

3rd.—Believing that among our Provincial States there is a law which invests magistrates with a power to arrest the progress of vessels through the Welland canal on the Sabbath-day, this meeting would respectfully request the magistrates in this neighbourhood to put this law in force; and hereby pledge themselves to assist, as far as lies in their power, those officers in the discharge of this duty.

4th.—That the Secretary of this meeting cause notices to be posted up along the line of the canal, notifying all concerned that the law will be put in force as regards the violation of the Sabbath in passing vessels through the canal.

5th.—That the other magistrates along the line of the canal be respectfully solicited to co-operate with this meeting.

6th.—That proceedings be taken against any person who may be found violating the law above referred to, along the canal, on and after Sabbath first, the 24th instant.

7th.—That editors of newspapers be respectfully solicited to insert the above resolutions, for the information of people at a distance who may be interested.

Ecclesiastical Intelligence.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SYNOD OF PHILADELPHIA.

The Committee to whom were referred certain resolutions of the Presbytery of Baltimore, on the subject of family worship, family instruction, &c., respectfully report for the adoption of Synod, the said resolutions, with some modifications and additions, as follows:

Resolved, 1. That all the families connected with the churches under the care of Synod be, and they are hereby enjoined to attend to the duty of family worship, according to Directory of Worship, chap. 15, and in accordance with 5th section of said chapter, heads of families are enjoined to instruct their children and servants in the principles of religion using for that purpose the word of God, the catechisms of our church, and such other helps as may be suggested by their respective pastors. That while they be exhorted to embrace every proper opportunity for such instructions, they be advised to spend some part of each Lord's day in these exercises, and as very many of the families connected with our pastoral charges reside apart in the country, yet sufficiently contiguous to each other to unite together for prayer, and the reading of the divine word, the Synod earnestly recommends this method of improving the Sabbath evening; yet where this cannot be practised, or is not convenient, we affectionately entreat families to spend the Sabbath evening, "house by house," in a strictly devotional and spiritual manner. We also entreat the heads of families of our beloved churches to be careful to restrain their children and domestics from violating even the spirit of the fourth commandment, in suspending that portion of holy time, and from wandering abroad to disorderly religious meetings.

Resolved, 2. That the pastors and stated supplies be directed, on some convenient Sabbath, to preach specially to their respective congregations, on the duties of family religion, and family religious instruction.

Resolved, 3. That pastors and stated supplies be, and they are hereby recommended to call the attention of their respective congregations to the importance and advantage of Sabbath school instruction; and that as early as practicable they introduce into their respective Sabbath schools the class-books published by the Presbyterian Board of Publication, and at their earliest convenience a Sabbath school and congregational library procured from the same source.

The following resolutions were adopted on the subject of Domestic Missions:

Resolved, That the cause of Domestic Missions, at the present time, commended with peculiar force to the churches under our care, and all the churches under the care of the General Assembly,

on account of the present state and prospects of religion in our western states and territories.

Resolved, That our churches ought to be apprised, in the most solemn and expressive manner, that in order to the full success of our missions in the west, a region which is in some respects the most important missionary field in the world, there will hereafter be required a far greater amount of funds, and a much larger number of ministers of the gospel, than have hitherto been employed.

Resolved, That it be enjoined on the ministers and the ruling elders to urge this important subject by every suitable means, on the attention of the people under their care, in the confident hope that the Lord will bless their efforts, and dispose his people to do all that may be necessary to promote the object.

In view of the low state of religion, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

The Committee on the communication submitted by the Rev. Mr. Man, beg leave to present the following report. Vital religion is obviously in a state of deep and wide spread depression in the churches under our care. The little success that has attended the preaching of the gospel, the small number awakened, and hopefully converted by the ministry of God's word, staidly proclaimed from our pulpits, the rare occurrence of those special seasons of the powerful operation of the Holy Spirit amongst us, that in days gone by were wont to make glad the hearts of the Lord's faithful servants, and the manifest increase of practical atheism, unbelief, and the vices that destroy the temporal, as well as the eternal happiness of men, indicate the painful fact that the spirit, grieved by the sins of the times, has withdrawn from us, as ministers and churches, in a great measure, those tokens of his special presence and power that are so essential to our success in winning souls to Christ. In view of the foregoing statement, the Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, 1. That this Synod views with deep concern the low state of religion in most of our churches, and feels called on to exhort all professors of religion, and all church officers in our connexion to search and try their ways and turn to the Lord with deep humility and greatly increased fervour of mind.

2. That scripture history and prophecy, no less than our own blessed experience in days past, lead us to put a very high estimate upon those precious seasons of a remarkable outpouring of the divine spirit, commonly called Revivals of Religion.

3. That any irregularities or disorders, sometimes attending these seasons of revival, are by no means valid objections to revivals themselves; but ought rather, while they make us careful not to introduce any measures inconsistent with the sobriety and dignity of public worship, to make us desirous of genuine, sober, and powerful seasons of awakening and conversion, lest in any one of our churches the wheat should not be distinguished from the chaff, and genuine and glorious revivals be confounded with fanatical excitements, from which they are as clearly distinguished as true religion is from false hopes and joys and zeal.

4. That it be recommended to each minister, at some convenient time at or before the beginning of the next year, to bring this subject to the attention of his people in as solemn a manner as possible; and to endeavour to unite all the devout people in his charge in humble confession of past lukewarmness and in fervent supplication for a copious descent of the blessed Holy Spirit on all our congregations, and especially on the young people of our respective churches.

5. That this Synod does highly approve of meetings for prayer and preaching, which shall continue three or four days, as often as circumstances may seem to call for them. Our Directory for Worship not only commends such meetings, but we are of opinion that, when prudently conducted, they have been eminently useful in extending the Redeemer's kingdom.

6. That the last Thursday of December be set apart as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer; and that it be earnestly recommended to our people

to seek in the closet, at the family altar, and in the house of God, by deep prostration of soul, and earnest longings of spirit, the pardoning mercy of our God, the light of his countenance on our hearts, and the joy of his salvation to the dead in their sins.

On the subject of temperance the Synod adopted the following:

Whereas, This Synod have at different times expressed their opinions on the evils of intemperance, on the manufacture of, traffic in, and use as a beverage of intoxicating liquors; and

Whereas, These evils, most destructive to the body, corrupting to the morals of the community, and so ruinous to the souls of men, must of necessity be perpetuated, while men continue thus to furnish and use them, and as all Christian men are bound to abstain not only from that which is certainly productive of evil, but from the very appearance thereof; and

Whereas, We regret to say that there are still in some parts of our Synod those who continue to use, to traffic in, and manufacture intoxicating drinks; therefore

Resolved, That this Synod continue to bear its testimony upon this subject as in times past, and does most earnestly beseech any who have part in the producing of these evils, to consider the damage which they are doing to society at large, the opposition which they are perpetuating against religion, and without delay to forsake a business and habit which has been, and can but be attended with the most injurious consequences.

Resolved, That all the ministers of our Synod be directed to preach to their people upon this subject.

On motion of the Rev. John Hemming, the following overture on the subject of sacred music was adopted:

Whereas, The subject of church music is one of great and acknowledged importance, entering vitally into the proper expression of our praises in the public and private worship of God; and whereas as it is for the interests of our Church that there should be a book on this subject, bearing the authority of our highest judicatory, and adapted to our present Psalms; therefore

Resolved, That this Synod respectfully memorialize the General Assembly, and secure the appointment, by that body, of the Committee to take this subject into consideration, and report at its next meeting.

Review of New Publications.

A COMMENTARY ON THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS,

EXPOSITORY AND PRACTICAL, WITH CRITICAL NOTES,

By the Rev. Andrew A. Bonar, Collace,

AUTHOR OF "MEMOIRS OF REV. ROBERT M'CHURNEY,"

"NARRATIVE OF A MISSION OF INQUIRY TO THE JEWS," ETC., ETC.

This is a very valuable contribution to our popular theological literature. It everywhere bears the impress of a mind thoroughly versant with biblical interpretation, and deeply imbued with the grand truths which the bible unfolds.

It is mentioned of Dr. Lawson, who so long worthily conducted the theological education of the students in one branch of the Scottish Secession, that he was led to choose as subjects for exposition those portions of scripture in which few authors had anticipated him. Mr. Bonar may have been influenced by some such consideration in writing a commentary on Leviticus; and we believe that there are few candid and intelligent readers of it who will not acknowledge themselves indebted to him for new light, in regard to the typical import of the Levitical institute, as set forth in this, the third book of the Pentateuch.

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