

"I bore credentials as a delegate from the American Congregational Union to the Congregational Union of England and Wales.

"I was received by that body with every courtesy which was due to the body which I represented, and invited to address the Union under favourable circumstances; but was requested to say nothing of the merits of the great conflict now going on in our country.

"The reason assigned for this limitation was, that they were divided in sentiment on this subject, and its introduction would lead to an unpleasant debate.

"It was, therefore, that I was not permitted to speak one word before that assembly of British Christians for the cause of freedom in my country, though they had passed in my presence a resolution declaring their undiminished hostility to negro slavery.

"I remembered the past. I called to mind the oft-repeated and just remonstrances which came to us from our brethren in Great Britain against this iniquitous system—remonstrances which I doubt not have exerted no small influence in bringing on the conflict in which we are now engaged with the rebel propagandists of slavery.

"And yet the Congregational Union of England and Wales is now divided in sentiment, and does not know which side to take, and suppresses all utterance on one of the gravest moral issues of the nineteenth century, that she may shield herself from unpleasant agitation."

Dr. Smith writes in reply:—

"I much regretted that I had to decline Mr. Levi Coffin's application to be heard in the assembly of the Union, or at the after-dinner meeting, but I had no alternative. The business for the meetings had been carefully prepared by the committee, and it was so ample as to fill up the whole of the time allotted for its consideration. Moreover, had it been otherwise, I had no authority to introduce a subject that had not previously been submitted to the committee. That I was right in the course I pursued has been affirmed by the committee. The following is an extract from the minute-book under date of Tuesday, Nov. 1, 1864:—

"The Rev. Dr. Smith reported that application had been made to him at Hull to allow a deputation from the Freedmen's Aid Society to address the assembly, but that after conference with his colleague and two or three other members of the Union, he had declined the responsibility of introducing the deputation on the subject, as the committee had not had the opportunity of considering the matter.

"Resolved unanimously, that the committee approve of the decision of the secretary on this subject, he having acted only in accordance with the general instructions of the committee not to allow the introduction of extraneous business to the notice of the assembly without their consent previously obtained."

"The restriction under which Dr. Sturtevant was placed in addressing the assembly in 1862, arose out of a decision of the whole meeting. The committee had prepared resolutions on the subject of the American war and slavery, which the meeting declined to accept.

"The diversity of opinion on the whole subject was so great, that no other course was then open but to avoid at that time the further discussion of the topic. The Union was and is decidedly opposed to slavery, but that subject can hardly be discussed now without the introduction of other subjects on which a diversity of opinion exists."

---

THE BISHOP OF LONDON ON THE HARMONY OF REVELATION AND SCIENCE.—In a lecture recently delivered at Edinburgh, Dr. Tait spoke as follows on the questions so much agitated at present. The greatest difficulties as to the harmony of revelation with human science would, perhaps, be found, not in connection with material science, but with ancient history, language, and ethnology. The difficulty might be stated thus:—