REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

# GENERAL CONFERENCE

TUESDAY, MAY 25.

-the opening services by Rev. Wm. and authenticated.

chair.

THE BISHOPS.

W M Wightman from the Commit-tee on the Episcopacy, submitted their If our endorsement be so very impor-report, No 5, which after debate and tant, why were we not consulted be-amendment, was adopted, as follows: fore? I feel averse to doing this, be-The salaries being regulated according cause no Southern Methodist scholar

tion for adoption by the General Con- which, from the necissity of the case, ference:

the next four years, commencing with amendment of Dr Summers, I will free-June 1, 1858, shall be as follows: Bishop Scule, \$1500; Bishop An J H McNeill—I understood the

op Pierce, 1600; Bishop Early 1200; of the Methodist Church was engaged Bishop Kavanaugh, 1200. Bishop Capers, \$700.

For the widow of Bishop Bascom, JH McNeill-That is true. But

paid to his guardian, \$250."

from the Committee on Missions, re- committee-its chairman and the Rev commending that the Bishops be re- Dr McClintock-have approved enquested so to arrange their work as to tirely of the course pursued by the of the 5th item, to this effect: give as much of their time and labor Board, and Dr McClintock is now upas practicable to the mission of slaves. on the Board. So far are we from af-

that the subject of the distribution of are now co-operating with the Society, books and tracts in connection with our and are willing, upon the same ground missionary work be referred to the that this body is requested to do so, to Annual Conferences, and that they be approve the proceedings of the Board. authorized to adopt such means as they Then again in reply: This body was may deem most expedient. Adopted. not before consulted, because this is and the other with reference to the G W Brush-Is this Barnhill of CLAIMS OF THE AMERICAN BIBLE SO- the first meeting of the body since the Editors.

American Bible Society. The first resolution was read for

adoption, as follows: Resolved, That we continue to ap-

prove the American Bible Society, and cordially co-operate with it in the great work of circulating the Holy Scriptures in our own country and throughout the world.

The Rev. Mr. McNeil, Financial Secretary of the Society, came forward en out, and the report, as amended, was and addressed the Conference .- He said that the action of the Board of Managers, within the last year, had excited great interest in some parts of the country, and he hoped it would be cordially and fully acquiesced in by all to withdraw his substitute. the friends of the Society. In consequence of the discrepancies and typographical errors existing in the different editions, a collation had been ordered, and a corrected edition issued, several years ago. Some dissatisfact on had been expressed with this edition by several ecclesiastical bodies. It was ascertained that several unwarrant- ment at three o'clock, Bishop Paine in able alterations had been made, and the chair. the Board felt bound to recede, and | C F Deems conducted the devotions

correct this new edition. several days ago drawn up a preamble No 2, of the Committee on the Holston and resolution, which he now read, as Conference Resolution. It states that indicative of the sense of some of us on the vote ascertained was not sufficient

first resolution was then adopted.

The second resolution reported being It was adopted. now read again by the Secretary, it was J B McFerrin presented report, No also adopted, to the following effect: 4, of the Committee on Books and Pe-

the several Annual Conferences, and all modification. It was taken up item by Districts, Circuits, and Stations to item. The first and second items were adopt measures for raising funds for adopted; and, pending a discussion on the spread of the Sacred Scriptures in the third item, a motion was made to co-operation with the American Bible adjourn, which motion prevailed, and Society.

The question recurring on the adop- tion. tion of the report as a whole-T O Summers proposed to amend the preamble by striking out these

words: "We strongly recommend to all our people not to purchase those editions of the Holy Bible into which the Apocrypha has been incorporated morning. by private publishers."

The amendment was agreed to, and the words were stricken out.

CF Deems-I move to amend further, by striking out so much of the preamble as expresses an opinion upon the present position of the Board of the of the Committee on Missions, as fol-American Bible Society with regard to lows : Board of Managers.

when, during all the years in which the fact. for our opinion in the case. But now, nying extract from the Journals of the Dr. Smith saw nothing but constitution .-

position and finds some difficulty in its Society. way, then the Southern Church is

called upon to endorse its action. In the second place, personally, I cannot vote for that, although I hold The Conference met at 83 o'clock myself a fast friend of the American Bible Society, for I am just now stud-McMahon-Bishop Pierce in the chair. ying the matter in question. I have The journal of yesterday was read not yet made up my mind upon it, although I am inclined to think they Bishop Paine was now called to the have done right. For it is conceded that that Committee on Versions con-J B McFerrin asked and obtained sulted some of the first German and leave to withdraw the report, No 4, of English scholars-that they brought the Committee on Books and Periodi. into that work an array of men of emcals—the committee being desirous of inent talent and scholarship, such as making a slight modification therein. have never been collected and engaged APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF in such a work since the time of the translation by the authority of King James.

The Committee one Episcopacy beg that we ought to pause before we enleave to present the following resolu-

must reside in New York city. Resolved, That the appropriation for I cannot go for the preamble with the support of the Bishops annually, for that in it; but with it out, after the

in that work.

For the widow and youngest son of C F Deems-Not at all. No Southern scholar, I said.

this recent work of collation was per-For the son of Bishop Bascom, to be formed by a committee of nine of the flicting anybody by these proceedings, Also report (No 10) recommending it is even true that the resigning Board

matter in question arose.

As to the difficulty involved, they R Alexander presented a report from the Committee on the Claims of the would have been involved in difficulty far worse, if this not of restauration had not taken place; they would have been involved in a violation of the Society's

After further debate, in which E C Slater, W C Johnson, J Atkins, C F Deems and others took part.

Levi Pearce demanded the previous question, which was sustained; and under its force, the paragraph was strick-

H N McTyeire, in view of the amendments of the report, and explanations work. of the Secretary of the American Bible Society, asked and obtained leave

After the announcement of the preaching and other special notifications, the Conference, according to order, took a recess till 3 o'clock, P M. Benediction by Bishop Paine.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference met pursuant to adjourn-

of the body.

H N McTyeire responded. He had T W Dorman presented a report to bring the matter before the Confer-After a long protracted debate, the ence, and begs that the committee be discharged from further action.

Resolved, That we recommend to riodicals. It was withdrawn for a brief Bishop Soule pronounced the benedic-

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 26.

Conference met at usual hour-Bishop Paine in the chair. E F Sevier led the devotions of the

The minutes of yesterday afternoon were read and approved. Bishop Early took the chair and

### called for reports. MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

J Boring presented the final report

action of the Committee on Versions. The Committee on Missions, in sub-There is an entire paragraph there in mitting their final report, beg leave to which we endorse the action of the state that they have reviewed, in part at least, the proceedings of the Board The paragraph was read by the Sec- of Managers of the Missionary Society for the last few years, and although I want that stricken out, because, in they find the item of incidental expenthe first place, it is a proposition to ses to have been heavy, do not feel it endorse the action of the Bible Society, necessary to do more than allude to

the matter has been under discussion, In conclusion, the committee ask to there has been no appeal made to us be permitted to present the accompa-

and I Litton, Treasurer of the Society for the last four years, adopted on the to act 19th of April. 1858.

The report was, on motion of JE sometimes did the same thing in an Annu-

A H Mitchell, seconded by C D Oliver, moved the following:

the like, be held by ballot. Adopted. After some further discussion, and sev-

sec vili, part 2, of the Discipline-the ted. authorizing the office of Financial Sec- the Publishing House, which had been

ly, C D Betts thought it time to take Myers, A L P Green, D R McAnally, control of the General Conference.action. He proposed to lay that part and several others; and, after being There was danger of too much legislaof the report which refers to the Fi- amended, was adopted. nancial Secretary on the table for the On motion of J E Evans, the report

The motion was agreed to. The Chair now directed the reading drew, 1500; Bishop Paine, 1600; Bish brother to say that no representative of the remainder of the report—the question being on the adoption of the 4th item, viz.:

> consisting of five members-three to be residents of Nashville-to advise with the Book Agent on all matters relating to the Publishing House, fix salary of

The 4th item was adopted.

to the periodicals of the Conference, will of the testator.

per, to be called "The — Advo-y Lagrange.

"The Sunday School Visitor; and athas sunk \$8000 to the Church in four authorized to receipt for the bequests. years, and we had better stop such a J B McFerrin asked and obtained

D S Doggett opposed the substitute. ment. It was a blow at the Quartely Review -a death-blow-questioning the propriety of its continuance. There was the Agents and the Committee.

E Stevenson-There was an oversight in a bill payable, which was dis-

covered and corrected by myself. D S Doggett-Was this Conference effect : prepared to pronounce the doom of the Review justified his remarks. He had no personal interest in it now. It was however, a species of literature required by the best interests of the Church. visible. It was only a failure financially. As to its character and influence, it was not a failure. It had, for the past eight years, compared favorably with any periodical in the country; to say nothing of his own hand therein.

He proceeded to emplain its financial embarrassments. After some debate,

was carried. The fifth item, relating to Newspa-

pers and Editors, was then adopted. The sixth item was adopted. The first paragraph of the seventh

item was also adopted. Conference adjourned. Benediction by Bishop Soule.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference met at three o'clock, pursuant to adjournment-Bishop Early in the chair.

Committee on Temperance. It concludes ved. with the following resolutions;

ieving that the trade is demoralizing, the Society. and that offenders should be dealt with as J Stacy-I move to substitute for in other cases of immorality.

as much as ever in favor of the temperance reform, and recommend to our members ing words: a strict adherence to the temperance pledge involved in our General Rules.

T. Maddin said he did not think of the constitution when he framed the resolution.

From the Daily Advocate. | after the Bible Society has taken its | Board of Managers of the Missionary | He believed we should have to locate the presse Court in that gentleman, " He The extract embraces resolutions of hoped that so important a matter was not thanks to Rev Dr Sehon, Secretary, to be arrested on an abstract question of and I Litton Tressurer of the Society of morality, on which we were competent

E. Wadsworth sustained this view. We CONSTITUTION OF THE MISSIONARY 50-

Bishop Pierce said we once had a section in the Discipline allowing our memers to sell liquor, provided they did not keep a disorderly house. At the last Gen-Resolved, 1. That the elections here- sral Conference it was expanged, and by after to be held by this Conference, of that act we expressed our opinion of the Book Agents, Editors, Secretaries, and sense of the General Rule.

PUBLICATION OF BOOKS AND PERIODI- eral attempts to amend, the resolutions tary

port of the Committee on Books and Books and Periodicals, the promising this whole question.

Periodicals, proposing a substitute for items of which were agreen to a dadop.

Dr. Sehon then came forward to the question being on the adoption of the The third item, proposing the apthird item in the report, namely, that pointment of a Financial Secretary of

## was adopted as a whole.

The Conference met at half-past eight o'clock, Bishop Early in the chair Constituting a Book Committee, N McTyeire—the journal of yesterday having been read at the close of the session of yesterday afternoon.

THURSDAY, MAY 28.

Bishop Kavanaugh was now called

BARNHILL AND CARROLL BEQUESTS. J B McFerrin, from the Committee The chair then directed the reading on Books and Periodicals, to whom the subject had been referred, reported a nual Conferences to the control of their Constituting a Sunday-school Book resolution to the effect that the Book Editor, who shall also be Editor of the Agent be requested to receive the be-Quarterly Review; also an Editor of quest of Wm Barnhill, of Lagrange Nicholson, W Closs, Bishop Pierce, the Home Circle, who shall also be College, and appropriate the same-Editor of the Sunday School Visitor. one-half to Missions, and one-half to E H Myers proposed a substitute Sunday-schools; and that he receive for this, consisting of two items, to be the bequest of James C Carroll, and numbered 5 and 6-one with reference appropriate the same according to the

Lagrange, Ky., or Lagrange, Ala? He proposed that the Book Agent | L Rosser-From the communication shall publish in Nashville a weekly pa- before the committee, it appears simp-

ter the first of January, 1859, a month- hill, but he is not of Lagrange College. ly to be called "The Home Circle and A L P Green-The committee have Methodist Magazine"-combining the not accomplished exactly what is dea Family Miscellany. It will be seen, thorized to receive these bequests, they (he said,) that this disposes of the Quar- had better mention the names of these terly Review, and merging it into the officers in the report, so that when stroyed Home Circle-sinks the Quarterly and these gentlemen who are to pay over enlarges the monthly. The Quarterly see the report, they may know who are

leave to withdraw the report for amend-

HYMN AND TUNE BOOK. J B McFerrin, from the same coma discrepancy between the figures of mittee, submitted their report, No 3, on the resolution of R J Harp and J A Ivey, with reference to the preparation of the Tune and Hymn-book, embracing a resolution to the following

Resolved, That the whole subject of Quarterly? His connection with that a Tune and Hymn-book be referred to the Book Agent, Book Editor, and Book Committee, with instructions to take such steps as they may deem ad-

R J Harp proposed to amend by substituting the words, "be instructed to adopt the measures necessary to bring out the Tune and Hymn-book." The amendment was rejected, and

then the report was adopted. J B McFerrin, from the same committee, to whom had been referred the J F Hughes moved to lay Brother resolution of J E Evans and L D Hus-Myers's substitute on the table, which ton, submitted their report (No 14) on the claim of the Memphis and Arkansas Advocate, authorizing the Book Agent to pay to the publisher of said paper \$4400.

The report was laid on the table for the present.

THE TRACT SOCIETY.

J B McFerrin, from the same committee, now returned their report (No 10.) reconsidered and amended so as to embrace these two subjects of recommendation:

1. That the Tract Society be con-J B McFerrin conducted the usual tinued until its business shall be wound up by its own act. Then, if it be found T. Maddin presented a report from the expedient, the Society may be dissol-

2. That Dr. Hamilton be continued Resolved, 1st, That no further legislation in his present position until he shall is needed on the subject of the liquor traf- have adjusted the financial affairs of

Resolved, 2d. That we are, as a Church, all that part which refers to the continuance of the Tract Agency the follow-

"The Tract Agency shall be discontinued, and the unfinished business W. A. Smith opposed the resolutions, thereof shall be placed in the hands of alleging that it was unconstitutional to in- the Financial Secretary; who sha'l terpret by resolution an article of the con- make all possible effort to collect the dues of the Society, and the means and O, R, Blue and J. G. Bruce argued the avails thereof shall be used for the liquidation of the claims of the Tract

previous question, demanded by HA C Walker, the substitute was now are ting our jected—affirmative; 47; negative, 60; known and then the amendment of J W Whip- W A

CIRTY

On motion by J H Linn, the Conof the report, No 8, of the Committee on Missions, preposing a substitute for the present Constitution of the Missionary Society, submitted on the 24th point between Dr Smith and Dr Sebon

The report was read by the Secre-

On motion by G W Langhorne, it The order of the day was now brought was ordered that the Rev Dr Sehon, The unfinished business of yesterday up, the consideration of the latter part | Secretary of the Missionary Society, afternoon was now resumed—the re- of the report of the Committee on be now heard by the Conference on brethren would endeavor to turn the ac-

orum and addressed the Confevence at length against the adoption of the report, alleging that the first article was a violation of the Society's charter, belaid on the table this morning, was cause it proposed a change of name to A protracted debate ensued. Final- called up, discussed by L Pearce, E H that of a Board of Missions, under the tion in all bodies, especially where vested rights were concerned. He argued corporation of the new Board to be inthe legal question involved, and showed that even the removal of the Society from Louisville, Kentucky, to Nashville, had given rise to litigation as to the rights of legacies. This change of granted we shall go on as now. He name would hazard the Society's right to property in the several States and Territories, vested under this old constitution and charter. He made some further general remarks in opposition to other features in the report. Some conversation followed as to certain uestions recently sprung in the North Carolina and Alabama Conferences, with reference to the right of the Anmissionary funds, respectively, in which T W Borman, J J Hutchinson, D B tution

and Dr Sehon participated. The motion to consider the report by items was then adopted.

C F Deems still hoped to hear from the Chairman of the Committee of the whole subject.

J Boring-I had hoped, sir, until this morning, that this report would be passed without much discussion; and words upon it. Very unexpectedly, however, difficulties have arisen. It report should be read, as it just has been, because that really involves the whole question. That being adopted, features of the Quarterly Review and sirable. If they know the persons au- we have adopted the fundamental principle of the report; but that being rejected, the whole is vitiated and de-

With regard to the constitutional question which has been raised, I wish to make a remark or two. It is true, sir, that this report proposes to substitute the present Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. I announce in my place, as Chairman of the Committee on Missions, that this report was adopted after a great deal of discussion on the part of the committee-after the most free, full, delib-

erate and repeated discussion. We had, in that body as in this, a reat diversity of opinions; and we have all yielded, to a greater or less extent, opinions which we honestly entertained We have all yielded and compromised. Not one of them has all he desired We have in a spirit of harmony, as I conceive, and under the promptings of a desire to adopt a better plan, yielded our peculiar views. But as to the constitutional question, I confess my surprise at the views expressed by Dr Sehon. Dr Sehon must know-he must agreed to the measure for the sake of have learned experimentally long since -that a mere change of name can never vitate the rights of property. Would

any court of law or equity suffer the vitiation of the rights of property because the name of the party may have doctrine to me; and I am not prepared of this Conference. The Doctor has character. He has alluded to the fact connection with the parent Board, that the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Reid's resolution was laid upon the tawas at first located in the city of Lou-ble isville, Ky; that it was chartered there, WA Smith submitted another propand held real estate and other property under that chartes. We dared to osition. remove that Society to Nashville, Tenn, J B McFerrin opposed. The plan and whoever supposed that such remo- would prostrate our foreign missions. val could endanger the rights of our J J Hutchinson offered an amendtion : Does Dr Schon believe that The hour of adjournment came, and, property held by our Church, and in- after notices, Bishop Soule pronounced terfered with to this extent, is held in the benediction.

Dr Sehon-I did not say, Mr President, that this body is not competent to make any and all changes of name of its institutions. You are fully com- ment, Bishop Andrew in the chair. petent to do that. But I did say that, although we (the Missionary Society) were a regularly incorporated institution, under the authoritative act of two read and approved. sovereign States, the change of location from one of these States to the of officers, other had raised a question as to the right of legacy. I also say that by the adoption of a new Constitution you an- lished in our last, in a letter from the After debate, under the force of the | nul the old constitution and the char- Editor

ple was agreed to, and the report, as in the old charter authorizing this Genthus amended, was adopted.

CONSTITUTION OF THE MISSIONARY SO. amend by a two-thirds vote, constitute the constitution which we may now Blue:
adopt a leg #1 charter?

Dr Sehon—The point must be conagers of

J Boring I will remark upon the -you will perceive, sir, that in the close of our report we have regarded

[Mr Boring continued his remarks, but at too great a length for insertion in the present number.

tion of the General Conference upon the constitutional difficulty raised by Dr Se-hon and reproduced by Bro Hughes. It had been represented that if we adopted the report we should surrender our charter as a Missionary Society. This was certainly an imaginary difficulty. He called attention to the resolution with which the report closed. That resolution specially provided for the inaugurated by this report. The present Board would conduct the affairs of the Society until the new charter should be obtained; and if that charter be no: simply wished to call attention to the fact that this legal difficulty was a fig-

L Campbell moved that we now take the vote.

ment of the imagination. If that were

the only objection, the report should be

The Chair reminded the Conference that a two-thirds vote would be necessa-J Boring said, I submit, Mr Presi-

dent, whether it is a change or a substi-The Chair replied, It occurs to me that a substitution would be a change. The vote was now taken whether the

question should be put, which was lost. On motion of N F Reid, the whole report was laid on the table. N F Reid offered the following res-

Resolved. That the last clause of the 10th Art, Sec 7th, Book of Discipline, now it is not my purpose to multiply "And also determine," etc, be stricken out, and the following inserted : "And the Bishop shall draw for the domestic which he may, the content of the collections for missions in said Conferences, if judged necessary by

> He said-So far as we from North Carolina are concerned, we do not want any new plan, any new scheme; but we want the present constitution of the Missionary Society amended. There is a conflict in the provisions of that Constitution. In the 2nd section of the 16th article, power is given to the Annual Conferences, in conjunction with the President of the Conference, to make what appropriations may be deemed necessary for the support of the domestic missions. In the last clause of the 10th article, this power has a check put upon it which prevents its operation. Now, I propose by my resolution to remove this check, and allow the Conferences to control their own missionary funds, which, I doubt not, will be done wisely

and with the true missionary spirit. W Closs said there was a diversity of sentiment in the Committee. The representation of one Conference wished one thing, and the representation of another Conference another. I

this one article, etc. Bishop Pierce thought the resolution of Brother Reid would go farther in its practical operation than he intended. It would be the abolition of the parent Board. The system laid down in the been changed? That is strange, new had been before the body; and, with Discipline was probably the best that to believe, for one moment, that such they could ever make. He argued that a few emendations, would be the best a suggestion will embarrass the action the Bishops, who traveled at large, and himself alluded to a change of this knew the necessities of the work, in

On motion of J F Hughes, N F

missionary property? I put this ques- ment, which was accepted by Dr Smith.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference met pursuant to adjourn-

A H Mitchell led the devotions. Minutes of morning session were Conference proceeded to the election

The list of these officers were pub

# FRIDAY MAY 28.

Conference met at the usual botte Bishop Paine in the chair.

B A Williams conducted the devo-

TJ Koger presented the following resolution, signed by himself, and O R Resolved, That the Board of Man-

ference now took up the consideration of the report. No 8, of the Committee ceded that they will have to be charter— M E Church, South, be instructed to allow only such salary to the Missionary Secretary as shall be equal to that allowed to other General Conference

T J Koger desired to know why the Missionary Secretary should be paid \$2800 salary. It was larger than the salary of other officers. All the traveling expenses of the Secretary were

paid besides. S Kelly said Dr Schon wished to make a statement to the Conference. and he hoped the matter would be laid

over till he should be present J B McFerrin said the \$2800 had been paid for only have more than twelve months past. Dr Schon had appeared before the Board; stated that he could not attend to the duties of the office at home, while e was traveling abroad; and an assistant was deemed necessary to attend to the correspondence, make out reports, etc. The Board examined the matter, and found they had no authority to elect an assistant; but resolved to increase the Secretary's salary, and allow him to employ one himself. He employed an assistant, and was thus enabled to give more attention to the work, and render more efficient service to the Church. TO Summers said that J B MeFer-

rin's statement was strictly correct. C K Marshall said the Secretary's office was a peculiar one. He comes before the Conferences and people soliciting money. He cannot beg without giving himself. He gives as much in every meeting as other men in his peculiar circumstances. He sets the example of a noble liberality. It was bad policy to cramp such a man in his la-

Bishop Soule deeply regretted that this subject should have been brought before the Conference. He feared it was consuming time to no valuable end. He believed the General Conference and all the interest of the Church would be perfectly safe in submitting this matter to the Board of Managers of

the Missionary Society. Dr Schon having entered into the house during this discussion, came forward and made a statement to the Con-

He did not wish to make these remarks previous to a certain event in the history of this General Conference. The remarks he made yesterday had no reference to his election. He did not intend to present himself as a supplicant. He had never sought an office, and would disdain to do so. He was ready to make a statement, and then retire, and throw back into the hands of the Conference the office they had given him, and fall into any place that might be assigned him in the min-

isterial ranks. In 1844, as a representative of one of the Northern Conferences, he had voted with the South. He had come to us of choice and from principle, and had remained up to this time. He had been welcomed and honored. His brethren had confided in him. They had the warmest gratitude of his heart, and of his family. He would not speak of services rendered; whatever they had been, they were due to the Church.

In 1845, living in Cincinnati, blessed with friends and home, and having a large amount of means placed in his hands, a committee waited upon him, and requested him to serve as Missionary Secretary. He declined, because he could not come, and so remained in Cincinnati. In 1846, he was compeled to leave; he had no longer a home there, and then his brethren of the Tennessee Conference received him as a member. They sent him to the General Conference, and the General Conference elected him Missionary Secretary. After holding the office two days, he declined again. In 1850, he was unanimously re-elected, and had now held the office for eight years, having been re-elected in 1854. It was an arduous work, and involved great sacrifice as well as great responsibility. He would read a recapitulation of

every dollar he had ever received from the Missionary Society : The first year the Board had paid him . \$ 745 The second year ..... The third year ... he fourth year.

The 8th year, for himself and assistant. . 2800 Why had his salary been raised to \$2800? From the nature of the duties, it was necessary that he should have an assistant. The Board voted him \$2800 as the salary of himself and his assistant. It was usual in such offices, in the Northern and other Churches, to have such assistant. If the Conference took from the Board the right to appoint his salary, they would afflict the Board, not him. He would venture to say, what he would not for any thing have said before his election, that the salaries of the General Conference (See 4th page.