

favour of an Ecumenical Council of Presbyterian Churches, we, providentially brought together at this time, and belonging to various branches of the Presbyterian family, cordially sympathize with these movements toward a General Council of the Presbyterian Churches in various lands.

2. That the following gentlemen be a Committee to correspond with individuals and with organized bodies in order to ascertain the feeling of Presbyterians in regard to such Federal Council, and to take such measures as may in their judgment promote this object.

3. That this Committee be authorized to co-operate, as far as possible, with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and with the Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

The Committee thus appointed have a deep sense of the responsibility laid on them. While they believe that the cause is good, and that there is sufficient popular opinion in its behalf to secure, with the blessing of Almighty God, its ultimate success, they fear lest they should take any step that might injure so noble an undertaking. They therefore desire to begin and carry on all their measures under the guidance of the wisdom that is from above. All that they propose at present is to ask, as they now do, every Presbyterian organization in the world :

*First, To express in a formal manner its approval of the object ; and,*

*Secondly, To appoint a Committee to meet or correspond with Committees from other Presbyterian Denominations, for the purpose of arranging for a meeting or convention of Representatives to be appointed by the Denominations, which meeting may effect an Organization, and determine its character and practical modes of action.*

Meanwhile, they solicit attention to the following benefits which, by the grace of God, may be expected to flow from the proposed union :

1st, It would exhibit before the world the substantial unity, quite consistent with minor diversities, of the one great family of Presbyterian Churches.

2d, It would greatly tend to hold up and strengthen weak and struggling Churches, by showing that they are members of a large body. The Protestant Churches of the Continent of Europe, for example, feel the great need of sympathy and support from Churches more favourably situated.

3d, It would enable Churches, which are not inclined to organic union, to manifest their belief in the unity of the Church, and to fraternize with those whom they love,

while they still hold to their distinctive testimony.

4th, Each Presbyterian Church would become acquainted with the constitution and work of sister Churches, and their interest in each other would be proportionally increased. Some might be led in this way to see in other Churches excellences which they would choose to adopt.

5th, The Churches may thus be led to combine in behalf of the truth, and against prevalent errors ; as, for instance, to defend the obligations of the Sabbath, to resist the insidious efforts of the Papacy, especially in the matter of education, and to withstand Infidelity in its various forms.

6th, Without interfering with the free action of the Churches, this Council might distribute judiciously the evangelical work in the great field "which is the world ;" allocating a sphere to each, discouraging the planting of two congregations where one might serve, or the establishment of two missions at one place, while hundreds of other places have none. In this way the resources of the Church would be husbanded, and her energies concentrated on great enterprises.

7th, It would demonstrate to the Christian world these great facts in the working of the Presbyterian system : That, by its reasonable polity, it consists with every form of civil government ; that, by the simplicity of its usages, it is adapted to all the varying conditions of the Church upon the earth ; and that, by its equal distance from license and arrogance, it is best prepared to recognize the kinship of all believers.

8th, It would manifest the proportions and power of the Presbyterian Churches, and thus offer effectual resistance to the exclusive pretensions of Prelacy and Ritualism in all their forms.

9th, From such a Council, hallowed and quickened by the Redeemer's presence, there might proceed, as from a heart, new impulses of spiritual life, bringing every member of the Church into closer fellowship with his Divine Master, into deeper affection for his brethren for his Master's sake, and into more entire consecration of all his powers to the Master's work.

HOWARD CROSBY, D. D., LL. D., Chancellor New York University, N. Y.

J. W. DAWSON, Principal Macgill College, Montreal, Canada.

WM. PAXTON, D. D., New York, Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

H. D. GANSE, New York, Reformed Church in America.

HOWELL POWELL, New York, Welsh Presbyterian Church.