

llc, would listen to this voice of fraternal remonstrance from the British churches.—Ed.

At the ANNUAL SESSION of the BAPTIST UNION held in London, April 27, 1840.

The Rev. JAMES ACKWORTH, A. M., President of the College of Bradford, Yorkshire, in the Chair; The following Resolutions, among others, were adopted:

Moved by the Rev. EDWARD STEANE, of Camberwell; seconded by the Rev. W. H. MURCH, D. D., President of Stepney College; and supported by the Rev. F. A. COX, D. D., L. L. D., of Hackney:—

I. That the information communicated to this Union during its present session of the increase of our Denomination, both in Britain and America, has awakened sentiments of lively gratitude to God, and is regarded as an answer to special prayer; and that the Pastors and Messengers now assembled viewing it in this light, affectionately recommend the continued and still extended adoption of extraordinary meetings designed to awaken professing Christians to a more adequate sense of their obligations to redeeming mercy, and more earnestly to invite sinners to “the common salvation.”

That recognising in the Christian Ministry the divinely selected instrument by which the body of Christ is to be edified and souls converted, this Assembly feels it to be of the first importance to obtain a larger supply of Pastors, Evangelists, and Missionaries; that the exigencies of our native land and of the world at large demand their multiplication to an indefinite extent; that our own Denomination in many instances languishes for want of men endowed with natural and acquired ability, fitting them, under the gracious illuminations of the Holy Spirit, for ministerial work; and that therefore, in conjunction with prayer to “the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers into his harvest,” they earnestly recommend our existing Colleges to the increased support of the Churches, rejoice to be apprized of incipient efforts for the institution of a Theological Seminary in the City of Glasgow, and repeat their conviction expressed last year of the desirableness of a similar institution being planted in the midland counties.

That while the Pastors and Messengers of the Churches now assembled entertain, and take this occasion to express, unfeigned brotherly love towards all their fellow-Christians of every denomination, and have no intention by any language employed in this Resolution to declare an opinion on terms of communion, they record their conviction that all schemes of union which proceed upon mutual compromise in relation to any of the commands, ordinances, or institutions of the

Lord Christ, are in principle at variance with the word of God, and can therefore be productive of no practical good; and that the position in which the Baptist Denomination has been, in the course of Divine Providence, placed by recent circumstances, requires them to act with fidelity, to their Master and to their brethren by bringing prominently into notice their grand peculiarity—the personal nature of Christian obligation from first to last, and the consequent exclusive fitness of believers as the subjects of baptism; and to make the fact every where known, that in practising immersion they are not acting the part of innovators or sectarians, but are pursuing a practice maintained in all the Oriental Churches from the first age until now; universally prevalent in the Western Churches for thirteen centuries; declared to be philologically just by scholars of all countries and all communities; prescribed still by the Church of England; departed from only in countries over which Popery has prevailed; superseded by a single vote in the Westminster Assembly of Divines, when twenty-four gave their suffrages for retaining immersion and twenty-five for substituting sprinkling; and rejected only in modern times, and by a comparatively small minority of the Christian Church.

Moved by Rev. THOMAS MORRIS, of Portsea, Representative of the Southern Association; and seconded by the Rev. JOHN BANE, of Aylesham, Representative of the Norfolk and Norwich Association:—

II. That this Union entirely concurs in the view taken by the late Committee of this body, of the question at issue between the British and Foreign Bible Society and the Baptist Denomination, as expressed in their Resolution of November 15th, 1839; that they approve the determination then taken once more and finally to communicate with the Committee of the Bible Society on the subject, together with the arguments and temper of the Memorial presented; and that they view with satisfaction the measures subsequently adopted for the creation of a distinct Society, in the formation of which they see reason to congratulate the Union on one of the most important results of its existence, the Baptist Denomination in the United Kingdom on a providential call to a distinguished position of responsibility and usefulness, and all parties interested in the diffusion of the Sacred Scriptures on the acquisition of a needful and invaluable auxiliary.

Moved by the Rev. T. PRICE, D. D.; seconded by the Rev. CHARLES STOVEL:—

III. That this Union, convened in Annual Session, feels bound to reiterate its strong and deepening conviction of the inherent wickedness of the slave system recently