

Session X. — 1823.

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Pittsburgh, August 5, 1823.

The Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church met, agreeably to adjournment, and, by the request of the Moderator, was constituted by the Rev. Dr. Alex. McLeod. By appointment of last Synod this meeting was to have been opened with a sermon on “Regeneration” by the Rev. John Gibson, but by a vote of Synod the sermon was postponed until 7 o’clock this evening. A motion was then made for adjournment, and negatived.

The Synod then proceeded to ascertain the members of the present Synod, when it appeared that there were present from the —

Northern Presbytery.		
Ministers.	Elders.	Congregations.
Alexander McLeod	— — — —	New York.
James R. Willson	— — — —	Coldenham.
Samuel M. Willson	— — — —	Galway & Broad Albin.
James Milligan	— — — —	Ryegate.
Samuel W. Crawford	— — — —	— — — —
Philadelphia Presbytery.		
Samuel B. Wylie	Robert Orr	Philadelphia.
John Gibson	— — — —	Baltimore.
— — — —	John Steele	Conococheague.
Robert Lusk	— — — —	— — — —
Pittsburgh Presbytery.		
John Black	William Gormley	Pittsburgh.
William Gibson } Robert Gibson } Matthew Williams } John Cannon } Jonathan Gill } Gavin McMillan }	— — — — David Love James Cook Joseph Douthet Robert Brown Ebenezer Gill — — — —	Pittsburgh. Cannonsburgh. Monongahela. Little Beaver. Pine Creek, Union, etc. Greensburgh. Thompson’s Run, etc. Beech Woods

Western Presbytery.		
Samuel Wylie	- - - -	Bethel.
Southern Presbytery.		
Hugh McMillan	- - - -	Rocky Creek.

Rev. James R. Willson was appointed Moderator, and Rev. John Black continued Clerk.

The propriety of admitting John Steele as a member of the Court was questioned by Rev. Robert Lusk. A certificate by the session of Conococheague was read, signed by John Thomson, Clerk. Rev. Robert Lusk questioned the document because it did not contain a protest against his appointment by the Moderator of session, and because it was not signed by the Moderator. The document, he said, was garbled and not valid. The protest was a part of the Minutes. It was moved that Rev. Robert Lusk present his protest to this Court. It was negatived. On motion the membership in this Court of John Steele, ruling elder, was sustained.

The Rules were called for and read.

The present Moderator and Clerk were continued.

Rev. Dr. McLeod stated that Mr. Samuel W. Crawford was ordained by the Northern Presbytery, on the 15th of May, 1823, and he introduced him to Synod as a member of the Northern Presbytery. The Synod invite Mr. Crawford to a seat in Synod. He took his seat accordingly.

The Rev. Robert Gibson, who had been introduced to Synod at their last meeting by the report of the Pittsburgh Presbytery as an ordained minister, was now personally introduced and invited to a seat in Synod. He took his seat accordingly.

Mr. Gavin McMillan, who had been ordained May 7th. 1823, to the pastoral charge of the congregation of Beech Woods, Preble County, Ohio, was introduced to Synod, invited to take a seat as a member of the Court, and took his seat accordingly.

On motion the Court adjourned till 3 o'clock P.M.

The Moderator concluded by prayer.

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

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

On motion, Rev. Samuel W. Crawford was appointed Assistant Clerk.

The Court proceeded to the nomination of Committees.

1. On Unfinished Business — Revs. Black and Crawford.
2. Presbyterial Reports — Revs. Milligan and S. Wylie.
3. Theological Seminary — Revs. J. R. Willson and W^m Gibson.
4. Signs of the Times — Revs. Lusk and R. Gibson.
5. Discipline — Revs. McLeod and S. B. Wylie.
6. Foreign Correspondence — Revs. McLeod and S. B. Wylie.
7. The minutes of the last Synod were called for and read.

The unfinished business was referred to the Committee on Unfinished Business.

8. Papers were called for. Two papers from Lincoln Co., Tenn. were presented and read. They were calls upon the Rev. Robert Lusk. They were referred to a special Committee consisting of Revs. Black, Gill, and S. Wylie, to which Committee, on motion, Rev. Gavin McMillan was added.

9. Rev. Robert Lusk presented a petition praying for a disjunction from his congregation in Conococheague. Referred to the Committee on Presbyterial Reports.

10. On motion, Dr. S. B. Wylie was added to the Committee on the Theological Seminary.

11. The receiving of Presbyterial Reports was made the order of the day for tomorrow.

12. Synod agree that there shall be a recess of this Court till 7 o'clock this evening.

13. At 7 o'clock the Rev. John Gibson, according to former appointment, delivered a discourse from John 3 : 5, "Jesus answered and said unto him, verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

After hearing the sermon, the Court adjourned till tomorrow at 9 o'clock A.M.

Moderator concluded by prayer.

Aug. 6, 1823. Eodem loco.

Pursuant to adjournment the Court met and came to order. Same members ut antea.

1. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read. The order of the day was the receiving of Presbyterial Reports.

2. The Northern Presbytery reported. The report was read and referred to the Committee on Presbyterial Reports.

3. The Philadelphia Presbytery reported in part. For certain circumstances a part was given verbally and part in writing. The report announced the disjunction of Rev. Robert Lusk from his charge in Conococheague. The part in writing was referred to the Committee on Presbyterial Reports.

4. The Pittsburgh and Western Presbyteries were called on for reports, but they were not yet prepared.

5. The Synodical Committee appointed for the re-organization of the Southern Presbytery, was called on to report, which they did. This report stated the reorganization of the Southern Presbytery, May, 1822. Referred to Committee on Presbyterial Reports.

6. On motion, Rev. A. McLeod and elder Robert Brown were added to the Committee on Presbyterial Reports.

7. A paper complaining of grievances by occasional hearing becoming so prevalent, was received from Bethel congregation, Ill. The paper was referred to the Committee on Discipline.

8. The Committee on Unfinished Business was called on to report. They reported that they had made some progress, but were not fully prepared to report.

9. On motion, Rev. Samuel M. Willson was added to the Committee on the Signs of the Times.

10. On motion, Rev. John Cannon was added to the Committee on Unfinished Business.

11. The Committee on Unfinished Business was called on to report what they had prepared. They reported that inquiry be made respecting correspondence with our sister judicatories in Britain and Ireland. Dr. McLeod reported that he had not had an opportunity of meeting with his colleague Dr. Wylie, but that he had addressed a letter himself to each of the judicatories, copies of which he could not present. This was deemed satisfactory. Adjourned till 3 o'clock P.M.

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

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

1. The Committee on Unfinished Business was called on to report. They presented a report which was taken up in order. Inquiry was made if the Clerk had complied with the injunction to write to Mr. James Willson of Illinois. Answered in affirmative.

2. It was inquired by Synod if the fast and thanksgiving days enjoined at last meeting of Synod had been observed in the congregations respectively. The answer was satisfactory.

3. The Committee appointed to report on the Argumentative Part of the Testimony were called upon. They signified their readiness to report tomorrow. The hearing of their report was made the order of the day for tomorrow afternoon.

4. Inquiry was made of the several ministers if their congregations had complied with the order of Synod for raising money to defray the expenses of members of Synod from certain distances. The result is as follows: —

Ryegate	congregation	sent forward,	—	—	\$14.00
Coldenham	"	"	—	—	13.80
Galway	"	"	—	—	8.50
New York	"	"	—	—	80.00
Philadelphia	"	"	—	—	44.67
Baltimore	"	"	—	—	25.00
Conococheague	"	—	(not attended to).		
Pittsburgh	"	"	—	—	37.70
Greensburgh	"	"	—	—	14.50
Thompson's Run	"	"	(not attended to).		
Cannonsburgh	"	—	(promised)		10.00
Pine Creek	"	"			10.00
Little Beaver	"	—	(promised)		25.00
Beech Woods	"	—	(not attended to).		
Kaskaskia (Bethel)	"	"			7.00
South Carolina, Brick Meeting House	Congregation,				40.00

5. Inquiry was made at the Clerk of Synod whether he had procured a Book, as directed at a former meeting of Synod, and had the Minutes of Synod engrossed therein. This had been done,

and the Book was presented to Synod. Approved. The Clerk was ordered to have the bill presented to Synod and liquidated, with which he complied.

6. The Committee appointed to prepare a Chapter on Adoption, with a view to its being inserted in the Testimony, were inquired at whether they had fulfilled their appointment. They answered in the affirmative, and presented a draft thereof, which was read, and fifty copies thereof were ordered to be printed forthwith and given to the members of the Court. The further consideration of which was made the order of the day for tomorrow forenoon.

7. A memorial was received from Robert Brown of Greensburgh, Pa., respecting measures to be taken for the resuscitation of the Theological Seminary.

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

Aug. 7, 1823. Eodem loco.

Pursuant to adjournment the Court met, and was called to order by the Moderator. Same members ut antea.

1. The Minutes of the last sederunt were called for and read.

2. The Committee on Presbyterial Reports presented a report which, with some amendments, was adopted, and is as follows:

(1) Your Committee recommend the acceptance of the report of the Northern Presbytery.

(2) The newly organized congregation of Paterson, N.J., being geographically without their precincts, and yet more contiguous in some respects to New York connections, we would recommend for the present its attachment, with the New Milford, Pa., congregation, to the Northern Presbytery.

3. The report of the Philadelphia Presbytery. Your Committee respectfully report, that, after a patient perusal of a number of documents relative to the Rev. Robert Lusk and the Conococheague congregation, the Committee recommend the following resolution: Resolved, That all the minutes of the session-book of the Conococheague congregation respecting protests in the case of Rev. Robert Lusk, and all the minutes of the Philadelphia Presbytery bearing on these protests in the case of the removal of the Rev. Robert Lusk from his congregation, be obliterated,

Comment [NJP1]: Not certain that "Milford" is the correct transcription; this is a real community in Susquehanna County, PA, but Glasgow does not mention this name, and says nothing of any congregation in this county

retaining such only as bear upon the fact of his removal.

4. The petition of the Rev. Robert Lusk for a disjunction of past connection with the congregation of Conococheague requires no further notice from this Court, inasmuch as the connection has already been dissolved by the Philadelphia Presbytery, as appears by their report ; and your Committee recommend to Synod the acceptance of said report.

Among the papers submitted to the Committee, they find a call on the Rev. Robert Lusk from the congregation of Walnut Ridge, Indiana, and they recommend that said call be referred to the Committee on the call from Elk River, Tenn.

5. The statements made by your Commission to the South appear satisfactory, and we accordingly recommend the adoption of their report, and their honorable discharge.

6. The reports of the proceedings of the Southern and Western Presbyteries, also the Pittsburgh Presbytery, have not yet been made, and your Committee of course have nothing to add. This report was accepted by Synod.

Against the decision of the Court in the case of the report of the Philadelphia Presbytery, the Rev. Robert Lusk said he would be obliged to protest, and would furnish his reasons afterward, and desired the Clerk to enter this statement on the Minutes.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock P.M.

3 o'clock P.M.

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

1. The Rev. Hugh McMillan appeared, and was introduced by Rev. John Cannon as an ordained minister, as would appear by the report of the Synodical Commission for the reorganization of the Southern Presbytery. On motion he was invited to a seat in Synod. He took his seat accordingly.

2. Mr. McMillan was inquired at whether the observation of the fast and thanksgiving days, enjoined by last Synod, had been duly attended to in his congregation. He answered in the affirmative. He was also inquired at whether his congregation had complied

with the act of Synod enjoining collections to be made for defraying the expenses of the members of Synod. He stated that it was not distinctly understood in South Carolina, but that the congregation had made provision for the expenses of its own members.

3. A paper was received signed "A Member," recommending and proposing a plan for resuscitating the Seminary. This paper was referred to the Committee on the Theological Seminary, also the report which that Committee had presented, to further consider all these papers in connection.

4. The Western Presbytery were called on to report. That report to be received tomorrow.

5. Dr. McLeod laid on the table, with notice that he would call it up tomorrow, a resolution proposing the organization of a General Synod, on the principle of a representation of Presbyteries, etc.

The order of the day was called for. This was the consideration of the Chapter on Adoption to be inserted in the Testimony. On motion, the Synod went into a Committee of the Whole for its consideration, Rev. Matthew Williams in the chair.

Various amendments and alterations were made, which were inserted in the Overture. The Committee rose and the Moderator having resumed his seat, presented their report to Synod. It was made the order of the day for tomorrow. The Assistant Clerk is to prepare two copies, as thus amended, for the use of the Moderator and Clerk.

6. David Love had leave of absence for the remaining sessions of Synod, promising however to return if his avocations permit.

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

The Moderator concluded by prayer.

August 8, 1823.

Pursuant to adjournment the Court met, and were called to order by the Moderator. Same members ut antea with the exception of David Love, who had leave of absence.

1. The Synod agree that the minute respecting the congregational contributions shall be considered; but it was

postponed for the present, together with an offer of the Rev. Hugh McMillan, of South Carolina, of \$40.00 for defraying travelling expenses of the members attending Synod.

2. Dr. McLeod called up the resolution laid on the table yesterday, which is as follows: —

Resolved, That a General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church be organized on the principle of the representation of Presbyteries, in the ratio of two ministerial delegates, and as many Elders for every three ministers of which a Presbytery consists, and that said Synod shall meet once in every two years.

On motion, this resolution was referred to a Committee of one member from each of the Presbyteries. The members named were Revs. Alex. McLeod, S. B. Wylie, John Black, Samuel Wylie and Hugh McMillan.

3. The Committee on the Theological Seminary reported a plan of resuscitation of the Seminary and for raising money for that purpose. The report was amended by allowing each Presbytery to retain for their own ecclesiastical emergencies one-fourth of the monies collected in their bounds. Adopted.

4. It was moved for a reconsideration of the vote adopting the report of the Committee on the Theological Seminary, that its object may be more distinctly understood. Carried.

5. The Synod agree to refer the consideration of this report to a Committee of three. Drs. McLeod and S. B. Wylie, and elder Robert Brown that Committee. On motion, Rev. John Cannon was added to the Committee; and likewise, on motion, Rev. J. R. Willson was also added.

6. The Pittsburgh Presbytery reported; also the Southern Presbytery. These reports were referred to the Committee on Presbyterial Reports.

7. A petition was received from certain persons in South Carolina, addressed to the Southern Presbytery, and expressing a desire that it should be laid before Synod, craving direction in relation to certain parts of our Testimony, and their bearing on the Article on Slavery, etc. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

8. The Western Presbytery reported. Their report was referred

Comment [NJP2]: This line is the normal size in the original, but it contains too much text to be able to be placed on one line in this digital document

to the Committee on Presbyterian Reports.

9. Dr. McLeod read a Resolution presenting a preamble and form of Covenant. On motion, this document was referred to a Committee consisting of Revs. Alex. McLeod, S. B. Wylie and John Black. Rev. J. R. Willson was added to the Committee.

10. The order of the day was the consideration of the Chapter on Adoption. It was considered section by section, and underwent various amendments. The vote was then taken on the whole as thus amended, to adopt or not adopt. The Synod decide unanimously to adopt.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock P.M.

The Moderator concluded by prayer.

3 o'clock. Eodem die et loco.

Synod met and was called to order by the Moderator. Same members ut supra. The minutes of the last sederunt were read and approved.

1. The Committee on the Signs of the Times were called on to report. The Chairman of that Committee read a draft of causes both of thanksgiving and fasting. The draft was adopted, and the first Thursday of November next was appointed as a day of fasting and humiliation; and the first Thursday of January, 1824, as a day of thanksgiving.

2. The Committee appointed on the Argumentative Part of the Testimony reported. Dr. McLeod, for reasons presented by him, tendered his resignation as Chairman, and also as a member of this Committee, at the same time informing the Court that he had made considerable progress in the work, and presented to the Court a draft of the plan which he had intended to pursue in completing this document. It was moved and seconded that Synod sustain the reasons offered by Dr. McLeod for the failure in completing the work assigned him, and that they respectfully return to him his resignation allowing him all reasonable time to finish the work. On motion, the further consideration of this resolution was postponed.

3. The Committee on Presbyterian Reports presented their report. The report of the Southern Presbytery exhibits a very pleasing prospect

of that section of the Church. We congratulate them on their prosperity and recommend the adoption of the report.

On the report of the Pittsburgh Presbytery your Committee have nothing particular to remark, only we cordially rejoice in the peace and prosperity which, under the Divine auspices, they participate, and recommend their report for your adoption.

The report of the Western Presbytery is of a piece with the others, only in regard to a difficulty which presents itself to them about the contemplated Convention of the State of Illinois. They wish to know if it will be consistent with the Church's Testimony that they take an active part in electing members for that Convention. This part, we think, should be referred to the Committee on Discipline ; and this report we recommend for your adoption. This report was accepted by Synod.

4. The Committee on the continuation of the history of the Church down to the present time, reported in part and had leave to sit again.

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

Aug. 9, 1823. 9 o'clock A.M. Eodem loco.

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

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

2. William McElwee, an elder from Monongahela congregation, was recognized as a member in place of David Love.

3. A resolution was laid on the table by Rev. S. M. Willson, with a design of calling it up during the session, contemplating the indefinite postponement of the act respecting the Directory for Worship and Book of Discipline.

4. The Committee on Discipline presented the following report on the petition from Bethel, Illinois, praying direction in the public means of edification. Your Committee having attended to this paper respectfully report: That without entering into the merits of the question, or the argument usually employed for or against attendance on the public ministrations administered by ministers of other denominations, most of which arguments they believe to be irrelevant,

they take the liberty of suggesting that whereas every adult member of our communion, by the very fact of the recognition of our principles, is under solemn obligation to cultivate, so far as opportunity will allow, fellowship meetings with his brethren for prayer and Christian conference, as well on the Sabbath day when the public ordinances as administered in our Church cannot be enjoyed, as also on such other days of the week as may be agreed to; and as these little clusters have never ceased, time immemorial, to beautify our Reformation vine in all its diffused and scattering ramifications. But as it is well known to this Synod that these have been the nuclei of the various congregations now organized in almost every State of this extensive Republic ; and as the ministers belonging to this Synod have always recommended, urged, and cherished due attention to their societies, not only as mediums of much spiritual edification, but also vital importance to the prosperity of our ecclesiastical constitution, your Committee are of the opinion that this Synod ought not to legislate any farther on this subject, but leave it entirely to the discretion of the local authorities ; earnestly recommending to the ministers and respective sessions that they be careful to require a strict and punctual adherence to and cultivation of this good old way as superseding the necessity of any Synodical interference.

Synod adopted this report, and ordered the Clerk to send a copy to the petitioners from Bethel, Illinois.

5. It was moved that the following words “to apply the principles of the Church to particular cases as they occur,” be inserted after the words “local authorities.” This was negatived. On the call of two members the ayes and nays were inserted, as follows: —

Black, Brown, Cannon, Cook, Crawford, Douthet, W^m Gibson, John Gibson, Robert Gibson, Gormley, Gill, Ebenezer Gill, McElwee, Hugh McMillan, Orr, S. B. Wylie, S. Wylie, voted against the insertion of the above words.

Lusk, Milligan, Steele and Williams for the insertion.

6. The Committee on the formation of a representative Synod presented a report, which was adopted, and is as follows: The Committee impressed with the conviction that the principles of the resolution referred to them appear obvious to all, submit the following resolutions: —

(1) That a General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, to meet biennially, be formed by delegates from the several Presbyteries.

(2) That each Presbytery shall have the right of sending two ministers and as many ruling elders, and that the ratio of the number of delegates be, until further order is taken on the subject, two ministers and as many ruling elders for every three ministers of which the Presbytery consists; allowing, however, that during the first meeting of Synod, any minister of our connection may have a seat.

(3) That the first meeting of the General Synod be held in the city of New York, on the first Tuesday of August, 1825, at 7 o'clock P.M.

The hearing of the report of the Committee on the Theological Seminary was made the order of the day for Monday forenoon.

Adjourned till Monday at 10 o'clock A.M.

Aug. 11, 1823. Eodem loco.

Pursuant to adjournment the Court met, and was called to order by the Moderator. Same members ut antea.

1. Committees were called upon to report. There were none in readiness.

2. It was agreed that the consideration of the report of the Theological Seminary be made the order of the day for the afternoon.

3. Rev. S. M. Willson called up the resolution which he had laid on the table relative to the indefinite postponement of the consideration of the Directory for Worship, Book of Discipline, etc., which was amended and adopted, as follows: Resolved, That the further consideration of the Book of Discipline,

Form of Church Government, and Directory for Worship be postponed until the next meeting of Synod.

4. The Committee on Discipline reported in relation to the desire of the congregation of Bethel, Illinois, as stated in the report of the Western Presbytery, respecting the propriety of voting or not voting relative to calling a Convention for the purpose, as is supposed, of introducing Slavery into the State of Illinois, that the consideration of this question be referred to the Western Presbytery as most competent to decide upon it.

5. Rev. James Milligan laid on the table the following resolutions: —

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to prepare and lay before Synod at its next meeting a draft of a memorial containing an Analysis of Scripture Magistracy, to which the various denominations likely to approve of the same, may be invited to accede, and pledge themselves in their respective places and stations, to use all lawful endeavors to bring the Federal Constitution and the State Constitutions to a conformity therewith.

Resolved, That such an expose of our principles on Civil Magistracy, although it should not be immediately successful, yet will be an honorable and effectual mean of bringing out views before the world.

The Court adopted these resolutions, and refer them to the Committee to be appointed on the draft of a form of a Covenant.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock P.M.

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

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

1. Rev. Gavin McMillan laid on the table, with a view to call it up hereafter, the following resolution: —

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed who shall specify those denominations of Christians in the United States whose administration of baptism may be sustained as valid.

2. The Committee appointed to take order on the calls

forwarded to this Synod from Elk River congregation, Lincoln Co., Tenn., and from Walnut Ridge congregation, Washington Co., Indiana, on the Rev. Robert Lusk, respectfully report: That these calls are respectable. The call from Walnut Ridge has been duly moderated by Rev. John Kell, the congregation offering to Mr. Lusk \$250.00 annually. The call from Elk River, Tenn., has not been moderated, but it appears that this people had it not in their power to obtain a moderation. They promise to do all in their power to afford Mr. Lusk a comfortable support, should he accept their call (but do not specify any particular sum). Your Committee are of the opinion that, in the existing circumstances, both calls should be sustained. Your Committee respectfully recommend the following resolution: —

Resolved, That the calls from Elk River and Walnut Ridge be delivered into the hands of Pittsburgh Presbytery, enjoining that Presbytery to present the calls forthwith to Mr. Lusk for his acceptance or refusal, and that the Clerk of that Presbytery announce to the said congregations with all convenient speed the results whether Mr. Lusk accept or reject; and that Mr. Lusk be ordered to attend the meeting of said Presbytery for this purpose. This resolution was adopted by Synod.

3. The Committee on the Theological Seminary presented the following report which was adopted by Synod: —

That the attempts to provide means for the reorganization of the Theological Seminary have failed because the efforts made by the clergy to raise the requisite funds were not presented with the energy and perseverance which were calculated to insure success, and not from the want of either the power or the willingness of our people to make the requisite contributions ; but that, as an earnest recommendation of the revival of this institution has been presented in two papers to the Synod from among the laity, accompanied with a judicious plan of financial operations, and an encouraging statistical estimate of the probable amount that may be raised for that object, the Committee do, therefore, recommend to Synod the following resolutions: —

(1) The adoption of the substance of the scheme of finance,

presented by Mr. Robert Brown, one of your ruling elders, and by another valuable paper on the same subject, of which the following abstract embraces the most important items: (a) The formation of societies in every congregation, and the appointment of a treasurer in each, to receive all contributions voluntarily made. (b) That books shall be kept by the treasurer, in which the names of donors and the sums contributed shall be recorded; the books to be kept open for the inspection of all the contributors. (c) That a congregational treasurer shall be appointed to receive all monies paid by the society treasurers, for which he shall give receipts, and of which he shall keep a record. (d) The congregational treasurers shall pay all the monies which they receive from the society treasurers into the hands of a Presbyterial treasurer, by whom the payments shall be receipted and recorded in a book. (e) The Presbyterial treasurers shall pay the monies which they shall receive into the hands of the Synod's treasurer. (f) All the monies thus contributed shall be placed under the control of Synod exclusively for the Theological Seminary. (g) The books of the Synod's treasurer shall be under the inspection of the Synod ; those of the Presbyterial treasurer under the inspection of the Presbytery ; those of the congregational treasurer under that of the congregations ; and those of the society treasurers under that of the society.

(2) In order to present a definite object of interest to the people, the Synod shall immediately proceed to the reorganization of the Seminary by electing a Professor, fixing its location, and appointing Superintendents.

4. The Committee for the adjustments of the accounts of Synod, and paying the travelling expenses of the members who had to travel more than fifty miles, respectfully report: —

Delegates.	Miles.	Amount.	
Samuel M. Willson	530	\$ 29.15	
James Milligan	700	38.50	
Samuel Wylie	761	41.85	
James R. Willson	400	22.00	
Samuel W. Crawford	400	22.00	

Delegates.	Miles.	Amount.
Alexander McLeod	400	\$ 22.00
John Gibson	250	13.75
Hugh McMillan	630	34.65
Gavin McMillan	300	16.50
Samuel B. Wylie	300	16.50
Robert Orr	300	16.50
Robert Lusk	150	8.25
John Steele	150	8.25

Total, _ _ _ \$ 289.90

For Printing 50 copies "Chapter on Adoption," _ _ 2.00

Left in the hands of John Hodge, _ _ _ 3.27

Money promised, _ _ _ _ 35.00

\$ 330.17

Resolved, That monies pledged, but not received, and such monies as shall be furnished by the congregations that have not yet paid for travelling expenses, be appropriated to the liquidation of the expenses of copying the Minutes into the Synodical Book, and to printing extracts of the Minutes ordered by Synod. Adopted by Synod. This whole report was accepted by Synod.

5. On motion, that Dr. S. B. Wylie be elected Professor of Theology in the Theological Seminary. He was elected without a dissenting voice. Dr. Wylie gratefully acknowledge his sense of the honor conferred upon him by the unanimous voice of Synod, but begged leave to decline for reasons which he was about to offer; but at the request of Synod he postponed giving a definite answer until tomorrow.

6. On motion, Dr. McLeod was requested to continue as the Chairman of the Committee on the Argumentative Part of the Testimony. On Dr. McLeod's still continuing to decline, by request, his definite answer was postponed until tomorrow.

7. Synod agree that 2000 copies of the Testimony, with the addition of the continuation of the Historical Part, and the Chapter on Adoption, be printed; and that the Evangelical Tract Society of New York be authorized to print them, if they can be printed at a price not exceeding sixty-five cents in boards, and seventy-five cents in plain sheep binding.

8. Dr. McLeod and Rev. J. R. Willson are appointed

a Committee to superintend the printing of the Testimony.

9. The Committee appointed to prepare the Chapter on Adoption and the continuation of the Historical Part of the Testimony, are enjoined to finish the Historical Part and transmit these documents with all convenient speed to the Committee appointed for publication.

10. On motion, the thanks of the Synod were tendered, by the Moderator, to the Rev. John Gibson for his sermon at the opening of Synod, and he was requested to furnish a copy for publication with all convenient speed. With this request Mr. Gibson complied.

11. The Moderator, Rev. James R. Willson, is appointed to open the next meeting of Synod with a sermon upon the "Baptism of John;" and in case of his absence, the Rev. Robert Gibson.

The Committee on general finance reported the following resolution: —

Resolved, That by occasional collections and subscriptions provision be made for a Contingent Fund to print documents, etc. And that the fund for the Theological Seminary, the fund for travelling expenses, and the contingent fund be kept separate. Adopted by Synod.

Adjourned till tomorrow at 9 o'clock A.M. (with an understanding that the session be continued until all the business before Synod shall be finished).

Aug. 12, 1823. Eodem loco.

Synod met agreeably to adjournment. Same members ut antea.

1. The minutes of the former sederunt were read and approved. (Rev. Gavin McMillan called up the resolution he laid on the table yesterday respecting the appointment of a Committee to specify the several denominations of professing Christians in the United States whose administration of baptism should be sustained as valid. Revs. John Black, J. R. Willson, John Gibson and Gavin McMillan were appointed a Committee for this inquiry. This Committee craved and obtained leave to retire ; and, after a short time, presented a report

specifying all the branches of the Presbyterian Church, Episcopalians, Regular Baptists, Methodists, and Roman Catholics. On motion, Resolved, That the further consideration of the subject be postponed until the next meeting of Synod).

2. The Committee on Discipline reported on the reference made to them of a certain memorial from Mr. Samuel Wright and others, to the Southern Presbytery, and which has ultimately been referred to Synod.

That the Committee have deliberately considered this memorial and find it an able and respectful representation of important practical questions arising principally from the local circumstances of the Church in the South.

Your Committee are aware that from positive statutes already made, no slaveholder can be held in the communion of this Church," have only to add that all practical difficulties that may occur in the application of this principle, to the several facts which may occur, had better be left to the discretion of the local and inferior judicatories to take care that in those cases in which the power of the State is employed to prevent emancipation, that the Church shall act on the true moral intent of the avowed principles and laws of the Reformed Presbyterian Church ; and it is the opinion of your Committee that the religious treatment of the blacks, whether in infancy or manhood, had better be referred to the judgment of Church sessions.

On the subject of Freemasonry, your Committee recommended to Synod to insert under the Chapter on Oaths, of your Testimony, a new article to testify against the oaths taken by Freemasons.

On the subject of Juries, the Committee recommend that the inferior judicatories of this Church be directed to determine on a due consideration of the practice of the several courts of jurisprudence, whether the juror comes under the operation of an immoral law in the several courts in their own bounds, and give instruction to their people according to the special state of the case. This report was adopted by Synod.

3. The Committee on the draft of a Covenant reported to Synod the following resolutions, which were adopted, viz:

(1) That the draft of a Covenant be referred to a Committee with power to print fifty copies for the inspection of Synod at their next meeting.

(2) That said Committee be directed to prepare for said meeting of Synod a draft of a Pastoral Letter on the subject of Covenants; and also an Address to the Christian world at large. Revs. Gilbert McMaster, Dr. McLeod, Dr. Wylie, and J. R. Willson are that Committee.

4. Dr. Wylie was now called on to say whether he would accept of the professorship in the Theological Seminary to which he was unanimously voted yesterday. He did accept; craving, however, that if he found it incompatible with his other avocations, he might have liberty to resign at next meeting of Synod.

5. Dr. McLeod was called on to say whether he would consent to continue as Chairman of the Committee to finish the draft of the Argumentative Part of the Testimony. He did consent to continue, and would endeavor all in his power the accomplishment of this important work, but would not pledge himself that he would be able to complete it.

6. On motion, the thanks of the Synod were returned to Dr. Wylie and to Dr. McLeod for their acceptance of their respective appointments.

7. The Synod now proceeded to the appointment of a Board of Superintendents for the Theological Seminary. Revs. Alexander McLeod, Gilbert McMaster and James R. Willson were appointed to constitute that Board.

8. The Synod agreed that the Constitution of the Theological Seminary be amended in the Second Article and Second Section by inserting the words "or more" between "three" and "Superintendents."

9. On motion, Revs. John Black, James Christie and John Gibson were added to the Board of Superintendents.

10. Robert Orr, of Philadelphia, was unanimously chosen Synodical Treasurer of the Theological Seminary.

11. The Treasurers of the different Presbyteries are enjoined to transmit, on or before the first day of August, 1824, to the Synod's Treasurer, all the monies they have collected.

12. Pittsburgh Presbytery reported that according to Synod-

ical appointment they had presented to the Rev. Robert Lusk the calls from Elk River and Walnut Ridge, and that he had accepted the call from Walnut Ridge, Ind. The Synod accept this report.

13. The Synod instruct the Clerk of the Philadelphia Presbytery to give Mr. Lusk an honorable dismissal from that Presbytery, which he is to present to the Western Presbytery, and that they take measures forthwith to have Mr. Lusk installed in the congregation of Walnut Ridge.

14. Synod agree that \$50.00 be allowed to the Stated Clerk on every meeting of Synod, as a small remuneration for his service.

15. On motion, the last article of the Terms of Ecclesiastical Communion was amended by substituting in the place of the "Reformed Presbytery," the "Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America."

16. Rev. Robert Lusk petitioned for certain papers specified by him. The Clerk is ordered to give him copies of whatever papers he may demand, which may be in the Clerk's possession.

17. Revs. John Black and William Gibson, with John Hodge, are appointed a Committee to publish such extracts of the Minutes of Synod heretofore unpublished as they may think proper, with all convenient speed, and that 250 copies, at least, of the Minutes are to be printed.

No more business appearing before Synod, the Moderator concluded by prayer, and the singing of the 133d. Psalm.

(Signed).

James R. Willson, Moderator.

John Black, Synod Clerk.