

# THE BIBLICAL RECORDER.

DEVOTED TO RELIGION, MORALITY, LITERATURE, AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.—T. MEREDITH, EDITOR.

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WHOLE NO. 125

## TERMS.

The BIBLICAL RECORDER is published every Wednesday, at \$2.50 per annum, if paid within six months, or \$3 if paid subsequently to that period.

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## BIBLE CONVENTION.

Philadelphia April 26, 1837.

In compliance with a call from a committee appointed for the purpose, delegates from various religious bodies connected with the Baptist denomination in the United States, assembled this day at 4 o'clock, P. M., in the meeting house of the First Baptist Church to consider and decide upon the duty of the denomination, in existing circumstances respecting the translation and distribution of the Sacred Scriptures.

The Convention was called to order by Spencer H. Cone, of New-York, and on motion, Rufus Babcock, Jr. was appointed chairman pro tem. and Adiel Sherwood and Baron Stow, secretaries pro tem.

The delegates then presented their credentials, and the following list, duly certified, was made out.

On motion, a committee of one from each state and district represented, was appointed to nominate officers of the Convention, viz:—

Adam Wilson, Maine; E. E. Cummings, N. Hampshire; Ira Person, Vermont; N. W. Williams, Massachusetts; J. C. Welsh, Rhode Island; John Cookson, Connecticut; Elson Galusha, New-York; G. S. Webb, New-Jersey; J. H. Kennard, Pennsylvania; C. W. Denison, Delaware; Hiram Gear, Ohio; John Booth, Michigan; William Crane, Maryland; O. B. Brown, Dist. of Columbia; James B. Taylor, Virginia; Thomas Meredith, North Carolina; Thomas Mason, South Carolina; Adiel Sherwood, Georgia; R. W. Cushman, for Alabama; R. G. Green, Mississippi; Samuel Love, Tennessee; Robert T. Anderson, Kentucky; Isaac Ferris, Indiana; B. H. Cliff, Illinois.

On motion, Resolved, That the officers be elected by hand vote.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to prepare rules of order for the government of the Convention.

The committee consists of B. T. Welch, O. C. Constock, and J. M. Linnard.

On motion, Resolved, That when the Convention, shall adjourn, it be till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

The committee of nomination reported, recommending the following individuals for officers:—

RUFUS BABCOCK, JR., President,  
ADIEL SHERWOOD, } Secretaries,  
BARON STOW, }

who were unanimously elected.

Adjourned.

Prayer by Thomas Curtis, of Maine.

Thursday morning, April 27.

The Convention met agreeably to adjournment.

Prayer was offered by S. H. Cone, of New-York.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

The committee appointed to prepare rules of order reported, and their report was accepted without amendment, as follows:—

1. The President shall take the chair precisely at the hour to which the Convention adjourned. He shall decide all questions of order and precedence, subject to an appeal to the Convention.

2. At every sitting, the business shall be opened and concluded by prayer.

3. All resolutions shall be presented in writing, and distinctly read from the chair previous to discussion; and when susceptible of division, they shall, at the request of two members, be so divided that the question be taken upon the separate points. No amendment shall be entertained that tends to destroy the original resolution; but substitutes may be admitted on postponement of the matter under debate. Members may have the privilege of withdrawing what they have submitted, unless amended by the Convention.

4. No member shall speak more than twice to the same question, unless on leave asked and obtained, but may explain or correct a misapprehension.

5. Members speaking shall confine themselves strictly to the subject of discussion, and shall not be interrupted except by the chair.

6. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, and taken without debate.

The following additional rule was proposed:—

"Any delegation may require that a question be taken by ayes and noes; and in such case every religious body represented in this Convention shall be entitled to one vote."

An amendment was offered striking out the words "religious body," and inserting "state and district."

The rule and amendment were both laid on the table.

The following resolution was offered:—

Whereas the American Bible Society has ratified the resolutions of the Board of Managers, passed Feb. 17, 1839—Therefore,

Resolved, That it becomes the duty of the Baptist denomination of the United States to form a distinct organization for Bible distribution, and

translation in foreign languages.

By request, the resolution was divided, so as to separate the words "in foreign languages."

As a substitute for the former part, including the preamble, the following was proposed, and after discussion, passed:—

Resolved, That under existing circumstances, it is the indispensable duty of the Baptist denomination in the United States to organize a distinct Society, for the purpose of aiding in the translation, printing, and circulation, of the Sacred Scriptures.

The latter part of the resolution, viz., "in foreign languages," was laid on the table.

The following resolution was offered:—

Resolved, That a committee of one delegate from each State represented here be appointed, to whom shall be referred the consideration of the question, whether or not the proposed society shall be confined to foreign translation; and that the committee report at the opening of the next session.

Pending the debate upon this resolution, the Convention adjourned till half past seven o'clock, P. M.

Prayer by James B. Taylor, of Va.

Half-past 7, P. M.

The Convention met agreeably to adjournment.

Prayer by D. Sharp, of Mass.

The resolution under discussion at the close of the morning session was laid on the table.

The clause of the resolution which was laid on the table in the morning embracing the words "in foreign languages" was taken up and discussed.

The following addition was proposed as an amendment—"and for their circulation in the English language in the version now in common use."

Before taking the question, the Convention adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Prayer by John Calpepper, of N. C.

Friday, April 28.

The Convention met agreeably to adjournment.

Prayer was offered by W. T. Brantly, of Pennsylvania.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

It was ordered that the Secretaries continue to enrol the names of delegates who may present the requisite credentials.

The communications addressed to the Convention, including the credentials of the delegates, were referred to a committee consisting of C. G. Sommers, Lucius Bolles, and Jonathan Going.

The unfinished business of yesterday was taken up, the question being on the amendment under consideration when the Convention adjourned last evening.

The discussion was continued, but before taking the question, the Convention adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M.

Prayer by Adiel Sherwood, of Ga.

Afternoon.

The Convention met agreeably to adjournment.

Prayer by Henry Jackson, of Connecticut.

The discussion of the amendment under consideration before adjournment, was resumed.

After Prayer by John Peck, of N. York, the question was taken, and decided in the negative.

A motion was made to strike out the words "in foreign languages," and discussed.

Pending the discussion, the Convention adjourned till half-past 7 o'clock in the evening.

Prayer by T. Mason, of S. C.

Evening.

The Convention met agreeably to adjournment.

Prayer by James E. Welch, of New Jersey.

The committee to whom were referred the credentials and letters, reported in part, verbally, and were instructed to bring in a written report.

The question was taken upon the proposition to strike out the words "in foreign languages" and decided in the affirmative.

The following resolutions were then proposed and passed:—

Resolved, That this organization be known by the name of the American and Foreign Bible Society.

Resolved, That the Society confine its efforts during the ensuing year to the circulation of the word of God in foreign tongues.

Resolved, That the Baptist denomination in the United States be affectionately requested to send to the Society, at its annual meeting during the last week in April, 1838, their views as to the duty of the Society to engage in the work of home distribution.

Resolved, That a committee of one from each state and district represented in this Convention be appointed to draft a constitution, and nominate a board of officers and managers for the ensuing year.

The committee contemplated by the last resolution consists of

Nathaniel Kendrick, New York; Thomas Curtis, Maine; Oren Tracy, New-Hampshire; I. Person, Vermont; Lucius Bolles, Massachusetts; D. Benedict, Rhode Island; Daniel Dodge, New-Jersey; H. Jackson, Connecticut; Joseph Miles, Pennsylvania; Charles W. Denison, Delaware; S. P. Hill, Maryland; O. B. Brown, Dist. of Columbia; Eli Ball, Virginia; J. Calpepper, N. Carolina; Thomas Mason, So. Carolina; Adiel Sherwood, Georgia; R. W. Cushman, Alabama; R. G. Green, Mississippi; Samuel Love, Tennessee; Robert T. Anderson, Kentucky; J. B. Cook, Ohio; John Booth, Michigan; I. Ferris, Indiana; B. H. Cliff, Illinois.

On motion,

Resolved unanimously, That the members of this Convention cordially concur with their brethren of sister denominations, to secure from de-

struction the Lord's day, and to promote its due observance.

On motion,

Resolved unanimously, That this Convention beg to express their warmest thanks to the kind friends who have so hospitably entertained them during their visit in this city; and that they consider the systematic and efficient means to provide for their accommodation as presenting an example worthy of imitation on all similar occasions.

Adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Prayer by Stephen S. Nelson of Massachusetts.

Saturday, April 29.

The Convention met agreeably to adjournment.

Prayer by Samuel Williams of Pennsylvania.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

The committee to whom were referred the communications addressed to the Convention, made the following report, which was accepted.

The Committee to whom was referred the communications addressed to the Convention, including the credentials of the delegates, beg leave to Report—

That the documents submitted to them, consist chiefly of letters, embracing credentials of the delegates composing the Convention; together with the minutes of associations, state conventions, and mission societies, some of which contain certificates of the appointment of delegates, and others, expressing the definite opinions of those bodies upon the Bible question. In nearly all the letters and minutes where particular instructions are given to the delegates, your Committee find a very decided sentiment in favour of a distinct and unfettered organization, for Bible translation and distribution.

CHARLES G. SOMMERS, Ch.

On motion,

Resolved, That this Convention regard the Christian Review as highly important to the interests of religion and learning, and as entitled to the cordial and efficient support of their brethren throughout the country.

The Committee appointed to draft a constitution and nominate officers, reported a form of a constitution. This part of the report was accepted, and the draft was taken up, each article by itself. While the first article was under consideration, the convention adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M.

Prayer by S. Love, of Ten.

Afternoon.

The Convention met agreeably to adjournment.

Prayer by Benajah Cook, jr. of Con.

The discussion of the Constitution was resumed, and all the articles were adopted without amendment.

CONSTITUTION.

ART. I. The name of this Society shall be, THE AMERICAN AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

ART. II. The object of this Society shall be, to aid in the translation, printing, and circulation, of the Sacred Scriptures.

ART. III. Each contributor of three dollars annually shall be a member.

ART. IV. Each contributor of thirty dollars at one time shall be a member for life.

ART. V. Each contributor of one hundred and fifty dollars shall be a life director.

ART. VI. Every Baptist minister who is a life member, and all life directors, shall have the privilege of participating in the deliberations of the Board.

ART. VII. All Bible Societies agreeing to place their surplus funds in the treasury of the Society, shall be auxiliaries, and the officers of such societies shall be ex officio directors of this.

ART. VIII. A Board of Managers shall be appointed to conduct the business of the Society, consisting of thirty six brethren in good standing in Baptist churches, sixteen of whom shall reside in the city of New-York, or its vicinity; the whole board to be elected annually by the Society, and to hold their office until superseded by a new election. The board shall have power to fill such vacancies as may occur in their number.

ART. IX. The President, Vice Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurer, shall be ex officio members of the board.

ART. X. The managers shall meet monthly, or oftener if necessary, at such time and place as they shall adjourn to, five of whom shall be a quorum.

ART. XI. The managers shall have the power of appointing such persons as may have rendered essential services to the Society, either members for life or directors for life.

ART. XII. At the meetings of the Society, and of the board of managers, the president, or, in his absence, the vice president first upon the list then present, and in the absence of all the vice presidents, the treasurer, and in his absence, such member as shall be chosen for that purpose, shall preside.

ART. XIII. The annual meeting of the Society shall be held at New York on Thursday after the last Wednesday in April in each year, or at any other time or place, at the option of the Society, when the accounts of the treasurer shall be presented, and a president, vice presidents, secretaries, treasurer, and a board of managers shall be chosen for the ensuing year.

ART. XIV. The president shall, at the written request of six members of the board, call special meetings of the board of managers, causing at least three days notice of such meetings.

ART. XV. The whole of the minutes of every meeting shall be signed by the chairman and secretary.

ART. XVI. No alteration shall be made in this Constitution, except by the vote of two-thirds of the members of the Society present at an annual meeting.

Resolved, That the articles now read and adopted be the constitution of the Society, to govern its future operations.

Adjourned till half past 7 o'clock.

Prayer by R. G. Green, of Mi.

Evening.

The Convention met agreeably to adjournment.

Prayer by Heman Lincoln, of Massachusetts.

The Committee on nomination of officers reported a list, and the report was accepted.

[As the list of officers has been already published, it is of course omitted here.]

Resolved, That this list be the officers and managers of the Society for the ensuing year.

On motion,

Resolved, That the President and Secretaries be requested to prepare and address a circular to the churches of our denomination, laying before them these resolutions.

On motion,

Resolved, That the Board of the Bible Society, be requested to publish and circulate the minutes of this Convention.

On motion,

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention are due to the President for his able, impartial, and conciliatory conduct in the chair.

On motion,

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention are due to the Secretaries, for the ability and fidelity with which they have discharged their laborious duties during the session.

The journal of to-day was read and approved.

After the reading and approval of the minutes, the President rose and remarked:

I should do violence to my feelings, and ill requite the kindness which the members of this Convention have manifested towards me, were I to allow the vote just passed to be entered on your minutes, without some acknowledgment, on my part of what I owe this body. Called most unexpectedly to the duties of the Chair, it was no affectation of humility and self distrust which led me to the earnest expressions of regret which I then uttered, and to desire being excused from its duties. My brethren will bear with me for a moment, with their usual indulgence, in referring to my embarrassing situation. Without any experience in duties of this kind, and with a perfect consciousness of the superior fitness of many in our number, to whom on account of their years and wisdom, I had been accustomed to look with a degree of veneration, and at whose feet I ever delight to sit for instruction; I was still more intimidated by the conviction of the dignity and importance of the occasion. The largest body of baptized believers in the world, by a delegation unparalleled either for deliberation on topics of surpassing interest—certain to affect, favorably or otherwise, themselves, and no small part of the world around them, for numbers or influence among us, had assembled for many generations. It had been intimated also, that serious and wide differences of judgment already existed among us; and those opposed to our denominational interests and rights, were already existing in ill suppressed manifestations of satisfaction, that our attempt to secure ourselves against the wrongs we had suffered, would surely fail by divided councils. It was scarcely to be expected, that under such circumstances, debates could be conducted on topics of most exciting and absorbing interest, without moving to temporary excess the minds of the convention. When to all these anticipated sources of embarrassment, there was also added a consideration of the character of the convention, consisting for the most part, of those of us who are more accustomed to speak than to hear, and who have little opportunity to learn, by experience, the patient endurance of contradiction, you may easily conceive that the moment which surprised me with the proffer of this station, was one of intense and disquieting solicitude. Unable to secure your acquiescence in my withdrawal from the chair, after fervently looking up to Him who can strengthen the weak and guide the erring, I cast myself on your indulgence. Need I say how soon my fears were dissipated? That a few hours experience was sufficient to convince me how needless was anxiety. The moral dignity of the occasion, the magnitude, and the holy disinterestedness of the great theme which filled all hearts among us, evinced its potent influence to concentrate on itself the united desires, and counsels, and action of those whom it hath drawn together. I cannot give utterance to the emotions which have been excited in my own breast, in yours, and in the attentive throng whose absorbed interest has held them in your presence for the last four days, by the blessed, uniting, restraining influence of this great theme. When differences of opinion on some minor points—differences honestly, and long, and tenaciously entertained—have seemed for the moment about to open a separating chasm, how delightful to witness the prompt flowing in of a full tide of fraternal, Christian love, to unite, to cover, to cement in one. He must be more or less than human, who could witness such scenes unmoved. To the generous forbearance, concession, and candid indulgence which the Convention have delighted to exercise and manifest, must be attributed in no small degree, that disorder and tumult have been entirely unknown, and that scarcely any personalities have marred the sweetness of the scene. Nor would I fail distinctly to acknowledge in this connexion, as resulting from the same source, that in the complicated duties made obligatory upon me, while endeavouring to follow the meagre rules of order which had been prescribed, sometimes enforcing them with rigid exactness, and at others yielding to the obvious desire of the Convention for a wider license in the application, you have not called for a single appeal, nor hesitated to sustain with a generous confidence every requisition. Let me assure you, that highly as I appreciate this support, it is noticed here, to ascribe it as is due, to yourselves and not to me.

When I remember how many have here risen to speak, at different times and on various points of our deliberation, who, for want of time, have not been heard—and how many more—even hundreds, as capable as the best among us, to entertain, enlighten, and guide, have not even made the attempt, I cannot but feel, what is certainly a common sentiment here, that such forbearance is above all praise. The presence and the silence of these beloved brethren, have not failed to exert a most salutary influence, and together with the lifting up of their hearts to God for his gracious guidance, have most efficiently assisted to secure the auspicious result of our deliberations.

The hour of final parting has at length arrived. The object of our convocation has been secured. We part now in affection and peace. If some slight wounds have been made, they are not left to fester and extend—blessed be God, they have been kindly healed. If all is not immediately gained, which the most sanguine had hoped, much is certainly secured both for the present and the future, in the cordial and mutual concessions which here have renewedly bound us together in welcome, and I trust, indissoluble ties. The nature of our enterprise, and the principal of our union, furnish the best guarantee of harmony and success. To give the Sacred Scriptures, God's own book, faithfully translated, to darkened and perishing heathen—O what an object—how benevolent, holy, ennobling! Can we ever repent that we have labored in this cause? Will it plant any thorns in our dying pillows, that we have put forth strenuous efforts, and made some sacrifices to give to dying pagans the lamp of life? Shall we not return to our respective spheres of labour, with more determined energy to prosecute the noblest design, which, while we have here looked upon it, has filled us with unutterable delight! While we press the gospel to our own hearts, with all its blissful hopes, can we forget the souls of the perishing who never yet welcomed the glad tidings?

There is now lying open before me, the minutes of the first Baptist General Convention for foreign missions, which met in this city twenty-three years since. It consisted of less than one tenth of the number which have now assembled—but the list of its members, presents names highly honoured throughout our land.—How affecting is the memento thus furnished of human transience. More than two-thirds of their number have passed away. Putnam and Baldwin, Williams and Staughton, with their venerable and worthy associates, have left the scene of their toils, and have entered into their rest. But while in their own persons, they are thus transitory and fading—the noble institution whose foundations they then laid in faith and prayer, has risen to a commanding elevation, where each year witnesses new accessions to its resources, and wider and more blessed results from its operations. Some thousands of the heathen have already occasion to bless God for that undertaking, feeble as seemed its beginnings, and we trust that millions will stand up in the judgment as trophies of its success. We too, must die. Some of our number will probably be removed to the world of spirits before another anniversary; and successive years will continue to witness the thinning of these ranks, till all are gone. But this blessed book which we have associated to diffuse, is made our own directory, and God shall smile on our humble endeavour to disseminate his word, this institution will not die; and we shall one day meet its record and its fruits on high.

Dear brethren of the Convention, receive from my full heart—as all it has to give, my warmest, humblest thanks, while I bid you, in this official relation, FAREWELL.

The union hymn was then sung, and a closing prayer offered by brother Stow, of Boston, one of the Secretaries of the Convention, when the final adjournment was announced, and all separated in love.

From the New York Observer.

AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY.

This society held its ninth anniversary at the Rev. Mr. Somers' (Baptist) church in Nassau street, on Thursday, 11th inst. S. V. S. Wilder, Esq. was called to the chair at 3 o'clock, P. M., and the meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. J. Going, D. D. of this city. The annual report was read by Wm. Ladd, the General Agent, after which the following resolves were passed:

1. Resolved, That the report just read be accepted and published under the direction of the Executive Committee.

Moved by the Rev. Mr. Eddy, of Newark, N. J., seconded by the Rev. Brown Emerson, D. D. of Salem, Mass.

2. Resolved, That Christians are bound by the strongest and most sacred obligations, to remove the disgrace which the wars of christianity have brought on their religion.

Moved by the Rev. G. C. Beckwith, of Lowell, Mass., seconded by Dr. Thomas Cook, of this city.

3. Resolved, That the custom of war is contrary to the spirit, principles, and aims of the gospel, ought to be held in deep abhorrence, and resisted, in every proper way possible, by every follower of the Prince of Peace.

Moved by the Rev. Mr. Cheever, of Newark N. J., seconded by the Rev. Mr. Cleveland, of Detroit, Mich.

4. Resolved, That the spirit of the times, the smiles of heaven on our efforts during the past year, and the unexpected preparation of the public mind for appeals on this subject, call aloud on the friends of peace, for much greater exertions in this cause, and make it desirable, that at least ten thousand dollars should be raised this year, for the support of lecturers and the circulation of publications on peace.

Moved by the Rev. Orin Fowler, of Fall River, Mass., seconded by William Ladd, of Minot, Me.

5. Resolved, That we continue our request that all ministers of the gospel preach on the subject of peace to their people, at least once during the year, and, if convenient, on or near the 25th of December; and that the churches observe a concert of prayer on or near the same day, for the universal prevalence of peace; and that a collection be taken up in aid of this cause.

Moved by the Rev. Mr. Hunt, of Philadelphia, seconded by Mr. Burleigh, of Plainfield, Conn.

These resolves were very ably supported, both by the movers and seconders of them, with but few exceptions, owing to wanting time. The public meeting was then dismissed with a benediction by the Rev. Mr. Emerson, of South Reading, Mass.

The society then continued its meeting for business. Messrs. Beckwith, Cook, and Ladd, who had been appointed a committee for the purpose of the last annual meeting, presented a draft of a new constitution, founded on the basis