangelist*, for his full and minute report of the proceedings of the Assembly during its present sessions.

The Minutes of the session were read and approved.

The calling of the Roll was dispensed with.

The business of the Assembly having been finished, and the vote having been taken for the dissolving of the Assembly, the Moderator, with prayer and the apostolic benediction, declared the Assembly dissolved; and required another General Assembly, chosen in the same [36] manner, to meet in the Madison Square Presbyterian church, or in some other church designated by the Committee of Arrangements, in the city of New York, on the third Thursday of May 1856, at 11 o'clock A. M.

HENRY DARLING, *Permanent Clerk.*

St. Louis, May 26th, 1855.

* The resolution complained of is the following:

"*Resolved*, That, in continuing our correspondence with ecclesiastical bodies having churches in slaveholding States, the Association, so far from expressing any satisfaction with the practice of slaveholding, desire it to be understood, that, in connection with other objects, it is for the purpose of bearing their continued and earnest testimony against the sin of slaveholding and exerting their appropriate influence in favor of its speedy removal."—R.

APPENDIX.

ANNUAL NARRATIVE

Of the State of Religion within the Bounds of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, May, 1855.

Of the 108 Presbyteries on the Roll, 69 have sent up their annual Narratives on the State of Religion. From a patient and careful examination of them all, our hearts are cheered with the evidences that God is in the midst of us. A large proportion of the Presbyterial Narratives, we are happy to say, present a specific statement of the condition and prospects of the churches within their respective bounds. And, as we have perused these papers, and the eye has roamed over our wide field in rapid transit, without reference to order, resting now upon the city, and now upon the prairie, Presbyteries, the scene is one to stir the heart of every son and servant of the Church. Shade and sunshine diversify the landscape, but the sunlight prevails.

On the whole, the past year has been one of progress. Peace and prosperity are within our borders. With few exceptions, our churches have had rest. Our various departments of Christian enterprise have gone on undisturbed. Our cords are being lengthened and our stakes strengthened. There is much to encourage us to renewed devotion, activity, and prayer. The voice of Prophecy and Providence alike says to us as a Church, "Go up and possess the land."

Your Committee have found it no small task to collect, arrange, and condense the varied mass of information contained in the Narratives: but they have selected the following items as worthy of record:

Church Erection.

The subject of supplying all our congregations with houses of worship is just now occupying a large share of the attention of our Church. Twenty-one Presbyteries report thirty-three church-edifices completed during the year, or as now being toward completion; while a great number of churches are anxiously awaiting the day of their ability to "rise and build," aided by the Church Erection Fund. In all of our pioneer Presbyteries the want of suitable places of worship is sadly felt. One Presbytery, having under its care six churches, reports: "We have but one house of worship (except the shanty church at B.) in our Presbytery, and that was erected two years since, at an expense of over $1500, $300 of which were loaned from the Synod's Church Erection Fund."

Two other churches in this Presbytery are now struggling to build for themselves, while our Hundred Thousand Dollar Fund remains incomplete and unavailable. We cannot too earnestly urge upon our churches the duty of completing this important undertaking.

Want of Laborers.

Nor are churches alone needed. From most of our Western Presbyteries, South and North, there comes up the earnest call for "more men." One says: "We deplore the scarcity of ministers to fill the waste places." Another: "On this wide field we have but six ministers in actual service. Many churches and fields of labor are vacant. We greatly need more laborers, and feel the necessity of greater efforts to bring forth our young men into the ministry, that the Master's vineyard may be better cultivated." Another: "Our laborers are few. The field is large and ripe for harvest.

We pray for laborers." Another: "We have nine ministers to twenty-four churches." Another: "Six ministers to seventeen churches." Another: "We have to lament the destitutions on our field. Population is rapidly increasing, but our laborers do not increase in the same ratio." Another: "In many destitute places within our bounds, the earnest cry is heard from brethren and sisters of our own faith, 'Send us a minister,' while at the same time, some of our own vacant churches are calling in vain, and well nigh famishing, for the bread of life." Another: "Our churches are well attended, and new fields are opening with uncommon promise, but our ministers are too few; the demand far exceeding the supply; and we are compelled to give these places over to others, or suffer them to lie waste." We present these extracts, from eight different States, merely as specimens, with the hope of calling the attention of the whole Church to this point. Money we are offered. A support for every man whom we will furnish is pledged to us on the floor of the Assembly. Churches will be built, but where are the men to occupy them? New and wide doors are opening invitingly to our approach, but where are the men to enter them? Here, so far as concerns outward means for the enlargement of our Church, is our weakest point. "Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth laborers into his harvest." The last General Assembly, in session at Philadelphia, held the following language on this subject: "Many Presbyteries are seeking enlargement, and are hindered by the want of ministers, and of suitable places of worship. * * * * The reports on education for the ministry show that but partial attention has been given to the subject. The general interest felt concerning it is very far below what it should be, for it is second to no other. We believe it will never receive the consideration becoming its importance until our churches shall cease to rely upon any organizations, either ecclesiastical or voluntary, and shall make it a matter of daily prayerful concern among themselves." That Assembly also devolved upon this Committee the duty of incorporating into the Narrative whatever should be deemed of service to this subject. Your Committee regret to add that, so far as appears from the reports laid upon the table of the Assembly, we, as a Church, have made little advance in this direction during the year past. And they feel impelled to ask, with great solicitude, if something cannot be done to increase the number of candidates for the Gospel ministry.

Religious Education.

When we turn to the subject of the religious instruction of our children and youth, the face of our Church presents a different appearance. "Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun."

The universal interest among our churches in behalf of the rising generation gives promise for the future. Almost every Presbytery speaks of Sabbath-schools and Bible classes in all the churches; that they are well sustained, with increasing interest, and with enlarged numbers in attendance. Ten of our Presbyteries make special mention of the Assembly's Catechism, that it is more and more engaging the attention of their churches. "In the church of B.," says one Narrative, and it is the "shanty church" above mentioned, "85 Sabbath-school scholars have committed the whole of the Catechism to memory." Another Presbytery, having under its care 16 churches, reports: "With two or three exceptions, the Assembly's Catechism is taught in all our churches." Another mentions "the thorough recital of the entire Catechism by a child only four years of age." Another remarks: "In this respect we are returning to the customs of our fathers,

who spared no pains to deposit these treasures of Scriptural truth in the minds of the rising generation."

Your Committee quote these instances of devotion to catechetical instruction with great pleasure, and desire to record them as worthy examples to be followed by our whole Church.

We also notice, with gratitude to God, the increasing number of schools and seminaries springing up within our bounds, the result of Christian enterprise, to provide ample facilities for the liberal education of our sons and daughters.

Calvinistic Presbyterianism has ever been identified with a sound and liberal education for ministers and people. Its distinctive principles of faith and order grow best and flourish only in an atmosphere of intelligence; and we rejoice with thanksgiving that this ancient spirit still lives, and the mantles of the fathers have fallen upon the men present.

Several of our Southern Presbyteries report that their colored population are receiving a commendable degree of attention, and your Committee earnestly hope that churches and Christian families in our connection, will devote themselves to this work, and set before the world the wholesome example of public and family religious instruction to all their servants, young and old. Here is a point where all our churches involved in the difficulties of slavery can at least mitigate its evils, can testify by their acts of duty their fidelity to God, and their sense of obligation to those under their care, as the stewards of the mysteries of grace.

Revivals of Religion.

More than half of the Presbyteries from whom we have received reports have sent us cheering tidings of refreshings from the presence of the Holy Spirit. While upon some congregations have fallen but the gentle dews of grace, others have been moved with great power, resulting in large additions to the Church.

One hundred and twenty-four churches are specified as having enjoyed revivals of religion, while many of the Narratives barely mention this item in such general terms as these: "refreshing showers," "several revivals among us." One of our city Presbyteries reports: "With the exception of one small congregation, all our churches report conversions. In two, the work of reviving Christians and converting sinners to the faith of the Gospel has proceeded with great power; in another, a very precious season has been enjoyed, and the other churches have shared in like evidences of God's gracious presence." A few of the Narratives mention the number of conversions in the various churches; and we have gathered them up to the number of one thousand six hundred and eighty; but so many have given no figures that this presents no proper estimate of the number of the hopeful subjects of grace, which our blessed Master has given us during the past year. We thank Him for his goodness, while we deplore our own lack of faith and devotion, and pray for the speedy coming of the day of his power, when "one shall chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight."

The various causes of benevolence have been well sustained. Two Presbyteries only mention a decrease in their contributions, while many report an increase. This, considering the great financial embarrassments of the year, we regard as highly encouraging, and justly commendatory of the liberality of our churches.

Many churches which have been receiving missionary aid have become, during the year, self-supporting.

Nor has the good work of increasing the salaries of pastors been neglected.

Several Presbyteries report also that they (or their Synods) employ a missionary within their bounds to gather new churches, preach to vacant congregations, and promote, in various ways, the important interest of Church Extension.

There is evidently a growing family feeling among us, an increasing attachment to our own Church among its members, and a growing confidence in each other, on the part of ministers and churches, in the different sections of our wide field. May this confidence continue to grow by the exercise of a warm Christian charity, until "the watchmen shall see eye to eye, and lift up the voice together."

In conclusion, it only remains to record the names of thirty-one beloved brethren, whom, during the ecclesiastical year, the Chief Shepherd has called from among us to join "the general assembly and Church of the first born which are written in heaven."

Fathers and brethren, the time is short. How soon will our names appear in the annual list of the

Deaths of Ministers.

Rev.	James Miller,	of the Presbytery of	Champlain.
"	William Chittenden,	"	Watertown.
"	Israel Brainerd,	"	Utica.
"	Charles E. Avery,	"	Cayuga.
"	Eliphaz A. Platt,	"	Geneva.
"	Joseph Strough,	"	Bath.
"	John Humphrey,	"	Tioga.
"	Eliphalet M. Spencer,	"	Otsego.
"	Francis Janes,	"	Delaware.
"	Robert W. Hume,	"	"
"	Abraham Forman,	"	Ontario.
"	Reuben Tinker,	"	Buffalo.
"	Tyrrel Blair,	"	Angelica.
"	James H. Thomas,	"	North River.
"	Henry Kinney,	"	"
"	Isaac Lewis, D. D.,	"	Brooklyn.
"	Samuel Bell,	"	Wilmington.
"	William R. Durnett,	"	Philadelphia, Fourth.
"	Hezekiah W. Osborne,	"	Grand River.
"	Myron Tracy,	"	Portage.
"	William B. Stow,	"	Maumee.
"	James Rowland,	"	Franklin.
"	Robert H. Bishop, D. D.,	"	Hamilton.
"	Edwin Holt,	"	Madison.
"	Alfred Hawes,	"	Fort Wayne.
"	John Blatchford, D. D.,	"	Schuyler.
"	Calvin Butler,	"	Alton.
"	Samuel R. Wylie,	"	"
"	William P. Kendrick,	"	Ottawa.
"	Hiram F. Taylor,	"	Des Moines.
"	John F. Cook,	"	District of Columbia.
"	Thomas L. Hanmer,	"	"

By order of the General Assembly.

WILLIAM C. WISNER, *Moderator.*
EDWIN F. HATFIELD, *Stated Clerk.*

SUMMARY OF SCHEDULES.

I. Of the Synods and their Presbyteries.

SYNODS AND PRESBYTERIES.	Date.	Presbyteries.	Ministers.	Licentiates.	Candidates.	Churches.	Added on Exam.	Added on Certif.	Communicants.	Adult Baptisms.	Infant Baptisms.	Commiss. Fund.	Contingent Fund.	Domestic Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Education.	Publication.	STATED CLERKS.
I. Synod of Albany	1803	5	78	2	3	66	281	137	9043	118	111	$145 48	$22 00	$3933 63	$3726 52	$918 96	$2661 79	A. B. Lambert, D. D.
1. Champlain	1814	...	25	...	...	21	89	46	2656	26	35	.....	.....	293 00	768 59	.....	.....	David Dobie.
2. Troy	1820	...	24	1	...	16	78	37	2970	47	33	65 40	12 00	549 44	987 21	632 00	592 22	A. B. Lambert, D. D.
3. Albany	1791	...	10	1	2	11	32	24	1490	17	15	22 08	10 00	2060 09	1162 00	13 00	1167 39	Eber M. Rollo.
4. Columbia	1802	...	6	...	1	6	53	13	908	20	16	22 00	.....	390 00	271 00	100 00	350 00	William S. Leavitt.
5. Catskill	1851	...	13	...	...	12	29	17	1019	8	12	36 00	.....	641 10	537 72	173 96	552 18	Josiah Leonard.
II. Synod of Utica	1829	4	69	3	18	77	196	150	7453	69	115	105 50	11 88	2447 29	2865 54	1388 38	2604 26	William E. Knox.
1. St. Lawrence	1818	...	6	...	3	8	21	12	735	6	11	.....	.....	90 87	439 25	207 00	146 25	Baruch B. Beckwith.
2. Watertown	1822	...	17	...	8	22	97	48	1968	40	47	45 50	1 88	327 39	631 20	99 00	622 61	Isaac Brayton.
3. Oswego	1823	...	14	...	...	18	36	23	1494	4	19	.....	.....	971 14	793 42	473 19	663 55	Thomas A. Weed.
4. Utica	1842	...	32	3	7	29	42	67	3256	19	38	60 00	10 00	1057 89	1001 67	609 19	1171 85	Samuel W. Brace.
III. Synod of Geneva	1812	5	104	2	4	92	437	277	10,344	177	194	146 56	.....	3144 61	2903 37	1704 09	2746 94	Henry A. Nelson.
1. Geneva	1805	...	44	1	3	29	220	117	4598	80	79	28 92	.....	1629 19	1475 53	1077 72	1746 32	Charles Hawley.
2. Bath	1817	...	12	...	1	18	90	42	1607	47	21	11 82	.....	389 20	255 54	287 71	243 44	B. Coleman Smith.
3. Chemung	1836	...	24	...	...	21	75	73	2092	25	49	13 50	.....	494 00	674 00	193 00	373 00	Charles C. Carr.
4. Ithaca	1839	...	12	1	...	11	38	32	1542	16	38	63 32	.....	568 11	498 30	119 66	384 18	William N. McHarg.
5. Pennsylvania	1845	...	12	...	...	13	14	13	505	9	7	29 00	.....	64 11	.....	26 00	.....	Elijah D. Wells.
IV. Synod of Onondaga	1855	4	91	8	11	76	202	219	8256	61	133	171 27	17 00	3650 57	2772 43	1096 95	1519 77	
1. Onondaga	1810	...	31	...	4	26	21	75	2659	6	49	63 00	5 00	1044 46	796 62	204 40	735 77	Seth P. M. Hastings.
2. Cayuga	1810	...	34	8	3	22	56	50	2402	29	37	32 00	9 00	1060 02	683 83	660 87	497 62	Henry A. Nelson.
3. Cortland	1825	...	15	...	4	17	82	51	1697	7	21	50 00	.....	1034 16	522 21	98 00	60 00	Hercules R. Dunham.
4. Tioga	1829	...	11	...	...	11	43	43	1498	19	26	26 27	3 00	511 93	769 77	133 68	226 38	Peter Lockwood.

SYNODS AND PRESBYTERIES.	Date.	Presbyteries.	Ministers.	Licentiates.	Candidates.	Churches.	Added on Exam.	Added on Certif.	Communicants.	Adult Baptisms.	Infant Baptisms.	Commiss. Fund.	Contingent Fund.	Domestic Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Education.	Publication.	STATED CLERKS.
V. S. of Susquehanna...	1853	3	47	...	6	46	113	64	4699	33	49	$97 00	$10 00	$1354 15	$1434 36	$378 30	$185 91	David Torrey.
1. Otsego	1820	...	18	...	2	19	56	22	1660	23	28	46 00	10 00	420 86	773 00	231 37	185 91	John G. Hall.
2. Chenango	1826	...	14	...	2	17	39	42	1696	10	21	51 00	.....	933 29	661 36	146 93	.....	Henry Callahan.
3. Delaware	1831	...	15	...	2	10	18	...	1343	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Isaac D. Cornwell.
VI. Synod of Genesee...	1821	6	116	8	8	126	472	431	14,447	115	225	280 80	18 00	6053 44	4008 43	3091 14	7717 57	Timothy Stillman.
1. Genesee	1819	...	15	...	1	16	17	21	1504	7	9	17 00	.....	430 00	336 50	437 25	660 19	Gabriel S. Corwin.
2. Ontario	1817	...	12	1	...	16	28	34	1690	10	19	37 50	6 00	235 87	137 00	277 67	444 85	John Barnard, D. D.
3. Rochester	1819	...	23	1	4	17	126	77	2938	27	41	.....	.....	2891 03	1059 18	926 72	1493 99	Jonathan Copeland.
4. Niagara	1817	...	16	1	...	17	74	50	2511	27	37	42 80	.....	500 59	570 02	.....	2574 02	Charles E. Furman.
5. Buffalo	1823	...	42	4	3	43	131	240	4471	32	112	183 50	12 00	1925 95	1905 73	1418 22	2501 12	Timothy Stillman.
6. Angelica	1828	...	8	1	...	17	96	3	1333	12	7	.....	.....	70 00	.....	31 28	43 40	Samuel A. Rawson.
VII. S. of N. Y. and N. J.	1788	10	218	31	46	156	1063	1017	23,179	267	637	445 48	215 92	24,777 15	24,791 47	9867 97	4744 76	John N. Lewis.
1. Hudson	1797	...	16	1	3	13	126	45	1762	67	38	57 00	12 00	392 50	485 26	158 86	310 15	Obadiah M. Johnson.
2. North River	1819	...	16	...	3	16	23	16	1643	10	22	23 00	7 50	843 37	925 79	925 54	555 00	Sumner Mandeville.
3. Long Island	1791	...	11	...	...	6	16	9	554	7	29	27 68	2 02	133 50	139 78	20 00	63 63	Henry Clark.
4. New York, 3d	1831	...	41	11	30	22	376	243	5553	78	170	108 00	108 00	13,046 75	12,227 09	6448 14	2134 54	Edwin F. Hatfield, D. D.
5. New York, 4th	1845	...	31	12	7	11	116	141	2328	22	71	11 00	10 00	2368 27	4912 32	274 50	242 37	Thomas H. Skinner, Jr.
6. Brooklyn	1838	...	17	2	...	8	117	99	2445	23	42	98 00	.....	2350 00	2490 00	480 00	633 00	James W. McLane, D.D.
7. Newark	1824	...	32	2	1	20	149	136	3630	18	107	70 40	63 40	4277 38	2126 80	1057 05	756 07	Joseph Few Smith, Jr.
8. Rockaway	1839	...	19	...	...	18	57	37	2539	12	51	50 40	10 00	554 00	709 18	316 88	50 00	Joel Campbell.
9. Montrose	1832	...	22	2	2	32	57	47	2423	26	63	.....	3 00	811 38	775 25	187 00	.....	Adam Miller.
10. San Francisco	1849	...	13	1	...	10	26	244	302	4	44	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Samuel H. Willey.
VIII. Synod of Penna...	1838	4	77	5	15	68	432	244	10,179	112	351	212 50	61 58	6047 85	3941 16	3775 73	9517 07	John McKnight.
1. Wilmington	1833	...	9	...	...	17	46	23	1201	8	26	7 61	1 00	743 62	630 56	176 50	164 50	Abraham D. Pollock.
2. Philadelphia, 3d	1832	...	26	2	4	21	69	64	2924	26	103	31 00	29 00	394 60	384 83	458 94	101 05	John McKnight.
3. Philadelphia, 4th	1845	...	29	3	10	21	239	130	5084	65	151	123 89	29 38	3556 31	2277 92	2594 04	9118 52	Charles Brown.
4. Harrisburgh	1839	...	13	...	1	9	78	27	970	13	71	50 00	2 20	1353 32	647 85	546 25	133 00	Conway P. Wing.

IX. Synod of W. Penna.	1843	3	22	1	2	37	144	90	2694	52	115	47	88	8	20	885	60	1012	53	152	70	334	38	George A. Lyon, D. D.
1. Erie	1801	...	11	1	1	15	72	38	1172	27	47	.....		2	00	311	06	218	53	.....		280	38	Joseph Vance.
2. Meadville	1842	...	7	...	1	16	49	16	890	23	41	20	88	3	20	145	54	22	00	152	70	30	00	Richard Craighead.
3. Pittsburgh	1839	...	4	...	...	6	23	36	632	2	27	27	00	3	00	429	00	772	00	.....		24	00	Samuel M. Sparks.
X. Synod of Michigan	1834	5	74	1	9	86	182	415	7296	51	174	128	64	30	00	2487	25	2030	34	864	36	2007	29	Chauncy Osborn.
1. Detroit	1826	...	23	...	3	28	52	179	3044	18	62	33	00	10	00	910	71	665	00	473	00	468	81	Robert R. Kellogg.
2. Monroe	1833	...	7	...	...	12	38	53	1148	10	42	17	00	4	00	385	85	281	12	.....		367	77	Henry G. Blinn.
3. Marshall	1838	...	17	...	1	22	54	94	1460	12	41	35	09	8	00	445	32	369	31	245	33	596	59	S. Dwight Pitkin.
4. Washtenaw	1838	...	15	1	5	13	17	40	1054	4	20	30	91	4	00	464	37	392	34	146	03	220	37	Lucius I. Root.
5. Kalamazoo	1838	...	12	...	...	11	21	49	590	7	9	12	64	4	00	281	00	322	57	.....		353	75	Milton Bradley.
XI. S. of W. Reserve	1825	7	122	7	3	110	139	228	6731	44	173	150	41	6	04	2064	80	2862	23	97	50	5088	44	William Hanford.
1. Grand River	1814	...	15	...	...	12	12	48	858	5	6	.....		.....		111	63	164	05	10	00	102	00	Ebenezer Bushnell.
2. Portage	1818	...	25	4	3	17	21	9	1143	2	20	10	67	.....		389	00	309	00	62	00	289	00	William Hanford.
3. Huron	1823	...	19	...	...	16	29	26	1116	8	38	37	48	.....		500	85	419	43	20	00	632	40	Alfred Newton.
4. Trumbull	1827	...	10	...	...	14	20	29	1073	3	34	22	15	.....		424	48	367	87	.....		229	09	Xenophon Betts.
5. Cleveland	1830	...	25	3	...	15	24	70	1157	7	19	45	61	4	44	152	61	811	85	.....		3166	88	James Shaw.
6. Elyria	1842	...	19	...	...	19	20	17	829	11	23	.....		.....		278	72	557	91	.....		238	68	Alfred H. Betts.
7. Maumee	1842	...	9	...	...	17	13	29	555	8	33	34	50	1	60	207	51	232	12	5	50	430	39	James H. Newton.
XII. Synod of Ohio	1814	4	57	5	7	79	294	183	4543	73	222	181	25	16	48	2095	26	1993	18	1496	53	1525	36	Add. Kingsbury, D. D.
1. Athens	1822	...	13	1	...	18	26	20	688	16	16	46	00	.....		186	50	122	00	113	00	94	00	James S. Walton.
2. Pataskala	1809	...	18	1	...	24	87	52	1766	16	69	30	75	9	48	883	66	781	36	879	50	786	95	Alexander Duncan.
3. Franklin	1835	...	17	1	7	24	43	56	1300	11	60	43	50	2	00	545	10	509	35	187	03	276	45	Henry Shedd.
4. Scioto	1845	...	9	2	...	13	138	55	789	30	77	61	00	5	00	470	00	580	47	317	00	367	96	Joseph Chester.
XIII. S. of Cincinnati	1829	3	45	11	20	35	109	85	2994	30	96	201	80	17	45	3397	38	2821	00	3104	20	2846	66	James J. Blaisdell.
1. Cincinnati	1828	...	26	10	20	14	48	51	1553	9	59	137	50	10	00	2665	08	2411	00	1520	00	2763	00	D. Howe Allen, D. D.
2. Dayton	1838	...	9	...	...	10	40	29	808	12	25	22	30	7	45	686	30	275	00	1500	00	76	66	Daniel Rice.
3. Hamilton	1846	...	10	1	...	11	21	5	633	9	12	42	00	.....		46	00	135	00	84	20	7	00	Benjamin Graves.
XIV. Synod of Indiana.	1826	4	42	2	8	67	248	206	3051	78	159	147	60	21	50	2166	91	1239	58	2114	73	573	40	John M. Bishop.
1. Salem	1823	...	11	...	1	19	64	56	739	22	47	46	85	10	00	1003	30	407	44	324	25	281	00	John M. Bishop.
2. Madison	1825	...	13	1	7	16	88	51	911	32	59	44	75	6	50	582	40	290	80	121	45	193	40	Hiram Wason.

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3. Indianapolis	1830	...	10	1	...	17	9	48	799	2	20	$56 00	$5 00	$419 90	$298 03	$1665 03	$98 00	George M. Maxwell.
4. Green Castle	1850	...	8	...	...	15	87	51	602	22	33	.....	.....	161 31	243 31	4 00	1 00	William M. Cheever.
XV. Synod of Wabash	1851	5	41	4	5	71	161	93	3182	34	86	65 50	1 60	724 92	516 78	113 75	42 61	Francis S. McCabe.
1. Crawfordsville	1825	...	15	1	...	12	15	9	486	3	6	.....	.....	117 42	137 35	52 50	.....	William A. McCorkle.
2. St. Joseph	1833	...	11	3	1	24	47	55	1269	10	27	18 50	1 60	301 12	139 65	22 25	.....	Norman Kellogg.
3. Logansport	1835	...	6	...	2	17	39	25	905	17	42	47 00	.....	267 38	203 78	20 00	42 61	Francis S. McCabe.
4. Fort Wayne*	1845	...	6	...	2	12	...	...	279	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Philander Anderson.
5. Elkhart	1852	...	3	...	...	6	60	4	243	4	11	.....	.....	39 00	36 00	19 00	.....	Nathan L. Lord.
XVI. Synod of Illinois	1831	4	59	3	9	79	161	180	4036	45	131	45 18	12 00	1376 18	1007 35	728 00	808 15	George C. Wood.
1. Illinois	1828	...	20	...	...	16	19	51	968	10	21	6 65	.....	517 98	530 00	.....	116 00	Livingston M. Glover.
2. Schuyler	1833	...	12	1	5	18	15	31	1193	4	23	.....	.....	101 00	139 00	200 00	90 45	Henry C. Abernethy.
3. Wabash	1823	...	6	...	...	10	8	19	252	4	19	.....	.....	12 50	22 00	.....	1 75	Enoch Kingsbury.
4. Alton	1836	...	21	2	4	35	119	79	1623	27	68	38 53	12 00	744 70	316 35	528 20	599 95	Augustus T. Norton.
XVII. Synod of Peoria	1843	8	85	4	14	73	141	293	4103	29	151	107 82	17 10	2428 52	2573 09	2038 30	799 61	Ira M. Weed.
1. Ottawa	1834	...	13	...	...	11	10	11	278	2	14	5 02	.....	39 08	5 00	.....	158 00	Nahum Gould.
2. Peoria and Knox	1836	..	13	1	...	10	15	23	848	6	22	17 08	8 75	292 00	77 00	26 00	117 00	John W. Bailey.
3. Galena	1842	...	10	...	5	16	26	42	746	...	22	16 00	1 60	262 00	333 00	1020 00	267 00	Shubael G. Spees.
4. Chicago	1847	...	16	2	8	10	62	104	980	15	46	31 16	5 00	1530 36	1556 27	524 45	10 00	Lewis H. Loss.
5. Belvidere	1847	...	12	...	...	5	10	33	531	...	10	.....	.....	188 78	463 78	467 85	129 73	Alfred Eddy.
6. Minnesota	1850	...	6	...	...	7	12	52	211	5	14	25 62	.....	53 00	60 00	... .	7 50	Edward D. Neill.
7. Milwaukee	1851	...	8	1	...	6	2	6	269	1	9	7 69	.....	34 11	54 21	.....	110 38	William H. Spencer.
8. Fox River	1851	...	7	...	1	8	4	22	240	...	14	5 25	1 75	29 19	23 83	.....	.....	John B. Preston.
XVIII. Synod of Iowa	1853	3	25	1	9	32	165	70	912	25	53	46 20	12 70	166 16	130 35	1693 30	228 50	Edmund D. Holt.
1. Des Moines	1845	...	6	...	...	9	68	27	294	3	16	.....	3 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	Thompson Bird.

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

2. Iowa City	1852	...	11	1	5	15	74	31	323	15	14	31 60	5 20	68 05	35 00	71 30	118 00	Samuel Storrs Howe.
3. Keokuk	1852	...	8	...	4	8	23	12	295	7	23	14 60	4 50	98 11	95 35	1622 00	110 50	Gamaliel C. Beaman.
XIX. S. of Missouri	1832	4	43	3	4	53	153	96	2233	56	146	30 25	11 30	964 15	353 75	1818 30	629 15	John Leighton.
1. Saint Louis	1831	...	13	...	3	13	38	24	704	9	19	.....	4 30	806 00	236 00	1690 00	271 50	Edmund Wright.
2. Northern Missouri	1845	...	7	...	1	11	15	13	589	4	21	4 00	2 00	44 25	100 00	.....	35 00	John Leighton.
3. Lexington	1845	...	13	2	...	13	49	41	515	21	76	14 65	.....	61 00	.....	103 40	262 65	Samuel J. M. Beebe.
4. Osage	1845	...	10	1	...	16	51	18	425	22	30	11 60	5 00	52 90	17 75	24 90	60 00	Joseph V. Barks.
XX. Synod of Virginia	1788	3	39	7	8	49	277	130	4080	98	220	235 50	5 00	3713 73	626 27	965 92	1127 19	Thomas D. Bell.
1. Winchester	1794	...	10	5	6	19	88	32	1155	40	35	60 00	5 00	241 78	123 00	183 67	245 38	Patterson Fletcher.
2. Dist. of Columbia	1831	...	12	1	1	13	142	67	1477	32	93	95 00	.....	1148 00	162 00	178 00	227 00	William McLain.
3. Hanover	1838	...	17	1	1	17	47	31	1448	26	92	80 50	.....	2323 95	341 27	604 25	654 81	Henry S. Osborn.
XXI. S. of Kentucky	1802	3	13	...	...	25	45	10	1160	16	29	95 50	6 20	156 00	30 00	20 00	138 00	Archer C. Dickerson.
1. Harmony	1842	...	5	...	...	10	14	7	346	8	5	34 50	5 00	91 00	30 00	20 00	138 00	Fincelius R. Gray.
2. Providence	1842	...	4	...	...	6	20	2	483	6	14	61 00	1 20	.....	.....	.....	.....	Thomas H. Cleland.
3. Green River	1842	...	4	...	...	9	11	1	331	2	10	.....	.....	65 00	.....	.....	.....	Archer C. Dickerson.
XXII. S. of Tennessee	1817	4	50	1	22	82	242	105	4960	55	194	187 50	19 20	885 22	268 85	101 00	255 10	John J. Robinson.
1. Union	1797	...	21	...	15	31	54	56	2020	15	74	15 00	3 20	207 45	.....	.....	38 00	Gideon S. White.
2. Holston	1826	...	11	1	5	17	133	34	1486	21	56	34 00	.....	540 72	186 00	70 00	209 60	Ira Morey.
3. Kingston	1838	...	9	...	...	19	34	11	711	14	43	138 50	16 00	30 50	17 85	6 00	7 50	William B. Brown.
4. New River	1838	...	9	...	2	15	21	4	743	5	21	.....	.....	106 55	65 00	25 00	.....	George Painter.
XXIII. S. of W. Tenn	1826	3	23	...	2	37	50	60	2199	17	25	119 10	7 40	285 60	54 70	180 85	.....	William Eagleton, D. D.
1. West Tennessee*	1810	...	6	...	1	7	...	...	619	...	...	.....	.....	.. ..	.....	.....	.....	Robert C. Garrison.
2. Shiloh	1816	...	7	...	...	16	32	57	900	10	7	56 00	2 40	55 35	36 00	84 00	.....	Amzi Bradshaw.
3. Richland	1824	...	10	...	1	14	18	3	680	7	18	63 10	5 00	230 25	18 70	96 85	.....	Archibald M. Pickens.
XXIV. S. of Mississippi	1846	4	27	2	5	37	109	107	1255	50	35	97 60	18 35	1665 00	.....	....	221 00	Charles M. Atkinson.
1. Clinton	1822	...	9	2	3	11	55	22	373	22	22	80 00	16 35	1033 00	.....	.....	200 00	Consider Parish.
2. Lexington, South	1845	...	7	...	1	9	...	...	390	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Fisher A. Tyler.
3. Newton	1845	...	7	...	...	14	54	45	452	28	13	17 60	2 00	632 00	.. ..	.....	21 00	James M. Richardson.
4. Texas*	1854	...	4	...	1	3	...	40	40	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Daniel C. Henderson.

II. Of the Synods.

SYNODS.	Date.	Presbyteries.	Ministers.	Licentiates.	Candidates.	Churches.	Added on Exam.	Added on Certif.	Communicants.	Adult Baptisms.	Infant Baptisms.	Commis. Fund.	Contingent Fund.	Domestic Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Education.	Publication.
1. Albany	1803	5	78	2	3	66	281	137	9,043	118	111	$145.48	$22.00	$3,933.63	$3,726.52	$918.96	$2,661.79
2. Utica	1829	4	69	3	18	77	196	150	7,453	69	115	105.50	11.88	2,447.29	2,865.54	1,388.38	2,604.26
3. Geneva	1812	5	104	2	4	92	437	277	10,344	177	194	146.56	.....	3,144.61	2,903.37	1,704.09	2,746.94
4. Onondaga	1855	4	91	8	11	76	202	219	8,256	61	133	171.27	17.00	3,650.57	2,772.43	1,096.95	1,519.77
5. Susquehanna	1853	3	47	...	6	46	113	64	4,699	33	49	97.00	10.00	1,354.15	1,434.36	378.30	185.91
6. Genesee	1821	6	116	8	8	126	472	431	14,447	115	225	280.80	18.00	6,053.44	4,008.42	3,091.14	7,717.57
7. N. York and N. Jersey	1788	10	218	31	46	156	1063	1017	23,179	267	637	445.48	215.92	24,777.15	24,791.47	9,867.97	4,744.76
8. Pennsylvania	1838	4	77	5	15	68	432	244	10,179	112	351	212.50	61.58	6,047.85	3,941.16	3,775.73	9,517.07
9. West Pennsylvania	1843	3	22	1	2	37	144	90	2,694	52	115	47.88	8.20	885.60	1,012.53	152.70	334.38
10. Michigan	1834	5	74	1	9	86	182	415	7,296	51	174	128.64	30.00	2,487.25	2,030.34	864.36	2,007.29
11. Western Reserve	1825	7	122	7	3	110	139	228	6,731	44	173	150.41	6.04	2,064.80	2,862.23	97.50	5,088.44
12. Ohio	1814	4	57	5	7	79	294	183	4,543	73	222	181.25	16.48	2,095.26	1,993.18	1,496.53	1,525.36
13. Cincinnati	1829	3	45	11	20	35	109	85	2,994	30	96	201.80	17.45	3,397.38	2,821.00	3,104.20	2,846.66
14. Indiana	1826	4	42	2	8	67	248	206	3,051	78	159	147.60	21.50	2,166.91	1,239.58	2,114.73	573.40
15. Wabash	1851	5	41	4	5	71	161	93	3,182	34	86	65.50	1.60	724.92	516.78	113.75	42.61
16. Illinois	1831	4	59	3	9	79	161	180	4,036	45	131	45.18	12.00	1,376.18	1,007.35	728.00	808.15
17. Peoria	1843	8	85	4	14	73	141	293	4,103	29	151	107.82	17.10	2,428.52	2,573.09	2,038.00	799.61
18. Iowa	1853	3	25	1	9	32	165	70	912	25	53	46.20	12.70	166.16	130.35	1,693.30	228.50
19. Missouri	1832	4	43	3	4	53	153	96	2,233	56	146	30.25	11.30	964.15	353.75	1,818.30	629.15
20. Virginia	1788	3	39	7	8	49	277	130	4,080	98	220	235.50	5.00	3,713.73	626.27	965.92	1,127.19
21. Kentucky	1802	3	13	...	...	25	45	10	1,160	16	29	95.50	6.20	156.00	30.00	20.00	138.00
22. Tennessee	1817	4	50	1	22	82	242	105	4,960	55	194	187.50	19.20	885.22	268.85	101.00	255.10
23. West Tennessee	1826	3	23	...	2	37	50	60	2,199	17	25	119.10	7.40	285.60	54.70	180.85	
24. Mississippi	1846	4	27	2	5	37	109	107	1,255	50	35	97.60	18.35	1,665.00	.....	.....	221.00
		108	1567	111	238	1659	5816	4890	143,029	1705	3924	$3492.32	$566.90	$76,871.37	$63,963.28	$37,710.96	$48,322.91

THE GENERAL SUMMARY.

All the Presbyteries, with the exception of Fort Wayne, West Tennessee, and Texas, have forwarded their Statistical Reports for the present year. The latter is a new Presbytery, and the former Presbytery failed to secure the stated meeting at which the returns of the churches are made. The Presbyteries of Delaware and Lexington South report their ministers and the names of their churches, but none of the statistics of their churches. The Presbyteries of Oregon and San Francisco made no report of funds contributed during the past year; the latter Presbytery, however, report that the whole sum of money contributed by their churches, since the organization of their Presbytery in 1849, six years, has been $112,594. The report of contributions from the most of the Presbyteries is very imperfect. Some of the most wealthy and liberal churches,—*e. g.*, the First church in Philadelphia,—make no report of "funds contributed." A large number of churches have made no report at all to their Presbyteries, as indicated by the asterisk attached to the number of their communicants. It is greatly to be desired, that the Presbyteries give more attention to the requirement of full annual reports from every one of the churches.

The Synod of Onondaga was erected by the present Assembly, by a division of the Synod of Geneva. The Presbytery of Texas has been formed in connection with the Synod of Mississippi, and the Presbytery of Medina has been dissolved by the Synod of Western Reserve. The Presbytery of St. Joseph has, by order of this Assembly, been transferred from the Synod of Michigan to the Synod of Wabash.

The number of Presbyteries who have reported their Ecclesiastical Changes, —relative to the Licenses, Ordinations, Installations, Dissolutions, Depositions, Suspensions, Dismissions, Receptions, and Organizations,—is still so small, as to render it impossible to present any thing like a fair summary of these changes, in this general report. It is hoped that the Presbyteries will require of their Stated Clerks a careful attention to the requirements of the Assembly, on page 60 of these Minutes.

It is thought that the greater part of the Presbyteries report, of Candidates for the ministry, only those who have been regularly taken under their care. The rule requires that every church should make an annual report to its Presbytery of the number of its communicants who are studying for the ministry; and that the Presbytery report all these to the General Assembly. On account of so many failures in this particular, the report of the number of Candidates is still very imperfect.

In consequence of the extra effort for the Church Erection Fund, and the endowment of the Union Theological Seminary in New York, the returns under the heads of Domestic Missions, and Education for 1854, showed a very large increase over the previous year; and for 1855, a considerable decrease.

Comparative Results.

Synods	24	Increase	1
Presbyteries	108	Same as last year.	
Ministers	1567	Increase	5

Licentiates	111	Decrease	3
Candidates	238	Increase	40
Churches	1,659	Decrease	2
Additions on Examination	5,816	Increase	46
" " Certificate	4,890	Decrease	160
Whole No. of Communicants,	143,029	Increase	1552
Baptisms of Adults	1,705	Decrease	74
" " Infants	3,924	Increase	51

CONTRIBUTIONS.

Commissioners' Fund	$3,492 32	Decrease	$294 47
Contingent Fund	566 90	Decrease	112 38
Domestic Missions	76,871 37	Decrease	24,684 61
Foreign Missions	63,963 28	Increase	6,348 83
Education	37,710 96	Decrease	58,324 21
Publication	48,322 91	Increase	15,337 30
Total Contributions	$230,928 24	Decrease	$62,139 04

All which is respectfully submitted.

EDWIN F. HATFIELD, *Stated Clerk.*

New York, July 6th, 1855.