

sider topics which may be brought before it by any Church represented in the Council, or by any member of the Council, on their being transmitted in the manner hereinafter provided, but it shall not interfere with the existing creed or constitution of any Church in the Alliance or with its internal order or external relations. 4. Its Objects: The Council shall consider questions of general interest to the Presbyterian community; it shall seek the welfare of Churches, especially such as are weak or persecuted; it shall gather and disseminate information concerning the Kingdom of Christ throughout the world; it shall commend the Presbyterian system as Scriptural, and as combining simplicity, efficiency and adaptation to all times and conditions; it shall also entertain all subjects directly connected with the work of evangelization, such as the relation of the Christian Church to the evangelization of the world, the distribution of mission work, the combination of Church energies, especially in reference to great cities and destitute districts, the training of ministers, the use of the press, colportage, the religious instruction of the young, the sanctification of the Sabbath, systematic beneficence, the suppression of intemperance and other prevailing vices, and the best methods of opposing infidelity and Romanism. 5. Its Methods: The Council shall seek to guide and stimulate public sentiment by papers read, by addresses delivered and published, by the circulation of information respecting the allied Churches and their missions, by the exposition of Scriptural principles, and by defences of the truth, by communicating the minutes of its proceedings to the Supreme Courts of the Churches forming the Alliance, and by such other action as is in accordance with its constitution and objects. 6. Committee on Business: The Council, at each general meeting shall appoint a Committee on Business, through which all communications and notices of subjects proposed to be discussed shall pass. The committee appointed at one general meeting shall act provisionally, as far as necessary, in preparing for the following meeting.

IV. Change of Constitution.—No change shall be made in this constitution, except on a motion made at one general meeting of Council not objected to by a majority of the Churches, and carried by a two-third vote at the next general meeting.

The Constitution will, of course, be submitted to all the Churches represented in the Conference.

The next point was to select the place of meeting of the first Council. The American delegates consenting that this meet-

ing should take place in the Old World, *London*, as the cradle of British Presbyterianism; *Geneva*, as the city of Calvin; and *Edinburgh*, as the home of Knox; were respectively proposed, but, on a vote, Edinburgh was preferred. The Edinburgh friends now offered a choice of dates for the meeting. The first week in July or October, indicating a preference for the latter month,—the American delegates, however, selected the earlier one, and the meeting was appointed for Tuesday, July 4th, 1876. Subsequently the appointment was reconsidered on the motion of Dr. Schaff, who urged that it would be undesirable for the sake of the American churches that the Council should assemble during the Centennial, while it would, at the same time, be utterly impossible for leading brethren of the Continental churches to leave their homes so early as July. Again, however, the majority of the American brethren preferred July, and so the first appointment was renewed.

In determining the size of the Council it was resolved that each Church in the Alliance having fewer than 100 congregations, should send two delegates, with increase proportional to numbers, but that no more than 40 delegates should be allowed to any Church, however large. Under this arrangement the United States and Canada will send 126 delegates, Great Britain and Ireland 82, and the rest of the world as many more, making in all about 290 members.

As to finances, it was decided that travelling expenses of the delegates should be a matter between them and their Churches; that all local expenses, such as entertainment of delegates, should be paid by the place in which the Council met. General expenses, such as printing and like, should form a general charge.

On all these matters there was, after discussion, a perfect accord; but there was one topic on which agreement was not secured. The United Presbyterian Assembly of the United States, when appointing delegates, had instructed them to see that the Conference or Alliance should confine its devotional exercises to the use of