

laid on the table by a vote of seventy-seven to twenty-one, and the subject was referred to a Committee, which gave in a report deprecating the interference of Church Courts in politics, and declaring the time had not yet arrived for a movement on their part, which would be in advance of the action of the State. The Report concluded as follows:—"But there is now a grave and solemn question before the people of this State, affecting its very life and being as a State, and that question, of course, has its religious aspects and relations, upon which this body is perfectly competent to speak, and if its deliverance therefore should have a political bearing, that is a result for which we cannot be held responsible.

"There is involved, at this immediate juncture, a duty to God who gave us our rights—a duty to our ancestors, whose blood and sufferings procured them for us—a duty to our children, whose precious inheritance we may not waste nor defile—and a duty to our very slaves, whom men that know them not, nor care for them as we do, would take from our protection. The Synod has no hesitation, therefore, in expressing the belief that the people of South Carolina are now solemnly called on to imitate their Revolutionary forefathers, and stand up for their rights. We have an humble and abiding confidence, that that God, whose truth we represent in this conflict, will be with us, and exhorting our Churches and people to put their trust in God, and go forward in the solemn path of duty which his Providence opens before them, we, Ministers and Elders of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina Synod assembled, would give them our benediction, and the assurance that we shall fervently and unceasingly implore for them the care and protection of Almighty God."—This was unanimously adopted.

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#### THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION OF THE WALDENSES.

The Waldenses were more remarkable than any other people on the face of the earth for the large portions of Scripture which they committed to memory. Scripture was their *all*; and as the Jews treasured the manuscripts of the Old Testament, and carried them everywhere in their wanderings, often, as in the persecutions of Spain, winding them round their bodies to part with them only with their lives; so these Waldenses laid up rich portions alike from the Old and New Testaments in their hearts, so that they *could not* be taken from them. The preparation of their pastors for the ministry consisted in learning by heart the gospels of Matthew and John, all the epistles, and most of the writings of David, Solomon, and the prophets.—*The Book and its Story.*

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#### WRITING-TABLET FOR THE BLIND.

A writing instrument for blind persons has been recently invented by the Rev. G. Wardlaw, M.A., residing in Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire, Scotland, which he regards as peculiarly convenient and effective for such as are able to handle the pen with ordinary facility. Having nearly lost his sight by amaurosis, he contrived the instrument for his own use, and recommended it to others. Providing a simple and complete direction for the hand, it leaves the pen at liberty, so that the writer is performing with the same freedom as in the penmanship of those who have sight. The hand passes and repasses the same line, resting in the natural posture on a broad sheet, under which the paper slides backwards from the hand as line after line is written. The proper distance of each line is secured with mechanical precision by a series of notches in a central metallic ridge, upon which a small barometer works. The backward movement for each line is effected with instantaneous facility by a touch of the left hand.

[Mr. Wardlaw is a nephew of the late Rev. Dr. Wardlaw of Glasgow, and the author of an excellent volume on the *Experimental Evidence of Christianity.*]