

LETTER IV.

It was now in order to bring down to the annual meeting to be held in January, 1864, a resolution, based upon the vote of the Committee of June, 1863, to amend the Society's Laws and Regulations. But it having been objected that the vote of June had been taken when most of the Ministers on the Committee were absent at their respective ecclesiastical councils, the following memorandum was, in all courtesy and good feeling, submitted to the meeting of Committee prior to the annual assembly.

Having been told that some of the members of this Committee think that they were subject to disadvantage by the vote of June 9th, 1863, on amendment of the Constitution, having been taken at that time, the undersigned, mover of the resolution, while claiming that the resolution was passed after due notice, and fairly according to the rules of practice in such cases, nevertheless, in order to allow of another vote of the Committee upon it, at some future time, requests that for the present, action on said resolution may be suspended.

COMMITTEE ROOM,
BIBLE HOUSE, Jan. 5th, 1864.

It was agreed that the above be placed on the Minutes, and that action in the matter be suspended, in order that the same may be re-considered after the annual meeting.

Frank, full, friendly discussion of this question had ever been desired; open and above-board had been and must be the proceedings; the Committee, as the council of the Society, must deliberate and determine in a way satisfactory to itself; only upon its vote and recommendation distinctly recorded, would the question be brought before a public meeting; no thought whatever had there been or was there of debating it elsewhere than in Committee, for *there* properly was its arena; and decision there would be held to be conclusive. With these views it was, that its mover most readily proposed to throw open the question for another vote. No object whatever had he but to elicit truth and build the Society upon a better foundation. Accordingly, it was agreed, at the ordinary meeting in February, that a special meeting should be held on the 9th of that month, to take the matter again into consideration, and of that special meeting it is recorded:—