

Mr. Binney, being called on, spoke thus :

"I believe I had a great deal to do with Dr. Vaughan's going to America. I privately spoke of it. I wrote a letter, which I knew would get to the committee, recommending it; but I honestly say to you, dear friends, while I did that, I never thought of the American war, it never occurred to me. I understood there was to be a Council of Congregational ministers; that they were to meet as a Congregational body; and never thought of anything else but sending the man of all the men amongst us who would represent Congregationalism—who knows more about it than any other man—who has written more than any other man about it; and I must say before you, gentlemen, that I am perfectly innocent of all feeling with respect to differences of opinion about the war or any political question whatever. I urged Dr. Vaughan's going simply as a representative of English Congregationalism before the Council of Congregational ministers. I believe he was the best man we could have sent for that purpose, and I never thought of any other. I was very sorry to find that there were some differences of opinion afterwards; but I must say that I myself, and I think most of you, must feel perfectly satisfied with the manner in which our friend discharged his very difficult duties under the circumstances—because, when we consider that the man had to stand up to speak to that body of men, who had every one of them in their hands a newspaper full of those representations which would excite prejudice against him—that he, innocent of that, was standing up and addressing them under the influence of his being a minister of Christ of the same order—I say, when we look back at that, we almost wonder that it turned out as it did. I cannot but think, under all the circumstances, that it was very natural that our American friends should associate feelings, and sentiments, and recollections about the war, and about political things, with the men that happened to be amongst them; and I think, looking at the whole thing, that there was a great deal of manliness and Christian feeling manifested by our American friends, as well as great prudence and wisdom on the part of our deputation. And I rejoice and thank God that Dr. Vaughan went, and that Dr. Raleigh went, and that the result has turned out as it has done; and I believe that it will have great influence in cementing together and consolidating the friendship between the two nations."

Rev. Henry M. Storrs, D.D., of Cincinnati, in gratefully responding to the friendly sentiments of the Union, deferentially suggested *that the English Congregational Churches should make a simultaneous collection in behalf of the Fund determined to be raised by the Boston Council for work among the Freedmen.* The proposal was received with acclamations by the assembly. Mr. Binney, at the suggestion of the Chairman, at once moved *that such collection be made on the second Sunday in January*, saying, as he did so—

"Now for my part I know it is very difficult to get a resolution passed fixing upon a certain day on which we shall all be in sympathy to make collections for a certain object, but really it would be a very fine thing; it would do us all good; it would be a fine, practical, and positive expression that our words mean something of sympathy towards our American brethren if some day could be selected for this purpose, not minding the difficulty of getting a day in, but just doing it. Generally we begin the year with a week of prayer for all nations. Now, if we can agree to follow that week of prayer, say on the second Sunday in the year, by making a collection for the object which our friend has suggested, I will go readily into it. It will be inconvenient, I know, in some respects, to my own church and people; but if I cannot get the thing in gently, I will get it in roughly."

Dr. Smith seconded and Dr. Raleigh supported the proposition. Dr. Vaughan said, "Most sincerely do I wish that the resolution of my good brother, Mr. Binney, may be carried out, and carried out in a manner that shall tell effectually upon the mind of our brethren in America, as to the feeling of English Congregationalists at the present time." After a few