

THE
PRINCETON REVIEW.

JULY, 1856.

No. III.

- ART. I.—1. *Synopsis Evangelica. Ex quatuor Evangeliiis ordine chronologico concinnavit, prætexto brevi commentario illustravit, ad antiquos testes apposito apparatu critico recensuit Constantinus Tischendorf.* Lipsiæ, 1851. 8vo.
2. *Synopsis Evangeliorum Matthæi, Marci, Lucæ, cum locis qui supersunt parallelis litterarum et traditionum evangelicarum Irenæo antiquiorum. Ad Griesbachii Ordinem concinnavit, prolegomena, selectam Scripturæ varietatem, notas, indices adjecit Rudolphus Anger, Phil. et Theol. Doctor, utriusque in Acad. Lips. Professor, etc.* Lipsiæ, 1852. 8vo.
3. *A new Greek Harmony of the Four Gospels, comprising a Synopsis and a Diatessaron, together with an Introductory Treatise, and numerous tables, indexes, and diagrams, supplying the necessary proofs and explanations.* By William Stroud, M. D. London, 1853. 4to.
4. *A New Harmony and Exposition of the Gospels, consisting of a parallel and combined arrangement on a new plan, &c.* By James Strong, A. M. New York, 1852. 8vo.
5. *A Harmony of the Gospels in the Greek of the Received Text, on the plan of the author's English Harmony, with the most important various readings, &c.* By James Strong, A. M. 1854. 12mo.
6. *The Four Witnesses: being a Harmony of the Gospels on a new principle.* By Dr. Isaac Da Costa, of Amsterdam. Translated by David Dundas Scott, Esq. New York, 1855. 8vo.

THERE is something strange in the unwearied constancy with which the Church, in every age, has wrought at the great

ART. VII.—*The General Assembly of 1856.*

THE General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, met May 15, 1856, in the First Presbyterian Church in the city of New York, and was opened with a sermon by the Rev. Nathan L. Rice, D. D., Moderator of the last Assembly, from 2 Tim. iv. 1.

This discourse was received with great approbation, and a copy was by the Assembly requested for publication.

After the completion of the roll, the Assembly proceeded to the choice of a Moderator. Dr. Francis McFarland, of Virginia, received 119 votes, and Dr. John M. Campbell of New York, 113; whereupon Dr. McFarland was declared duly elected.

Princeton Seminary.

The Thirty-first Report of the Trustees of this Institution was read, at the request of Mr. M. Newkirk, by the Permanent Clerk.

From this report it appears that there is at present in the hands of the Treasurer, James S. Green, Esq., the sum of \$12,010.05, of which a

Balance on Permanent Fund,	\$1254.35
“ Contingent Fund,	2648.86
“ Education Fund,	3742.29
“ John Hoff’s Legacy,	4364.55

\$12,010.05

A new scholarship had been formed, to be called the John Hoff Scholarship, from the legacy of that gentleman, amounting to the sum of \$2500, and from the same legacy \$1000 had been appropriated to print the annual address contemplated by the testator.

The balance of the legacy of Miss Catharine Naglee had been paid in, and from this sum, as the necessity of a new Professor’s house had been obviated, \$1000 were added to the Perma-

ment Fund, and the residue not appropriated continues in the Contingent Fund.

The Library had received valuable donations of 195 volumes, and by purchase two volumes. The present number of volumes is 14,057.

John Donaldson, Esq., the financial agent of the Trustees since 1845, had resigned on account of impaired health, and John C. Green, Esq., had been appointed in his place. The mortgages were reported by Mr. Donaldson as all yielding 7 per cent., and the interest punctually paid.

The Forty-second Report of the Directors of the Princeton Theological Seminary was also read, from which it appears that forty-one new students have been admitted during the year. The whole number present during the year was one hundred and one. One death had occurred. The religious character and studious deportment of the students were commended. Seven students had been licensed by various Presbyteries. The Faculty earnestly repeat their conviction of the injustice done to the Seminary and to the students themselves by their being licensed in the early part of their course, and refer the Board to their early and continued remonstrances on this subject. Twenty-four young men had received certificates of having finished the whole course of study prescribed. The Board request the Assembly to alter the Article II., Sect. 13, so as to read, "During the annual examination, or at its close, a sermon shall be preached before the Seminary by a member of the Board of Directors."

The report was put into the hands of the appropriate Committee.

Danville Seminary.

The Rev. Dr. Humphrey presented the reports of the Trustees and Directors of the Theological Seminary at Danville, Kentucky.

A motion was made to omit the reading of the remaining reports of the Theological Seminaries, and that they be at once put into the hands of their appropriate Committees.

Objections were made from several members on the ground that this would appear invidious. The mover stated that his

object was only to gain time. After some further discussion leave was granted to the mover, and he withdrew his motion.

The Rev. Dr. Humphrey then proceeded to read the reports of Danville Seminary.

From the reports of the Trustees it appears that the whole amount of funds under the control of the Trustees of the Synod of Kentucky, turned over to the use of the Seminary, under the action and pledges of 1853, is	\$22,507.94
Present amount of funds under the control of the Trustees of Centre College of Kentucky, turned over in like manner,	5,343.00
	<hr/>
	\$27,850.94
Total real estate held by the Board for this Seminary,	9,000.00
Cash, notes, stocks, &c.,	40,484.18
	<hr/>
Total,	\$77,335.11

This sum is considerably larger than was originally pledged for Kentucky to the General Assembly. Some difficulty and delay is necessarily anticipated, however, in making a clear collection and permanent investment of so large a sum. The real estate is at present wholly unproductive, and much expense is necessarily incurred in collecting the interest on stocks, &c. with regularity. On these accounts only about \$4000 yearly income can be relied upon for some time to come.

The Report calls attention to the fact, that the pledges given by the Presbyteries of Kentucky for raising funds for the Seminary had been nobly redeemed, and that the time had fully come for making application to other parts of the Church beyond the bounds of the Synod of Kentucky. The Trustees of the Seminary had, during the past year, industriously made such application, and now report to the Assembly that they *had signally failed*. This failure had, however, led to the good result, that on a renewed application to the churches of Kentucky, the Presbyteries of that State had again cheerfully secured a further sum for the temporary support of a third Professor. In the view of the present need of the Seminary, the Trustees make an earnest appeal to the Assembly to take some definite action, in order to open the way for an appeal in the different pulpits throughout the bounds of the Church in behalf of the Seminary.

The Directors of the Seminary report that twenty-two new students had been admitted during the year. The whole

number present during the year is forty-five. Sixty-six students have entered since the origin of the Institution, and twenty-seven of these have been licensed. The plans of instruction have been perfected and fairly set in operation. The labour of four Professors has been wholly borne by two. The Directors urge the appointment of an additional Professor. The Presbyteries of Kentucky are very decidedly convinced of its necessity. One of the present Professors is so enfeebled in health as, in his own judgment, to make his resignation actually necessary. The Report closes with an encouraging statement of the success that has attended the youthful Institution from its beginning, and of the signal favour of God by which pressing difficulties have been met and overcome, and the way opened for its advancement.

The Report was placed in the hands of the appropriate Committee. This Committee subsequently recommended the following resolutions, which were adopted, viz.

In view of the history of this Seminary, and of the previous action of the Assembly constituting it a first class Institution of the whole Church, the following resolutions were submitted:

1. *Resolved*, That this Seminary be commended to the prayers and affectionate regards of the whole Church, and receive the same cordial attention which has been granted to the older Seminaries.

2. *Resolved*, As the Presbyteries of the Synod of Kentucky and the Directors, together with the present Professors, ask the Assembly to elect at its present sessions, a Professor of Pastoral Theology and Church Government, that the request be complied with.

3. *Resolved*, That this Assembly, with thanks to the Great Head of the Church, congratulates the more immediate patrons of this Seminary for the evident smiles of his Providence on their wise and persevering efforts in founding and advancing it to its present prosperous and hopeful condition.

Rev. Dr. Humphrey offered the following as supplementary to the resolutions as to Danville Seminary.

The General Assembly now re-affirms its purpose in conformity with its action in 1853 and its stipulations in 1854, to

proceed in good faith, and with the least practicable delay, to take measures to endow and establish this Seminary as of the first class. To this end it is earnestly recommended to all the congregations under our care, especially those in the West and South-west, to aid by liberal contributions its complete endowment; and the Board of Trustees, as the agents of the Assembly, are renewedly invested with ample powers to institute the means necessary to the collection of funds under this action of the Assembly.

Nominations for the vacant Professorship in Danville being in order, the Rev. Dr. McMullen nominated the Rev. Stuart Robinson as Professor of Pastoral Theology and Church Government.

Dr. Robinson was duly elected. The vote stood, for Dr. Robinson 130; blank 50; scattering 6.

Western Theological Seminary.

The Rev. Dr. Marshall presented the Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of Allegheny Seminary which was referred to the Committee on Theological Seminaries.

The whole number of students during the year has been seventy-nine; *eighteen* have completed the course of study. One has died during the year. The examinations before the Board were reported as very satisfactory, and the conduct of the students exemplary. Two had devoted themselves to the foreign field.

The Report represents the Seminary as in a very flourishing condition. A new Seminary building has been completed together with houses for two Professors. Large additions have been made to the library. Many rooms have been furnished for the use of the students. Receipts of the year, \$22,772.15.

The appointment of a fourth Professor in this Seminary having been proposed, the Rev. Dr. Phillips nominated the Rev. Richard W. Dickinson, D. D.; the Rev. Mr. Beattie nominated Rev. Luther Halsey, D. D. Dr. Dickinson was chosen. The vote stood, for Dr. Dickinson 176; for Dr. Halsey 32; blank 5.

Union Theological Seminary.

The Report of this Seminary was read by Dr. Campbell. It shows a list of twenty-eight students. Six graduated during the year. The Faculty of this Seminary is composed of three Professors. The health of the students has been good.

The Report was put into the hands of the appropriate Committee.

Professor Dabney rose to give a reason why another Report of the Union Theological Seminary than that given yesterday was presented. The Report read yesterday, owing to the time of meeting of the Board of Directors, was eleven months old. The present report is up to May 12, 1856. The report states that during the year nine students had been matriculated. The whole number present during the year has been twenty-three.

The increase of the Seminary has been recently very gratifying, and this new impulse has been cotemporary with the efforts of the Synods to endow it more perfectly. The whole amount of funds is now 75,000 dollars, of which 10,000 dollars are at five per cent., and 65,000 dollars at six per cent. This Institution has been much tried by repeated bereavements—four Professors have died in a few years, and two of these within the last five years. The report repeats the conviction of its friends of the necessity of this Seminary, in order to meet the wants of that particular section of the country. A new Professorship had been established—that of *Biblical Instruction*. The library contains 4370 volumes, of which thirty-nine have been received during the year. The Rev. William J. Hoge of Baltimore, has been elected to fill the fourth Professorship. The Seminary has four scholarships available for the support of needy students. The Trustees have pledged themselves besides, that no necessitous student shall lack the means to get a theological education at this Seminary. The assent of the Assembly was asked to the various organic changes detailed in the report.

The action of the Directors of this Institution in erecting a new Professorship, to be entitled the Professorship of *Biblical*

Interpretation, and their election of the Rev. William J. Hoge of the Baltimore Presbytery to this Professorship, were confirmed.

On motion, the resolution of the Committee to give the choice of two Directors of this Seminary (one minister and one ruling elder) to the Presbytery of Winchester, was approved.

It was stated, that to effect this arrangement the Synod of Virginia had agreed to deduct an equal number from the list which it now has the right to elect.

Board of Domestic Missions, 1856.

The Assembly then proceeded to the next order of the day, which was hearing the Report of the Board of Domestic Missions.

Dr. Musgrave, the Corresponding Secretary of the Board, read the Report, of which the following is an abstract.

There has been an increase in the number of missionaries employed during the year; an augmentation of the receipts, both from the churches, and in individual donations and legacies; an increase in the aggregate appropriations; a larger average salary paid to our missionaries, and an increase in the balance on hand at the close of the fiscal year. In every department there has been an encouraging progress; calling for thankfulness and praise to God for his unmerited goodness and mercy.

*Operations of the Year.—Of Missions—Statistical Details.—*The number of missionaries in commission, April 1, 1855, was 346, to which have been added to March 1, 1856 (11 months) 220, making the whole number 566, and more by 41 than the year previous.

The number of churches and missionary stations, wholly or in part supplied, (as far as reported,) by our missionaries, is 943. The number of newly organized churches is 42.

The number of admissions on examinations is 1832, and on certificate 1836, making a total of admissions of 3668.

The number in communion with churches connected with the Board, is 22,916.

The number of Sabbath-schools is 332; of teachers, 2443, and of scholars, 15,887.

The number of baptisms is 2217.

Of the 566 missionaries who have been in commission during the year, 187 have sent in no special report for the Assembly, very nearly one-third of the whole number; consequently we must increase all the returns very nearly one-third, to make them correct.

Appropriations.—The appropriations made to our missionaries, from April 1, 1855, to March 1, 1856, (11 months) have been at the office in Philadelphia, \$50,103.34, and at the office in Louisville, \$32,475.83; making a total of \$82,579.17.

Adding the appropriations made during the month of March 1856, to the above, for the sake of comparison with the other years, the figures would stand thus: Appropriations made from April 1, 1855, to April 1, 1856, at the office in Philadelphia, \$51,703.34, and at the office in Louisville, \$33,425.83; making a total of \$85,129.17.

The appropriations made to our missionaries, from April 1, 1854, to April 1, 1855, were, at the office in Philadelphia, \$48,735.42, and at the office in Louisville, \$25,759; making a total of \$74,494.42.

From this statement it appears that the appropriations made at the office in Philadelphia, exceeded those made the year before \$2967.92, and at the office in Louisville, they were more by \$7,666.83; thus making the total appropriations this year more than the year preceding, by \$10,634.75.

Receipts.—The total amount of receipts from all sources, from April 1, 1855, to March 1, 1856, (11 months) is \$85,747.73, to which add balances on hand in the different treasuries, April 1, 1855, (less \$320.95, withdrawn by Flint River Presbytery,) \$15,223.34; making the available resources of the Board during the year, \$100,971.07.

Adding the receipts at the offices in Philadelphia and Louisville during the month of March, 1856, for the purpose of comparison with other years, the total amount of receipts from April 1, 1855, to April 1, 1856, is \$94,848.87; to which add balances on hand in the different treasuries, April 1, 1855, as above \$15,223.34; thus making the available resources of the

Board during the year, from April 1, 1855, to April 1, 1856, \$110,072.21.

The amount paid out at the different treasuries from April 1, 1855, to March 1, 1856, (11 months) is \$79,837.90, leaving an available balance in all the treasuries on the 1st of March, 1856, of \$21,133.17. The amount due the missionaries at the same date, was \$13,226.54; leaving an unexpended balance of \$7,906.63.

The aggregate receipts from April 1, 1855, to April 1, 1856, have been larger as compared with the receipts from April 1, 1854, to April 1, 1855, \$23,014.40. The excess has been in individual or special donations and legacies, \$16,958.95, and in the contributions of the churches, \$6055.45. The receipts at the office in Philadelphia, including the Presbyterian treasuries, were larger by \$14,067.95, and the receipts at the office in Louisville, \$8,946.45.

The amount due the missionaries at the close of the fiscal year, as previously stated, was \$13,226.54, leaving an unexpended balance of \$7,906.63. The unexpended balance on April 1st, 1855, was \$5,539.70. From this statement it will be observed, that the unexpended balance in the treasury on the 1st of March, 1856, is only \$2,366.93 more than the amount which was reported on the 1st of April, 1855.

Re-Enforcements and Enlargement of the Church.—During the year, the Board have established new missions in various sections of our country. Three additional missionaries have been sent to California, two to Wisconsin, and one to Minnesota, and one in addition to those already there has been employed in Oregon. We have also sent one to Nebraska, and one to Kansas. Arrangements have likewise been made to send an additional one to Minnesota, and two to Kansas. Thirty-nine missionaries have been either wholly or almost entirely employed as itinerants.

Clothing.—Clothing valued at \$7,837.14 has been received during the eleven months, from April 1, 1855, to March 1, 1856, and distributed among the missionaries who needed it.

Salaries of Missionaries.—During the past year, the Board have increased their *average* appropriation to the missionaries \$11.35.

During the last *three* years, the Board have increased their average appropriations to the missionaries \$41.90, which is a little over $31\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. By this advance, the *annual* liabilities of the Board, with the present number of missionaries, have been augmented nearly \$24,000.

Need of Funds.—Although the available balance on hand at the close of the fiscal year is considerable, and somewhat larger than that of the year preceding, yet it is no more than is needed. It ought to be distinctly understood by all, that the amount on hand at the period of the year when our balance is reported, is always larger than at any other time. From the month of March the receipts begin to fall off, and during the latter part of the spring, the entire summer, and the early part of the fall, the receipts are comparatively small; so that unless our available balance at the commencement of the fiscal year is comparatively large, it would be impracticable to carry on the operations of the Board during the year. For example, at the beginning of the fiscal year, April 1, 1855, we reported an available balance of more than \$15,000; and yet by the 1st of November ensuing, we had only about \$2,000 in hand!—not enough to meet the usual payments for a single fortnight!—and but for the prompt and generous responses to our appeals for aid by many of the friends of the cause, our operations must have been seriously embarrassed.

The receipts *from the churches* from April 1, 1855, to April 1, 1856, *fell short* of the payments, during the same period, *upwards of eighteen thousand dollars*, and but for the balance on hand at the commencement of the fiscal year, and the unusually large amount received from individuals, donations, and legacies, we would have been in debt to our missionaries at the close of the year!

With an increased number of missionaries, and a higher scale of appropriations, the expenditures of the Board have been very largely augmented; so that during the year upon which we have entered, we shall need much larger receipts from the churches.

Moreover, it is very important that the Board should not be hampered or embarrassed in undertaking the establishment of *new* missions.

As there will, probably, be no collecting agents in the field assigned to the Executive Committee in Philadelphia, and probably none in the larger portion of the field assigned to the Western Executive Committee, the Board must rely mainly upon the pastors and sessions to see that collections are taken up for Domestic Missions during the year.

The usual resolutions expressing the approbation of the Assembly were passed. Dr. Hewit said:—Forty years ago he was a member of the Assembly. He is now enabled to cry out, What hath God wrought? Then we had 10 Synods, now 30; then 43 Presbyteries, now 148; then 511 ministers, now 2261; then 881 churches, now 3079; then 37,208 members, now 231,404. According to Scripture, the branch bringing forth fruit shall be purged; this has been verified in the history of the Church. We are two bands. Had we gone on together we should this day number 54 Synods, 256 Presbyteries, 3778 ministers, 4738 churches, and 374,433 members.

He hoped many here would live to see forty years hence, and if so, with what emotion they would repeat the words used to-day—"What hath God wrought?" THEN, with the same ratio of increase, they would see 270 Synods, 1280 Presbyteries, 18,890 ministers, 23,690 churches, and 1,872,165 members. "Hear then the trumpet—Onward, onward—God is with you—fear not!"

Foreign Missions.

On motion of Rev. Mr. Williams, the Rev. Dr. Thornwell was thanked for his able and eloquent sermon on Foreign Missions, preached last evening, and he was requested to furnish a copy to the Board of Foreign Missions.

Rev. Dr. Gibson, from the Committee on the Board of Foreign Missions, reported, recommending that the Report of the Board be approved, and ordered for publication. They also offered the following resolutions, which were adopted:

1. *Resolved*, That this Assembly finds occasion for the devoutest gratitude to God for the success which has attended its missionary operations during the past year, as appears in the extension of missionary operations, and the blessing of God upon the labours of our missionaries, unexampled

by any former year—no part of the missionary field remaining without some special token of the Divine favour, and the admissions to the communion of the missionary churches being more numerous than in any former year.

2. *Resolved*, That this Assembly desires to express its cordial approval of the manner in which the Church's Foreign Missionary operations have been conducted during the past year by the Executive Committee and officers of the Board, and would render adoring praise to God for the success which he has been pleased to vouchsafe.

3. *Resolved*, That this Assembly express special satisfaction in the increased liberality of the churches towards the Foreign Missionary Board, showing the unabated interest of God's people in this great cause so immediately connected in its final success with the glory of the Church's Head.

4. *Resolved*, That this Assembly render special gratitude to God, in that our Board of Foreign Missions has been enabled so much to enlarge its operations during the past year, and for the increased number of missionaries sent into the foreign field, with sufficient means contributed by the Church for their support; and especially for the unusual indications of the presence of the Holy Spirit in almost all our missionary stations and churches.

5. *Resolved*, That it is the indispensable duty of every member of the Church to contribute, according to his or her ability, to the various schemes of benevolence conducted by the Church; and this Assembly express their regret that so many of our churches have failed to contribute anything to Foreign Missions during the past year; and would hereby urge upon the pastors and sessions of those delinquent churches to see to it that the cause be remembered in their prayers and contributions in time to come.

6. *Resolved*, That the General Assembly feel greatly encouraged to go forward in the missionary enterprise, from the fact that from a comparative recent origin, our Board now takes its place alongside sister associations which have done so nobly in this cause, and would urge upon the churches increased and still more vigorous efforts to occupy the fields which are being opened by the providence of God for the

introduction of the glorious gospel of our ever blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

7. *Resolved*, That the Assembly approve of the course pursued by the Board in regard to the setting apart a special fund for the education of children of foreign missionaries, and because it is due to these men of God that their children be educated in Christian lands, the Committee recommend increased contributions on the part of the wealthy members of the Church to the above fund.

Also, in connection with the above resolutions, the Committee would direct the attention of the Assembly to the fact, that notwithstanding the recommendation of the last General Assembly, the fund of \$20,000, devoted to the endowment of Professorships in the Theological Seminary of the Waldensian Church, is still incomplete by about \$7000, very little having been contributed for that object during the past year.

Rev. J. Leighton Wilson, one of the Secretaries of the Board of Foreign Missions, then addressed the Assembly. Mr. Wilson said, these are times of scrutiny and agitation in reference to our Boards, and he would say that if in the Annual Report presented to the Assembly, there is not as much minuteness as may be desired by some, he knew not in what the deficiency was to be found. Would that there might be as much care in reading it, as there has been labour in preparing it. There has been no period in the history of our missionary work where it has worn so encouraging an aspect; and this whether as regards the steadiness with which the missionaries have been able to prosecute their work, the influence of the truth among the heathen, or the readiness of labourers to engage in the noble cause. Much of the work hitherto has been preparatory; now we are beginning to reap rich fruits. Few of the stations have been without special tokens of God's presence. Additions have been made to one church of 30; to another 26; to another 14; to another 12; and to two others 10 each. In all, something like one hundred and fifty precious souls have been gathered in. There never have been so many doors open, or calls for labourers, as during the last year. Every assault which succeeds must be followed up. For instance: at the Choctaw station something

like one hundred and twenty-five have been added to the Church during the last year, and this chiefly through the labours of one brother, who was occupied with a school. Now should not a man be sent out to take the pastoral charge of this flock? Again: among the Seminoles about twenty-five or thirty were brought in. Hitherto that has been one of the most hopeless of the Indian tribes. Should we not take advantage of these favourable indications to strengthen the hands of those who are there?

From the Pagan world beyond the seas almost every mail brings hopeful news. In Northern India, until within a few years, the doors were locked and barred against the gospel. But what a mighty change has occurred! Those mighty despotisms that opposed the gospel have been smitten to the dust, and the old pagan superstitions are shaking and tottering. Western Africa, twenty-five years since, was the most hopeless of all portions of the earth. There were not at that time more than twenty missionaries—now there are one hundred and fifty; there were but three churches, and these had barely an existence; now there are one hundred and fifty, and the converts are more numerous than those of both branches of the Presbyterian Church in this great city of New York. Is it nothing that these great changes are occurring? Is not the Church called on for efforts proportioned to such an era?

There has been no previous period when our Board has gone more extensively into its work than during last year. Nearly sixty labourers have gone out this year, being nearly double as many as were ever sent before, and more probably than by any other missionary institution in the world in the same time.

Missionaries are also to be sent to various new stations. This extraordinary extension of the missionary work demands, of course, a large increase of means. But no step has been taken in this work except in obedience to a plain call of Providence. The calls could not be resisted. The Indian tribes in Kansas and Nebraska were instances in case. Missions among them were urgently demanded; and just when the Board were striving to find the means required, our Government voluntarily offered a considerable sum for the support of schools,

which at once removed the difficulty. Mr. Wilson mentioned remarkable providential openings and calls from South America, New Grenada, and the Affghans. The Affghans, with a population of 5,000,000, have not yet learned the first rudiments of the gospel. A young man had offered himself for this work; and just when he was on his way, an Englishman and another offered the Board \$7500 for this very object. This munificent sum will found the mission and support it for two years.

In view of the extent and wants of the field, the Board are sometimes almost overwhelmed with the responsibility which rests upon them. O, that the Church would come up to her full responsibility in this glorious work! A larger liberality is demanded.

Board of Education.

An outline of the Annual Report was presented by Dr. Van Rensselaer, who said:—The number of *new* candidates received this year is 102. The *total* number on the roll is 382, being 18 more than the preceding year. 1. This whole subject is eminently connected with God's sovereignty. 2. Our operations call for gratitude to God. 3. The statistics indicate the inadequate impression of the Church in regard to her responsibilities and duties.

The Board next present a plea for educational operations on the *basis of Scripture*, and maintain the following propositions: 1. The perpetuation of the ministry is made by the word of God an object of special concern to the Church. 2. The Church is required to use means for the attainment of the great end in view. 3. The Scriptures authorize the belief that many of the Church's ministers will always be from among the poor. 4. The ministry should be an educated as well as a pious ministry, called of God to their work. 5. It is a Scriptural principle, that pecuniary aid should be granted to those candidates whose condition requires it.

Agencies.—The whole work of the Board has been performed by the Secretaries, with the single exception of a few weeks' voluntary service, and at a less cost than for any year during the last eleven.

State of the Treasury.—The total receipts for the ministerial

fund were \$40,679.78, being an increase of about \$5000. Of this fund, one-fifth, or \$8000, has been contributed by two churches in New York. The amount raised for this fund is the largest that has been raised since the division of the Assembly. The sum received into the fund for schools and colleges is \$6,833.17, being somewhat less than last year. The aggregate receipts for all the funds were \$48,169.52, and the expenditures were \$48,071.47, leaving a balance, including that of last year, of \$2032.96.

Primary or Parochial Schools.—The number of these schools is about 100, of which 34 have received aid from the Board, and seven more have lately applied. One of the elders of a church in New York city has continued his offer of \$5000 per annum to the object.

Presbyterial Academies.—The number of Presbyterial Academies is 58. These are located in every section of the north, south, east, and west. They contain on an average 70 or 80 students each, and are doing a great work in the cause of thorough Christian education.

Colleges.—The colleges directly under the care of the Church are 18, which, with four others indirectly under our immediate control, make a total of 22 institutions. The number of students, regular and irregular, connected with these institutions is 2100; of these, about 500 are communicants of the Church, and 350 are candidates for the ministry. During the year upwards of 100 students have been hopefully converted to God. Revivals of religion have occurred at Princeton College, Washington College, Pennsylvania, and Oglethorpe University, Georgia.

The Board offer the following remarks on the collegiate policy of the Church:

1. It ought to be the universal aim to incorporate thorough religious instruction into the course of studies.
2. The Church ought to cultivate the harmony, now happily prevalent among our institutions.
3. Our colleges ought to increase in number from time to time; but not too fast, or too near each other.
4. Ample endowments ought to be provided for all our colleges, and chiefly from the districts of country where they are located.
5. A large number of young men ought to be encouraged to

seek the advantages of a liberal education. It may be added, that, whilst our colleges are struggling to secure an endowment, especially during their infancy, it is good policy to assist them with a portion of the funds which the liberality of the churches may supply for the general object.

In conclusion, on the whole, the operations of the Board, in both departments, are in an encouraging state; and with the blessing of God upon the faithful efforts of his people, a constant advance in our work is to be expected.

The only resolution of special interest adopted by the Assembly in reference to this Board is the following, viz.

Resolved, That while the Assembly continues to approve of the course of the Board in establishing schools, academies, and colleges on a definite religious basis, a sound discretion is necessary as to their number and location; and lest the operations of the Board in this relation should be exposed to invidious misconstruction, it should be distinctly understood that the Church does not undervalue the importance of any institution of learning, which though not subjected to ecclesiastical supervision, recognizes the authority, and inculcates the principles of God's written word; much less disparage the common school system, as adapted to useful ends, so long as the Bible is not excluded.

An interesting debate followed the presentation of the Report, in the course of which Dr. Dabney remarked:—This Board does not receive equal regard with the other Boards. There is a great disparity between them in the number of contributing churches. It is asserted that we have already many unemployed ministers hanging about our cities. But it is a fact that the proportion of those educated by our Board of this sort is far, far less than of those educated by their own means.

Again, while the ministry requires a greater number of qualifications, mental and bodily, than any other calling, yet it is a fact that there are fewer failures than in any other profession. Where one has failed here, ten have failed in other professions. But suppose some few have not been worth the cost employed in their education, is there not a loss expected in every enterprise? Does every seed planted come to perfection? Does not every merchant expect that some of his ventures shall turn

out unproductive? Some, at least, fail to stand the severe test of the actual ministry, and that after all the efforts made to test them at every step. He referred to the armory at Springfield. There every sword-blade is subjected to an increasingly severe test at each point of its manufacture. Everything is thus done to secure a good blade. But at last a more severe test than any former one is applied, and there a number fail. What is the result? Are these all lost? Not at all; for those that fail for swords make excellent carving-knives. So, many that, after preparation, fail as ministers, make capital teachers. He thought, also, that a chief means of preventing mistakes was to raise the grade of acquirements necessary. He appealed here to the Presbyteries. They were the proper ones to elevate the standard of qualification. The Board could not go beyond them. The truth was, that our theology, instead of being the strong meat formerly required, is evaporating into diluted potions administered all over the land in small muslin covered volumes, that require no thought or labour to fathom.

This elevation of the requirements of our candidates would increase the number as well as quality of our ministers. We do not get the best sort of men, because we do not demand the best. The true plan to elevate the ministry is to make it hard to be licensed. The opposite course gives the world the best men, and leaves the infirm sort for the ministry. He inveighed against the loose way in which Presbyteries deal with their young men. The ease with which they are allowed to go through their trials, tends to lower their views of ministerial excellence. That which every man may easily get soon, becomes, in every man's esteem, not worth the having, and men cease to seek it. This plan, then, will necessarily lessen the ranks of the ministry.

Rev. Dr. Thornwell wished only to indicate two principles embodied in the resolutions, for which he could not conscientiously vote:—1. That the Board extends its influence over institutions of learning. From this view he must entirely dissent. It was purely an eleemosynary institution for the education of a ministry. It had no part in these collegiate institutions. 2. The second principle was this:—That education

belongs exclusively to the Church. This also he must dissent from. It belongs to the parent, to the Church, and to the State. This was no place to discuss the subject. He would, therefore, only express his dissent. As the Scotch Presbyterians say in their Presbyteries, he had exonerated his conscience, and would stop there.

If the Board has adopted the principle that education belongs exclusively to the Church, it is not only something new, but in direct contradiction to its most explicit official declarations, and to the constant representations and arguments of Dr. Van Rensselaer its distinguished Secretary. We are persuaded that Dr. Thornwell is entirely mistaken as to that point. The position occupied by the Board is that secular education does not belong exclusively to the family or to the State. It has stood on the defensive against those who denied the right of the Church to establish schools and colleges. It has ever asserted the very principle affirmed by Dr. Thornwell, that the education of the young, as the care of the sick and of the poor, is the common duty of the family, of the Church, and of the State. When either of the other agencies fully accomplishes the work, the Church is satisfied; but if parents are incompetent or negligent, and if the State refuses to do any thing, or insists on giving an infidel education, under the plea of excluding religion, then the Board asserts the right and duty of the Church to provide a mode of culture in accordance with the word of God. This is the principle which the Assembly has repeatedly sanctioned by an almost unanimous vote, and which is embodied in the resolution quoted above. That resolution expressly disclaims all disposition to interfere with schools, academies, or colleges under other than ecclesiastical supervision, provided they are religiously conducted. We believe all opposition to the principles or action of the Board on this point has originated in misapprehension. As the Board agrees with Dr. Thornwell, it is to be presumed that Dr. Thornwell agrees with the Board.

Board of Publication.

The order of the day was then taken up, and the Report of the Board of Publication was presented by the Corresponding Secretary, the Rev. William E. Schenk.

Abstract of the Eighteenth Annual Report.—The limits of the financial year of the Board have recently been changed, so that it will hereafter commence annually on the 1st of March, instead of the 1st of April. Owing to this change, the portion of time under review comprehends this year only *eleven months*.

The operations of the Board were presented under the three following heads:

I. Production. II. Distribution. III. Sustentation.

I. *Production.*—The Publishing Agent reports that there have been issued 37 *new* works, viz. 16 new volumes, and 23 smaller publications. Of these new works there have been published 111,000 copies. The *reprints* of former publications have been 485,250 copies. Thus the *total publications* of the year have been 596,250 copies.

The total number of copies published since the organization of the Board to March 1, 1856, has been 5,546,688.

There has been an *increase* in the number of copies of all kinds printed during the past year, of 125,250 copies over the year preceding.

The largest work issued last year has been the "*Assembly's Digest*," by the Rev. Samuel J. Baird, a volume of 856 pages, which has received much commendation. The Board has also issued an edition of the "*Life of Dr. A. Alexander*," by Dr. J. W. Alexander. Several additions have also been made to the Board's list of German tracts.

Much attention has been given to the judicious increase of its *Sabbath-School Library*. An anxious desire is expressed for its enlargement, and suitable manuscripts are invited from ministers and laymen in every part of the Church.

Periodicals.—Circulation of the *Home and Foreign Record*, 17,500 copies, being an increase within the year of 500 copies. *Sabbath-School Visitor*, 43,000 copies—*increase*, 2,000.

II. *Distribution.*—There are three distinct channels through which the publications of the Board reach the hands of the people.

1. Distribution by sales from the publishing-house to private individuals and booksellers. These have amounted during the

eleven months now reported on, to 171,516 volumes, besides tracts, pamphlets, and periodicals. The value of these sales, (including the *Sabbath-School Visitor*, but not the *Record*,) has been \$70,702.28.

2. *Distribution by Colportage*.—In this department, there has been great enlargement and encouragement during the past year.

The number of colporteurs commissioned within these eleven months has been 210, an *increase* of 37 over those of the preceding twelvemonth. These have been distributed throughout 28 States and Territories, as well as through all the British Provinces, from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Lake Superior. They have also begun to occupy Oregon, California, Kansas, Nebraska, the Lake Superior mining region, and hitherto unoccupied portions of Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, and Florida.

These colporteurs have *sold* 125,700 volumes, an increase of 27,940 volumes sold. They have *gratuitously distributed* 13,913 volumes, an increase of 3133 volumes. They have also distributed gratuitously 1,046,964 pages of tracts. And they have visited 91,734 families, an increase of 12,642 families visited.

There is much evidence that the colporteurs have also increased in qualifications and efficiency during the past year, and that the Spirit of God has largely attended and blessed their labours.

3.—*Distribution by donation of Executive Committee*. This has amounted to 3269 volumes and 111,873 pages of tracts, which have been chiefly given to Sabbath-schools, feeble churches, needy ministers, and to individuals for gratuitous distribution.

The *total distribution* of the eleven months has been as follows:—

By sales at Publishing-house,	171,516 vols.
“ “ by Colporteurs,	125,790 “
“ grants of Colporteurs,	13,913 “
“ “ of Executive Committee,	3,269 “

Total of volumes distributed, 313,488
besides tracts, pamphlets, and periodicals.

III.—*Sustentation*.—There has been so gratifying an increase in the receipts of the Board from every source this year, that for eleven months only, they exceed those of the preceding twelve months. They have been as follows:

Total receipts of eleven months,	\$88,596 20
“ payments “ “	86,039 03
Total receipts from sales of books, tracts, and Sabbath-School Visitor,	70,702 28
Total receipts for Colportage,	14,497 28
Balance in Treasury of Board,	17,033 96
Balance of deficiency against Colportage Fund,	2,352 67

Agencies.—Not a single collecting agent has been commissioned during the past year. There is an evidently growing disposition on the part of pastors themselves to instruct and train their people in habits of benevolence, a tendency in which the Board greatly rejoices. During the past year the income of the Board has been derived from a larger number of Presbyteries and churches than ever before, although there has been no collecting agent in the field.

The whole aspect of the work committed to this Board is one of progress and encouragement, such as it rejoices to be able to spread before the General Assembly, and as encourages it to new and enlarged exertions for the time to come.

Church Extension.

The Report of the Church Extension Committee was made by the Rev. Mr. Coe, the Corresponding Secretary, of which the following is an abstract.

This new enterprise was organized in the city of St. Louis, Missouri, on the 3d July, 1855, under the appointment of the last General Assembly. The Committee elected Rev. N. L. Rice, D. D., Chairman; Archibald Gamble, Esq., Treasurer; and David H. Bishop, Esq., Recording Secretary. On the fourth day of September, 1855, the Rev. H. I. Coe, of Galena, Illinois, was unanimously chosen Corresponding Secretary, and entered upon the discharge of the duties of the office on the twentieth day of the same month. His salary was fixed at \$1500 per annum. The services of the other officers, all

valuable, but especially those of the Treasurer, have, during the past year, been rendered gratuitously.

In carrying on the work entrusted to them by the General Assembly, the Church Extension Committee have, as far as practicable, acted upon the following principles, viz.

1. To make no appropriation to any Church under the care of a Presbytery, without the recommendation of that Presbytery, or its Church Extension Committee.

2. To be guided in determining the amount to be appropriated in each case by the carefully ascertained necessities of that case, and the state of the Treasury.

3. To diffuse appropriations as widely and equitably as possible over the whole country.

4. To require, as the ordinary pre-requisite of the payment of every appropriation from the general fund, a certificate from the Trustees of the Church aided, that the Church lot is fully secured to the Old School Presbyterian Church, and that the amount granted by the Church Extension Committee will complete their house of worship, and leave the whole property free from debt.

5. To withdraw every appropriation not properly called for within two years of its date.

6. To recognize the right of donors to designate the recipients of their donations.

7. Inasmuch as it is frequently of the highest importance to a Church to know definitely the amount of aid upon which it may rely, for a considerable time before the money can be drawn, the Church Extension Committee have felt at liberty to make, in anticipation of the incoming of funds, several appropriations, payable as soon after a fixed time in the future, as the churches aided shall comply with the conditions on which the appropriations are made.

These principles are chiefly deductions from the eleven years' experience of the Church Extension Committee of the Board of Missions, and the past has only added to the evidences of their wisdom.

The number of *new* applications for aid in erecting churches, received from April 1st, 1855, to April 1st, 1856 (including thirteen applications acted upon by the late Church Extension

Committee of the Board of Missions, previous to the transfer of their books, papers, and funds to the present Committee of the General Assembly,) is one hundred and five. These one hundred and five new applications come from churches in the bounds of twenty-six of our thirty Synods, and fifty-three of our one hundred and forty-eight Presbyteries. The amount of aid asked for in these one hundred and five applications is over \$27,000.

Besides these, forty-one *old* applications, amounting to nearly \$7000 (action upon which was deferred by the Committee of the Board of Missions for want of funds,) remain on file, awaiting later information.

In addition to all these, forty-two unpaid appropriations of the Church Extension Committee of the Board of Missions, amounting to \$5090, have been assumed by the General Assembly's Church Extension Committee, and may properly be regarded in the light of applications. The whole number of requests for aid during the year just closed, that may be ranged under the general head of applications, is, therefore, 188, amounting to over \$39,000.

During the year ending April 1, 1856, appropriations have been made to seventy-one churches, to the amount of \$12,785.99.

Appropriations to twelve churches, amounting to \$1525, have been withdrawn.

The balance in the treasury of the Church Extension Committee of the Board of Missions, April 1st, 1855, was \$4173.10. The receipts from April 1st, 1855, to April 1st, 1856, were—from churches, \$8059.72; from other sources, \$1697.59, making in all \$9757.31. This, with the balance on hand, April 1st, 1855, gives for the available resources of the year ending April 1, 1856, \$13,930.41.

The receipts of this year are \$4510.83, or more than 85 per cent. in advance of the receipts of the last year.

The number of churches that have contributed this year is nearly two and a half times as great as the number that contributed last year, and the amount received from churches is considerably more than double the amount received from churches in any previous year.

The number of churches which this year for the first time have sent in donations, is at least one and a half times greater than the whole number of different churches which have contributed in any former year.

The expenditures of the year closing April 1st, 1856, were \$11,083.51, including a temporary loan of \$700 to the Church Extension Committee of the city of St. Louis, out of the contributions of the Second Presbyterian Church of St. Louis, made in accordance with the desire of that Church.

The balance on hand in the different treasuries, April 1, 1856, was \$2,846.90, to meet appropriations made to the amount of \$8,575. The liabilities, therefore, of the Committee exceeded its resources, April 1, 1856, \$5728.10.

Ministerial Support.

Dr. Junkin introduced a resolution for appointing a committee to report to the Assembly on the insufficiency of the support of the ministry, and to draft a pastoral letter to the churches on this subject. Dr. Junkin argued to show the need of some efficient measures being adopted to correct the evil contemplated in the resolution. Rev. Mr. Cater complained of the inequality in the salaries of ministers, and stated that in a Presbytery to which he once belonged, the average salary of the ministers was \$180. The Rev. Mr. Phillips said that the first two years he was a minister he received all told \$225. He walked over a territory seven miles in extent and laboured with all his might. He had been eight years in the ministry and had never yet received \$400 per annum. Dr. Junkin's resolution was adopted. Dr. Dabney, as Chairman of the Committee appointed by the Chair, subsequently reported a pastoral letter on this subject, which was adopted.

It contained a summary of the arguments used in the debate, setting forth the trials and exigencies to which the ministry is reduced by its present inadequate support, and urging upon the churches the need of their immediate and increased liberality in this duty. It dwelt upon the fact of the greatly increased wealth of the Church, the comparatively great increase in the price of the necessaries of life, and the conse-

quently increasing inadequacy of the stationary salaries of ministers which have been graduated in past time to meet a very different state of things. It calls upon the churches to take immediate measures to raise an adequate sum, by subscription or otherwise, and to institute efficient means for collecting the same.

There can be no doubt that the ministry in general in our Church is very inadequately supported, and that this is a great injustice and a great evil. The only question is, how can this evil be abated? It certainly does not arise from the poverty of the Church. Nor does it arise, altogether or in chief part, from the penuriousness of the people. We apprehend that the evil in question arises mainly from two sources; first, from the denial or failure to recognize the true principles of ministerial support; secondly, from the want of any suitable organization for carrying those principles into operation.

As to the former of these points, it is, in our judgment, the clear doctrine of the word of God, and the faith of nine-tenths of the Christian world—first, that every minister of the gospel, devoted to his work, is entitled to an adequate support; and, secondly, that the obligation to provide that support rests on the Church as a whole, and not exclusively on the particular congregation of which the minister is the pastor. The first of these principles our Church has always recognized; the second it has in a great measure ignored. The general rule has been to let every congregation provide for its own pastor. If the congregation is rich, the salary is abundant; if the congregation is poor, the salary is inadequate. Our Board of Missions in a measure meets this difficulty, but only in a very small measure. First, because it has always been conducted on the principle that its aid was temporary, designed to sustain churches in their forming period—and secondly, because its contributions are only sufficient and only intended to keep the minister above the starvation point. The Church has required it to act on the assumption that congregations must be self-sustaining; that the duty to support the pastor is a congregational, as distinguished from a church duty. We support our foreign missionaries, but we leave our domestic missionaries to shift for themselves, with the minimum of aid from abroad. The true principle, as

we believe, is that adopted by the Free Church of Scotland. The Church guaranties an adequate support to every minister devoted to his work; as much as possible of that support is derived from the congregation to which he ministers; the deficiency is made up by general contribution. We do not believe that it is possible that the crying injustice of such inequality and inadequacy in the support of the ministry can ever be abated, until a similar principle is carried out in our Church. No one supposes that a minister living in New York should have no higher salary than one living in a western village. This would be absurd. But the western missionary is entitled to a salary suited to his necessities, and he has the same claim to such a salary that our city ministers have to an income suited to the greater demands to which they are subject.

Supposing this principle should ever be recognized, of which we have little hope, how can it be carried out? We see no necessity for any new organization for this purpose. Every object would be answered by enlarging the operations of the Board of Missions, and enabling them so to increase their appropriations as to put every faithful minister above the necessity of either starving, or of devoting his time to some secular pursuit. When we said above, that we had no organization for carrying out the Scottish principle of ministerial support, all we intended was that we have no organization intended for that purpose. We have one adapted to it, if the Church would only give it the requisite authority and resources. All that is required is, that we should act towards our ministers who labour among the poor and the unbelieving at home, on the same principles which guide our action towards our ministers among the heathen. Mere exhortation will not meet the difficulty. There must be some plan to equalize the burden of ministerial support.

Fund for Relief of Indigent Clergymen.

Rev. Dr. Rogers made a report from the Trustees for the relief of indigent and disabled ministers, and the families of such. The report stated that they had given aid to 20 persons, of whom 11 were widows, 8 were clergymen, one an orphan daughter. The reasons which justified the bestowal of this

relief were various. Some of the beneficiaries were unable to labour by reason of advanced age, and others by chronic disease. The whole amount of funds at the disposal of the Trustees during the year was \$1580, which sum, divided among 20 persons, would give an average of \$79 to each. The moneys, however, have been divided in different proportions: the largest amount paid to any one person was \$200, and the smallest \$35. The Trustees expressed deep regret that in the distribution of funds they were restricted to so small an amount. The sums appropriated have been necessarily small, from the smallness of the funds placed at their disposal. Had the amount at their disposal been larger they would gladly have awarded, in many cases, sums twice, or even three times as large as those which were actually paid.

The resolutions of the Assembly on the subject had met but little attention. Two of the wealthiest Synods had drawn more than they had paid in during the year. The appeals of the orphans and widows to the Committee had been very touching.

This subject was referred to a committee, consisting of Dr. Rogers, Rev. W. Cater, Judge Porter, Dr. Marshall, and Matthew Newkirk, Esq. This committee reported, recommending,

1. The establishment of a permanent fund for the relief of aged or disabled ministers, and of their widows and orphans.
2. That this fund should be raised by an annual contribution of five dollars from each minister and of ten dollars from each congregation.
3. That the benefit of the fund be confined to the contributors.
4. That the Trustees should apportion the income of the fund according to the recommendation of the Presbyteries, through whom all applications for relief were to be made.

These recommendations were severally adopted, but when the motion came to be put for the adoption of the whole paper, a motion as made to recommit it. This was carried. When the subject was again brought up, it was found that great diversity of opinion and feeling existed among the members. Some were opposed to a permanent fund; others thought there was no need of action in the premises, inasmuch as ministers were well enough taken care of. One man said a minister ought to preach as long as he was able to stand, and then lie

down and die; another, that he had no idea of preaching to a people who would not support him; that the oldest ministers were the richest; or they might get their lives insured, or be supported by their children. Another argued that the whole thing ought to be left to the spontaneous action of the Church. The result was that the subject was referred to a committee consisting of Judge Leavitt, of Cincinnati; Dr. Rogers, of Philadelphia; Daniel Lord, Esq., of New York; Thomas C. Perrin, Esq., Abbeville Court-house, S. C.; and Isaac D. Jones, Esq., Princess Anne, Maryland, to report to the next Assembly.

It has been frequently remarked that the laymen in our General Assemblies uniformly manifest greater interest and more liberality of feeling on the whole subject of ministerial support than the ministers themselves. All the remarks depreciating action, or bearing with severity on the feelings of the brethren, came from ministers. This may be natural. They may revolt at the idea of being considered necessitous or dependent, and disposed to resist any plan which seems to hold up the ministry as objects of charity. All this, however, seems to us very mistaken. Is it a matter of charity that the English government gives a retiring pension to all public servants from the Lord Chancellor downward? Are the widows and orphans of our military and naval officers paupers because they receive pensions? It is a simple principle of justice, that when a man devotes himself to the service either of the Church or State, he should be sustained while able to work, and provided for when disabled. It is not only a matter of justice but a divine command, and as Dr. Thornwell said, (though opposed to the report,) the curse of God would rest on the Church if she did not perform her duty in this matter.

There can be little doubt that there is a necessity for some provision for the support of aged or disabled ministers; and that it is the duty of the Church to make such provision. But how shall it be done? One plan is to leave the matter to each congregation, or Presbytery to provide for their own cases of this kind. This amounts to doing nothing more than is now done. Another plan is to raise a permanent fund the interest of which shall be applied to the contemplated object. To this it is objected that all permanent funds are precarious;

that it is inexpedient to put a burden on this generation which properly belongs to the Church at all times; that if this fund is to be raised from ministers, and its benefits confined to contributors, it is after all making the ministers support themselves; that no fund which the churches would raise would yield an income adequate to the object. Another method proposes a modification of the plan of life annuities. There are institutions established for the sake of profit, which secure to contributors in consideration of a sum paid at once, or of an annual contribution, a certain annuity payable either when the party attains a certain age, or in case he should at any time be disabled. It has been suggested that the Church should form such an institution—not such as has already been established, to which ministers contribute annually, and the contributors alone are benefitted—but one to which the Church shall annually contribute as she does to other objects, and her disabled ministers, whether contributors or not, should receive the benefit. If an individual minister may be a subscriber to such an institution, or if a particular congregation may subscribe for its pastor, why may not the Church as a whole do the same thing? We are glad that this subject is committed to men of business, and especially to legal gentlemen, who are familiar with the whole business of life insurance and of annuities. This is a subject very imperfectly understood by those who have not made it a matter of special attention. This was made abundantly evident by the discussion on the floor of the General Assembly. The suggestion was made and insisted upon, that the corporation for the relief of the widows and children of clergymen, should restrict their operations to the ministers of our Church. This sounds very much as if a flour or cotton merchant should refuse to sell to any but Presbyterians. The more he sells the better, and the more subscribers to the widows' fund the better. It is the very principle on which such institutions are founded that in the aggregate more must be paid in than is drawn out. One man in a long life will pay in twice or thrice as much as his family can be entitled to draw; while in another case the family may draw ten times as much as the parent paid. On the whole, however, the payments to the fund must exceed the payments

from it, or it would soon become bankrupt. It is for the good, therefore, of all concerned that the subscribers to the widows' fund should be increased as much as possible.

Judicial Cases.

Some eight or ten cases of this kind were presented to the Judicial Committee, but by the skill and wisdom of that body matters were so managed that all but three were arranged without being brought before the house. No. 1 was the complaint of the church of Stillwater against the Synod of New Jersey.

The session of the Stillwater church suspended one of their ruling elders. The ruling elder appealed to the Presbytery, and the Presbytery directed the session to restore him to office; the session then complained to Synod, and the Synod sustained the Presbytery. It was against the action of the Synod the session now complains.

After a great deal of discussion, extending over parts of six days, Dr. Thornwell said he thought the whole question was one of technicalities, and moved that the complaint be sustained *pro forma*, and the session be directed to give Mr. Shafer (the suspended elder) a new trial. This motion was carried almost unanimously.

This is another lesson teaching what the Church seems slow to learn; that a body consisting of upwards of two hundred members is not a very suitable court of appeal. Lawyers tell us that the apparently anomalous plan of making the upper house of the Legislature the ultimate court of appeal in civil matters answered very well, because the house uniformly deferred to the judicial members, except in cases where those members differed among themselves, and then the instinct of the lay members generally inclined them to take part with the right side. Such is not the constitution of our Assembly. It would be more of a parallel case if the appeal in civil matters were from the bench to the whole bar of a state assembled as a court, or if the House of Representatives of the United States were the supreme court of the Union. We believe the necessity for the appointment of a commission is forcing itself more and more on the conviction of the leading minds of our Church.

Another infelicity in our mode of conducting judicial cases was made very manifest on this occasion. This case was introduced on the fourth day of the sessions of the Assembly and decided on the tenth. When the case had been partly heard, other matters were taken up, and the whole subject driven from the minds of the members, and then it was resumed. This was done over and over again. It is obvious the case would have occupied much less time and been much better understood, could it have been heard continuously.

There is another point worthy of remark. It is impossible for any reader of the minutes of the Assembly, or of the debates, to have the least idea of the merits of the case. The complaint is not given, neither the action of the Presbytery nor of the Synod is so stated that the reader can understand either the grounds or the justice of their decision. The only insight he can get is from the conflicting statements of the debaters.

We will venture still further to urge the necessity of the revision of our book of discipline. It is unintelligible, inconsistent, and in some of its parts unreasonable. This is proved beyond dispute from the fact that so much diversity of opinion exists as to its interpretation. We never knew of a judicial case brought before the Assembly where the mode of procedure did not create debate and confusion. Who are the original parties is the question almost certain to be started, and just as certain to receive conflicting answers. In the present case, the Moderator decided the Session and the Synod were the original parties.

But what can the word *original* then mean? The original parties must mean the parties concerned in the origin of the dispute; which in this case, were the elder and the session—another difficulty is, that in the great majority of cases there are no parties, in the sense of plaintiff and defendant. It seems unreasonable and anomalous to make the lower court a party. In civil matters, a lower tribunal does not appear at the bar of a higher, as a party to be tried. Its decision is reviewed—but the original litigants are the only parties, no matter how many steps there may be before the ultimate tribunal is reached. Would it not simplify matters if we adopted the same course?

Our plan is first to try the Synod as a culprit, then the Presbytery, then the session, and at last we get down to the original offender. No wonder we never fail to get into confusion. The simple and natural course, when a case is brought from a lower to a higher court, is to try the cause, and not the court. The thing to be done is to administer justice, that is, for example, to decide whether a member has been rightfully suspended. Why not do this directly, instead of indirectly? Why must we get at the ultimate point by first having the Synod arraigned, accused by one party and defended by another, and then turned out of the house as a culprit, and when all is done, we have to see how the Presbytery acted, and at last we get to the Session. In the State, if a man brings a cause before a lower court and it goes against him, he appeals to the superior court; if not satisfied, he takes it up to the Supreme Court, and if still aggrieved, he goes to the Court of Errors. In every step he takes simply his cause, he does not drag all the courts with him. The case is re-heard at every step, and if injustice was done in the original decision, or in any of the subsequent ones, the matter is set right. The cause goes up with all the records in the case, and is decided on its merits. We cannot see why we should not adopt the same course. If a man is suspended unjustly in his judgment by a session, let him take the case to the Presbytery, and have the case (not the Session) tried over again. If not satisfied with the decision, let him go to the Synod, and have the case (not the Presbytery and Session) re-heard; and if still aggrieved, let him take the case to the Assembly and have it (and not the Synod, the Presbytery and Session,) tried again. This, we are persuaded, would save a great deal of time and trouble, and deliver us from that labyrinth in which our higher courts never fail to get bewildered. It is a natural consequence of making inferior courts parties, to put them out of the house, and deny them any voice in the ultimate decision of the case. What justice is there in this? If it is a question of fact or morals, or of doctrine, or of constitutional interpretation, they have as much right to be heard in the last resort as others. Suppose a Synod consists of three Presbyteries, one with fifty members, another with twenty, and the third with ten, and that the first should unan-

imously pronounce a given doctrine heretical, then, in case of an appeal, sixteen members might set aside the judgment of fifty. Is there any sense or reason in this? Is it a personal matter with the Presbytery any more than with the Synod? Is a circuit judge excluded from his seat in the Supreme Court when his judgment is appealed from? This making lower courts parties, and denying them a voice in the final judgment, and, to cap the climax, turning them literally out of the house, does appear to us a monstrous perversion of judicial principles.

There are several other points in which the obscurity of our Book was manifested. What is meant by the Synod, as a party, being fully heard? Dr. Rice said, it means hearing all that the members appointed by the Synod to defend its judgment had to say. The Moderator decided it means hearing all that any member of the Synod, present at the Synodical decision, might wish to say. Again, it was disputed whether the complaint brought up the merits of the case; some said it did, others, with the Moderator, said it did not; and yet it was so impossible to get on without bringing up the merits, that the Moderator was forced to admit that "it seemed necessary that some little reference to the history of the case should be made!" Is not this pitiable? We do not blame our excellent Moderator, whom everybody respects and loves; we blame the system. The whole process is disreputable. The session suspended an elder, no one knows why; no one knows whether it was done justly or unjustly, regularly or irregularly. The Presbytery ordered the elder restored to office—no one knows why. The Synod confirms the action of the Presbytery, and the Session complains to the Assembly—of what? we have not the slightest idea, and no one else can have from the record. If the proceedings of a civil court or of a court martial were so conducted and so reported, what would the public think? Instead of being behind and below all other tribunals in the mode of administering justice, the Church courts should present a model for all other courts. This can never be done until we have a complete revision of our system.

Case No. 2. Rev. Dr. Campbell of the Judicial Committee reported the complaint of the Rev. H. G. Gardiner against the Synod of Wisconsin, reversing the proceedings of the Presby-

tery of Dane, which recognized the election and ordination of J. G. Clark and others, as elders and deacons of the church at Madison, and also a complaint of the said J. G. Clark against the same decision of the said Synod, and also against their decision reversing the action of the Presbytery of Dane in putting a call from the said church of Madison in the hands of the said H. B. Gardiner to become their pastor. The parties in this case having agreed upon a statement which was laid before the Judicial Committee, the Judicial Committee recommended the following action in the case, which was agreed to.

1. That the complaint be sustained *pro forma*, and the decision of the Synod be reversed so far as it pronounces the election and ordination of the elders and deacons invalid; the Assembly being of opinion that the informality in the call of the congregational meeting was not so serious as to vitiate the election and ordination.

2. That the Synod was right in pronouncing the call of the congregational meeting irregular.

3. That although the Assembly thus recognizes the validity of the election and ordination of the said elders and deacons, they yet recommend, the said elders having assented thereto by their representatives, that in view of the past and existing difficulties the said elders cease to act, according to our Form of Government, until such time as in the estimation of the Presbytery of Dane the church can be reasonably harmonious in receiving them in their official capacity.

It was moved that the report of the Judicial Committee be adopted.

Dr. Junkin stated that this decision would satisfy all parties.

The question on the adoption of the report of the Committee was put and carried.

Case No. 3. In this case it appears that the session of the church of Muncy arraigned General William A. Petriken on three charges. On two of these he was condemned; but on the first charge, the ruling elders of the church being interested, the case was referred to the Presbytery of Northumberland, who tried and condemned him on the first charge. The Synod of Philadelphia afterwards, on the alleged grounds that one of the ruling elders had not been installed, and also that the ses-

sion were interested personally in the case, declared the whole proceedings null and void. The Rev. Messrs. Waller and Gibson now complain of the said action of Synod; and Mr. Smalley appeals.

The only point of general interest involved in this case is, whether installation is essential to constitute a man a ruling elder in any congregation. The affirmative was strenuously asserted by several members of the Synod. The negative was as strongly affirmed by several members of the Assembly. Judge Leavitt stated, "that if installation were necessary, he himself was not a ruling elder, and had no right to a seat in the Assembly." Mr. Hendricks, of Indiana, made the same statement respecting his own position. "He had never heard, indeed, the word installation applied to ruling elders until yesterday." Similar statements were made by others. Mr. Waller stated that "there were five uninstalled ruling elders at his Presbytery last fall. Did that destroy the Presbytery?" The Assembly refused to sustain the appeal and complaint. The vote stood—sustain, 52: not sustain, 100; sustain in part, 14. This might seem to imply that the Assembly intended to sanction the doctrine of the necessity of installation. To avoid that inference, the Rev. Mr. Shotwell moved that a committee be appointed to bring in a minute expressing the judgment of the Assembly in the case. Dr. Humphrey "thought this important, inasmuch as the vote of the morning had placed many members in a very equivocal position. Are these men," he asked, "no longer ruling elders?" The motion was carried. The committee subsequently reported the following minute, which was adopted, viz.

The Committee appointed to prepare a minute in relation to the action of the Assembly in Judicial case No. 4, respectfully recommend the passage of the following resolutions, to prevent on the one hand the bad effects of former irregularities in the installation of ruling elders, and on the other hand to avoid such irregularities in future.

1. *Resolved*, That any ruling elder, regularly ordained or installed in one church, and subsequently elected to the sacred office in another church, and who has heretofore, pursuant to such election, served as a ruling elder in such other church,

without objection, shall be presumed to have been duly installed therein, and his right to act shall not be now questioned.

2. *Resolved*, That when a ruling elder shall hereafter be elected to the same office in a church other than that in which he has been ordained, the minister and session are hereby enjoined formally to install him.

3. *Resolved*, That the Assembly hereby declare that the existing law of the Church as to the mode of installation is as follows:—After sermon, the minister shall speak of the office of ruling elders, as in case of ordination, and shall then propose to the ruling elder elect, in the presence of the congregation, the following questions: “Do you accept the office of ruling elder in this congregation, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof?” “Do you promise to study the peace, unity, and purity of the Church?” The ruling elder elect having answered these questions in the affirmative, the minister shall ask the members of the church whether they accept him, as in cases of ordination. The members of the church having answered in the affirmative, by holding up their right hands, the minister shall declare him a ruling elder of the church; and accompany this act by an exhortation, prayer, and other proceedings, as he may deem suitable and expedient.

Turretin remarks, that in reference to ordination and the appointment of church officers, we must distinguish between “essentials and accidentals.” To make forms essential is the essence of formalistic ritualism, and utterly subversive of God’s law, and of the best interests of the State and of the Church. What is marriage but the covenant between one man and one woman to live together as man and wife, according to God’s ordinance? Wherever this covenant is made, there, in the sight of God, and *in fero conscientiæ*, is marriage. Different States have enacted different laws prescribing the forms or circumstances which should attend this contract, and the modes in which it shall be attested; and it is the duty of all living under such laws, to conform to them. But suppose that from ignorance or recklessness any of them are neglected, is the contract null and void? To answer in the affirmative is to trample the law of God under foot. For a long time the laws of England required that all marriages should be solemnized in church, by

an episcopally ordained minister, and within canonical hours. While these laws were in force, it was the duty of all Englishmen to obey them. But suppose any man was married by a Presbyterian minister, after twelve o'clock, noon, would his marriage in the sight of God be void, and would it be pronounced void by the civil courts, without doing violence to the divine law? In like manner, ordination is the declaration of the judgment of the Church, through its appointed agents, that a certain man is called to the ministry. The Church directs that this judgment shall be signified in a certain way, and with certain prescribed solemnities, such as laying on of the hands of the Presbytery. Suppose any of these prescribed formalities are neglected; suppose the Presbytery omit the laying on of hands, (as we have known very recently to be done,) is the ordination void? No man but a Papist or Puseyite would answer, Yes. In the case of a ruling elder, the choice of the church, and the consent of the person chosen, is all that is essential. The rest is ceremonial. Prescribed forms should be observed; the neglect of them should be censured. But to make them essential, is, in our view, to abandon the fundamental principle of Protestantism and of common sense. It would invalidate the acts of half the sessions in the country.

This matter of installation of elders is very much a novelty. We believe it is unknown in the Scottish and Continental Churches. We have no objection to it. We are perfectly willing it should be "enjoined," and we think the injunction ought to be complied with, but we must renounce our Protestantism before we can believe that an uninstalled elder is no elder. Some years since, an Episcopalian in Ireland was married to a Presbyterian woman, the rite being solemnized by a Presbyterian minister, whereas the law at that time required that when either party belonged to the Episcopal Church, the officiating clergyman should be an Episcopalian. The man repudiated his wife and made her children bastards. In some of our States the law requires a marriage license. A young girl, ignorant of that fact, is married without a license, and her marriage is pronounced void. Is this right? Certainly it is, if the neglect of prescribed forms be allowed to vitiate solemn contracts. Mr. Waller asserted "that Mr. Smalley, the ruling

elder in question, was unanimously elected, after due and sufficient notice," and was immediately invited to take his seat in the session, and did so. This was almost a month before the trial. Any principle which would invalidate his official acts, would justify the repudiation of a wife under the circumstances just stated. If a man sells an estate, and receives the money for it, and then refuses to recognize it because of technical defect in the papers, it would be universally considered an outrage, because everything essential to a sale had been done, and the failure was in unessential and variable formalities. However, therefore, we may be disposed to insist on certain forms attending induction into Church offices, do not let us do as Romanists do, exalt forms into substance.

The New Digest.

The following resolutions were offered and adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this General Assembly are due to the Rev. Samuel J. Baird for the labour incurred by him in the preparation of the "Assembly's Digest," recently published by the Board of Publication.

Resolved, That the Digest is earnestly commended to the attention and patronage of all in our connection, and that any person having suggestions to make in reference to any proposed improvement in the work are invited to make them to the author thereof before the issue of a new edition.

The next Assembly is appointed to meet at Lexington, Kentucky.