

PRESBYTERIANISM.

The Relation of the Church to the Freedmen—Further Consideration of the Subject—Unanimous Adoption of Resolutions Expressive of the Sentiments of the Assembly—A Liberal System of Beneficiary Education to be inaugurated.

After the regular opening of the General Assembly, the "Form of Government" was still further considered.

The following gentlemen were announced by the Moderator as constituting a committee to confer with the committee from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, viz: Revs. J. O. Steadman, D. D., T. D. Witherspoon, John Waddell, D. D., J. A. Lyon, D. D., and J. H. Gray, D. D.

The order of the day, the further consideration of the "Relation of the Church to the Freedmen," having now arrived, after some discussion as to a further postponement, the subject was taken up.

The question being upon the adoption of the resolutions presented by the committee on Thursday, the Rev. Dr. Baird took the floor and addressed the Assembly at some length.

After an expression of views on this subject, Col. Maye, on behalf of the special committee to whom was referred the papers upon the "Relations of the Church to the Freedmen," submitted as their report the following resolutions:

1. Resolved, That this Assembly entertains for the freed people the sincerest sentiments of good will and affection; that it earnestly desires and prays for their salvation, and would encourage the employment of every legitimate means for the promotion of their spiritual good; that this Assembly believes the present condition of the colored race in the country to be one of alarming spiritual jeopardy, and that it is binding on us, as Christians, to do all that lies in our power to save them from the calamities by which they are threatened, and to confer on them the rich blessings of the gospel.

2. Resolved, That it is recommended to all our ministers and churches to exert themselves to the utmost of their ability to continue to give the Gospel to these people; to church sessions to urge upon parents among them the duty of presenting their children for baptism, and of bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; and especially to pastors, evangelists and missionaries to devote a portion of their labor to the promotion of the salvation of the freed people.

3. Resolved, That in the judgment of the Assembly, it is highly inexpedient that there should be an ecclesiastical separation of the white and colored races; that such a measure would threaten evil to both races, and especially to the colored, and that therefore it is desirable that every warrantable effort be made affectionately to disunite the freed people from severing their connection with our churches, and to retain them with us as of old.

Should they decline this fellowship of ordinances, and desire a separate organization, then our sessions are authorized to organize them into branch congregations. In such cases, the Assembly recommends that such congregations shall be allowed, under the sanction of the sessions, to elect from among themselves, every year, such number of superintendents or watchmen as the session may advise, who shall be charged with the oversight of such congregations. Their superintendents shall report to the sessions for their action all matters relating to the welfare of said congregations.

4. Resolved, Whenever Presbyteries may find it necessary to organize separate colored congregations, they shall appoint a commission of elders who shall discharge the functions committed to the sessions in the preceding resolution.

5. Resolved, That whilst nothing in our standards or in the Word of God prohibits the introduction into the Gospel ministry of only qualified persons of any race, yet difficulties arise in the general structure of society and from providential causes which may and should restrain the application in the Church of this abstract principle. Holding this in view, the Assembly recommends that wherever a session or Presbytery shall find a colored person who shall possess suitable qualifications, they are authorized to license him to labor as an exhorter among the colored people under the sessions of the body appointing him.

6. Resolved, That the Assembly recommends that whenever it is practicable, Sabbath schools for the benefit of the freed people, especially the young, be established in connection with our churches, and that the sessions of the churches take these schools under their charge, and provide suitable teachers for them.

7. Resolved, That the heads of families are exhorted to encourage the freed people in their households to attend upon family and public worship, and that they provide for them, as far as possible, catechetical instructions in the doctrines and duties of the Gospel.

Resolved, That the General Assembly earnestly desire the intellectual and moral improvement of the colored race, and hereby tender to all persons suitably qualified, who may labor in the work, its hearty encouragement and support.

The resolutions as above were adopted seriatim without debate.

The Rev. Dr. Adger offered a resolution authorizing the Committee on Revision to incorporate as many hymns from the minority committee or elsewhere as they may deem expedient, subject only to the limitation that the hymn book shall not be made larger than the one now in use.

The Rev. Mr. McKay, from the Committee on Beneficiary Education, presented a majority report, which was as follows:

The report of the Executive Committee on Education, referred to your committee for review, is very brief and exceedingly meagre in statistical information, which mainly gives interest to and constitutes almost the only permanent value of such productions. It is, in fact, merely apologetic, rendering good and satisfactory reasons for the inaction and consequent inefficiency of the committee, growing out of the uncertainty thrown over the whole subject of beneficiary education by the hesitancy of successive General Assemblies, as to the continuance of the committee, and the manifest reluctance on the part of the churches and Presbyteries to invest their funds and candidates for the gospel ministry to the control and management of an agency whose existence seemed to be so precarious.

This unfortunate state of things in reference to ministerial education ought not to be permitted to continue. It is not believed that there is a single session or congregation, much less Presbytery or Synod, that does not recognize the responsibility that rests upon the Church to secure and maintain for itself a pious and learned ministry. If the entire church cannot be

brought to see eye to eye in reference to the prosecution of this branch of christian enterprise, the paramount importance of which is admitted by all, and upon the successful conduct of which depends the efficiency of every other scheme of Christian benevolence which has been or may hereafter be inaugurated, sure we are, that the General Assembly can, at least, adopt some plan which will harmonize the sentiment and commend itself to the favorable consideration of the great body of the church.

To effect this most desirable object, the subject must be divested of all collateral issues. We must ignore minor differences of opinion, give up preconceived notions and old-standing prejudices, and in a spirit of generous concession, without compromise of principle, adopt some broad, liberal and consistent policy, which we ourselves can cordially embrace and conscientiously commend to our congregations and Presbyteries.

Such a policy, your committee unanimously believe, is clearly indicated in the modified plan for conducting domestic missions already adopted by the Assembly. The reasons for the modification in reference to the work of missions apply with increased force to the subject of ministerial education. A change of policy is no less essential to the success of the latter than of the former, and is as imperious in the one case as in the other.

Your committee, therefore, submit for the consideration and adoption of the General Assembly the following resolutions, viz:

1. Resolved, That to the Presbyteries belongs the entire, absolute ecclesiastical control of all candidates for the gospel ministry within their bounds; and that to the Presbyteries alone, under the Great Head of the Church, are they responsible for the faithful performance of their duties.

2. Resolved, That when our young men are regularly received as candidates for the holy ministry, they shall be entitled to a cordial and liberal support, and the contributions of the church shall be dispensed with the most scrupulous impartiality.

3. Resolved, That the Presbyteries must decide upon the claims of candidates for support, and specify the amount they are entitled to receive, which shall be paid quarterly in the ratio of the quantity of the candidates to the amount in the treasury; provided, however, that the sum so paid to any one candidate shall not exceed three hundred dollars per annum.

4. Resolved, That a financial and Advisory Committee be and hereby is substituted for the Executive Committee on Education.

5. Resolved, That the functions of said committee shall correspond strictly to its appellation; its whole duty, work and responsibility shall consist in taking charge of all books, documents, funds, etc., which may now be in the hands of the Executive Committee on Education, and which properly belong, or in any way pertain to the work of beneficiary education, to receive funds which may be placed in the hands of said committee for the same, disburse the same, as hereinafter directed, correspond with the Presbyteries and report annually to the General Assembly the condition, prospects, etc., of the whole work of ministerial education.

6. Resolved, That said Financial and Advisory Committee shall consist of eleven, to be selected annually by the Assembly, and paid a salary not exceeding three thousand dollars per annum.

7. Resolved, That the Assembly earnestly and affectionately urge upon all our people and congregations, in their appeals to the throne of Divine Grace, to remember the injunction of the Head of the Church, "Pray he, Lord of the Harvest," that he would send forth laborers, and to adopt measures for the collection of an amount of funds commensurate with the importance of the subject and the wants of the Church.

8. N. McKay, Chairman.

To the above Prof. Woodrow offered a substitute in the shape of the following minority report:

1. Resolved, That the General Assembly re-affirms the deliverance of the Assembly of 1864, concerning the responsibility that rests on the Church to secure and maintain a pious and learned ministry.

2. Resolved, That the General Assembly do resolve to continue the Executive Committee of Education, and appoint for it the following Constitution:

Art. I. The title of this committee shall be the "Executive Committee of Education of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States."

Art. II. The Executive Committee shall be elected annually by the General Assembly, and shall consist of seven members, three of whom at least shall be ruling elders in the Presbyterian Church; of a Treasurer, and of a Secretary, who shall be styled the "Secretary of Education," which Secretary shall be the organ of communication between the General Assembly and the Executive Committee. The salaries and duties of these officers shall be determined by the committee; and the vacancies (ad interim) in the committee, it may fill.

Art. III. This committee shall meet at the call of the Secretary, and five members shall be a quorum for the transaction of business. It shall keep a record of its proceedings, which, together with the reports of the Secretary and Treasurer, shall be laid before the General Assembly annually.

Art. IV. It shall be the duty of the committee to receive all the contributions of the Church which may be made for the purpose of aiding candidates for the ministry in the prosecution of their studies, and to dispense these to said students. But no appropriation to the support of any student shall be made except upon the requisition of the Presbytery to which such student belongs, or its Executive Committee of Education. And all candidates shall be solely responsible to their own Presbyteries. If at any time the funds entrusted to the committee shall be insufficient for the support of all the candidates recommended, preference shall be given to such candidates as are nearest to the close of their course of studies.

Art. V. It shall be the duty of the committee to place itself in correspondence with the Executive Committee of Education appointed by the several Presbyteries, the chairman of each of which Presbytery Committee must be regarded as a corresponding member of this committee. And it shall be the duty of the committee to procure, from these corresponding members semi-annual reports with respect to the state of the work within their respective Presbyteries, and in turn to transmit to these members, for the information of their Presbyteries, semi-annual statements of the condition of the whole field.

Art. VI. This committee shall, for the present, be located at Richmond, Va.

After spending the usual half hour in devotional exercises, the Assembly adjourned.

NOTICE. W. H. STOCKWELL, OF NEW YORK, is admitted a partner in our business from this date. The style now will remain as heretofore.

HAMILTON & CUNNINGHAM. NASHVILLE, Dec. 1, 1866.

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North American Insurance Co. of NEW YORK, Cash Assets, \$751,633 37

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AT 10 O'CLOCK, WEDNESDAY, 5TH December, we will offer at public auction several pieces of choice Central City Property, as follows:

TWENTY-FIVE FEET on the corner of Broad and Cherry streets, seventy feet deep, part of the Tobacco Manufactory of Morgan & Aickman, on which is a three story Brick House.

TWENTY-FIVE FEET adjoining same length, fronting on Broad street, with three story Brick House.

FIFTEEN FEET on same street, adjoining the above, with three story Brick House.

TWENTY-FIVE FEET adjoining the above, same improvements and same depth.

FOURTY FEET on Cherry street, a little south of the above, with same improvements.

FIFTY FEET on Cherry street, good depth, next north of Captain Stockell's residence, and near the first mentioned property.

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TWENTY FEET on Broad street, one hundred and thirty feet, within one hundred feet of the Morgan & McDonald property.

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To all who may favor me with their patronage. Having set apart a portion of this Mammoth Stable for the ACCOMMODATION OF TRANIENT CUSTOMERS.

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