

VII.—UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

OFFICERS.

Rev. S. G. Irvine, D.D., Moderator, Albany, Oregon.
 Rev. William J. Reid, D.D., Principal Clerk, Pittsburgh, Pa.
 Rev. A. G. Wallace, D.D., Second Clerk, New Brighton, Pa.
 Rev. J. A. Nelson, Assistant Clerk, Lawrence, Kan.
 James McCandless, Treasurer, Philadelphia, Pa;

The Twentieth General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America met, and after the usual devotional exercises and a sermon by the retiring Moderator, Rev. R. B. Ewing, D.D., from Prov. xiii. 23, "Buy the truth and sell it not," was by him constituted with prayer.

ON THE OFFICE OF THE DEACON.

Resolved, 1. That the General Assembly heartily approving of the teaching of its subordinate standards touching the divine institution and permanent obligation of the office of Deacon, and being persuaded also that it is of great importance for the welfare of the Church that the teaching of these standards on this subject be reduced to practice, hereby enjoin Synods, Presbyteries and Sessions to adopt measures with all becoming promptitude to have Deacons appointed in the different congregations of the Church, in the manner prescribed in the Book of Government and Discipline.

2. That Presbyteries be, and are hereby directed to report to the General Assembly from time to time, the progress made in carrying into effect, in their respective bounds, the directions just given.

3. That Synods be, and they hereby are urged to take immediate steps for securing within their respective limits such civil legislation in regard to the tenure of ecclesiastical property, as may be requisite to enable congregations to commit to Deacons the charge which now rests upon ordinary trustees.

4. That while the General Assembly does not find in Scripture sufficient authority for the ordination of women to the office of Deacon, it is convinced that pious women may, with profit to themselves, and with great advantage to the cause of suffering humanity and of Christ, be organized to act as assistants of the Deacon; it being understood, however, that those so devoting themselves and banded together, shall not be formed into sisterhoods living apart from ordinary society after the manner of certain Popish devotees, or even of some associations found in certain denominations of the Protestant Church.

TEMPERANCE.

Resolved, 1. Drunkenness is an evil of giant proportions, having inherent and appalling malignity. It is strongly entrenched by custom, cupidity and appetite. It works wide-spread ruin in society, and destroys men's souls and bodies.