

Session III — 1812.

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Pittsburgh, 11th Aug. 1812.

The Synod met, and, agreeable to appointment, was opened by the Rev. Dr. McLeod with a sermon from John 6:44, “No man can come unto me, except the Father which sent me draw him.”

Court adjourned till 10 o’clock A.M. tomorrow.

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 Aug. 12th. 1812, 10 o’clock A.M.

The Court met and was constituted sederunt. Present from the ——

Northern Presbytery.		
Ministers.	Elders.	Congregations.
Alexander McLeod	— — — —	New York.
James Milligan	Robert Beattie	Coldenham.
Gilbert McMaster	— — — —	Duanesburgh.
William Gibson	— — — —	Ryegate.
Middle Presbytery.		
Samuel B. Wylie	John Reilly	Philadelphia.
John Black	William Gormley	Pittsburgh.
Matthew Williams	— — — —	Pine Creek, Union, etc.
— — — —	John Anderson	Greensburgh.
— — — —	John Gill	"
— — — —	George Kirk	Cannonsburgh.
— — — —	David Love	Monongahela.
— — — —	Zaccheus Willson	"
— — — —	Thomas McClurg	Pittsburgh
— — — —	John Young	Little Beaver

Southern Presbytery.		
Thomas Donnelly	- - - -	Rocky Creek.
John Kell	- - - -	Beech Woods.

Rev. Gilbert McMaster, Moderator.
John Black, Clerk.

The rules of Synod were read. The present Moderator and Clerk were continued.

Rev. John Kell, a member of the Southern Presbytery, whose ordination had been announced by the minutes of that Court at last Synod, appeared. He was introduced by the Rev. Thomas Donnelly, and took his seat in Synod.

Dr. McLeod read extracts from the minutes of the Northern Presbytery. These minutes declared that Mr. James Milligan had been by that Presbytery ordained to the holy ministry. Mr. Milligan being present, was invited to a seat in Synod. He took his seat accordingly. Mr. Milligan mentioned that his elder, Robert Beattie, was necessarily absent, but that he expected him shortly to take his seat. Mr. Beattie was recognized as a member of the Court.

John Young, a ruling elder from the Beaver congregation, was nominated by Mr. Kell, and was called to a seat in Synod. He took his seat accordingly.

1. According to the order the minutes of last Synod were read, and unfinished business taken up.

2. The first minute reported the trial of Mr. Graham by the Middle Presbytery. Referred until the report of that Presbytery be called for. The second minute of unfinished business respected the aliens of our communion. What security would be consistent for them to give to the constituted civil authorities in order to obtain certain civil privileges? Referred to a Committee consisting of Messrs. Gibson, McLeod and Wylie, who are to report thereon as soon as possible.

3. The Committee appointed to prepare and transmit Synodical Addresses to the sister judicatories in Britain and Ireland, and likewise to present copies of these Addresses to this Synod, were called on to say whether they had fulfilled

their appointment. They answered in the affirmative. They presented copies which were read and approved.

4. The Committee appointed to publish extracts of the Minutes, and transmit copies to the brethren in Europe, also to print the causes of fasting, etc., were called. They reported that they had printed and transmitted extracts according to appointment; but for reasons which they offered, they had not printed the Causes. Their reasons were sustained and the whole approved. It was also inquired at all the members if the fast and thanksgiving days had been observed in their congregations. They answered in the affirmative.

5. Mr. Wylie was inquired at whether he had complied with the injunction of Synod in preaching on the subject formerly assigned him, during the sitting of the Middle Presbytery. He answered in the negative, and offered reasons which were sustained.

6. Mr. Reilly was asked whether he had fulfilled the appointments assigned him at last Synod. He answered that he had not strictly adhered to the order of Synod. He gave his reasons and they were sustained.

7. Enquiry was made at Mr. Milligan if he had fulfilled his appointments. He answered in the negative. His case was referred until the report of the Northern Presbytery be received.

8. The Committee appointed for transmitting the Overture for the Book of Discipline and Directory for Worship to the Reformed Synods in Britain and Ireland, were asked if they had executed their appointment. They answered in the affirmative, and further informed the Court that no official information had been received from those Courts.

9. An appointment had been formerly laid upon the Rev. Samuel B. Wylie to transmit a Presbyterial letter to our brethren in Scotland. He had not complied. His reasons were sustained.

The Court adjourned until 3 o'clock, P.M.

3 o'clock, P.M. Eodem die et loco.

The Court met pursuant to adjournment. Same members ut supra.

Rev. Gilbert McMaster, Mod.

John Black, Clerk.

1. A Committee of two ministers was appointed to enquire whether there be any, and what, causes of fasting and humiliation may exist, to call this Church to this exercise. Likewise if there be any causes of thanksgiving, and report to this Synod. Revs. Thomas Donnelly and John Kell are that Committee.

2. Agreed that a Committee be appointed to correspond with the foreign churches in our communion. That Synodical Addresses be sent to our sister Synods in Britain and Ireland during the course of the summer, and that copies of the same be laid before this Synod at its next meeting. S. B. Wylie and James Milligan are that Committee.

3. Agreed that as we have not received any official communication from our brethren in Europe relative to the Overture for the Book of Discipline and Directory for Worship, the consideration of these shall be postponed until the next meeting of Synod.

4. On motion the Moderator was changed, and the Rev. John Kell was called to the chair.

5. Agreed that the Committee appointed to report on the referred minute relative to those of our brethren that are aliens in this country, be authorized also to consider the situation of all our connections in relation to those privations to which they may be subjected on account of our Testimony, and report thereon.

Adjourned till 10 o'clock, tomorrow.

13th. Aug. 1812. 10 A.M.

Agreeable to adjournment the Court met and was constituted. Same members ut antea with the exception of John Young.

Rev. John Kell, Moderator.

John Black, Clerk.

1. The minutes of the preceding sederunt were read and approved.

2. A Presbyterial report was received from the Reformed Presbytery of the Northern District. This report contained an account the licensure, ordination, and settlement of Mr. James Milligan in the congregation of Coldenham, together with an account of the state of religion within their bounds and a statistical table of the Church under their inspection, all of which were to the Court pleasing and satisfactory.

3. A Presbyterial report was presented by the Reformed Presbytery of the Middle District and read. This report embraced a full and extensive view of the trial of Mr. Graham, which had been enjoined on that Presbytery at the last meeting of Synod. His history was detailed so far as this Court had any connection with him. The trial was laid open from its commencement to its close. The testimony adduced by the Presbytery, both in proof of the libel and the fama clamosa, was read to the Court, as well as the exculpating testimony offered by Mr. Graham. The substance of the summary of the testimony adduced, and its bearing on the libel and fama clamosa, together with the sentence of the Presbytery in deposing Mr. Graham from the office of the holy ministry. The Synod was then called upon to give their judgment on this report, and they did unanimously approve the above report of the Middle Presbytery, and further appoint that the same be printed with all convenient speed. Messrs. Black, Williams and Gormley were appointed a Committee for that purpose. This Committee shall have power to abridge any part of the report when it may be done without injuring the substance.

Synod adjourned till tomorrow at 10 o'clock.

14th. Aug. 1812. Eodem loco.

The Court met pursuant to adjournment. Same members ut antea, with the exception of David Love who had leave of absence.

John Kell, Moderator.

John Black, Clerk.

1. The Southern Presbytery called to report. They presented a statistical table, and a report on the state of religion within their bounds, but they had not any report to make of any Presbyterial deeds. Their report was approved.

2. The Middle Presbytery reported. They informed Synod that they had little further to report. They expected, however, to be able to report more fully at the next meeting. A statistical table from Mr. Williams' congregation was received. Report sustained.

3. The Committee appointed to report on the state of the aliens etc., presented a report, which, with some

amendments, was adopted. A Committee consisting of Revs. McLeod, Black and Wylie was appointed to go as a delegation to the seat of government with a view to obtain the protection of the laws in maintaining our Testimony.

4. The Professor reported the state of the Theological Seminary, as follows: — That there are now in the Seminary four students. Two of these, viz: Robert Lusk and Jonathan Gill, have attended two years to proper study of the literature of the institution, and now prepared to enter the second class agreeable to the Constitution of the Seminary. The other two students, viz: Robert Wallace and Samuel Wylie, have attended one year. On May last, when the Superintendents of the Seminary should have met, Dr. McLeod only attended. The examinations were pronounced satisfactory. The Court approved the report. It was signed by —

Samuel B. Wylie.

Alexander McLeod.

5. The professor gave in his resignation of the professorate of the Seminary, praying that the same be accepted by this Court. The Court, by a unanimous vote, return their most hearty thanks to the Professor for his past service, and agree that the Moderator shall respectfully return the Professor his resignation. The Professor received his resignation from the hand of the Moderator, at the same time craving leave to return it again to Synod at their next meeting if his health and other avocations rendered the same necessary.

6. The Committee appointed to enquire whether there be any, and if any causes of fasting, etc., were called on for their report. They reported progress, and had leave to sit again.

7. The Court appointed their next meeting in the city of Philadelphia, on the first Wednesday in May, 1814, at 7 o'clock, P.M., to be opened with a sermon by Mr. Wylie on the duty of providing the Church with an able and learned ministry.

8. The Middle Presbytery presented a petition to Synod praying for advice whether they should proceed to inflict upon Mr. Graham the sentence of excommunication. The Court, therefore, resolved that the Middle Presbytery be authorized to carry into execution the sentence of the greater excommu-

nication against Mr. Graham, and employ their own discretion as to the time and other circumstances of the case.

Adjourned till 6 o'clock tomorrow A.M.

Aug. 15th. 1812. Eodem loco.

Agreeable to adjournment the Court met and was constituted. Same members ut antea with the exception of Mr. Milligan and some of the ruling Elders.

1. The Committee appointed to prepare drafts of causes of fasting and thanksgiving reported that, in their opinion, there were causes of both, and they presented imperfect copies of each. These were referred to a Committee with power to abridge and make amendments as to them may appear proper. Agreed that the Committee appointed for publishing the Minutes be that Committee.

2. The Committee appointed for publishing the report of the Middle Presbytery, are also appointed to extract from the Minutes of this Synod and publish whatever may appear to them necessary, together with a brief statement of the trial of Mr. Graham.

3. The Synod appointed the second Thursday of November next as a day of fasting and humiliation; and the second Thursday of February, 1813, as a day of thanksgiving.

4. This Court, impressed with a sense of the propriety of defraying the expenses of Dr. McLeod, who, on summons of the Middle Presbytery, under the authority of Synod, attended at Pittsburgh on the trial of Mr. Graham, unanimously agree that the sum of \$80. be allowed him out of the Synodical fund. Dr. McLeod, after thanking the Court for the remuneration allowed him, generously made a present thereof to the Synodical fund, declaring that his congregation had already considered and provided for the expenses of his coming.

5. Mr. Milligan was appointed to spend three Sabbaths within the bounds of the Cannonsburgh congregation before returning to his charge; and one Sabbath in Tioga County settlement on the Susquehanna; at Joseph Campbell's, Conesque creek, on his way over the mountains.

Comment [NJP1]: This is likely the Cowanesque River: see <http://www.joycetice.com/1897/ch29.htm>

6. The Middle Presbytery are requested to take Mr. Reilly on trials with a view to ordination as soon as convenient; and, if duly qualified, to ordain him to the office of the holy ministry, and send him as a Missionary to the states of South Carolina, Kentucky, etc., as speedily as possible.

The Moderator concluded by prayer.

(Signed) John Kell, Moderator.

John Black, Clerk.