

# The General Assembly

Charleston, W. Va.

The General Assembly met in the large handsome house of worship of the First Presbyterian church in Charleston, W. Va. The opening sermon, which is found on our first page, was preached by the retiring Moderator, Rev. A. B. Curry, D. D., of Memphis Tenn.

This was followed by the communion service, conducted by Rev. Dr. R. C. Reed and Rev. Dr. Alexander Sprunt.

In the afternoon the new Moderator was elected. Rev. R. C. Reed, D. D., was nominated by Rev. V. G. Smith, and his nomination was seconded by Rev. Dr. E. L. Hill, Rev. Dr. J. S. Foster, Mr. George White, Rev. E. L. Siler, Rev. P. S. McChesney and Mr. W. C. Wallace. Rev. Dr. A. S. Johnson nominated Rev. Dr. T. H. Rice, and his nomination was seconded by Rev. E. M. Craig. Rev. Dr. William Crowe was nominated by Mr. J. S. Kerr, and this nomination was seconded by Rev. E. L. Wilson, Mr. J. G. Trimble and Rev. I. F. Swallow. Rev. Dr. T. W. Sloan was nominated by Rev. E. W. Way.

Dr. Reed was elected on the second ballot, and his election was made unanimous.

## Mayor and Governor.

Addresses of welcome to the Assembly were made by Mayor Grant P. Hall, of Charleston, and by Governor Ephraim P. Morgan, of West Virginia. Each of these men is an active Christian worker, and brought Christian greetings to the Assembly.

## Dr. Law Resigns.

The following letter was received from Rev. T. H. Law, D. D., for many years the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, and it was referred to a special committee consisting of Rev. Dr. J. L. Mauze, Rev. Dr. T. H. Rice and Judge W. H. Baker:

"Spartanburg, S. C., May 16, 1922.  
"To the General Assembly in Session at Charleston, W. Va.:  
"My Dear Brethren:

"It is with the profoundest regret and the keenest disappointment that I find myself unable to attend your meeting. Early in April I became so unwell as to prevent my attending Presbytery, the first stated meeting of my Presbytery I had missed in fifty-two years. This indisposition developed into a serious illness which confined me to bed for many days and has kept me at home ever since. I am now convalescent and have been for several weeks in my study, which is my office, attending to the Assembly's work, but my physician forbids that I should undertake the long journey to the Assembly and the heavy burdens which are incumbent upon me there, and I realize myself that as yet this would be very imprudent. It has been a sore trial to me to face my necessary absence, and I hoped and prayed most earnestly that the Lord would restore me to health and strength in time to attend and perform my responsible duties as usual. But His will is clearly otherwise, and I am endeavoring patiently and meekly to submit.

"I am very thankful to say, however, that through the energetic and diligent help of my wife, who has been my efficient assistant, during all the years of my stated clerkship, and is therefore very familiar with the work, the business and preparation for this Assembly and the making up of the minutes has all been promptly and fully done, and I am sure that you will find everything ready and in good shape.

"And now, although the last Assembly re-elected me Stated Clerk for a term of three years by vote made unanimous, my recent experience admonishes me that at my age it would hardly be just to the Assembly that I should continue to carry the responsibilities of the stated clerkship, and I therefore tender my resignation to take effect at the end of the present ecclesiastical year, March 31st next. I named this date because the work of the present year is in the midst of its progress and could hardly be taken up by a new clerk at this juncture. The minutes of this year are now being printed under my eye at Spartanburg, and obligations of the treasury are to be met by funds coming into my hands. Besides, the beginning of the Church year is the proper time for the clerk to go into office, so that they may be prepared for the next Assembly. My sole purpose is to promote the Assembly's work.

"Again deploring my inability to be with you in person, enjoy your fellowship and serve you as in the past, I am,

"Sincerely and fraternally yours,

"Thos. H. Law,

"Stated Clerk."

The reports of the Executive Committees were presented by the secretaries. Mr. R. E. Magill had been asked to present the report of the Woman's Auxilliary. A motion was made asking that Mrs. Winsborough present it, but the motion was lost by a vote of 114 to 82, and Mr. Magill presented it.

## Second Day.

The Assembly was opened with devotional exercises conducted by Rev. Dr. H. T. Graham.

About 120 overtures were presented and referred to appropriate committees, as were a large number of European Relief communications.

Rev. Dr. James I. Vance presented the report of the Committee on Protestant Relief in Europe. This report showed that the amount given through this committee for help in Europe was \$17,000. The total amount given to the church at Compiègne, which is being built by the Southern Presbyterian Church as a memorial to American soldiers who fell in France, has been \$17,000; but to complete it \$8,000 more is needed.

The last Assembly asked the committee to send \$10,000 to Czecho-Slovakia, but it had only been able to send only \$5,000. In this country there has been a great revival of Protestantism, and the old Hussite, now known as the Czech Brethren, now numbers 175,000. A reformed Catholic Church, which is Protestant in sympathy and essentially evangelical in doctrine, has come out from the Roman Catholic Church, and now numbers more than 1,000,000. There is great need for help in this country to carry on the great work that is now being done there for Protestantism.

This report recommends that \$60,000 be raised for this purpose this year, and that special collections be taken for this cause on Reformation Day, which will be the last Sunday in October.

Rev. Dr. A. M. Fraser presented the report of the Committee on Conference with other Presbyterian and Reformed Churches. This report gave a full report of its conferences with the committees of the other churches, and stated that they had been un-

able to find any ground upon which the churches could agree, and therefore recommended that the whole matter be dropped. This report was signed by Dr. A. M. Fraser, Dr. Russell Cecil, Dr. S. L. Morris, Dr. J. M. Wells, Dr. T. A. Wharton, Dr. R. F. Campbell, Dr. J. B. Hutton, Mr. W. F. Stevenson, Mr. E. T. Miller.

A minority report was also presented signed by Rev. Dr. Thornton Whaling, asking that a new committee be elected by the Assembly to make further efforts towards closer relations.

Both of these reports have been published in this paper.

Rev. Dr. J. I. Good, D. D., Vice-President of the Council of Reformed Churches of the World holding the Presbyterian System, addressed the Assembly.

Asked that the amount paid by this Assembly to the Western Section of the Alliance be increased by 50 per cent., or \$240, because of increased cost of administration and other expenses.

Europe from its chaos is crying, "Come over and help us." If Europe is restored, it must be done largely through the churches. The churches there cannot do it. We must help.

In Europe there are three classes of churches. On the continent of Europe there are between 12,000,000 and 15,000,000. Holland and Switzerland are strong, having about 5,000,000 Presbyterians. These churches are liberal and strong.

The second class is those which need financial help. It is strange to see that the French Government is providing a large amount of money to rebuild the churches. A few years ago this would not have been thought of.

The Waldensian Church needs help, and Italy can only be saved by such a church as the Waldensian.

In the third class are churches that need even clothes and food. In Lithuania there are 40,000 Presbyterians, and there are large numbers in Poland. They need a theological school. There is a congregation in Vienna with 15,000 members, who are so poor that their pastor's salary for a year will only buy one suit of clothes. Seventy per cent. of the children are suffering from rickets because of lack of food.

In Hungary before the war there were 2,500,000 Presbyterians. Since the division of the country there are now 1,000,000 in Hungary proper. The salary of preachers and professors in seminaries and colleges is about \$30 a year. There is a wonderful opportunity for a revival if ministers can be provided.

In Roumania there are 1,000,000 Presbyterians. How their ministers live I do not know.

In Czecho-Slovakia there is a great opportunity. John Huss has been dead 500 years, but he never had such a hold upon the people of that country as he has now. He told of a church that in one year had increased from 1,000 to 7,000 members. All over the country the members are coming into the churches. The pastors are breaking down under the strain. They need preachers and chapels, but they are very poor. Great numbers are coming out of the Romish church. Presbyterianism can have 1,000,000 members, if they can only be helped.

Dr. Good said that one of the great needs of these countries is educated young men who can take charge of the churches and the mission work. Efforts are being made to arrange for bringing young men to this country to be educated in our seminaries.

## Standing Committees.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

1. Bills and Overtures: A. B. Curry, A. M. Fraser, B. R. Lacy, W. H. Baker, W. S. Lacy, R. C. Keller, J. A. Brown, J. F. Hardie, T. M. Hooker, C. S. Sholl, F. R. Graves, L. L. Little, A. W. Crawford, R. E. Wylie, W. S. Fleming, W. E. Shive, B. K. Tenney, J. M. Blain, E. A. McNulty, A. J. Young, Charles Montgomery.

2. Judicial Business: T. W. Sloan, T. H. Somerville, W. A. Murray, E. J. Grisct, M. H. Holmes, J. G. Revelley, E. L. Wilson, R. N. McCloud, R. E. Piercy, T. H. Watkins, J. W. Tyler, G. W. Bickell, T. B. Spratt, John S. Kerr, J. K. Parker, B. M. McCue, A. C. McCorkle, C. W. Campbell.

3. Foreign Correspondence: E. L. Hill, R. A. Lapsley, Rutherford Lapsley, G. M. Telford, R. G. McClelland, O. D. Dupree, T. L. Magill, J. M. Smith, A. B. Hunt, T. H. Watkins, C. C. Craig, R. B. Cunningham, T. K. Elliot, C. C. Moore, J. S. Sleeper, A. C. Lowry, G. H. Brockett, R. F. Hutcheson, W. K. McCoy.

4. Foreign Missions: T. H. Rice, W. McC. White, V. G. Smith, C. R. Womeldorf, J. D. Currie, J. D. Ratcliffe, A. C. Ormond, J. V. Arnold, D. S. Hotchkiss, J. F. Fuller, R. M. Richardson, C. G. McKarher, J. P. McMillan, C. E. Neßler, A. J. Wilkinson, W. L. Carmichael, Gray Boulware, K. McCaskill, C. J. Walsh, W. D. M. Stokes.

5. Home Missions: William Crow, G. H. Gilmer, A. S. Allen, C. Appleby, George M. White, C. B. Leech, D. W. Richardson, S. E. McFadden, A. B. Banks, J. O. Rush, H. C. Giddens, D. N. Gregory, J. S. Bacon, C. B. Scott, C. W. Peyton, W. S. Scott, H. H. Munroe, L. B. Hensley.

6. Christian Education and Ministerial Relief: J. L. Mauze, J. P. Marion, R. A. Dunn, J. W. Tyler, C. H. Nebers, L. B. Allen, A. G. Campbell, George White, C. H. Prather, A. G. Howell, T. Turner, Alexander Gray, John D. Pugh.

7. Publication and Sabbath School Work: A. S. Johnson, R. S. Burwell, G. K. McCormick, David Shep-erson, J. H. Patterson, T. J. McConnell, William Schneider, R. S. Sammons, A. J. Griffith, W. L. Rudd, N. W. Kuykendall, T. P. Johnstone, S. O. Hall.

8. Stewardship: J. S. Foster, D. W. Brannen, L. C. Vass, L. D. King, W. C. Wallace, James Bradley, R. L. Moye, F. M. Baldwin, W. V. Custer, C. E. McLean, Alfredo Garcia, R. F. Gribble, E. H. Caldwell, A. C. Slonaker.

9. Theological Seminaries: R. E. Fulton, R. C. Anderson, Charles E. Whitney, T. K. Currie, Robert McMillan, A. G. Miller, T. S. Smylie, J. V. Logan, E. H. Gartrell, W. H. Robertson, W. G. Duncan, R. H. Hudson, George S. Moore, George T. Chandler, F. P. Sydenstricker.

10. Training School for Lay Workers: John I. Armstrong, C. F. Rankin, Thomas Cummins, S. D. Bartle, H. S. Wells, W. H. Cunningham, C. E. Ott, S. L. Cathey, E. N. Caldwell, George W. Lee, J. W. Stull, H. S. Noel.

11. Church Societies: U. D. Mooney, W. J. Gammon, S. P. DuBois, J. J. Martin, J. W. McCabe, Charles E. Marvin, W. A. Brandac, I. F. Swallow, J. G. Trimble, A. A. McLean, J. H. Lowrance, J. L. Conrad, J. C. Bales, J. M. Reynolds.

12. Narratives or Christian Life and Work: W. R. Hall, J. F. Christman, H. T. Guthrie, J. F. Forsyth, James F. Green, E. C. Hunt, W. T. J. Youel, J. A. Brady, J. C. Ramsey, J. R. Hall.

13. Bible Cause: Alexander Sprunt, E. W. Ford, S. P. Armstrong, C. L. Long, W. A. Downing, C. H. Elliott, C. F. Hoffman, J. W. Hunter.