

MINUTES

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

✓
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FROM A. D. 1821 TO A. D. 1835 INCLUSIVE.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Minutes of the General Assembly from A. D. 1821 to A. D. 1835, inclusive, have for many years been entirely inaccessible to the great body of ministers and people who desired to possess a consecutive history of the proceedings of the Supreme Judiciary of the Church. As no second edition had ever been published, and the first was wholly exhausted, it was impossible that deficiencies could be supplied, and hence but few complete sets of the Minutes were to be found among the members of the Church. To supply the frequent and earnest calls for the Minutes of the period above designated, the Board of Publication determined on the preparation of this volume, which, excluding the voluminous Statistical Tables, and many of the documents usually occupying the Appendix for each year, embraces in full the minutes of proceedings, which are chiefly desired for purposes of reference. Instead of the full statistical tables, which it should be understood were only published for a part of the period embraced in this volume, a general summary has been subjoined to the minutes of each year, which was partly made up from the imperfect files of the Assembly. After the volume had gone through the press, the summary for the year 1821, which had escaped previous searches, was found, and is inserted on the next page, it being concluded that it would be better to have it out of its order, than to have it wholly omitted.

WM. M. ENGLER,

Editor of the Presbyterian Board of Publication.

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The Stated Clerk reported that agreeably to order, he had secured the copyright of the Book of Psalms and Hymns, approved by the last General Assembly, and that he now holds the legal evidence of the same, for the use of the Assembly. This report was accepted.

The consideration of the report of the committee on the subject of domestic missions, was postponed until to-morrow morning.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Mississippi and South Alabama, reported that the records had not been put into their hands. The committee was discharged.

The committee to whom was referred the whole case in relation to the Rev. Albert Barnes, made a report, which being read was adopted, and is as follows, viz :

S. Miller.

That after bestowing upon the case the most deliberate and serious consideration, the committee are of the opinion that it is neither necessary, nor for edification, to go into the discussion of all the various and minute details which are comprehended in the documents relating to this case. For the purpose, however, of bringing the matter in controversy, as far as possible, to a regular and satisfactory issue, they would recommend to the Assembly the adoption of the following resolutions, viz :

1. *Resolved*, That the General Assembly, while it appreciates the conscientious zeal for the purity of the Church, by which the Presbytery of Philadelphia is believed to have been actuated in its proceedings in the case of Mr. Barnes; and while it judges that the sermon by Mr. Barnes, entitled "The way of salvation," contains a number of unguarded and objectionable passages; yet is of the opinion, that, especially after the explanations which were given by him of those passages, the Presbytery ought to have suffered the whole to pass without further notice.

2. *Resolved*, That in the judgment of this Assembly, the Presbytery of Philadelphia ought to suspend all further proceedings in the case of Mr. Barnes.

3. *Resolved*, That it will be expedient, as soon as the regular steps can be taken, to divide the Presbytery in such way, as will be best calculated to promote the peace of the ministers and churches belonging to the Presbytery.

With respect to the abstract points proposed to the Assembly for their decision in the Reference of the Presbytery, the committee are of the opinion that if they be answered, they had better be discussed and decided *in thesi*, separate from the case of Mr. Barnes.

The judicial committee reported that the other complaints and the reference in relation to the case of Mr. Barnes, they considered as merged in the report just adopted. This report was accepted.

The Assembly having finished the business in relation to Mr. Barnes, united in special prayer, returning thanks to God for the harmonious result to which they have come; and imploring the blessing of God on their decision.

The Judicial Committee reported a complaint and protest of the minority against the decision of the majority of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of the city of New Orleans, as in order; and recommended an order to be pursued in taking up this business. This report was accepted and put on the docket.

The Judicial Committee also reported a complaint from the minority of the Synod of Kentucky, against the decision of the majority, in the case of Mr. Benedict H. Hobbs, as in order; and recommended an order to be pursued in taking up this business. This report was accepted and put on the docket.

The committee to whom was committed overture No. 8, viz: "a request from the Presbytery of West Lexington, that the constitutional measures may be taken to have the representation to the Assembly diminished," made a report, which was read and put on the docket.