

## Session XV. — 1831.

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Philadelphia, Aug. 3, 1831.

The Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church met pursuant to adjournment, and was opened with a sermon by the Rev. Dr. John Black, from 1 Cor. 12:28, "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."

After worship, and the constitution of Synod, on motion adjourned till tomorrow at 9 o'clock A.M.

The Moderator concluded by prayer.

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Thursday, Aug. 4, 1831.

Synod met agreeably to adjournment and was called to order by the Moderator. The Court then proceeded to ascertain the members of the present Synod, when there appeared, duly certified, from the —

Northern Presbytery.		
Ministers.	Elders.	Congregations.
Alexander McLeod	James Nelson	First New York.
Robert Gibson	— — — —	Second New York.
Moses Roney	John Lawson	Newburgh.
— — — —	Robert Beattie	Coldenham.
James R. Willson	John Ewart	Albany.
Gilbert McMaster	— — — —	Duanesburgh.
— — — —	William Cunningham	Schenectady.
John N. McLeod	James Hays	Galway & Broad Albin.
Melancthon B. Williams	— — — —	Kortright.
William L. Roberts	— — — —	— — — —
Philadelphia Presbytery.		
Samuel B. Wylie	Thomas McAdam	Philadelphia.
"	William Henry	"
"	Samuel Bell	"
"	Henry Sterling	"
John Gibson	— — — —	Baltimore.
Samuel W. Crawford	— — — —	— — — —
John H. Symmes	— — — —	— — — —

Pittsburgh Presbytery.		
John Black John Cannon George Scott — — — — James Blackwood Samuel M. Willson	Gabriel Adams Robert Brown — — — — Nathan Johnston — — — — — — — —	Pittsburgh. Greensburgh. Little Beaver. Greenfield. — — — — — — — —
Ohio Presbytery.		
— — — — Gavin McMillan Charles B. McKee	James Miller — — — — — — — —	Massie's Creek. Beech Woods. Cincinnati.
Western Presbytery.		
John Kell	— — — —	Princeton.

1. Rev. Samuel W. Crawford was chosen Moderator; Rev. Dr. John Black was continued as Clerk of Synod; and Rev. John N. McLeod was chosen Assistant Clerk.

2. The Rev. William Henry, a delegate from the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Ireland to this Synod, appeared, and was introduced by the Rev. Dr. McLeod. His commission from the Irish Synod was presented, read, and approved, and he was cordially welcomed and invited to a seat in Court, with which invitation he complied and took his seat accordingly.

3. Revs. William Gibson and James Milligan being present were invited to take seats in Synod as consultative members. They took their seats accordingly.

4. Rev. Alexander Clarke, a missionary from the Irish Synod to Amherst, Nova Scotia, being present, was invited to a seat as an honorary member. He took his seat accordingly.

5. The Rules of Synod were read. The Minutes of last Synod were read, and, after some amendments, were adopted.

6. Resolved, That Synod add to their standing Committees a Committee of Bills.

7. Certain resolutions were presented questioning the legitimacy of the delegation from the Philadelphia Presbytery. On

motion they were committed to a Committee consisting of Revs. Dr. McLeod, William Henry and John Kell to report in the afternoon.

The Court then adjourned till half past 3 o'clock, P.M.

Eodem die et loco. 3:30 o'clock, P.M.

The Court met and was called to order by the Moderator.

1. The Committee appointed in the case of the delegation of the Philadelphia Presbytery presented the following report, viz: —

The Committee have taken the subject referred to them under consideration, and respectfully submit to Synod the following report: —

It appears from the letter of the constitution "that each Presbytery shall have the right of sending two ministers and as many ruling elders," and, therefore, it follows that Presbyteries which in fact consist of two ministers only, as has often been the case, may of right send four members to Synod — two ministers and two elders. It also appears "that the ratio of increase of the number of delegates" be "until" further order" be taken on the subject, two ministers and as many ruling elders for every three ministers of which the Presbytery consists.

It is highly obvious that two ministers may of right appoint themselves, in certain cases, and that the ratio of increase is as two to three. Some may allege that three respects the increase over two; and others affirm that the number three respects the actual members in the inferior court. The practice hitherto in some of the Presbyteries has been to give the most liberal construction; but the letter seems adverse to this. Yet as the Synod have hitherto set the precedent of admitting delegates in the proportion of what is in fact the largest number, your Committee recommend that construction in the present case. It seems hard that two should appoint two, and that six should appoint four; but that five should be restricted to two only.

The Committee accordingly believe that it corresponds with the spirit and the letter to take order, that in all times to come, the representation should be two of two, three of four, four of five, eight of ten, and so on until twelve of twenty.

Seeing, however, the practice of the constitution has sanctioned a certain construction of the letter, the Committee recommend as most agreeable to Christian courtesy, that no individual approved

by any Presbytery as a delegate to Synod be at present excluded from his privilege on this floor.

A motion for amendment was made as follows: Still, we recommend that three clerical and three lay delegates from the Philadelphia Presbytery be considered as entitled to sit in Synod during the present sessions.

This amendment was lost. Whereupon the ayes and nays being called for there appeared in favor of the amendment, twelve; and against it, fourteen.

On motion, the report was then adopted by Synod. The ayes and nays being called for there were for ayes, nineteen; and for nays, eleven.

2. The Committee on Unfinished Business are ordered to report tomorrow.

Adjourned till half past 9 o'clock A.M. tomorrow.

The Moderator concluded with prayer.

Eodem loco. Friday, Aug. 5, 1831.

The Court met agreeably to adjournment and were called to order by the Moderator.

1. The Minutes of the former sederunt were read and approved.

2. The Committee on Unfinished Business reported.

3. On motion, the Committee on Bills was amended so that one member out of each Presbytery is to compose that Committee. Dr. McMaster then resigned as a member of that Committee in favor of William Cunningham, both belonging to the same Presbytery. His resignation was accepted.

4. Rev. M. B. Williams also resigned as a member of the Committee on the Signs of the Times. His resignation was accepted, and Rev. John Gibson was put in his place.

5. It was moved and seconded that the consideration of the unfinished business be postponed. This motion was lost.

6. On motion, the publication of the Directory and Book of Discipline was referred to the Committee on Discipline.

7. The argumentative part of the Testimony was referred to a special Committee of three members to report thereon as soon as possible. This Committee consists of Revs. John Gibson, Dr.

J.R. Willson and Gavin McMillan.

8. The Committee on Civil Relations were called on for their report. They were not in readiness.

9. The consideration of the Home Missionary Society was called for. Referred to the Committee on Presbyterial Reports.

10. The Committee on the Manner of ordaining ruling elders and deacons were called on to report. Not in readiness.

11. Resolved, That Revs. Henry, Clarke and Dr. McLeod (editor of the Magazine) be requested to make such communication to this Synod as they might have in their power in relation to the state and interests of the church. Agreed that Monday morning be appropriated to hearing their report.

12. Resolved, That after this day the Synod shall hold one session only per diem, from 9 o'clock A.M. till 2 o'clock P.M.

Resolved, That the forenoon of tomorrow be devoted by the members of this Court to prayer and religious conversation.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, P.M.

Eodem die et loco. 4 o'clock, P.M.

Synod met and was constituted by prayer. Same members ut supra.

1. A letter was received from the Associate Synod of North America. Referred to the Committee on Bills.

2. The Committee on the Theological Seminary presented a report, which was read and accepted. On motion, it was referred to the standing Committee on the Theological Seminary. On motion, this resolution was reconsidered, and, together with a paper presented by Robert Orr, was re-committed to the same Committee.

3. The Committee appointed at last meeting of Synod to reply to the Associate Reformed Synod of New York presented a draft of their reply to that Synod, which was accepted, and the Committee was directed to transmit it as soon as convenient.

4. Presbyterial reports were called for. Pittsburgh Presbytery presented their report, which was read, accepted, and referred to the Committee on Presbyterial Reports. Ohio Presbytery presented their report. Read, accepted, and referred.

Synod then agreed to have a recess of twenty minutes.

The recess being ended, the Synod was again called to order.

1. The Committee on Bills were called on to report. They reported in part, viz: on a petition from Cincinnati, requesting that a member be sent from Philadelphia Presbytery to visit that congregation. The Committee recommend this paper to the disposal of Synod. On motion, its consideration was postponed.

2. Rev. Gilbert McMaster was, on motion, appointed a member of the Committee on Bills.

3. A communication from Rev. Robert Wallace in relation to some difficulties respecting the boundaries of his congregation. Whereupon, the following decision was declared by Synod, viz: —

The Synod decide that the people heretofore under the pastoral care of the Rev. Robert Wallace, though within the bounds of the Ohio Presbytery, be continued in their present relation until disjoined by Pittsburgh Presbytery.

4. The Philadelphia Presbytery presented their report, which was read and accepted.

5. A motion was made to refer to a special Committee so much of that report as respects the ordination sine titulo of two ministers, and the establishment of a Board of Missions. This motion was lost, and the report was then referred to the Committee on Presbyterial Reports.

The Court adjourned till 9 o'clock A.M. tomorrow.

Saturday, Aug. 6, 1831.

Synod met and was opened with prayer. Same members ut antea. On motion, it was

Resolved, That the Court have a recess indefinitely. A considerable time was then employed in devotional exercises.

The Court again resumed its judicial capacity.

A paper signed by Mary McKinney, was presented to Synod and read. This paper contained insinuations derogatory to the character of Rev. Alex. McLeod, D. D., without, as it appeared to Synod, even the shadow of foundation. Whereupon the Synod adopted the following resolution, viz: —

Whereas, a paper containing certain insinuations against the Rev. Dr. McLeod respecting some manuscripts said to belong

to the late Rev. James McKinney, alleged to have been unjustly detained and unfairly used by Dr. McLeod, whereby he elevated his own character and defrauded the widow and orphans; and

Whereas, Said insinuations are supported by no evidence either direct or circumstantial, inviting the notice of this Synod; and

Whereas, This Synod are perfectly convinced that the Rev. Dr. McLeod was utterly incapable of the baseness and injustice imputed to him in said insinuations ; therefore,

Resolved, That this paper be considered not only disorderly and irrelevant, but that this Court regard it as a calumnious libel on the character of an innocent man.

Synod adjourned till Monday at 9 o'clock A.M.

Eodem loco. Aug. 8, 1831.

Synod met and was called to order by the Moderator. Same members ut antea.

1. After the calling of the roll, the Minutes of the last sederunt were read and approved.

2. The Northern Presbytery presented their report, which was read, and, after one amendment, accepted and referred to the Committee on Presbyterial Reports.

3. The Western Presbytery presented their report, which was read, accepted, and referred.

4. As introductory to the order of the day, a letter from the Irish Reformed Presbyterian Synod was read. It had been intended to be laid before our last meeting, but arrived too late. It was ordered to lie on the table.

5. The Rev. William Henry, the delegate from the Irish Synod, was then invited to make his communication to the Synod. He thought it better for Dr. McLeod to precede him, as Mr. Henry had left Ireland since Mr. McLeod's return. This was agreed to, and Dr. McLeod presented in a clear and satisfactory manner a statement of his observations on the British and Irish churches, with a detail of their proceedings while he visited the British Isles. He then presented a paper containing the remarks of the Irish Committee on the Draft of the Covenant to the Scotch Committee, together with

their answer. Referring to the information about to be given by the delegates from the Irish Synod, Mr. Henry then proceeded to address the Synod. In a most lucid, animated and affectionate manner, with all the pathos of real eloquence, he, for himself and the Synod which he represented, reciprocated the fraternal affection of this Synod. While he earnestly desired that the cords and bands of affection and mutual cooperation might be drawn tighter and tighter, and every energy might be directed to the consideration of the great work of the Covenant.

Then Court then as a testimony of their high approbation, cordial affection, and hearty welcome gave individually to Mr. Henry the right hand of fellowship.

6. Rev. Alexander Clarke was then invited to favor the Synod with a relation of his missionary movements in Nova Scotia, and whatever observations he might see proper to communicate. Mr. Clarke then indulged the Synod with an accurate and very satisfactory detail of his missionary labors from the time of his arrival in the British Provinces, August 23, 1827, during four years. His labors had been very severe and the prospects for a considerable time far from flattering. His circuit of riding was upwards of twenty five hundred square miles, exclusive of foreign visits. That, nevertheless, much had been done, and the prospects begin to brighten. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper had been administered to fifty two communicants; elders had been ordained and a session organized. There is a continued cry, and the cry is increasing, "Come over and help us." A house of worship is greatly needed in two places, then much might be done; but, without them, especially in the city of St. John, comparatively nothing. One house of worship had already been erected, and two more are contemplated. Practical religion is scarcely to be found in the community at large. Mr. Clarke deplored the want of energy in relation to missionary operations, and earnestly requested the help and cooperation of this Synod.

On motion the Court, through their Moderator, expressed their high gratification at the excellent displays of information and good feeling afforded them, and testify their unfeigned expressions of thankfulness to the delegates from the Irish Synod,

the Rev. Mr. Henry; to the Irish missionary to the British Provinces, the Rev. Mr. Clarke ; and to the Rev. Dr. McLeod, for the eminent services rendered to the Church in his visit to Europe. On motion, it was —

7. Resolved, That this Synod highly appreciate all the services of the Rev. Dr. McLeod in his intercourse with the Scottish and Irish Synods on his late visit to the British Empire, and they do hereby recognize them as clothed with all official authority. On motion, the Synod expressed their thanks to the sister judicatories of Scotland and Ireland for the respectful and affectionate manner in which they received our delegate, the Rev. Dr. McLeod.

8. Resolved, This Synod duly appreciates the regard so promptly expressed to it by the sister judicatories of Scotland and Ireland in the appointment of delegates to it, and regret that the Scottish delegates have not been able to appear on our floor in company with the highly respectable delegate from Ireland.

9. The consideration of the Covenant, with the accompanying document, is made the order of the day for tomorrow.

10. The letter from the Associate Synod was called for and read in part, but the hour of adjournment being come, the Synod adjourned by prayer.

Eodem loco. Aug. 9, 1831.

The Court met and was called to order by the Moderator. Same members ut antea.

1. The roll was called and members answered to their names.

2. The Minutes of the former sederunt were read and approved.

3. The reading of the letter from the Associate Synod was resumed and finished, and the following order taken on it, viz: —

Whereas, This Synod is persuaded that the subject in discussion between it and the Associate Synod, from the turn it has taken, might be carried on indefinitely without any advantage to the interests of truth; and, being desirous of promoting that object and nothing else in the historical narrative of our Testimony, therefore,

Resolved, That the Committee of Foreign Correspondence be directed to inform the Associate Synod that, if furnished with

a brief and distinct statement of the views entertained by Seceders on the points in question, such statement shall be embodied in the next edition of our narrative.

4. On motion, the Rev. Mr. Henry was respectfully requested to furnish this Court with a copy of his sermon. He answered that he would endeavor to comply with this request.

5. On motion, the Synod went into Committee of the whole for the consideration of the Draft of the Covenant, which was the order of the day. The Draft of the Covenant was then read, together with the remarks of the Irish Committee. The members made their remarks as it was read paragraph by paragraph. The Committee then rose and reported.

6. The Moderator having taken the chair, on motion, a Committee of three was appointed critically to examine the Draft of the Covenant and report to Synod at its next meeting. Revs. Drs. Wylie, McMaster and Black are that Committee.

The Synod then had a recess of twenty minutes.

The recess being ended, the Synod was called to order.

7. The Committee on Bills laid upon the table No. 1: A letter from the editor of the Protestant, which was read, and referred to the Committee on Discipline. No. 2: An appeal from the decision of Ohio Presbytery, signed Charles B. McKee, with accompanying documents, which was also referred to the same Committee.

8. On motion, the Clerk was directed to transmit to Mrs. Mary McKinney a copy of the minute respecting her letter.

The Synod adjourned till tomorrow at 10 o'clock A.M.

The Moderator concluded with prayer.

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Eodem loco. Aug. 10, 1831.

The Court met and were called to order by the Moderator. Same members ut antea.

1. The Committee on Presbyterial Reports reported. Their report was read, and the consideration of its recommendations was for the present deferred.

2. The Committee on Missions presented the following report, which was read and adopted, viz: —

That the subject is of great importance and calls

for immediate and efficient acting. They, therefore, recommend the following resolutions:

Resolved, (1) That Synod do immediately appoint a Missionary Board, subject to Synod itself.

(2) That said Board shall organize itself into such form as may be best calculated to effect the ends of its appointment, without useless delay.

(3) That missionaries employed by said Board shall be under the direction of those Presbyteries within whose bounds they labor, and so long as they continue within said bounds.

(4) That funds by subscription, collections, or donations be raised without delay, to enable the Board of Missions to enter as speedily as possible upon its duties.

3. The Committee on the Signs of the Times presented their report of causes both of fasting and thanksgiving, which, on motion, was recommitted to make some alterations.

4. The Committee on Discipline reported as follows: —

(1) That, whereas, the editor of the Protestant has made application to this Synod, requesting the testimony of this Court in behalf of that paper, therefore,

Resolved, That whereas there is reason to believe that popery is making dangerous progress in the United States; and, whereas, we have reason to believe that the Protestant has been useful, therefore,

Resolved, That the Clerk of this Synod be instructed to write to the editor of the Protestant a letter encouraging him to persevere in his laudable cause.

This resolution was adopted by Synod.

(2) The Committee also reported in relation to the publishing the Book of Discipline and Directions for Worship. Wherefore, the Synod took the following order: —

On motion, the Act of 1819, adopting the Book of Discipline and Directions, be published in the American Christian Expositor in the form of overture.

(3) The Committee also reported on the appeal of the Rev. C. B. McKee from the decision of Ohio Presbytery, dissolving his pastoral connection with his congregation of Cincinnati; on which the Synod came to the following resolution, viz: —

Resolved, That this Court consider the conduct of the majority of the congregation of Cincinnati toward Mr. McKee as unkind,

The printed Extracts of Minutes insert, “for worship but which Act had never been published, was then repealed. 2. Resolved, That the Book of Discipline and Directories be published in the American Christian Expositor, in the form of overture.” [J. B. Willson]

**Comment [NJP1]:** Text at bottom of page is noted as being placed here

**Comment [NJP2]:** This text, which is signed by J. B. Willson and was not in Glasgow’s original manuscript, is actually written in the header, but placed here for formatting reasons

the reason of their application for a disjunction inadequate; and the deed of Ohio Presbytery precipitate. Therefore,

Resolved, That the act of dissolution in this case be and is hereby repealed; and that Mr. McKee be restored as pastor of the church at Cincinnati till his case be more fully and deliberately acted upon and decided according to our ecclesiastical law.

(4) Resolved, That the Clerk of this Synod be ordered to inform the congregation of Cincinnati of this decision.

(5) A memorial from the congregation of Coldenham was presented, read, and laid on the table.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock A.M. tomorrow.

Eodem loco. Aug. 11, 1831.

The Court met pursuant to adjournment, and were called to order by the Moderator. Same members ut supra.

1. The roll was called, and the members answered to their names.

2. The Minutes of the former sederunt were read and approved.

3. The Committee on Bills laid on the table a letter from the Auxiliary Sabbath Union Society of Pittsburgh, soliciting the attention of this Synod to the best means of promoting the observance of the Sabbath; and, if the Synod think proper, to pass a resolution approving the object of the parent association, and recommending it to the prayers and attention of the churches, etc. Respecting this paper it was

Resolved, That the general object proposed in this letter is approved by this Court, and we pledge ourselves, by all proper means, to promote the great object of Sabbath sanctification.

4. The Financial Committee of the Theological Seminary presented a report, which was accepted and referred to the Committee on the Theological Seminary.

5. The Committee to whom was referred a report on the Civil Relations, etc., presented the following paper which was adopted: —

The object of appointing a Committee on the Civil Relations is to inquire into the propriety of making application to the civil authorities respecting the relations in which members of this church stand to them. The said Committee accordingly submit to Synod a resolution in these words: —

That an application be made to the Congress of the United States, when it shall have been ascertained from influential statesmen that such application will probably prove successful for a grant of the rights of citizenship to the members of this Church not otherwise recognized as citizens, on other terms than swearing an oath of allegiance to the existing civil institutions of the land.

Your Committee are of the opinion that influential statesmen have not as yet opened the door for a successful application to Congress, and, therefore, deem it most prudent to recommend to Synod a postponement of the subject.

6. The Committee on the Mode of ordaining Ruling Elders and Deacons, presented a report which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

7. On motion, the thanks of the Synod were presented to the Rev. Dr. Black for his sermon preached at the opening of Synod, and a copy was requested for publication, with which request he promised to comply.

8. A motion was made and seconded to repeal the act constituting a Representative Synod. The consideration of this motion was deferred until the report of the Committee on Presbyterial Reports be disposed of.

9. The memorial from the Coldenham congregation was now taken up, and was committed to a Special Committee consisting of Revs. Drs. McLeod, Wylie, McMaster and Black to report thereon.

The Court agreed to have a recess for twenty minutes.

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After the recess the Synod was called to order.

10. It was moved that the latter part of the report of the Committee on Presbyterial Reports be adopted. The subject was deferred for the present.

11. It was resolved that when Synod do adjourn, that it be to five o'clock this evening.

12. The two Clerks were appointed a Committee of Supplies.

13. The causes of fasting and thanksgiving were now read as amended, and adopted. The first Thursday of March, 1832, was appointed as the day to be observed for fasting and

humiliation; and the last Thursday of December, 1831, for thanksgiving. The Synod ordered one hundred copies of these causes to be printed and distributed among the members of the Synod.

14. It was moved to adopt the recommendation of the Committee on Presbyterial Reports so far as respects the constitution of a particular Synod of the Northern Presbytery. It was adopted.

15. The Synod recommend that the report of the Committee on Presbyterial Reports as amended, and so much of the Presbyterial Reports as the editor may think proper, be published with the extracts of the Minutes, in the American Christian Expositor.

Adjourned till 5 o'clock P.M.

Eodem die et loco. 5 o'clock, P.M.

The Synod met and was constituted.

1. The Committee on the publication of the argumentative part of the Testimony report that, in their opinion, it ought not to be published at the present time, for the following reasons:

(1). The impossibility of obtaining funds to meet the expenses of the publication, none being at present in the possession of the Synod.

(2). The difficulty, perhaps impracticability, of preparing the work before the next meeting of Synod. It has been attempted for many years, but neither by one nor by many could the document be prepared.

(3). The imprudence of committing the supreme judicatory of our church by making statements that time might show to be erroneous, and which, of course, must be retracted. Should false impressions be made to our people the truth would be injured. Should the Synod retrace its steps, the remedy might not prove efficient; and, at all events, our Church could not boast of her infallibility.

(4). A difference of opinion among ourselves upon some minor subjects would prevent the possibility of any work being prepared that might meet the views of all, and without perfect harmony the work would be worse than useless.

(5). Every day furnishes more light, and a better state of things is rapidly approaching. The efforts of many godly men in other sections of the Church of Christ are directed to enlighten and improve the morals of the community. They have been thus far blessed. And even upon the relations that civil communities

bear to the King of Zion, multitudes in sister churches contend that "vile men should not\ longer be elevated to high place." This would seem to urge that we should not be too severe in our strictures upon brethren who are advancing in reformation, and whose godly lives perhaps should point them out as examples of personal holiness to be followed.

Your Committee, therefore, would respectfully recommend to Synod, the delay of the publication of the argumentative part of our Testimony, and recommend the defence of the principles of our Church to the prudence of our ministers and the exigencies of time and place.

This report was accepted and adopted.

2. The Committee on the Theological Seminary then presented their report, which was adopted, and is as follows: —

The resuscitation of the said Seminary is, in their opinion, highly desirable. At a very early period in the history of the Church of God there was found the necessity to establish schools of the prophets. Experiencing from time to time the utility of such establishments, her ministers and her members have regarded them as ultimately connected with and greatly conducive to the interests and prosperity of Zion. Almost all the religious denominations of the present day employ their best efforts in supporting such institutions as have for their immediate object the qualification of men to preach ably and efficiently the gospel.

Great advantages have resulted to our Church from the Seminary once and again in operation, though, for want of proper support, it labored under peculiar embarrassments. At no period have the circumstances of our own church, or the condition of Christendom, more loudly called upon us to furnish every facility of prosecuting studies to young men of talents and piety who devote themselves to the service of God, and come out to the help of the Lord against the mighty.

Still, in the opinion of your Committee, it would tend rather to retard than forward the great object we have in view to desire the immediate reorganization of our Theological Seminary. Funds, of which we are not now in possession, are indispensably necessary to the efficient operation of such an institution.

Experience has taught us that neither the generous sacrifice which an individual may make, nor the gratuitous labor which he may be willing to undergo, are sufficient to secure permanence to a theological school. Our professor, both on our own account and that of the students under his care, should be free from the incumbrance of pastoral duties. To be able to furnish him a competent support, we must lay under contribution all the means in our power, by inviting the various congregations under the charge of the Synod, in the prosecution of the grand design. For the accomplishment of this object, your Committee respectfully submit to your consideration the following resolutions, viz: —

Resolved, (1), That each minister in our connection consider it his incumbent duty to enforce upon his congregation the necessity of re-establishing, as soon as practicable, a Theological Seminary upon a permanent basis, and employ whatever other means he can for the creation of a fund for its support.

Resolved, (2), That the various sessions under our care be enjoined to ascertain as nearly as they can the amount of funds which may be secured within their respective districts, and forward a written estimate of the same to Synod at its next meeting. All of which is respectfully submitted.

3. The motion to repeal the act constituting a Representative Synod was again taken under consideration, when, on motion, the Court adjourned till tomorrow at 9 o'clock A.M.

Eodem loco. Aug. 12, 1831.

The Court met pursuant to adjournment, and were called to order by the Moderator. Same members ut antea.

1. The roll was called, and members answered to their names.

2. On motion, it was —

Resolved, That this Synod recommend that the points of difference on the application of our principles to the civil institutions of the United States, be discussed through the medium of the American Christian Expositor, under the head of "Free Discussions ;" and that every member of Synod have full liberty to avail himself of this public vehicle.

3. Rev. Dr. Willson, and elders William Cunningham and John Lawson, received leave of absence for the remainder of the sessions of Synod.

4. The discussion upon motion to repeal the act constituting a Representative Synod was now resumed.

5. Dr. McLeod presented a petition in substance as follows:

Your petitioner is a member of your ecclesiastical body, delegated as one of the representatives of the Northern Presbytery to your Synod. He deems himself aggrieved by an innovation recommended by a Committee of his brethren, and he takes the liberty to ask relief. He earnestly prays that he may be permitted, with all other friends who choose to follow the same course, to practice without molestation according to the old Covenanted system, the Confession of Faith, compiled by the Assembly of Divines at Westminster, and the Presbyterian Form of Church Government, together with the mode of ordination for ministers and elders — and so allowed to proceed for life without any innovation from the faith and usages of the Reformed Covenanted Presbyterian Church.

Synod took a recess until 5 o'clock P.M.

Eodem die. 5 o'clock P.M.

Synod came to order.

1. It was moved that the prayer of the petitioner be granted. An amendment was prepared, declaring this petition unnecessary. Upon this, there being some discussion, the main question was called for, and the petition was granted.

Upon this last vote the ayes and nays were called, when it appeared that there were, for granting the petition, fourteen; as follows: Revs. John Black, S. W. Crawford, J. N. McLeod, Gilbert McMaster, J. H. Symmes, M. B. Williams, and S. B. Wylie; elders Robert Beattie, Samuel Bell, William Cunningham, James Hays, Thomas McAdam, William Henry and James Nelson. Against granting the petition, eleven; as follows: Revs. James Blackwood, John Cannon, John Gibson, Robert Gibson, W. L. Roberts and Moses Roney; elders Gabriel Adams, Robert Brown, Nathan Johnston, James Miller and Henry Sterling. Absent, eight; as

follows: Revs. John Kell, C. B. McKee, Gavin McMillan, George Scott, James R. Willson and S. M. Willson; elders John Ewart and John Lawson.

Revs. Robert Gibson, Moses Roney and John Cannon recorded their reasons for voting in the negative. They are as follows:

“The minority hereby assign as their reasons for voting against the petition that it was unnecessary ; as, upon the part of Synod, there is no known dereliction of principles. And our members are not only authorized, but required, to observe the known and established order of the church.”

2. The main question, in relation to the dissolution of the Representative Synod, was then called for and decided in the negative.

The ayes and nays were called for, and are as follows:

Ayes: Revs. James Blackwood, John Gibson, Robert Gibson, C. B. McKee, W. L. Roberts, Moses Roney, S. M. Willson, and elder Nathan Johnston. Total, 8.

Nays: Revs. John Black, John Cannon, S. W. Crawford, J. N. McLeod, Gilbert McMaster, Gavin McMillan, George Scott, M. B. Williams, S. B. Wylie, J. H. Symmes; elders Gabriel Adams, Robert Beattie, Robert Brown, Samuel Bell, William Cunningham, John Ewart, James Hays, Thomas McAdam, William Henry, James Nelson, James Miller, Henry Sterling. Total, 22.

Absent: Revs. Alex. McLeod, J. R. Willson, and elder John Lawson. Total, 3.

Non Lique: Rev. John Kell. Total, 1.

3. The Committee on Foreign Correspondence presented their report, which was adopted.

4. The Rev. Melancthon B. Williams presented a petition for a certificate of character and a dismissal to the Presbytery of Albany in connection with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. The petition was granted, and the Clerk was ordered to furnish Mr. Williams with the required paper.

5. It was then, on motion, resolved to reconsider the vote refusing to divide the Northern Presbytery into four Presbyteries, when it was also —

6. Resolved, To divide the Northern Presbytery into three Presbyteries, to be bounded as in the report of the Committee on Presbyterial Reports, the then contemplated Presbytery of Green Mountain

to be thrown into the Presbytery of Albany. The style of these Presbyteries is ordered to be: the Southern, Western and Northern Presbyteries of the Particular Synod of the East.

7. Resolved, That these Presbyteries be ordered with all due speed to institute a Subordinate Synod, forming with the Philadelphia Presbytery the Eastern Subordinate Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

8. Resolved, That all the Presbyteries West and South of the Allegheny mountains be constituted to form themselves into a Subordinate Synod, to be known as the Western Subordinate Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

9. The Synod then proceeded to the appointment of a Board of Missions. Revs. S. W. Crawford, S. M. Willson and T. C. Guthrie, with elders Thomas McAdam and Robert Brown, constitute that Board.

10. Synod proceeded to the election of a delegate to represent them in the sister churches in Scotland and Ireland. The Rev. William Gibson received the appointment. He, however, declined, giving reasons which were deemed satisfactory. The Rev. John Black was then appointed to the office, and it was then resolved that Synod appropriate the sum of \$400. to bear the expenses of this delegation.

11. The Committee appointed to bring in a report on the mode of ordaining ruling elders and deacons, was then, on motion, discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

12. Resolved, That the next meeting of this Synod be held in the city of Philadelphia, on the first Wednesday of August, A.D. 1833, at 7 o'clock, P.M.

13. The Committee of Supplies reported. Adopted.

14. The Committee of Finance reported. Adopted.

15. The proposition of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Ireland, respecting junction with this Synod in conducting missionary operations in the British Provinces, was referred to the Board of Missions.

The Synod then had a recess of twenty minutes.

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Business resumed.

16. The present Moderator was appointed to open the next Synod by a sermon on "Immoral Confederacies". Rev. M. Roney to be his substitute.

17. A letter was received from R. H. Walworth, Esq., President of the N. Y. State Temperance Society, respecting which the Synod expressed their approbation, and ordered the Clerk to signify this to the above-named gentleman.

18. A Committee of Ways and Means, to make provision for the support of the superannuated ministers of our Church, was appointed. Revs. S. B. Wylie, John Black, Alexander McLeod, Gilbert McMaster and Moses Roney are that Committee. Dr. Wylie is the Treasurer.

19. Resolved, That the Synod enjoin all the ministers in all its connection to raise forthwith a contribution on the Sabbath, after previous notice has been given, for the above-mentioned object, and that they transmit the same to the Treasurer of this Committee.

20. Resolved, That for meeting the expenses of the delegation to the Scottish and Irish Synods, collections, on intimation being made on the preceding Sabbath, shall be lifted in each congregation under the inspection of this Synod; and that the ministers of said congregations, or such ministers or probationers as shall be present in unsettled congregations, shall forthwith transmit the sum raised to Robert Orr, Treasurer of Synod; and in case all the said collections should fall short of \$400., Mr. Orr shall apprise these ministers, and a second collection shall be raised in a manner similar to that of the former.

21. Resolved, That as the collection for superannuated ministers is one of immediate urgency, it shall be made with all convenient speed after the return of the ministers to their respective congregations; and as soon as prudent thereafter, the delegation collection shall be taken in the manner aforesaid.

No more business being presented, the Synod adjourned to the time and place appointed, after prayer by the Moderator, and the singing of the 133d. Psalm.

(Signed).

S. W. Crawford, Moderator.

John Black, Synod Clerk.