

CHARLESTON OBSERVER

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SYNOD OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND GEORGIA.

Augusta, Ga., Nov. 26th, 1840.

The Synod of South Carolina and Georgia met according to adjournment, and was opened with a sermon by the Moderator, the Rev. Geo. Howe, D.D., from 1 Tim. 3d, 15th : “That thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of truth.

Constituted with prayer.

[among those present, J.H. Thornwell, from the Presbytery of Charleston.]

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The Committee to whom was committed the Report of the Southern Board not being able to unite upon principles, agreed to present to the Synod separate reports, one of the majority and one of the minority, both of which were read and accepted.

It was then moved that the report of the majority be adopted.

The Report of the majority is as follows, viz.:—

Resolved, 1st. That this Synod cordially approve of the principles set forth in the Report of the Executive Committee on Foreign Missions, and that it be printed with the Minutes of Synod, the expense thus incurred to be borne by the Missionary funds.

Resolved, 2ndly. That for the present at least, the appointment of a Southern Board of Foreign Missions be suspended, and that an Executive Committee of Foreign Missions be appointed by the Synod, with all the powers and functions of the Board, to report directly to this Synod.

Resolved, 3rdly. That according to the standing order of Synod each member be now called upon to report, whether he has observed in his Church the Monthly Concert for prayer, and taken up collections at the same ; and whether any collections on behalf of this Board

has been taken up during the year.

Resolved, 4thly. That this Synod would respond to the call made upon it by the pressing necessities of our general Board, and would therefore solemnly, and with all the authority with which it is invested, urge the claims of this divinely commanded work upon the attention of all its Ministers and Churches—that whereas during the past year not more than twenty, out of one hundred and seventy Churches have reported any collections for this object, and not more than fifteen have reported any contributions from the Monthly Concert, we may, at our next meeting be able to report the doings of every Church within our bounds.

Resolved, 5thly. That the thanks of this Synod be tendered to Mr. Adger, for his services as Treasurer of our Missionary fund—that his account be approved as accurately and well kept, and that he be requested to continue his services in this office.

Resolved, 6thly. That in order to further the cause of Foreign Missions, as connected with the Board of our Church, the Missionary Chronicle, published by that Board and containing its proceedings and missionary journals, with other missionary intelligence, be most earnestly recommended to our Church and Church members.

Resolved, finally. That the annual sermon be preached on Sabbath afternoon, and a Missionary meeting to be held on Sabbath evening, in the Church, under the direction of the Session.

The minority's report is as follows, viz. :

Resolved, 1. That it is the duty of the Church, in her appropriate character, to do, through her proper officers and courts, all that God requires at her hands ; and that for this purpose she is adequately furnished by her glorious Head.

Resolved, 2. That the policy of conducting benevolent enterprises by a system of Boards and permanent agencies is unpresbyterian, unscriptural, and dangerous.

Resolved, 3. That it should be regarded as desirable to have central channels for the transmission of funds to distant parts, there

would be nothing improper in the arrangement ; provided these financial agents are men of business, and not spiritual officers in the Church.

Walter Lowrie, Esq., Corresponding Secretary and General Agent of the Assembly's Board of Foreign Missions, being present, was introduced to the Synod, and requested to offer his views upon the subject, which he accordingly did.

Mr. Lowrie having finished his remarks, a motion was made for recess, but before the motion was taken it was made the order of the day for Monday morning at 10 o'clock, to hear a report from the Trustees of Oglethorpe University.

Synod then had a recess to meet at half past 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Half past 3 o'clock, P.M.

Synod met.

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The unfinished business was taken up, viz. On the motion to adopt the majority report of the Committee to whom was referred the Report of the Board of Missions.

After the discussion of that Report had proceeded for some time, Synod took a recess until 7 o'clock—at which time they are to engage in devotional exercises.

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Monday Morning

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The unfinished business of Saturday was taken up, viz. the report of the Committee, &c.—but the discussion was deferred until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

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On motion, Overture No. 1, was taken up, viz. : “Does it accord with the discipline of the Presbyterian Church, or with the duties of a Minister of the Gospel that he should take charge of a partisan, political press, at any time, and especially at a time of high political excitement, and is a Minister excusable should he attend political conventions and deliver political addresses, or otherwise engage prominently in party politics?”—

...

The question recurring on the motion to adopt the report of the majority of the Committee on the Board of Foreign Missions, it was decided by Ayes and Nays, as follows, viz.—

Ayes. Ministers—D. Humphreys, E.T. Buist, E. Cater, John McKittrick, N. Hoys, S.S. Davis, A. Church, D.D., S.K. Talmadge, F. Bowman, H. Safford, A.N. Cunningham, G.H. W. Petrie, J.W. Reid, J. Brown, P. Pearson, M. Peden, H.B. Cunningham, W.A. McDowell, D.D., B. Gildersleeve, George Howe, D.D., T. Smyth, W. Baird, J. Winn, B. Burroughs, J.C. Patterson, J.S. Wilson, M. Dickson, R. Chamberlain, J.B. Davies, S.B.O. Wilson, A.H. Caldwell, G.W. Boggs, J. Douglass, W.H. Davies, J.W. Reid, and S.J. Cassells. *Elders*—George Boozer, A.O. Norris, S.N. Evans, J. Bull, William Dearing, William Shear, B. King, O. Chiles, E.M. Burns, W.E. James, A. White, J.T. James, W.M. McCarley, W. Wiley, David Ardis, D.C. Campbell, Gen. J. Gillam—53.

Nays. Ministers—R.C. Ketchum, D. McQueen, J.C. Coit, D.J. Auld, J.H. Thornwell, and P.E. Bishop. *Elder*—J. Martin.—7

Excused from voting.—Ministers—T.R. English, S. Donnelly. *Elders*—J. Douglas, A. Crawford, A. Hindman.—5.

Dr. McJunikn, Mr. Thornwell, Mr. Coit, and Mr. Martin, obtained leave of absence.

Synod then adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

See also the Report of the Executive Committee of the Southern Board of Foreign Missions. *Charleston Observer* 14.44 (19 December 1840): 173.