

"*Christian Instructor.*"

VOL. I.

AUGUST.

NO. IV.

THE
UNITED PRESBYTERIAN,

AND

EVANGELICAL GUARDIAN:

DEVOTED TO THE

INTERESTS OF THE CHURCH.

EDITED BY

REV. D. MACDILL, D. D.

AND

JAMES PRESTLEY.

CINCINNATI:

J. OCHELTREE, PRINTER, WALNUT STREET.

1847.

ent churches, whose local situation may cut them off from the enjoyment of christian privileges in the church with which they have been connected, to seek a connection with either of our churches in which they may have the opportunity of enjoying these privileges."

The following substitute for the above was offered by Dr. Anderson, and seconded by Dr. Black:

"Although there is cause to rejoice in the degree of unanimity which has been manifested in the several meetings of this Convention, among the churches represented, and which should command their love as brethren, yet it also appears evident that there is not such a harmony of views among them as would justify an organic union at present, or warrant them to expect, in such a union, that harmony of action which is necessary to the comfort and edifying of the church, this great object of organic union should not be abandoned. And as one prominent object in all our meetings in Convention has been to obtain obedience to that divine injunction, with others of a similar character, that we should "all speak the same thing, and with one mouth glorify God," therefore,

Resolved, That this Convention recommend to the several Synods here represented, that they endeavor to promote this grand object, in order to a holy and edifying union hereafter, and that in order to this, they not only cultivate brotherly love by all means consistent with their separate organization, but that they invite and entreat one another to the humble and prayerful investigation of the points of real or supposed difference, and to the study and practice of those things which make for peace with holiness, and that they pay due respect to the discipline exercised by their sister churches respectively, and lay no obstacle in the way of future union by discordant practice."

The vote being taken, the above substitute was adopted by a majority.

On motion of Dr. Black, seconded by Mr. M'Elwee, it was agreed that Dr. Anderson should have the use of the draft of a Testimony presented to the Convention.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. M'Elwee, and seconded by Dr. Macdill:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Synods represented in this Convention, to prosecute the contemplated union by Convention, by committees of correspondence, or in whatever other way they may deem most promising.

This resolution was carried. The rule requiring the Convention to adjourn at 12 o'clock, was suspended.

Dr. Anderson offered his reasons of dissent against the decision at the commencement of this session, in which the other delegates of the Associate churches united. These reasons are as follows:

"From these resolutions I dissent, because, although there is unhappily too much evidence that we are not yet prepared for union, yet I consider these resolutions a premature arrest of progress. The Convention had adopted sentiments of doctrine on all points of supposed difference, and appointed a Committee to draft a Testimony, and had prescribed the form and manner of the Testimony. That Committee presented with other documents designated, a draft of a Testimony, which was, in part, read, and which, it is admitted, is drawn according to the prescriptions given. In my judgment, the Convention ought to enter on the consideration of the draft presented, as far as time will permit, and report progress to the several Synods concerned.

A. ANDERSON."

On motion, *Resolved*, That the President and Clerk be a Committee to obtain the publication of the minutes of the Convention in the different periodicals of the churches represented.

The minutes of this meeting were read and approved.

On motion, adjourned. Closed with prayer by the Secretary, singing the 133rd Psalm, and the President pronouncing the benediction.

SAMUEL FINDLEY, SEN., *President*.

THOMAS BEVERIDGE, *Secretary*.

CEDARVILLE, Ohio, July 8, 1847.

Bro. Prestley:—Since the affair to which the following communication refers, has been made the subject of some comment by the daily papers of St. Louis, and for anything I know, by others in different sections of the country; and since representations have been given of the whole matter at variance with the truth; if it will be consistent with your views of propriety, please give the following statements an early insertion in the United Presbyterian.

When in Chillicothe, in March last, I was told by Isaac Brown, (a colored man,) that his son Samuel was in jail, in St. Louis, being committed on charge of being a runaway slave: that he had written to Chillicothe, for his free papers, and they had been sent to him: and nothing remained to effect his dis-

charge, but for some one acquainted with him to identify him. Having heard that I intended to visit St. Louis, in May, he earnestly entreated me to do all I could to procure his son's discharge; for if it could not be obtained before a certain time, he would be sold for jail fees and other expenses.

When I arrived at St. Louis about the first thing I attended to was to visit the jail, and ascertain the state of affairs. As soon as I mentioned my business to the jailor, I observed that suspicion was aroused, and that I was regarded as one inimical to the "*peculiar institution*." Before I could get a sight of Brown, it was insisted that I should give a description of him. This, I felt, it would be difficult to do, not having seen him more than *once*, within ten years, and *that once*, was two years ago, when I had a single sight of a black man, on board a steamboat, whom, I took to be him. And I also knew he might have undergone a great change in bodily appearance in ten years at his time of life. Having, however, given such a description as corresponded with my former recollection of him, I was conducted to his cell. Here, he had been confined, if I mistake not, since the month of February. I instantly recognized him, as being the very Samuel Brown, whom I had known from my earliest recollection; not so much from his general appearance, for that had changed exceedingly; but from his *features*, his *voice*, and his *peculiar motions*. I ascertained from him, that when he was first taken up, in his fright, and in the hope of being released, he said he was a slave; as he knew no free negro had a right to be on that soil, nor could escape, without a severe bodily punishment and a speedy departure. I asked the jailor for a sight of his free papers, that had been sent him, and was shown them. I was told by the jailor of the difficulties of obtaining his discharge, and that if I did not want to get myself into trouble, I had better drop the matter and let the law take its course. The same course was urged by two others, who were present in the office of the jail. I could, not, however, consent to let a man be sold into perpetual bondage, whom I assuredly knew to be free, but forthwith procured the services of an eminent attorney to obtain his discharge. Brown was taken on a writ of *habeas corpus*, before the county judge, and on his free papers, and my testimony, his discharge was obtained.

It was with ill concealed chagrin and disappointment that his departure from the jail was witnessed by the jailor, and two others, who, during the trial had *appeared to be* only spectators. But so clear was the evidence of Brown's freedom, that, notwithstanding the efforts of the prosecuting attorney, to detain him, the judge declared for his discharge, and

state to pay the costs. When the jailor found he was about to be released from custody, he attempted an effort to detain him on another charge—of theft, which he said Brown had committed in jail, but he was compelled to abandon it; and even when Brown was passing out of the jail door to the street, the jailor, in the most violent passion, raised a chair over his head to knock him down, accompanying his actions with oaths and curses. As the black man was not safe a single moment, in St. Louis, I conducted him to a steamboat, bound for Cincinnati, and saw him safe to that place. I thankfully acknowledge my indebtedness to some of the members of the Illinois Presbytery, and to some of the friends in St. Louis, for contributions to meet part of my expenses in the case.

Yours truly,

H. H. JOHNSON.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERY OF OHIO

Met at Fairhaven Church, on the third Tuesday of July, at 11 o'clock, A. M. Trial discourses for Ordination were heard from Bro. John Y. Scouller, which, with his examination, were unanimously sustained. His ordination and installation as pastor of Fairhaven Church was ordered to take place on the following day, at 10 o'clock, A. M., at which time, in the presence of a very large and attentive audience, he was set apart by prayer, and the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery, to the responsible and honorable office of the Gospel Ministry, and installed pastor of the congregation.—The exercises were peculiarly solemn and impressive. The ordination sermon was preached by Dr. Macdill; the charge to the minister by Rev. S. W. McCracken; and that to the people by Rev. Wm. Boyse.

The business of the Presbytery, was conducted in that harmonious spirit, that has ever, since the writer has been acquainted with it, characterized the meetings of this Presbytery.

A paper, in reference to the duty of the Associate Reformed Church, in reference to the union, presently pending between the different Reformed churches, was adopted, and ordered to be published.

This called out some discussion; but in the most fraternal spirit. We have not room for the paper in this number, but will present it in the following one.

Presbytery, having made provision for her vacant congregations, and finished the business on the table, adjourned after a meeting of two days, to meet in Cincinnati, on the fourth Tuesday of October next, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

P.