

THE
PRINCETON REVIEW.

JULY, 1854.

No. III.

John Hall.

ART. 1.—*Present state of Oxford University.*

Report of Her Majesty's Commissioners, appointed to inquire into the state, discipline, studies, and revenues of the University and Colleges of Oxford; together with the Evidence, and an Appendix. London: 1852. 760 pages, folio.

It required no small degree of courage in Lord John Russell to move his Sovereign to command such an investigation as this; but he seems to have found seven men courageous and indefatigable enough to accomplish the work. We can only regret that a place in the board of investigation could not have been offered to Sir William Hamilton, the eminent professor of logic and metaphysics in the University of Edinburgh, whose papers in the *Edinburgh Review*, twenty years ago, were so influential in summoning attention to the abuses existing in the English Universities. Those articles, lately embodied in his wonderfully diversified volume of learning, entitled "Discussions on Philosophy and Literature, Education and University Reform," show that much of the laborious research of the seven commissioners had been already accomplished by the single-handed Scotch professor, and the greater part of their conclusions anticipated. That no trifling toil is demanded for such an

ART VI.—*The General Assembly.*

THE General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met, agreeably to appointment, in the Central Presbyterian Church, Buffalo, New York, on Thursday, the 18th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1854, at 11 o'clock, A. M., and was opened with a sermon by the Rev. John C. Young, D. D., Moderator of the last Assembly, from Luke xxii. 26: "But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve."

On motion of Dr. R. J. Breckinridge, it was resolved that all honorary titles be omitted from the roll of this Assembly.

The Assembly then proceeded to the election of officers, requiring, on motion, a majority of all the votes cast to constitute a choice. The Rev. Henry A. Boardman, D. D., was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Joseph R. Wilson, temporary clerk.

It was resolved, that the first half hour of every morning session of the Assembly should be devoted to devotional exercises, conducted by the Moderator. These seasons of devotion were generally well attended, and evidently produced a very happy effect.

In looking over the roll of the Assembly the reader will be struck with the unusually large attendance of elders. From some Synods there was not a single vacancy in the lay representation. We regard this as a very auspicious omen. No one present during the sessions of the Assembly could fail to notice the happy influence exerted by the many distinguished laymen who were members of the body. We believe few Assemblies have met in which there was a greater amount of intelligence, and good feeling, or in which a greater unanimity was arrived at in the decision of all important questions.

A paper was presented from the Presbytery of Lake, respecting a limitation of the number of Professors in our Theological Seminaries, which, on motion, was laid on the table. This was done for two reasons; first, because there was nothing in the paper itself to show that it came to the Assembly by order of

the Presbytery; and, secondly, because a commissioner from the Presbytery stated it was not its intention that the document should be forwarded to this body.

Church in the City of Washington.

The Rev. Stuart Robinson presented various papers relating to the erection of a new church in Washington City; including a report of the Church Extension Committee for the City of Washington, the special action of the Presbytery of Baltimore, and a memorial from the ministers in Washington, Georgetown, and Alexandria; all of which were referred to the Committee on the Board of Domestic Missions. Subsequently the following minute was adopted:

The Committee on the Report of the Board of Domestic Missions have carefully considered the matter of the Assembly's Church in Washington City. In various parts of the country, misconceptions of the plan have attached themselves to it. Rightfully understood, your committee are perfectly satisfied that it has strong claims upon our friendly regard. But we are not called on to consider the subject as an original question. The Assembly is committed, and your committee unanimously recommend that in this matter we "take no step backwards." Were there no other considerations forbidding us to falter, the effects of such a course upon the interests and influence of our brethren in Washington, would be enough. They tell us in their memorial, and no doubt they tell us well, "the project came to us from abroad. We appreciate the kindness of the movement, but it will be for our deep injury if not efficiently executed. It was a step which once taken can never safely be delayed. Our character is largely at stake. It is now to be seen whether in this capital we represent a Church hasty in resolving, but feeble in action, or one which wisely counts the cost, and unflinchingly executes its plans."

With reference to the best way of accomplishing what we have commenced, your committee are perfectly aware that this Assembly cannot compel any action on the part of our Presbyteries or churches. The General Assembly can only plead with some the intrinsic merits of the plan, rightly understood, and with others that they should lay aside every objection that is

not a pure matter of conscience and of principle, and come forward to relieve this body from the embarrassments that surround it.

The Committee accordingly recommend the following:

Resolved, 1. That the Church Extension Committee of the City of Washington, appointed by the Presbytery of Baltimore, be requested by this Assembly to continue to act, with the addition of the Rev. Messrs. Gurley and Henry as members of the same.

Resolved, 2. That the papers presented to this Assembly on this subject, to wit, the memorial of ministers in Washington, Georgetown, and Alexandria, the memorial of the Presbytery of Baltimore, and the report of the Church Extension Committee of the City of Washington, be appended to the Minutes of this Assembly.

Resolved, 3. That this Assembly appoint one minister or elder in every Presbytery, to whom, as to a beloved son, this body will commit the charge of this business in the bounds of the several Presbyteries; that these ministers or elders be requested to adopt any plan which they in their wisdom may deem best for the speedy completion of this work; that they be requested, as far as possible, to carry this effort into every particular congregation, however small or feeble; and that they be requested to report as soon as possible, and remit the funds collected to Charles Stott, Esq., Treasurer of the Church Extension Committee, of the City of Washington, or to Samuel D. Powel, of Philadelphia, Treasurer of the Board of Missions.

Resolved, 4. That all our Presbyteries be requested to take measures, at their fall sessions, to carry out the wishes of this body as above expressed, in all cases of failure from whatever cause.

Foreign Missions.

The Rev. John C. Lowrie, D.D., one of the Secretaries of the Board of Foreign Missions, addressed the Assembly in reference to the operations of the past year, and the wants and plans of the Board, giving an interesting and very encouraging account of its condition. The entire receipts of the year are about \$20,000 in advance of the year preceding—this, how-

ever, is principally from various societies outside of our Church, and from the Government. The receipts from collections alone, are slightly in advance of last year. It is a melancholy fact, that out of our 2879 churches, but 1350 have made any contribution during the last year—less than half of all of them; and yet an instance has never been known by the Board in which, when this cause was presented to the people, they did not respond to it. The Board feel some uneasiness as to their finances for the future. Of necessity they have been compelled to enlarge their plans, and this will require a larger amount of funds. The Church can easily furnish all necessary means if she will. At present, taking the average of all her members, they do not give one penny a week to this object! He believed our Church could give \$1,000,000 a year to Foreign Missions—it would be but \$5 a year from each member—or taking all who are accustomed to give into the account, not more than \$2 or \$3 from each donor. The financial affairs of this Board are satisfactorily conducted—three of the largest donors being members of the Executive Committee, who must know how things stand. The executive expenses of every kind at the office at home, are believed to be considerably less than those of any similar institution in the country. They amount to about eight per cent. on the whole receipts.

The Rev. Mr. Armstrong, Chairman of the Committee on the Board of Foreign Missions, presented the following resolutions:

The Committee to whom was referred the Report of the Board of Foreign Missions, having examined that report with as much care as the time allowed them would permit, recommend to the Assembly that it be approved, and printed for circulation, as in former years.

They would also offer the following resolutions, as embodying the results of their examination of this report of the labours of our Board of Foreign Missions during the year past, viz.

1. *Resolved*, That in the success with which efforts in the Foreign Missionary field have been crowned during the year, there is much occasion for devout thanksgiving to the great Head of the Church, and for an increase in our faith in the blessed promise given in connection with the missionary com-

mission of the Church, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

2. *Resolved*, That the Assembly heartily approve of the manner in which the Board, the Executive Committee, and officers to whom the management of the Foreign Missionary operations of our Church have been committed, have conducted their operations during the year.

3. *Resolved*, That in the multiplied openings for missionary labours, which God in his providence has made during the past year, as well as in the blessings with which he has crowned our efforts as a Church, the Assembly recognize the obligation laid upon the Church for an increase, both of the number of men, and the amount of the means devoted to this work.

4. *Resolved*, That the Assembly would earnestly commend this subject, of an increase both of missionaries and missionary funds, to the careful and prayerful consideration of the pastors and sessions of all our Churches, that they may adopt such measures as, in their judgment, will best secure the attention, awaken the Christian sympathies, and call forth the cheerful and liberal contributions of all the members of their respective Churches.

These resolutions were sustained by remarks from Rev. Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Lanneau, Judge Fine, Dr. Adger, Mr. Painter, and Dr. Spring.

Dr. Adger entered into some statistical comparisons, in order to show that the Synod of South Carolina had contributed more in proportion than other Synods to the cause of Foreign Missions, because, as he suggested, "the ministers and sessions just go forward and do the work themselves." "They had no machinery at all." "This," he regarded, "as an illustration of the admirable working of our Presbyterian machinery." This is very encouraging. The great design of machinery, so far as raising funds is concerned, is to induce "ministers and sessions to do the work themselves." And if South Carolina has advanced so far as to do without the machinery, which less favoured portions of the Church still need, it is a matter of rejoicing. We hope the example may have its due weight in exciting and guiding effort.

Dr. Spring urged with force the idea that the claims of the

cause of missions on the lay members of the Church, had never been duly recognized. The commission of Christ was given to the Church and not to the ministry, and scores of young men who are not ministers must go to promote the Gospel in heathen lands. This is a truth of great importance, and should be expanded and brought to bear practically on the missionary work.

Board of Education.

Dr. Van Rensselaer presented the annual report which treated first of Ministerial Education. The decrease of candidates, which has been so much the ground of regret, must be referred to widely operating causes, and not to such as are peculiar to our own Church. The Evangelical Churches at home and abroad are suffering in the same way. The number of new candidates this year is larger than for many years past, being one hundred and four. The whole number under the care of the Board is three hundred and forty. It was recommended that the appropriations to the candidates should be increased, so as to allow eighty dollars a year to students in academies, one hundred to those in colleges, and one hundred and twenty-five to those in Theological Seminaries. The Board urged in concluding this part of their report, that greater caution should be exercised in the selection of candidates, and greater effort made to increase their number.

Of the second part of the report we present a fuller abstract, borrowed from the public papers.

Christian Education in Schools, Academies, and Colleges—Parochial or primary schools.—The religious part of the instruction is promoted in three ways:—First, by acts of worship, such as prayer, reading the Scriptures, and singing; secondly, by religious instruction in the Bible and Catechism; and thirdly, by Christian government and discipline. A number of new schools have been established during the year; and the munificent offer of \$5,000 in aid of the cause has been of the most essential use. The number of schools is over one hundred. Some of the older scholars have professed religion during the year.

Presbyterian Academics.—The two points which require the constant care of Presbyteries are, first, to give religion its

due prominence in the course of instruction; and secondly, to make the Academies first-class institutions in all the departments of secular instruction. A large number of youth in our academies have made a profession of religion during the year. The average would give at least two to an academy. The number of our academies is forty-seven. The Ashmun Institute, designed for the education of coloured youth, under the care of New Castle Presbytery, is nearly ready for organization.

Colleges.—There are fifteen colleges under Synodical supervision, of which nine are well established, the others being of recent origin. In addition to these, three others have charters. After giving a brief account of each college, the Report refers to colleges not under the direct care of the Church, and advocates the position, that when such colleges have the confidence of the Synods, they should be regarded as Presbyterian institutions. The Report expresses the hope that fraternal co-operation will prevail in this department.

Miscellaneous and Teachers' Department.—Thirteen young men have received aid during the year; and among them several sons of our ministers. Two have professed religion during the year.

General Remarks.—1. The right of the Church to educate does not imply an exclusive right, or the necessity of always exercising that right; nor does it compel parents to send their children to Church institutions. Furthermore, it does not *depreciate* other educational agencies besides the Church. 2. The apprehension that Church education brings too much business into our Judicatories, may be removed by leaving most of the management to Trustees. 3. The withdrawal of our influence from the State system is then considered. The education of our own children religiously need not, and does not, prevent us from supporting the public system, any more than the charge which our deacons have of the poor in the Church prevents them from sympathizing with the poor in the community who are outside of the Church. Besides, there is room enough for all classes of schools; and the influence of religious schools will be most salutary upon the State schools, especially in improving their religious character. 4. The centralization of too much

power in the Board, is met by the fact that, in the Presbyterian system, the entire internal management of the institutions is in the Judicatories. 5. The propriety of blending the two departments of the Board in one administrative agency, is left entirely to the judgment of Assembly. Whether another Secretary shall be appointed, or a separate Board be established, or whether the affairs shall be conducted on the present plan, are questions, whose decision by the Assembly, in any way, will be acquiesced in by the Board without the least concern.

Funds.—The following is the state of the treasury :

	<i>Candidates' Fund.</i>	<i>Schools, &c.</i>
Receipts,	\$34,961 26	\$10,726 03
Balance,	8,068 91	1,998 46
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Income,	43,030 17	12,734 49
Payments,	35,105 75	12,643 78
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Balance,	\$7,924,42	\$90 71

Total income in these two funds, \$55,764 66; payments, \$47,749 53.

The Rev. Dr. Hall, as chairman of the Committee on Education, reported the following resolutions, which were adopted :

1. *Resolved*, That in view of the greatness of the office of the Christian ministry, in its origin, its work, and its necessity in the divine economy of salvation, the diminution of candidates in our own and in other evangelical Churches for several years past, is deeply to be deplored, especially as the signs of the times at home and abroad indicate an increased necessity for a greater number of wise, devoted, and amply qualified ministers; and that this necessity is a providential enforcement upon the Church, of the injunction of her Great Head, to pray—to pray in private and in the sanctuary—to pray habitually that the Lord of the harvest will send forth labourers into the harvest.

2. *Resolved*, That the increase of new candidates during the past year demands our gratitude to God, who alone is able to turn the hearts of the sons of the Church from secular pursuits to the self-denying labour of preaching Christ, and him crucified.

3. *Resolved*, That the Assembly, in view of the hopeful signs of increase in the number of candidates, enjoin upon Presbyteries the exercise of great vigilance to guard against the introduction of the unworthy to a course of preparation for the sacred office, while at the same time they make earnest efforts to enlarge the ministerial resources of our Church.

4. *Resolved*, That the Assembly approve of the recommendation of the Board, to increase appropriations to candidates, so that those in the academical course shall receive \$80, those in the collegiate course, \$100, and those in the theological course \$120, with liberty, in special cases, of increasing the appropriations on the recommendation of Presbyteries.

5. *Resolved*, That the Assembly regard Christian training at all periods of youth, and by all practicable methods, especially by parents at home, by teachers in institutions of learning, and by pastors through catechetical and Bible-classes, as binding upon the Church, according to the injunction, "Train up a child in the way he should go," and as having a vital connection with the increase of the numbers and efficiency of the ministry, and of the stability and purity of the Church.

6. *Resolved*, That the efforts of the Presbyterian Church in behalf of schools, academies, and colleges, on a definite religious basis, and under her own care, have met with a success, important in present results, and hopeful for the future, and that these operations deserve to be continued and enlarged, with entire friendliness to all other educational efforts not positively injurious in their tendency; and especially that institutions under the management of members of our own Church, either privately or in corporations not subject to ecclesiastical supervision, in which religion is duly inculcated, ought to be regarded as entitled to confidence.

7. *Resolved*, That the General Assembly (by affirming the Church to be one of the parties in education, and by acting on that principle, in accordance with the practice of all the Reformed Churches) has never denied the importance of State cooperation in this great work, however defective it may be in some parts of the country; but, on the contrary, rejoices in the general enlightenment of the masses under the public school

system, and hopes that all Presbyterians, besides supporting their own institutions, will continue, as heretofore, to be known as the true friends of general education throughout the country, and as the advocates of the Bible in common schools.

8. *Resolved*, That the mode of conducting the operations of the Board on their enlarged scale, be referred to the Board itself, to take such action as shall prevent either department interfering with the other, and as may continue to keep prominently before the churches the education of pious and indigent young men for the gospel ministry.

9. *Resolved*, That the last Thursday of February next be recommended as a day of special prayer for the outpouring of God's Spirit on the churches, and of public instruction on Christian education, especially with reference to the necessity of an enlargement of the ministerial resources of the Church.

As no little discussion had been carried on in the papers, and by pamphlets on the education question, it was naturally expected that the subject would excite unusual interest on the floor of the Assembly. The public discussion, however, seems to have produced, by means of mutual explanations, such unanimity of views, that all the above resolutions, sustaining and endorsing as they do the course of the Board of Education, were passed with scarcely a show of opposition. That the Church has a right to educate—that, under existing circumstances, she is bound to establish schools, academies, and colleges under her own care, wherever the exigencies of religious education are not otherwise provided for; and that the Board of Education is the proper organ of the Church for bringing out and concentrating her educational efforts, seemed to be almost unanimously conceded. We do not believe there are two parties in our Church on any one of these points.

Domestic Missions.

Rev. Dr. Musgrave, Corresponding Secretary of the Board, read the Report. The financial condition of the Board was stated as follows:

The total amount received from April 1, 1853, to April 1, 1854, was	\$75,207 80
Balance on hand,	17,753 22
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Total,	\$92,961 02
Amount paid out,	70,306 44
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Balance April 1, 1854,	\$22,654 58
Due to Missionaries April 1,	11,076 84
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Unexpended balance,	\$11,577 74

The receipts were larger during the last months of the year than in the early portion. The amount received from the churches had increased largely during the year, showing that an increasing interest was awaking among the people. The balance on hand on the 1st of April, 1854, was larger than at the same time last year, and would have been still larger but for the payment of some heavy debts. The appropriations will be much larger this year, and therefore there will be need of large collections.

Dr. Musgrave stated how advantageous it was to have a large balance on hand at the commencement of the fiscal year, as the expenditures then called for were large, and the receipts during the first three quarters were small. A good balance in the treasury gave spirit and energy to the Board in the establishing of new missions, and granting increased appropriations. The Board have, however, had no desire to increase the balance. Indeed, they had increased the appropriations this year over the estimates of last year by the amount of \$18,000. This liberal course the Board intended to pursue, and they trusted that the efforts of the churches would authorize the increased appropriations, and enable the Board to continue in their present course.

The financial condition of the Church Extension Fund is as follows:

Balance of Church Extension Fund on hand April 1, 1853,	\$6,211 33
Receipts for year from individuals,	3,211 93
“ “ “ “ churches,	3,086 16
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Total	\$12,509 42
Appropriations paid during year,	6,177 25
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Balance, April 1, 1854,	\$6,332,17

There are, however, unpaid appropriations of \$8,178 07, which would absorb the balance and leave the fund in debt. There had been founded in the year, sixty-three churches, extending over twenty-two Synods and forty-four Presbyteries. Of these, thirty-five churches had been finished.

The objects of the Board of Missions are to assist feeble churches in sustaining their pastors, and secondly, the extension of the Church by missionary labour and the formation of new churches. The average salaries of missionaries to domestic stations during the year was \$402 53. The average salary paid by the Board was \$151 55, and the average paid by the congregations \$250 98.

Much discussion occurred in reference to the affairs of this Board. On some points the Committee to whom the report was referred, were unanimous, on others they were divided, the Chairman, as it was understood, and perhaps one other member differing from the rest of the Committee. They united in recommending the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That considering the present and prospective population of our country, and the influence it seems destined to exert on all the nations, as set forth in the Report of our Board, the work of Domestic Missions, which the Assembly has committed to that Board, is exceeded in its importance and magnitude by no other interest of our Church.

2. *Resolved*, That this Assembly expresses its approbation of the diligent and faithful execution on the part of our Board and its officers of their important trusts, and its thankfulness to God for the measure of success which he has been pleased to vouchsafe to them.

3. *Resolved*, That this Assembly deplores the fact presented in this Report, that while our Church is not only increasing in wealth, but is steadily developing itself by an increase of members, churches, ministers, Presbyteries, and Synods, there is yet no commensurate increase in her Domestic Missionary efforts, as evidenced by the circumstance that the average annual increase of contributions for this object through our Board during the past past four years is only \$1913, but during the ten years which preceded the past four years, it was \$2692, and the circumstance that we now have actually forty-seven Domestic Missionaries less than we had four years ago.

4. *Resolved*, That in connection with this discouraging view of the past four years, taken into comparison with the preceding ten, the Assembly would record with devout gratitude, that during the year just closed, there has been an increase of the regular church contributions to this cause, amounting to \$6000, and would express the hope that this regular flow of the charities of our churches may henceforth never know an ebb.

5. *Resolved*, That this Assembly would express their special approbation of the earnest appeals made in this report by the Board to our Presbyteries, in favour of more vigilant and energetic Presbyterian action in behalf of Domestic Missions.

6. *Resolved*, That this Assembly, while deprecating any wasteful or unnecessary expenditure of Domestic Missionary funds, would express particular approval of the conduct of the Board in increasing, as they have done, the salaries of missionaries in the field. The Assembly would express further the assurance that the Board may proceed to a much larger increase in the allowance to their missionaries, fully relying on the justice and liberality of our people to supply the Board with such an increase of means as will enable it to lessen, to some extent, the privations now endured by our brethren; and while the Assembly express thus decidedly their view of the duty of the Board, they would most earnestly exhort the churches to greatly increased exertions to meet the increased demands on the funds of the Board, which must result from any attempt to do justice to our missionary brethren.

7. *Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Board of Missions to encourage, as far as possible, the organization of the missionary field into districts, embracing several points of labour, with a view to adapting the system to the work of pioneering by an itinerant ministry.

8. *Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Presbyteries to encourage more and more the union of several small congregations in the support of one pastor, which, separately, are unable of themselves to sustain a minister, with a view to the more efficient support of the ordinances of God among them, with less expense to the missionary fund.

9. *Resolved*, That the following named ministers and ruling

elders be appointed to fill the vacancies reported in the Board of Domestic Missions.

(The names are here omitted.)

10. *Resolved*, That Rev. Dr. R. J. Breckinridge be appointed to preach the next annual sermon before the Assembly, and that the Rev. John A. McClung be his alternate.

The discussion respecting that portion of the report in which the committee were unanimous, had reference principally to the salaries of missionaries, and was sustained by Dr. Breckinridge, Rev. Mr. Robertson, Dr. Musgrave, Dr. Young, Dr. McLean, Dr. Adger, Rev. Mr. Logan. There was a general concurrence of opinion as to the inadequacy of the support of our missionary brethren, and the resolutions given above were adopted without opposition.

The Rev. Mr. Woodbridge, a member of the Committee on the Board of Domestic Missions, presented a report on Church Extension from the majority of the Committee, recommending that a Secretary be appointed by the Board of Missions, to take special charge of that work; and also such agents as may be required; that the Committee be still attached to the Board of Missions, but enlarged; that the churches be called upon for annual collections for this object; and that a column be added to the Presbyterian reports for Church Extension.

The Rev. Dr. Adger, from the minority of the same Committee, presented a report, proposing to refer the whole subject of Church Extension back to the Board of Missions; that the Board have authority to appoint a co-ordinate Secretary, but without exclusive reference to Church Extension; that the Board have leave to contribute to Church Extension from their general missionary fund; and calling upon the churches to give more liberally to the Board, in view of this increased demand upon its resources. Dr. Adger said there was a wide difference between these two reports. The majority report looks to the erection of Church Extension into a separate Board. The minority dissent from the majority report, because unwilling to endorse further the system of agencies, and also because they object to a fifth specific collection.

With a view of putting an end to a discussion which promised to consume much time, and with the hope of conciliating the

friends of the counter reports, a motion was made and carried to lay them both upon the table, and to refer the whole subject of Church Extension to the Board.

It soon appeared, however, that this course was not acceptable to a large portion of the Assembly, who thought that the exigencies of the case required the Assembly itself to take some decisive action in the matter. The report of the majority of the committee was therefore taken from the table, and the following paper, embracing all its recommendations, was presented, viz:

Whereas, The Assembly has referred the whole subject of Church Extension, or the building of church edifices, to the Board of Missions; and whereas this Assembly believes this subject to be one of vast importance to the welfare of our whole Church; therefore,

Resolved, That the Board of Missions, in order to give greater efficiency to this work, be instructed, First, to enlarge the Committee of Church Extension. Secondly, to appoint a Secretary for this specific department, if they shall deem it necessary. Thirdly, to bring the cause before the churches in such way as they may deem best suited to secure attention to the importance of the work. Fourthly, to report separately to the Assembly receipts and disbursements of this fund.

And further, This Assembly would earnestly and affectionately enjoin it upon all our churches to take up collections annually for this object, (to be reported in a separate column in the Appendix of the Minutes of the Assembly) and upon all our Presbyteries to see that this is done.

Mr. Stuart Robinson, and Mr. Armstrong opposed the adoption of the above paper, and the latter moved a substitute, which was substantially the report of the minority. Both these gentlemen expressed the opinion that there was a growing dissatisfaction with the working of our Boards. It was time, Mr. Robinson thought, to consider whether there was not a more excellent way. Several brethren from the West spoke with feeling, from their own experience of the necessity of greater exertion in this cause. Among them, Mr. Pawling, from western Missouri, Mr. Goodhue, from Illinois, Mr. Stafford, and others, made very effective appeals to the Assembly. Mr. Comfort, an

elder, from Virginia, made a very forcible speech in defence of the Board, denying, in behalf of the laity, any of those feelings of dissatisfaction which a few of the ministers seemed to entertain. Dr. Spring spoke with much effect on the same side. Dr. Musgrave, Secretary of the Board, closed the debate by one of the ablest and most effective speeches delivered on the floor of the Assembly for a long time. The paper given above was then adopted, with scarce a show of opposition. The sense of the House was so strongly evinced in favour of the Boards, and in opposition to mere speculative objections to their existence, that we presume the controversy will not be renewed. It seems indeed unworthy of debate, whether the body appointed to carry on our benevolent operations be called a Committee, and be appointed by the Assembly, or whether it be called a Board. In the one case it would be a small body, in the other large. The former method has the advantage of simplicity, but the latter has considerations in its favour which are not likely to lose their influence on the Church. In the first place, they have been incorporated in our church policy for years, and a change, without adequate reason, is unbecoming and disparaging. In the second place, they are a necessary intermediate agency between the Assembly and its executive officers. The Assembly cannot conduct its Theological Seminaries otherwise than through the intervention of a Board. It cannot attend the examinations, see to the fidelity of the professors, and the conduct of the students. Neither can it otherwise conduct with advantage its missionary or educational operations. It cannot inspect the action of the executive committee and secretaries. It cannot go into any minute examination of the wisdom of their appointments and disbursements. Some of us are old enough to remember, how our New-school brethren endeavoured to break down the missionary operations of the Assembly, by insisting that, if the Assembly undertook to conduct missions, it must go into all the details; it must sit in judgment on the qualifications of every missionary, and on the economy of every item of expenditure. They saw, what the Church, with few exceptions, now sees, that to abolish our Boards, is virtually to give up the whole work of missions and education. In a small, compact body like the Church of Scotland, with a permanent commission

to refer to in every emergency, it may do for the Assembly to conduct all its operations by simple Committees. But, in a body as large and as widely extended as ours, a division of labour is absolutely necessary. You cannot send a great army on a foraging party, or to build a bridge.

In the third place, the abolition of the Boards would throw a responsibility and power on the Executive Committees and Secretaries which they ought not to be entrusted with. Their accountability to a body like the General Assembly, which, from its nature, is incapable of effective inspection, would be merely nominal. The whole work would really be in the hands of a very few men, without any real supervision and control. Our complaints against the management of the American Home Missionary Society, whose whole power was in the hands of a few men in New York, should make us sensible that any irresponsible power is a dangerous thing. And, not to prolong an unnecessary discussion, it may be remarked, that our Boards serve the purpose of break-waters. In calm weather they seem unnecessary and an incumbrance. But, when a storm comes, they are an essential protection. So long as everything goes on well, the responsibility of the Executive Committees to the Boards seems merely nominal; and one might be disposed to think they might as well be out of the way as not. But let any thing go wrong; let any emergency arise in which long examination into details is necessary, the existence of a body intermediate between the Committees and the Assembly becomes all-important. As to the objection that the Scriptures know nothing of Boards; that they are not church courts, &c., we would only say, this is the *jus divinum* theory in its dotage. God has not sent his Church into the world as an infant in its swaddling clothes, without liberty of action; he has given her a work to do, which requires the free use of her limbs; and it will be found hard work to bind her with split hairs.

Board of Publication.

Rev. Mr. Smith presented the sixteenth annual Report of the Board. The Report commenced with a general review of the importance of the Board, and the influence which the publication of books and tracts had upon the interest of the

Church. The power of the press was used by the Church as one of the great moral agents in the regeneration of man.

The Board have published sixteen new books during the year, (one of which was printed in German,) of which 38,250 copies were printed and circulated. They had published 10 tracts, of which 26,000 had been circulated. They had also printed and circulated 25,000 copies of the Presbyterian Family Almanac. Total copies of books and pamphlets printed during the year, 595,750.

The circulation of the *Home and Foreign Record* of the Church had increased during the year from 11,000 to 15,000 copies.

The *Sabbath School Visitor* was considered a work excellently adapted to the wants of the day, and was read with pleasure by adults as well as with profit by the young. Its circulation last year was stated to be forty-one thousand. This year it is larger.

The colporteur enterprise is every month increasing in importance. The distribution of books during the year amounted to 135,983 volumes. The number of pages of tracts distributed, 1,300,547. The number of families visited during the year was 68,185. The number of Presbyterian families without the Confession of Faith was 2340, and the number without religious books, except the Bible, 1608. The time spent by 151 colporteurs amounted to forty-one years.

The financial condition of the Board was submitted to the Assembly. The total increase in the receipts this year over last was \$12,052 35. The income had increased threefold in ten years. The balance in the treasury on the 1st of last April was \$18,000. This amount would appear large, and required some explanation. It arose from the facts that during the last months of the year the receipts had been large, and the Report had been made up only a day or two before drafts to the amount of several thousands of dollars had been presented and paid at the Treasury. The amount, with this deduction, would not be much larger than in former years, and than was required for the management of the business of the Board. There were also some valuable works in press, the publication of which had been unavoidably delayed, and would entail some expense upon

the Board. There had been a gratifying increase in the amount contributed by churches.

On a subsequent day, the Rev. Mr. McMullen presented the Report of the Committee on the Board of Publication, approving the operations of the Board; expressing strong approbation of the Colportage enterprise; recommending the publication of the Book of Psalmody in seven characters, and also an abridged edition of the Psalmody for youth, in both sorts of notes; recommending the publication of the Confession of Faith and tracts in German; suggesting the propriety of increasing Colporteurs' salaries; and expressing much gratification at the financial condition of the Board, and especially at the amount which has been raised without formal agencies; and urging the Presbyteries to establish local depositories. The Report was adopted.

Theological Seminaries.

Agreeably to the order of the last Assembly, a standing Committee was appointed to which the reports and other matters relating to Theological Seminaries were referred.

The Seminary at Danville, having been recently founded, claimed, on account of the numerous documents to be considered, the first attention of the Assembly. Dr. Edgar, as Chairman of the standing Committee on Seminaries, reported that the papers relating to this Seminary, are a plan for the government of the Seminary, reported to this Assembly by a Committee appointed by the General Assembly of 1853; a Report from the Committee of Endowment appointed by the Assembly of 1853; a Report from the Committee on Charters appointed by the same Assembly; the first annual Report of the Board of Directors; the first annual Report of the Board of Trustees; an agreement between the Synod of Kentucky and the General Assembly; an agreement between the General Assembly and the Centre College of Kentucky, and a charter with an amendment thereto, granted by the Legislature of Kentucky to a Board of Trustees under the care of the General Assembly.

This Committee recommends that the plan be approved by the General Assembly, certified by the Stated Clerk, and trans-

mitted to the Board of Directors of the Seminary for publication; and that the remaining papers be approved and printed in the Appendix to the Minutes; that the charter granted by the Legislature of Kentucky be accepted by the General Assembly, and that the agreements between the General Assembly and the Synod of Kentucky, and the Centre College of Kentucky, be ratified by the General Assembly; and that the Committees on Endowment, and on charters, covenants, &c., be discharged, the latter having fully accomplished their work, and the unfinished part of the work of the former being hereby, according to their request, turned over to the Board of Trustees of the Seminary; and that a day be appointed by the General Assembly for the election of some suitable person as a professor in said Seminary, the Board of Directors being permitted, according to their suggestion, to retain the services of the Rev. Joseph G. Reaser as teacher of Oriental and Biblical Literature for the present, and for the election of suitable persons to the vacant places in the Board of Directors.

When the usual motion was made to approve of the report of the Committee, the Rev. Dr. McMasters moved as an amendment, that the approval of the report should not be construed as expressing, in any way, any judgment of the Assembly unfavourable to the continued operation of the Seminary at New Albany. This amendment he sustained in an able and well digested speech, in which he endeavoured to show that the location of the Seminary at Danville was obtained at the last Assembly by an improper withholding of information, and by the unfair suppression of discussion. Dr. R. J. Breckinridge, with his usual ability successfully vindicated himself and the other friends of the Danville Seminary from the imputation of unfair suppression of information, or of freedom of debate. Dr. McMasters afterwards withdrew his amendment, with the understanding that it was to be subsequently presented as an independent proposition. The motion was then put and carried, to approve and adopt the report of the Committee on Seminaries, so far as it related to the Seminary at Danville.

It was probably owing to an oversight, that the motion was made so comprehensive, and not limited to the approval of the annual report of the Board of Directors; as it was, the vote car-

ried with it the approbation and sanction of the Assembly, of the new Plan of the Danville Seminary, and of the several charters and covenants above referred to, though not one of these documents was read, and the Assembly therefore was ignorant of their details. We doubt not, the approbation of the House would have been given, had these documents been read in full, but we consider it unfortunate, as a matter of precedent, that papers of so much importance should be adopted on the mere report of a committee, and in ignorance of their contents.

The Rev. Mr. McClung, on the day following, introduced a resolution to the effect, "That the General Assembly has no intention to interfere with the Seminary at New Albany, in any way, nor with such Synods as shall continue to be united in the support of such Seminary, nor with any of the churches under the care of said Synods."

The speaker put himself at once in sympathy with the house, by disclaiming all belief that there had been anything dishonourable in the conduct of the friends of the Danville Seminary, or any intentional suppression of documents. He then proceeded to sustain his motion, by showing that all the Synods asked for, was to be allowed to go on with their Seminary; that a large amount of money, some \$100,000, was at stake; that the institution had already done good service and was likely to do more. His speech was characterized by so much good sense, good feeling, wit and humour, that it carried the house completely with the speaker, and his motion was adopted without opposition.

Princeton Theological Seminary.—The Committee on Seminaries recommended that the annual report of the Board of Directors be approved, and printed in the Appendix to the Minutes. As this report contained the recommendation of the Rev. Alexander T. McGill, as Professor in the department of Church Government, Pastoral Theology, and the composition and delivery of sermons, in the Princeton Seminary, it gave rise to considerable debate.

By some few of the members the right of the Directors to make any such recommendation was called in question. To this it was replied, that by the plan of the Seminary, the Directors were authorized and required to recommend to the Assembly

such measures as they deemed the interests of the Seminary demanded; and that the Assembly had, in numerous instances, sanctioned the exercise of this right to recommend candidates for vacant professorships, both in the case of the Western Seminary at Allegheny, and in that of Princeton. Experience had shown that such recommendations, without at all encroaching on the free exercise of the judgment of the Assembly, tended to produce unanimity and confidence. The Directors are appointed for the very purpose of watching over the institutions committed to their care; they are reasonably supposed to know better than more distant members, what their interests demand; and it is reasonable, that other things being equal, the wishes and judgment of the immediate guardians of an institution, should have great weight with the Assembly.

It was further objected, that it was not seemly or proper that a professor in one seminary should be called to occupy a post in another. To this it was answered, that there was no good reason why a man should not be transferred from one seminary to another, if his usefulness could thereby be increased. His physical constitution might be much better suited to the locality of one seminary than to that of another. His qualifications might be better adapted to the post to be filled in one than to that occupied in another. The real question for the Assembly in such cases to decide was, where can the person nominated best promote the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom. The Church had acted on this principle. The Synods of South Carolina and Georgia had called Dr. McGill from the seminary at Allegheny to that at Columbia, without disapprobation from any quarter. It was, however, objected that there was something invidious in an older seminary calling a professor from an institution more recently established, and which had met with many severe trials. To this it was answered, that the Directors of the Princeton Seminary had always acted with peculiar deference and respect to the institution at Allegheny. Dr. McGill, while in the service of the latter Seminary, had been repeatedly invited to other institutions, but the Directors of Princeton, though needing his services, had never interfered to disturb his relation to Allegheny. When a year ago it was desired to bring about his election to a

chair in the Princeton Seminary, nothing was done by the Directors until it was ascertained that his connection with Allegheny was finally dissolved. On the present occasion his recommendation was without preconcert, and without the most remote intention of embarrassing a sister institution. The vote in the Board was without debate, by ballot, and simply expressed the sense of the Board as to the person whom they deemed best qualified to fill the vacant professorship. Having expressed that judgment, it was left to the discretion of the Assembly to say where Dr. McGill could best serve the Church.

Dr. Campbell, an elder, urged as a further objection that a fourth Professor, and especially a Professor of Pastoral Theology, was unnecessary. He thought it would be much cheaper and quite as effective to present each student with a copy of a good book on the subject. This speech, notwithstanding the ability and influence of its author, made on the house about the same impression that a recommendation by a minister might be expected to make on a medical convention, to educate a surgeon by putting a copy of Cooper's Surgery into his pocket.

The friends of the Allegheny Seminary, the elders, Messrs. Lawrence, Schoonmaker, and Campbell, and ministers, Messrs. Bronson, McAbay, and others, while defending the interests of that institution with zeal, and evincing a high sense of the value of Dr. McGill's services, manifested an excellent spirit, and the whole debate was free from everything adapted to give pain, or, upon reflection, to cause regret.

We think the whole matter, under Providence, was led to a conclusion satisfactory to the Assembly and to the Church at large, by the candid and conciliatory letter of Dr. McGill to the Rev. Dr. Breckinridge, and by him presented to the Assembly. The letter is as follows:

THURSDAY, May 23, 1854.

*To the Rev. Dr. R. J. Breckinridge—Dear Sir—*Please announce to the General Assembly, on my behalf, at such time as you judge proper, that the nomination of myself to the vacant Professorship in the Seminary at Princeton, has been altogether unexpected, and without the slightest agency of mine. Were it a proposition to transfer me to another Semi-

nary, for the performance of the very same duties which I attempt to do at Allegheny, no inducement could lead me to entertain it for one moment. I could never consent to any act, which would appear to disparage an institution with which I have been identified so long, and whose patrons and Board of Directors I love and honour.

But the chair is different. The duties are more in accordance with my taste; less onerous, by nearly one-half, and such as would, so far as I can judge, comport better with my fragile strength. For these reasons, not to mention others of minor force, I have not felt it my duty to decline this nomination.

The Assembly, I hope, will appreciate my reasons for making this intimation. It is to satisfy the wishes of friends, to save misunderstanding, and to take a just share of responsibility, where the providence of God seems to indicate the path of duty. Very respectfully,

ALEXANDER T. MCGILL.

As this letter placed his acquiescence in the recommendation of the Princeton Directors on the ground of his health, and of his preference for the department which it was proposed he should fill, it enabled the Assembly to vote for his appointment, without even the appearance of preferring one Seminary to another.

The Report of the Board of Directors was therefore approved, and a day appointed to proceed to the election of a Professor.

Western Theological Seminary.—The Committee reported that the papers referred to them relating to this Seminary, were the Annual Report of the Board of Directors and the Annual Report of the Board of Trustees, which were approved and ordered to be printed in the Minutes.

Union Theological Seminary.—The Committee recommended that the Reports of this Seminary for 1853 and 1854 be approved and printed in the Minutes, and that a special Committee be appointed to bring in a suitable minute in reference to the death of the lamented F. S. Sampson, D.D., late Professor in that Institution.

Mr. S. P. Anderson, chairman of this special committee, subsequently presented the following minute, which was adopted.

The Assembly, in recording a memorial of this severe bereavement, would express its deep sense of the greatness of the loss which the Church has sustained in the death of one of her most learned, talented, and pious ministers. Fitted by nature and by grace for great and extended usefulness, he had devoted all his powers to the cause of Christ, undeterred by sacrifices which that consecration demanded, and which were remarkable in their degree, and protracted in their duration. He was eminently suited to the high and responsible post to which the voice of the Church had called him—a post which he again and again refused to abandon, even when tried by offers most tempting to human cupidity, love of ease, and ambition. To a varied and accurate scholarship he added uncommon powers of communicating knowledge and stimulating the intellects of his pupils, and a heart on fire with love to God and zeal for his service. As a preacher, a theologian, and an instructor, he occupied a place in the front rank.

The withdrawal of such a labourer from the field at such a juncture, is a loss to be felt by the whole Church, and to be recognized as one of those mysterious providences that are to be met in humble and adoring silence, rather than in a spirit of proud inquiry.

The Assembly, in view of this loss, would tender its affectionate Christian sympathies to the Directors and remaining Professors of the bereaved Institution, and would unite with them in beseeching the Great Head of the Church to raise up for them speedily, another of like mind and heart, to take his place and fulfil his duties.

Election of Professors.—The Rev. Alexander T. McGill, D.D., was elected to the chair vacant in the Theological Seminary at Princeton, the Rev. John N. Waddell, D.D. was elected Professor of Pastoral Theology and Church Government in the Danville Seminary, and the Rev. William S. Plumer, D.D., was elected to fill the chair, left vacant by the election of Dr. McGill, in the Allegheny Seminary. By vote of the Assembly the Directors of that Institution were authorized to arrange the departments of instruction to suit the wishes of the Professors.

Transfer of the Theological Seminaries to the care of Synods.—A memorial was presented from the Synod of South Carolina recommending such transfer, was referred to the Committee on Seminaries. That Committee reported to the House a resolution declaring the transfer proposed was inconsistent with the legal and moral obligations which the Assembly had assumed in relation to its Theological Institutions.

The Rev. Dr. Kirkpatrick said that the Synod to which he belonged would not desire to urge this measure in the face of legal and moral obligations, but he thought something ought to be done to relieve the Assembly of this burden. Dr. Adger said there was no zeal in South Carolina on this subject; that his own views on the subject had undergone a change. Mr. Armstrong, and Mr. Wilson, of Virginia, said that much discussion had been had in their part of the Church, in relation to the necessity of some such measure. Dr. Breckinridge showed that some \$400,000 or \$500,000 had been given to our Theological Seminaries on the expressed or implied condition that they should be under the control of the General Assembly, and therefore to transfer them to the Synods within whose bounds they happened to be placed, would be an obvious breach of trust.

The recommendation of the Committee was adopted by the Assembly.

Election of Professors in Theological Seminaries by the Directors.—The Rev. Dr. Kirkpatrick presented a resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Seminaries, inquiring into the expediency of so altering the plan of our Theological Seminaries as to give the right of the election of professors to their several Boards of Directors. That Committee subsequently reported, "That in the present stage of the sessions of the Assembly, and the present state of its business, the questions involved in this overture cannot receive mature consideration," and therefore, "recommend that no further action be taken with regard to this subject," which was agreed to.

This is a very different proposition from the preceding. The Assembly might retain the absolute control of the Seminaries, so as to fulfil all conditions of the trust assumed in their management. The Synod of Kentucky retains the control of Centre College, though the Trustees appoint the Professors, because

the Synod elect the Trustees. If, therefore, the Assembly elect annually the Directors of a Seminary, renewing the whole Board year by year, or as now, in the course of three years, the control would remain with the Assembly. A motion to this effect was presented by Dr. Murray to the previous Assembly, at the close of its sessions, but not discussed for want of time.

There are grave considerations both for and against the proposed alteration, and it is desirable that the attention of the Church should be seriously turned to the subject before any decisive steps are taken in the matter.

Judicial Case.

The Judicial Committee reported the case of the complaint of the Session of the church of Wooster, against a decision of the Synod of Ohio.

The facts in this case appeared to be substantially these:— Dr. Day, a member of the church at Wooster, having married a lady belonging to the Baptist denomination, their children, out of deference to her feelings, were not baptized. Notwithstanding this fact, Dr. Day was elected an elder in that congregation, and served in that capacity for some years. The Session of the church becoming dissatisfied with this state of things, presented the question *in thesi* to the Presbytery of Wooster, whether a man who neglected to present his children for baptism, ought to be permitted to act as a ruling elder in any of our churches. The Presbytery answered the question in the negative, and gave a deliverance on the importance of infant baptism. In consequence of this action of the Presbytery, Dr. Day resigned his office as elder, and his name was omitted from the roll of the Session. After a time, however, he wished to resume his office, and the Presbytery not having contemplated his special case in their action, recalled their deliverance on baptism, and ordered the Session to restore Dr. Day to the Session. The case being carried to the Synod of Ohio, the action of the Presbytery was sustained. From the Synod, it came by complaint to the Assembly. The Assembly sustained the complaint, and adopted the following minute as expressing their judgment in the premises:

Whereas, It appears from the record that Dr. Day was re-

moved from the session of the church of Wooster, by his own resignation of his office in that church, and not by the judicial action of the Session, it was not competent for the Presbytery to order his restoration to office by the Session; and, therefore, the judgment of the Synod of Ohio, confirming such action of the Presbytery, was erroneous, and ought to be, and is hereby *reversed*, and the complaint of the Session, so far as it relates to this point, is sustained.

Division of the Synod of Philadelphia.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures reported, without any expression of opinion, the requests of certain Presbyteries belonging to the Synods of Philadelphia and Virginia, to be constituted into a new Synod.

Whereupon, the following resolution was presented by the Rev. Stuart Robinson:—

Resolved, That the requests of these four Presbyteries be granted, and that the Presbyteries of Carlisle, Baltimore, and Eastern Shore, from the Synod of Philadelphia, and the Presbytery of Winchester, from the Synod of Virginia, be hereby set off and constituted a new Synod, to be called the Synod of ———, which body shall meet in the F Street Church in the city of Washington, on the last Tuesday, (31st) of October next at 7½ P. M., and be opened with a sermon by the Rev. Wm. S. Plumer, D. D., or in his absence by the oldest minister present, who shall preside till another Moderator be chosen; and that thereafter the Synod convene on their own adjournment.”

After an extended discussion, the resolution was adopted, and the blank was filled with “Baltimore,” as the name of the new Synod.

Division of the Synod of Pittsburgh.

The following petition from the Synod of Pittsburgh was presented by the Committee of Bills and Overtures:

“*Resolved*, That the next General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States be petitioned to erect a new Synod, embracing that part of the Synod of Pittsburgh which lies west and north of the Allegheny and Ohio rivers; and in case it shall erect the new Synod for which this Synod

asks, to call it by the name of the 'Synod of Allegheny,' and to appoint its first meeting to be held in the First Church, City of Allegheny, at the same time at which the Synod of Pittsburgh shall hold its next meeting; to be opened with a sermon by the Rev. William Annan, who shall preside until the election of a Moderator."

This petition was granted, and the Synod of Allegheny was accordingly constituted.

Systematic Benevolence.

Several overtures relating to this subject were received and referred to a special committee, of which Mr. David Hadden, elder from the Presbytery of Louisiana, was Chairman. This Committee subsequently presented a report, which after some modification was adopted, as follows:

1. *Resolved*, That this Assembly hereby enjoin upon the pastors of our churches to give greater prominence, in the ministration of the word, to the doctrine of the Scripture, as interpreted and set forth in our standards, (more particularly in Chap. XXVI. Sec. 2, of the Confession of Faith; in Question 141 of the Larger Catechism; in Chap. VII. of the Form of Government, and in Chap. IV. Sec. 5, of the Directory for Worship,) viz; that "Saints, by profession, are bound to maintain an holy fellowship and communion in relieving each other in outward things, according to their several abilities and necessities, which communion, as God offereth opportunity, is to be extended unto all those who in every place call upon the Lord Jesus," "giving and lending freely according to their abilities;" and, in conformity to this doctrine, recognizing as one of the ordinances established by Christ, in connection with the sermon, prayer, and praise, "a collection raised for the poor and other purposes of the Church."

2. *Resolved*, That the Presbyteries which have not anticipated the provisions of this action of the Assembly, are most earnestly and affectionately enjoined, 1st. At their meetings following the rising of this Assembly, to take order that the ministers and church sessions in their bounds shall be directed to adopt some practicable method by which an opportunity shall be afforded, and an invitation given, to all the members of their

congregations to contribute regularly to the objects of Christian benevolence recognized by the Assembly in the organization of the Boards of the Church, and to such other institutions as to them may seem right. 2d. And at every spring meeting to institute a proper inquiry into the diligence of ministers and church sessions in executing the provisions of such method.

3. *Resolved*, That the Presbyteries are further enjoined to enter on record, and report to the next Assembly, their action on the first part of the foregoing resolution; and also to record at their next and all subsequent spring meetings, the result of the inquiry prescribed, and report the same to the General Assembly with the usual Annual Presbyterial Report, stating the delinquencies and diligence of pastors and church sessions.

4. *Resolved*, That there shall be appointed by the Assembly a standing committee on Systematic Benevolence, which shall be charged with the reception and examination of such reports, and the presentation to the Assembly of their aggregate results.

5. *Resolved*, That the Boards of the Church are invited to aid in the proper execution of the foregoing arrangements of the churches in such official communications with the Presbyteries, as may seem proper.

6. *Resolved*, That the Professors in our Theological Seminaries are respectfully requested to give proper attention to the right training of the future pastors of the Church, in view of the duties herein contemplated.

Further, the Committee recommend the following plans for contribution:

1. A committee may be appointed by the session for each object of benevolence, and a particular month assigned in which they are to do their work, by calling upon the people, or otherwise obtaining contributions.

2. All the objects to be aided may be presented in separate columns, and each contributor called upon to say what he will give quarterly or annually.

3. Weekly or monthly collections may be taken up, and thrown into a benevolent fund, which the session may divide among the several objects approved by them, in such proportion as they think proper.

Ministerial Support.

A paper was presented from the Synod of New York, in relation to this subject, which was referred to a committee consisting of one ruling elder from each Synod, Judge Fine, of the Presbytery of Buffalo, being chairman.

1. *Resolved*, That we affectionately and earnestly recommend to the churches under our care, that they scrupulously avoid holding out any inducements to a minister to become their stated supply, or settled pastor, which will not be realized.

2. *Resolved*, That we earnestly recommend to every Presbytery, that unless suitable provision be made for the support of a minister or stated supply, they decline to give their aid or sanction, as a Presbytery, to settle him in any congregation which is unable to furnish such suitable provision.

3. *Resolved*, That we recommend to the elders, and deacons, and trustees of our churches and congregations, to meet together on some day before the 1st of November next, and yearly thereafter, or oftener, if necessary, and institute the inquiry whether the minister or stated supply is properly and fully supported; and if they find that he is not so supported, to take immediate measures to increase his support, and report to their Presbytery at its next meeting.

4. *Resolved*, That we recommend to the Presbyteries to require of every minister to preach on the subject of Ministerial Support—"that, laying aside all false delicacy, they enlighten their people upon this, as upon any other branch of Christian duty, pleading not for themselves, but for their Master, if haply they may reclaim their respective charges from a grievous sin, which must bring down God's displeasure;" and that the Presbyteries call upon every minister to answer whether he has complied with their injunction.

5. *Resolved*, That Messrs. B. M. Smith, Stuart Robinson, and James N. Dickson, be appointed a Committee to publish this report, and that the pastors be directed to read it from the pulpit at such time as may be considered most convenient.

On several different occasions the subject involved in the above report was brought to the attention of the Assembly. There was a general expression of opinion, especially on the

part of the elders, to the effect that the salaries of our ministers are in most cases inadequate; and much sympathy was manifested, especially for our domestic missionaries. We do not think, however, that the right ground was taken, either in the discussion of the subject, or in the report of the committee. We despair of seeing any thing effectually accomplished in this difficult matter, until there is a practical recognition of the two great scriptural principles, that every minister devoted to his work, is entitled to a comfortable support for himself and family; and that the obligation to furnish such support, does not rest exclusively upon the congregation which the minister serves, but upon the whole Church. The plan commonly adopted in our Church, has been, to allow a minister to look to his own people for a support; and if they are not able to furnish it, he must either suffer, or turn to some secular occupation. Two consequences inevitably follow—there is a great deal of privation unjustly imposed upon men who are among the most laborious and self-denying of our ministers; and a great deal of the time and effort of the clergyman is withdrawn from his appropriate work, and devoted to secular pursuits. The result, in a multitude of cases, is, that the minister becomes, in a great measure, a secular man, and often becomes rich. The paid clergy are those to whom the people give a sufficient salary to prevent the necessity of their resorting to making money for their own support.

The great difficulty is, that in proportion as you throw the support of the clergy on the Church at large, you encourage selfish negligence on the part of individual congregations. This is an evil, but it is far less than those which attach to our present plan—which is not only inefficient, but unjust and unscriptural. The Free Church of Scotland at first divided the “sustentation fund equally” among all its ministers, allowing each congregation to add what it saw fit to the amount received from the general fund by its pastor. This plan was found to encourage the selfish congregations to depend unfairly upon the more liberal. To avoid this difficulty, last year the plan was modified. “It was arranged that each congregation should undertake to raise annually a certain sum for the fund (the sum to be fixed by the committee and the office-bearers of the con-

gregation conjointly); that all the contributions up to this standard rate should form a general fund, calculated, if realized in full, to yield £127 (say \$635) a year to each of the present 730 ministers; that whatever sum should be contributed by any congregation above this standard rate should be added to the stipend of its own minister, until that stipend reached £157 (\$785), and that any contributions over that should form the fund for Church Extension." This plan does not operate to limit the salaries of ministers in expensive positions to the \$785 they may receive from the general fund, but it operates to secure an adequate compensation for all the ministers of the Church. The stipend actually furnished from the fund to each minister the past year was about six hundred dollars. If some man in our Church of the requisite influence, ability and leisure, would devote himself to devising and carrying into effect some fair and scriptural plan of ministerial support, he would be one of the greatest benefactors of the Church and country.

Finance Committee.

This Committee presented the following Report, which was adopted.

The Committee on Finance, to whom the Reports of the Treasurer of the Trustees, and of the Board of Trustees of the General Assembly, and the memorial of members of the Committee on Finance of 1852, were referred, respectfully report, that they have examined the Report of the Treasurer for the year past, and find the same correctly stated from the Treasurer's books, and recommend that it be approved.

The whole financial affairs of the Board of Trustees have been thoroughly investigated twice within three years; first, by an able special Committee appointed by the General Assembly in 1851, who reported in 1852; and again by an able special Committee of the Board of Trustees, whose report is presented to the present General Assembly. Both committees have thoroughly explored the sources of financial information, from the commencement of the funds and accounts; have expended months of faithful labour with untiring perseverance, to furnish all the intelligence it was possible to glean from books and papers, and have performed a work of exceeding value and

importance to the interests of the General Assembly. It is but just that these labours, both of the special Committee of 1852, and the Committee of the Board, prompted by love to Zion and her interests, should be gratefully acknowledged by the General Assembly.

Your Committee recommend that the losses sustained heretofore by the trust funds, be repaired; and that a special committee be appointed by the General Assembly for that purpose.

The principle of averaging the losses that have heretofore occurred, between the several trusts represented in the common fund invested at the time the losses occurred, seems to your committee, under the circumstances set forth in the Report of the Board of Trustees, equitable; but in future, this committee recommend that there be endorsed on each security held, a distinct designation of the particular trust or trusts to which it belongs, so that any future losses shall fall upon the trust or trusts interested in the investment.

The Report of the Board of Trustees is reported to the General Assembly, with the recommendation that the following resolutions be adopted:

1. *Resolved*, That the Report of the Board of Trustees is approved, and it is recommended by the General Assembly to the Board of Trustees to open a new set of books in accordance with the Report of the Board, and to cause hereafter a distinct account of each trust fund to be kept therein.

2. *Resolved*, That (unless the authors of the fund otherwise specially direct,) any investment may cover more than one trust, at the discretion of the Board of Trustees, *provided* the amount of the interest of each trust in the investment shall be endorsed on the mortgage or ground rent; so that hereafter, in case of loss, the same may be charged to the account of the trust or trusts interested in the security.

3. *Resolved*, That so much of the direction of the General Assembly of 1852 to the Board of Trustees as implied that each trust must be separately invested, be rescinded.

4. *Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished by the Stated Clerk to the Board of Trustees, and that the Reports of the Treasurer, and of the Board of Trustees, with the memorial of members of the Committee on Finance of

1852, referred to this Committee, be printed in the Appendix to the Minutes of the present General Assembly.

The special Committee recommended in the foregoing report, was accordingly appointed, and consists of Messrs. Cortlandt Van Rensselaer, John C. Backus, Kensey Johns, Stacy G. Potts, R. L. Stuart, and James N. Dickson.

It was then

Resolved, That the thanks of the Assembly be given to the two Committees referred to in this report, and their chairmen respectively, the Hon. Stacy G. Potts, and the Hon. Kensey Johns, for their time, labour, and skill in preparing their reports on the finances of the Assembly, and that the Clerk send them a copy of this resolution.

Commissions.

Rev. Dr. Young from the Committee on Bills and Overtures, reported,

Overture No. 7. An overture from the Synod of Kentucky, as to the right and propriety of appointing commissioners for the trial of judicial cases. The Committee recommended the following action:

Resolved, 1. That the appointment of commissioners for the trial of judicial cases is consistent with the Presbyterian form of Church Government, and agreeable to the usage of our Church, as well as to the usage of the Church from which she sprang—the Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

Resolved, 2. That in the formation of judicial commissioners, the General Assembly direct that the following procedure be observed: (1.) That the number of members appointed on any such commission shall be equal to the number required to constitute a quorum of the appointing body. (2.) That any member of the Court that forms the commission, if he shall see proper to do so, be allowed to sit as a member of the commission, in addition to the number appointed. (3.) In a commission formed by the General Assembly, not more than one member shall be appointed from any one Synod, and in a commission formed by a Synod, not more than three members shall be appointed from any one Presbytery.

Dr. Young sustained this overture at length. Chancellor

Johns spoke with effect on the other side of the question. Dr. McMasters moved to postpone the resolutions offered by the Committee with a view to send down a proposition to alter the constitution, so as to answer the end contemplated in the overture. Dr. R. J. Breckinridge moved as a substitute a proposition to be sent down to the Presbyteries changing the representation in the Assembly from Presbyterial to Synodical. He thought the Assembly, and of course the lower courts, had the power to appoint commissions, and that the best way was for them to do so whenever necessity called for such action, without any declaration of the Assembly in its favour. Finally the whole subject was laid on the table. It was evident the House was not prepared to adopt the overture proposed by the Committee, and perhaps it is best to let the matter rest until the Church is brought to see that our present mode of conducting judicial cases is impracticable, and that we must in some form introduce the principle of judicial commissions.

SHORT NOTICES.

A German Dictionary, by J. Grimm and W. Grimm. "In the beginning was the Word." Vol. I. Leipzig, 1854: xcii. and 1824 columns. (Deutsches Wörterbuch, von Jacob Grimm und Wilhelm Grimm. Im anfang war das Wort. Erster Band. A—Biermolke. Verlag von S. Hirzel.)

The completion of the first volume of the long expected German Dictionary of the Brothers Grimm gives us an opportunity of saying a few words about it. The labour of editing this Dictionary has been taken upon two pairs of shoulders, but at the same time it engages *two heads*. To obtain the necessary freedom of action for both these scholars, they have agreed to divide the labour in such a manner between themselves that each volume shall be from the hand of *one* of the brothers; so that the first volume is entirely from the hand of Jacob Grimm. This