

Among the foreign missionaries were the Rev. William Dean, D. D., Baptist missionary to China; the Rev. J. G. Oncken, D. D., Baptist missionary in Germany; the Rev. John Newton, Presbyterian missionary to Northern India; Mr. C. A. Minor, of the Palestine Agricultural mission; Rev. Geo. Pierson, American Board's missionary for Micronesia; the Rev. A. H. Seely, Presbyterian, Northern India; the Rev. Oliver Grane of Turkey; the Rev. E. M. Dodd, Greece; the Rev. Narcissus Cyr, Baptist Grand Ligne mission; the Rev. William Ramsay, Presbyterian, India.

After a brief address from Mr. Bradish, the Rev. Dr. Alexander gave out the hymn, commencing, "Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly dove," &c., and offered prayer. The Rev. Dr. Murray of Elizabethtown, moved the appointment of a committee, to be called the "business committee," to which all subjects for discussion should be committed; this was ordered, and the committee was constituted of the following named persons: The Rev. Dr. Murray, Presbyterian; the Rev. Dr. Tyng, Protestant Episcopal; the Rev. Dr. Bangs, Methodist Episcopal; the Rev. Dr. DeWitt, Reformed Dutch; the Rev. Dr. Oncken, Baptist Missionary from Germany; the Rev. J. S. Wood, Secretary of American Board of Foreign Missions; the Rev. J. L. Wilson, Secretary Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions; the Rev. Robert Patterson, Reformed Presbyterian; Geo. B. Stuart, Esq., Reformed Presbyterian.

This committee subsequently brought in a report in the shape of questions. The first was, 'To what extent are we authorized by the word of God to expect the conversion of the world to Christ?' This brought out a full and free discussion of the question, which resulted in the unanimous adoption of the following resolutions:—

**Resolved**—That without entering into any definition as to the technical meaning of such a term as conversion, and without entering into any statement as to the time or succession of antecedent events, the convention rejoice in unanimously testifying their simple, heartfelt, undoubting faith in the emphatic declaration of God's inspired word, that "men shall be blessed in Him" (Jesus Christ); "all nations shall call him blessed," yea, that "the whole earth shall be filled with His glory."

Five other questions followed, all of which were discussed in the same spirit of Christian kindness and concord; and resolutions in answer were each adopted unanimously.

2. What are the divinely appointed and most efficient means of extending the gospel to all men?

**Resolved**—As the general sense of the Convention, that the chief means of divine appointment for the evangelization of the world, are:—The faithful teaching and preaching of the pure gospel of salvation, by duly qualified ministers and other holy and consistent disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, accompanied with prayer, and savingly applied by the grace of the Holy Spirit—such means in the providential application of them by human agency, embracing not merely instruction by the living voice, but the translation and judicious circulation of the whole written word of God—the preparation and circulation of evangelical tracts and books—as well as any other instrumentalities fitted to bring the saving truths of God's word home to men's souls—with any processes which experience may have sanctioned as the most efficient in raising up everywhere native ministers and teachers of the living gospel.

3. Is it best to concentrate labourers in the foreign field, or to scatter them?

**Resolved**—That while this convention fully accord in the propriety and desirableness of diffusing a knowledge of the gospel, as far as circumstances admit, or providences of God may indicate, by means

of a duly qualified and unrestrained itinerancy, they may yet fully accord in the propriety and desirableness of seizing on strong and commanding stations, more especially in countries where hereditary concentrated systems or error have long prevailed, and there concentrating a powerful agency, fitted by harmonious co-operation to carry on the different departments of the missionary enterprise in such a way as to constitute them, by God's blessing, emanate sources of evangelizing influence to the surrounding multitude, as well as the most efficient means of perpetuating the gospel in purity to the succeeding generations.

4. In view of the great extent of the heathen world, and the degree to which it is opened, is it expedient for different missionary boards to plant stations on the same ground?

**Resolved**—That considering the extent of the yet unevangelized world of heathenism, and the limited means of evangelization at the disposal of any of the existing evangelical churches or societies, it would be very desirable that, with the exception of great centres, such as the capitals of powerful kingdoms, an efficient pre-occupation of any particular portion of the heathen field, by any evangelical church or society, should be respected by others, and left in their undisturbed possession—at the same time acknowledging, with thankfulness to God, that heretofore there has been practically so little interference with each other's fields of labour.

5. How may the number of qualified laborers for the evangelization of the world be multiplied and best prepared.

**Resolved**—That in the absence of sufficient data to give a full deliverance on the subject, this Convention cherishes a deep conviction that, in order to the multiplication of suitable agents for the heathen mission field, ministers of the gospel must strive more vividly to realize in their own souls the paramount grandeur of the missionary enterprise in its relation to the glory of God, as manifested in the design and consummation of the whole redemptive economy, and as the divinely commanded instrumentality for the regeneration of the lost and perishing in every land; and then strive habitually, through prayer to the Lord of the harvest, who alone can truly raise up and send forth labourers, as also through their public and private ministrations, to stamp similar vivid impressions on the minds of church members, and especially Christian parents, Sabbath-school and other Christian teachers, who may have it in their power to train up the young in simple dependence on God's blessing, to realize the magnitude and glory of the work of the world's evangelization, and lead them to consider personal dedication to the work as the highest of duties and noblest of privileges. Moreover, that for the due preparation of candidates for the foreign field, it were very desirable that provision were made in our theological seminaries generally, for bringing the nature, history, and obligations of the missionary enterprise before the minds of the students, or what may be briefly designated a *course of evangelistic theology*.

6. Is it expedient to hold meetings such as this annually?

**Resolved**—That a Convention similar to this will meet next year; that a committee, consisting of gentlemen of New York representing the various evangelical churches, be appointed to make the necessary arrangements, and that the chairman appoint that committee.

On motion of Rev. Dr. McLeod, seconded by Rev. Dr. Willis, it was unanimously.

**Resolved**—That the thanks of this Convention be returned to the Foreign Missionaries present, for the ample and satisfactory information communicated by them, and for the blessed influence they have exerted during all its deliberations.