

MINUTES

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN THE

United States.

WITH AN APPENDIX.

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1869.

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF SUSTENTATION.

*The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States in  
account with James Woodrow, Treasurer of Sustentation.*

## DR.

To cash paid evangelists, domestic missionaries, and to supplement pastors' salaries, . . . . .	\$22,702 50
To cash paid to aid in rebuilding and repairing churches, . . . . .	1,550 00
To cash paid disabled ministers, widows, and orphans, before July 1, 1868, . . . . .	375 00
To cash paid salaries of officers and clerk-hire, . . . . .	1,722 58
To cash paid travelling expenses on official business, . . . . .	152 00
To cash paid office expenses, printing circulars, etc., . . . . .	140 20
To cash paid exchange account, . . . . .	23 75
To balance in Treasury, April 1, 1869, . . . . .	11,026 97
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	\$37,693 00

## CR.

By balance in Treasury, May 1, 1868, . . . . .	\$10,744 98
By donations from churches and individuals from May 1, 1868, to April 1, 1869, . . . . .	26,948 02
	<hr/>
	\$37,693 00

## FUND FOR DISABLED MINISTERS AND WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF DECEASED MINISTERS.

## DR.

To cash paid disabled ministers and widows and orphans of deceased ministers from July 1, 1868, to April 1, 1869, . . . . .	\$1,993 30
To balance in Treasury, April 1, 1869, . . . . .	1,630 96
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	\$3,624 26

## CR.

By donations from churches and individuals, from July 1, 1868, to April 1, 1869, . . . . .	\$3,624 26
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JAMES WOODROW, Treasurer of Sustentation.

## EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Executive Committee of Foreign Missions, in presenting their eighth Annual Report, feel thankful to the great Head of the Church, that they are enabled to report a good and encouraging measure of success in the prosecution of the great work that has been committed to their care. It must be borne in mind, however, that as a Church we are yet but in the incipient stages of this great undertaking, and that what is being done at present, and perhaps for several years to come, can only be regarded as preparatory to greater results hereafter.

## FINANCES.

The receipts from all sources during the eleven months ending the 31st March, 1869, including \$2,523.99 contributed by Sabbath-schools, amount to \$18,555.16. If we add to this \$2,000, about the value of outfit furnished to the missionaries by the ladies of Richmond, Petersburg, New Orleans, and other places, the aggregate receipts will be over \$20,000. The receipts of the preceding eleven months were \$12,515.54. This shows that the receipts of the past year are more than sixty per cent. in advance of those of the previous year. This is an encouraging fact, and calls for expressions of profound gratitude to the great Head of the Church. The Committee desire to make grateful mention of the timely and substantial aid rendered by the ladies just referred to, in furnishing our missionary brethren with the outfits necessary for their voyage and settlement in the different countries to which they have gone. The children of the Sabbath-schools have also rendered important service.

The number of schools that have contributed is one hundred and five, and the aggregate amount contributed is \$2,523.99. If proper pains were taken to enlist our Sabbath-schools generally in the work, the above mentioned sum might very easily be trebled, if not quadrupled. The whole number of churches that contributed last year was 598 against 418 the preceding year—showing an increase of 180 contributing churches. This is a very encouraging state of things, but still we should not overlook the humiliating fact that only about one half of the whole of our churches have contributed anything at all to this precious cause during the past year.

#### SAILING OF MISSIONARIES AND THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE MISSIONARY WORK.

In the last Annual Report it was mentioned that eight young men had been designated to the missionary work, and were expecting to sail for their respective fields of labor during the year. Soon after the adjournment of the Assembly an additional appointment was made. Quite recently a missionary to the Choctaws has been appointed, making ten in all.

Rev. G. Nash Morton, according to previous arrangement, sailed from New York on board the steamer South America on the 24th of August, for the purpose of exploring certain portions of Brazil with reference to the establishment of a permanent mission in that part of the world. He returned to this country the latter part of November, having touched at all the principal cities and seaport towns along its eastern frontier, and gone as far in the interior as Campinas, the principal inland city in the province of Sao Paulo. The results of his observations have been published in the *Missionary*, and are known, therefore, to the Church at large. Mr. Morton and his associate, Rev. Edward Lane, together with Mrs. Morton, will sail from Baltimore about the first of June, and commence their permanent missionary labors in the city of the Campinas.

Rev. Messrs. M. H. Houston, Benjamin Helm, and J. L. Stuart, the first of the Synod of Virginia, and the others of the Synod of Kentucky, sailed from New York in the steamer Alaska for China on the 9th of September, and having touched successively at Panama, San Francisco, and Japan, they reached Shanghai on the 7th of November, having been something less than two months on the voyage. They remained there but a few days, and then proceeded to Hanchou, where they have been since engaged in studying the language and making other arrangements for the prosecution of their missionary work.

Rev. H. B. Pratt and family sailed from New York on the 21st of April, on their way to Barranquilla, their contemplated missionary station. Mr. Pratt, as is well known, labored as a missionary for a number of years previous to the war at Bogota, the capital of New Grenada, and is well qualified by his knowledge of the people and their language to be a very useful and effective missionary in that part of the world. Barranquilla is a seaport town of 20,000 inhabitants, and is not only a promising field of missionary labor in itself, but will afford great advantages for extending the blessings of the gospel into the broad and populous regions of New Grenada generally, as soon as we shall have the missionary force to do so.

Rev. Thomas E. Converse and his wife, in order to avoid the sickly season on the coast of China, will not leave this country before the latter part of August or the first of September. Mr. Converse has been spending the winter and the spring in the study of medicine and surgery, and will in this way occupy a more enlarged sphere of usefulness when he arrives in China. Mrs. Converse is the daughter of Rev. George W. Leyburn, formerly a missionary in Greece, and was herself born on mission ground.

Rev. Jos. M. Perryman, an educated Creek Indian, commenced his labors last summer at a place called North Fork, in the southern portion of the Creek territory. Thus far he has been favored with good and attentive audiences, and has the prospect of great usefulness among his kindred according to the flesh.

Rev. Hamilton Balentine, whose name is not unfamiliar to our people, and

1870.]

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF SUSTENTATION.

*The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States in  
account with James Woodrow, Treasurer of Sustentation.*

## DR.

To cash paid evangelists, domestic missionaries, and to supplement pastors' salaries.....	\$23,144 96
To cash paid to aid in rebuilding and repairing churches.....	2,700 00
To cash paid salaries of officers and clerk-hire.....	1,925 00
To cash paid printing reports of 1865, '66, '67, and '68.....	327 00
To cash paid exchange account.....	41 14
To cash paid travelling expenses of officers on official business.....	118 75
To cash paid office expenses.....	211 15
To balance in Treasury, April 1, 1870.....	5,989 74

\$34,457 74

## CR.

By donations from churches and individuals from April 1, 1869, to April 1, 1870.....	\$23,430 77
By balance in Treasury, April 1, 1869.....	11,026 97

\$34,457 74

## FUND FOR DISABLED MINISTERS AND WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF DECEASED MINISTERS.

## DR.

To cash paid disabled ministers and widows and orphans of deceased ministers from April 1, 1869, to April 1, 1870.....	\$5,827 65
To balance in Treasury, April 1, 1870.....	2,273 63

\$8,101 28

## CR.

By donations from churches and individuals, from April 1, 1869, to April 1, 1870.....	\$6,470 32
By balance in Treasury, April 1, 1869.....	1,630 96

\$8,101 28

JAMES WOODROW,  
Treasurer of Sustentation.

## NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Executive Committee of Foreign Missions, in presenting their ninth annual report, would express their profound gratitude to Almighty God, not only for calling our Church at so early a period in her history to take an important share in the great work of foreign missions, but for the many marked and unequivocal tokens of his favor bestowed upon that work while still in its incipient stages. It is only about five years since the great heathen nations of the earth were rendered accessible to us. We had just emerged from a long and wasting war; the resources of the Church were exceedingly meagre, and it scarcely seemed possible to uphold our tottering churches at home, much less take part in evangelising the heathen nations of the earth. Many among us doubted the propriety of entering upon the work at the time; others remonstrated on the ground that the claims of the home field would be overlooked in the time of our extremity; and by many outside of the Church we were told that it would savor more of humility and good sense to build up our own broken-down walls before going abroad to assail the powers of darkness. But, notwithstanding all these remonstrances and taunts, our beloved Church;

being restored in many of our churches, the good effects of which are beginning to show themselves in various directions. Our missionary brethren in the remote nations of the earth have noticed the fact, and are greatly encouraged in their labors by knowing that they are remembered by their Christian friends they have left behind. The churches themselves, where the usage has been established, have been greatly quickened in their Christian zeal, and are beginning to feel a deeper and more abiding interest in the great work. The missionary treasury feels it in a very special manner. There is scarcely a church where the usage has been resumed that does not double its contributions. It will be a happy day for the cause of missions when all our churches will have entered upon this time-honored and sacred service.

#### SAILING OF MISSIONARIES.

Rev. G. Nash Morton and Mrs. Morton, and Rev. Edward Lane, sailed from Baltimore in the bark Winifred, on the 23d of June, and reached Rio Janeiro on the 14th of August, having been fifty-six days on the voyage. After a few days' sojourn in Rio, they proceeded to Campinas, a large interior city in the province of Sao Paulo, which they have made their missionary headquarters, and where they have been mainly engaged in studying the Portuguese language. Rev. Thos. E. Converse and Mrs. Converse left Louisville, Ky., by the overland route to San Francisco, on the 20th of September, and reached Shanghai on the 7th of November. Their journey both by land and sea was pleasant and prosperous. They were met at the last mentioned place by two of the missionary brethren, who accompanied them to Hanchou, where they remain engaged in the study of the language. Rev. James H. Colton, of the Presbytery of Fayetteville, to whom reference was made in the last annual report, left for the Choctaw country in January, and, after a journey of something more than three weeks, reached Wheelock, the station formerly occupied by Mr. Copeland, and the present residence of Mrs. Copeland and family. Since that time he has been engaged in visiting the churches, attending the meeting of Presbytery, and conferring with his missionary brethren in relation to his permanent location.

#### THE WHOLE NUMBER OF MISSIONARY LABORERS.

The whole missionary force in the field at the present time consists of fifteen ordained missionaries, of whom four are natives, one native licentiate, six female missionary assistants, and eight native helpers, making thirty missionary laborers in all, and all depending upon the churches for the means of their support.

#### THE MISSIONARY WORK IN GENERAL.

It should be borne in mind that, with the exception of the Indian country, where the gospel has been preached for a considerable number of years, we are but in the incipient stages of the work. The missionary brethren who went out from among us did not feel disposed to build on other men's foundations. They commenced their labors in the midst of communities that had never heard the gospel, and their work thus far has necessarily been one of preparation. They have had to superintend the erection of buildings for their own accommodation; have had to organise and superintend schools; to study the character, habits, and disposition of the people; to make themselves acquainted with the geography of the surrounding country, and especially to study the language of the people around them, without which it would be utterly impossible for them even to fulfil the great end of their mission. In view of all these things, it will be seen at once that we cannot reasonably expect to witness any very great results, especially so far as the conversion of souls is concerned, for the present, and perhaps for some time to come. Still, our brethren, as will be seen in the progress of the report, have not been left without tokens of the divine presence and favor from the very beginning of their labors.

the mouth of the Magdalena, a river that is navigable to the distance of five hundred miles into the heart of the country. It has a mixed population of more than fifteen thousand, and, in a commercial point of view, is considered flourishing. The climate, though warm, especially in the dry season, is considered very healthful. Mr. Pratt and family arrived there about one year ago, and, as he was already familiar with the Spanish language, he entered upon the work of preaching without any material delay. As the English and Americans are numerous, he has one service on the Sabbath in English, and the other in Spanish. The attendance upon these services has been very variable, alternately raising hopes and causing despondency. There have not been wanting tokens of the Spirit's presence and power. Mr. and Mrs. Pratt, with one or two assistants, conduct a Sabbath-school every Sabbath morning, the attendance upon which has generally been good. Mr. Pratt has prepared a small collection of Spanish hymns, which were much needed, and which, it is hoped, will do much good. He keeps on hand a good supply of Spanish Bibles and tracts, which are circulated as he has opportunity, and which will, with the blessing of God, prove to be good seed sown in good ground.

#### BRAZIL MISSION.

Campinas, the selected site of the mission, is in the central part of the province of Sao Paulo, and two hundred miles, or thereabouts, west of Rio Janeiro. It connects by railroad with Sao Paulo, a large seaport to the south of Rio. It has a population of 20,000, and is one of the most flourishing cities of the interior. The climate is pleasant and healthful, and the people, it is thought, are favorably disposed to listen to the preaching of the pure gospel. Rev. Messrs. Morton and Lane arrived there in September, and immediately addressed themselves to the task of mastering the Portuguese language. Their skill and aptitude for acquiring language may be inferred from the fact that they are already preaching the everlasting gospel in it.

#### CHINA MISSION.

This is the largest of all our missions. It occupies two principal stations: one in Hanchou, a city of a million inhabitants, and situated about one hundred and fifty miles due west from Shanghai; and the other at Gu-tsiu, the capital of the province, containing about 200,000 inhabitants, and situated about one hundred and fifty miles west of Hanchou. Rev. Messrs. Inslee, Houston, and Converse, with Mrs. Inslee and Converse, occupy the station at Hanchou, whilst Rev. Messrs. Stuart and Helm, both of them of the Synod of Kentucky, occupy that at Gu-tsiu. The mission and family at Hanchou suffered a good deal last summer from the unhealthiness arising from the flooded condition of the part of the city in which they lived, resulting in the death of an infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Inslee and of one of the children in the boarding school. The brethren there, after a good deal of trouble and expense, secured a suitable lot in a healthy and eligible part of the city, and it is expected that they will have comfortable dwellings erected before the return of another unhealthy season. Two boarding schools, one for boys and the other for girls, have been got into successful operation. The one for girls is under the care of Mr. and Mrs. Inslee, whilst Mr. Houston has charge of the one for boys. The girls' school is taught by a Chinese Christian woman of excellent character. The boys are taught by a Chinaman, who, though not a professing Christian, is nevertheless a very worthy and promising man. A church was organised here during the year, which embraces, besides the mission family, two Chinese converts and several children by baptism. For a fuller account of the condition and prospects of this very interesting mission, the Committee would refer the Assembly to the report of the mission itself, to be published in the June number of the *Missionary*; and they would close their own report by quoting the last paragraph of the report from the mission. Says the report: "It only remains to close this summary of the operations of