

enabled to complete to the Assembly for approval and disposition" (*Minutes*, 1903, p. 113).

We desire you to read these resolutions with special care: first, in order to guard against any misunderstanding of the work which has been undertaken; and, second, in order that you may have full knowledge of the principles which have guided and controlled your Committee in endeavoring to carry out the will of the Assembly. Thus only can we hope to have the practical sympathy of our brethren in a difficult and laborious task, and to accomplish, in the spirit of fellowship, something which may be of real use to the Church which we all serve.

We have read our instructions as follows, and have endeavored to obey them faithfully in all that we have done:

NEGATIVELY.—1. We are not empowered, (nor should we be willing,) to prepare a required liturgy, to be imposed upon our churches by authority. The liberty of worship which now exists is not to be abridged. All that may be done in the preparation of forms is to be offered for "*voluntary use*."

2. We are forbidden to work in any way which is not in harmony with the Presbyterian doctrine of worship. We are not to follow other Churches (which may hold a different doctrine), nor to borrow forms in which sacerdotal or prelatic theories are embodied or implied. We are to make "*a book proper for use in Presbyterian churches*."

3. We are forbidden to use "those forms which savor of ritualism." All rites and ceremonies which are unscriptural in spirit or artificial in form, as well as those which seem to lay the chief emphasis of worship upon certain outward acts, or to disregard the spiritual priesthood of all believers in Christ, are to be avoided.

These negative conditions, setting bounds to our work, we have gladly recognized and scrupulously observed. Even in regard to words which are in familiar use, such as "absolution," "altar," and the like, we have preferred to avoid those which are open to an interpretation not in harmony with the Reformed Faith and practice.

POSITIVELY.—We find in our instructions two things which are to be done: First, the general subject of Forms and Services in our Church is to be considered. Second, if possible, a Book of