

Scriptures' for himself, and to follow out what he conscientiously believes to be the teaching of Scripture, without let or hindrance. But if any person, under the plea of liberty of conscience, presumes to disturb the peace of society, or to set aside the lawful authority of the magistrate, or to blaspheme the name of God openly and wantonly, or to disturb the public religious worship of his neighbor, we declare that these are abuses, which the magistrate ought to repress, both for the glory of God and the public weal." Articles &c.

III. OF THE DUTIES OF THE CIVIL MAGISTRATE.

"We maintain that while the Civil Magistrate, as such, is not an officer of the Church of Christ, and may not therefore assume any ecclesiastical functions, or claim the power to act as an interpreter of the Word of God, or as an administrator in matters spiritual and ecclesiastical, he has yet an important part to act in his official capacity in relation to the Kingdom of Christ; that it is his duty in his public as well as in his private capacity, to acknowledge the authority of Christ as the Supreme Governor among the nations; and that in this view, without taking cognizance of offences against morality considered as sins against God, he ought to see that, in aiming to promote the social well-being in subordination to the divine glory, the laws of the land in their enactment and administration are avowedly in accordance with the principles of justice and morality inculcated in the Scriptures. At the present time we think it necessary especially to declare that he is bound to acknowledge the divine authority of the Christian Sabbath, and to secure to all his subjects their right to enjoy the sacred rest of that day."

It was moved by Dr. Bayne, seconded by Mr. McLaren,

"That the Synod find with great satisfaction, that the views of the Committee of the United Presbyterian Church on the great principle that it is the duty of the civil Magistrate in his official as well as his private capacity, to acknowledge the authority of Christ as the Supreme Governor among the nations, and that in aiming to promote the social well-being, he ought to see that the laws of the land are avowedly in accordance with the principles inculcated in the Word of God, are the same with those of his Church; rejoice in the prospect thus opened up that a union of the respective Synods may soon be realized; re-appoint the committee, with instructions to confer farther with the committee of the United Presbyterian Church, as to the agreement of their views in respect to the practical application of the principle referred to, and the prospect there would be of united action in carrying out this principle in the event of a union of the Churches, and report to the next meeting of Synod." Dr. Bayne's motion.

The hour of adjournment having come, the Diet was closed with prayer.

SEVENTEENTH SESSION.

TUESDAY, 16th June, 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Synod again met and was constituted with prayer.

The minutes of last Diet were read and sustained.