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Presbyterian Church in the
U.S.A. General Assembly.

Minutes of the General
Assembly of the

MINUTES

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

WITH

AN APPENDIX.

A. D. 1836.

PHILADELPHIA:

PUBLISHED BY THE STATED CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY.

PRINTED BY LYDIA R. BAILEY, 26 NORTH FIFTH STREET.

1836.

Lewers, McClintock, J. L. R. Davies, Dunlap, Nesbit, Snowden, Pratt, J. S. Wilson, F. H. Porter, T. C. Stuart, Morrow, Hutchison—Nays 78.

Declined voting.

Messrs. Bartley, McQuestin, McMartin, S. Boyd, Ewing, Hoge, Chamberlain, Collins, T. A. Ogden, Borden, Gray—11.

The following resolution was offered by Dr. Miller, viz.

(Resolved, That while this General Assembly has thought proper to remove the sentence of suspension under which the Rev. Mr. Barnes was placed by the Synod of Philadelphia; yet the judgment of the Assembly is, that Mr. Barnes, in his notes on the Epistle to the Romans, has published opinions, materially at variance with the Confession of Faith of the Presbyterian Church, and with the word of God;—especially with regard to original sin, the relation of man to Adam, and justification by faith, in the atoning sacrifice and righteousness of the Redeemer.) The Assembly consider the manner in which Mr. Barnes has controverted the language and doctrine of our public standards, as highly reprehensible, and as adapted to pervert the minds of the rising generation, from the simplicity and purity of the Gospel plan. And although some of the most objectionable statements and expressions which appeared in the earlier editions of the work in question, have been either removed, or so far modified or explained, as to render them more in accordance with our public formularies; still the Assembly considers the work, even in its present amended form, as containing representations which cannot be reconciled with the letter or spirit of our public standards; and would solemnly admonish Mr. Barnes again to review this work; to modify still further the statements which have grieved his brethren; and to be more careful in time to come, to study the purity and peace of the Church.

After considerable discussion, the previous question was moved and carried, to put the main question.

The main question was then put, on the adoption of the above resolution, offered by Dr. Miller, and was decided in the negative, as follows, viz.

Yeas—

Messrs. Bartley, McQuestin, James, Koontz, A. Platt, McMartin, Curtiss, Downer, Hopkins, J. V. Henry, Minor, Nimmo, Phillips, Marshall, Lenox, S. Boyd, McElroy, W. Wallace, (N. Y.) Barton, S. Miller, B. Ogden, Seabrook, Castner, J. Campbell, Kennedy, Stinson, Henderson, Coburn, Coulter, McCurdy, Stoneroad, Ewing, Alexander, Ray, Highlands, J. Miller, Jos. Smith, Anderson, Eaton, R. Porter, Alrich, McFarren, Velandingham, Write, R. Johnston, Harbeson, J. Wilson, Hoge, Van Deman, Rowland, Culbertson, Hanna, Elliot, W. Wallace, (Lan.) R. Smith, J. Rankin, Galloway, Scovil, Swan, Bishop, Dunn, M. G. Wallace, Weaver, Donnell, Spilman, Posey, Breckinridge, Bemiss, Curry, McDowell, Price, Berryman, D. S. Todd, Collins, Williamson, Glassel, Wharey, McFarland, McElhenny, Baird, R. H. Henry, H. Smith, Caruthers, W. M. Lewis, Graham, McNair, McCallum, Sparrow, Kilpatrick, McCutchan, T. A. Ogden, A. A. Campbell, Ingram, Lewers, McClintock, J. L. R. Davies, Dunlap, S. S. Davis, Nesbit, Snowden, Pratt, J. S. Wilson, Van Court, F. H. Porter, Borden, T. C. Stuart, Morrow, Gray, Hutchison.—Yeas 109.

Nays—

Messrs. A. Parmelee, Hoyt, Fleming, Griffith, J. N. Lewis, Fellows, Edwards, Rockwell, Cannon, Pettibone, Sacket, B. B. Hotchkin, Savage,

Coolidge, Graves, Squier, Crosby, Whitaker, Stevens, Lathrop, Pomeroy, Cook, Reed, Town, M. Ford, D. Platt, J. H. Hotchkin, Frost, Reynolds, Wells, Hart, Downs, Blanchard, Walker, Selden, Wisner, Pitts, Goodrich, Thompson, Wing, D. Johnson, Adams, Murray, Gooding, Lord, Bradley, Heacock, French, A. Johnson, A. S. Allen, Wickham, Tuthill, Youngs, Peters, Skinner, Leavitt, Holbrook, J. Ford, E. Allen, Ward, El. Conger, P. A. Johnson, Potter, Stow, Jessup, Fitch, J. Parmelee, Seward, Preston, En. Conger, Strong, D. Millar, Talcott, Noyes, A. Kingsbury, Crosby, Cleaveland, R. Stuart, Humphrey, McGaffey, Beach, Geddes, A. Kingsbury, Amlin, Spaulding, Brainerd, Carey, Kittredge, Martin, S. G. Lowry, Jennings, Post, Dashiell, Lathy, Bergen, Lamb, Gridley, Stickel, McCoy, Lovejoy, Ker, Cochran, Mahan, Brown, Armistead, J. W. Wilson, D. F. Palmer, J. Smith, Montgomery, Harrison, Eagleton, Clift, Ross, Lucky, Carson, McSween, Labaree, Bradshaw, Baird, J. Allan, D. A. Smith, Newton.—Nays 122.

Declined voting.

Messrs. Sweezy, J. M. Ogden, B. M. Palmer.—3.

The Assembly took up the subject of Slavery. The report of the committee appointed by the last Assembly on this subject, together with the report of the minority of said committee were read.

A motion was then made to postpone the consideration of these reports, with a view to take up the following substitute, offered by Mr. McElhenny, viz.

“The committee to whom were referred by the General Assembly sundry memorials, and other papers, touching the subject of Slavery, with directions to report thereon to the General Assembly, beg leave to report:

“That after the most mature deliberation which they have been able to bestow on the interesting and important subject referred to them, they would most respectfully recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following preamble and resolution, viz.

“Whereas, the subject of Slavery is inseparably connected with the laws of many States of this Union, in which it exists under the sanction of said laws, and of the Constitution of the United States;—And whereas Slavery is recognised in both the Old and New Testament as an existing relation, and is not condemned by the authority of God, therefore,

“Resolved, That the General Assembly have no authority to assume or exercise jurisdiction in regard to the existence of Slavery.”

While this motion was under consideration, the Assembly adjourned till this afternoon, at 2 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

TUESDAY afternoon, 2 o'clock. The Assembly met, and began with prayer.

The minutes of the last session were read.

The committee on leave of absence, reported that they have given leave to Mr. Cooper, Mr. H. Smith, Mr. Brearily, and Mr. J. Boyd.

The committee of overtures reported overtures Nos. 18, 19, and 20.

Overture No. 18. viz. a request from the Presbytery of Fayetteville for permission to publish an edition of the Confession of Faith and Constitution of the Church, without the Scripture references, was committed to Mr. Janvier, Mr. Douglas, and Mr. M'Farren.

Overture No. 19, viz. on difficulties in several portions of the church; and an application for a division of the Synod of Philadelphia, was committed to Mr. Kittredge, Mr. Bishop, and Mr. Kilpatrick.