

Minutes, some nine items of unfinished business are brought to the attention of Synod. This report is followed by calling upon the several committees for their reports. The Committees on the second and third items had not done a thing, and were both discharged. This reads queerly. This is followed by the report of Synods, and these Synods place themselves into an awkward position. First, they vote on the report of Prof. Repass, and sanction it, their vote the urgent necessity and the feasibility of a second Professorship. They then report "present action deemed inexpedient," and "no action taken," and then on page 22, deliberately vote "that another chair of Theology should be at once established." Here we have a vote, first that it is feasible, second, a report that it is inexpedient, then another vote that it be established forthwith. Such action is rather unsuited to the dignity of an ecclesiastical body.

4. The subject of Foreign Missions, as treated by the Synod, deserves some notice. First, it is favorably noticed by the retiring President and sanctioned by the Synod. On page 18 it is voted inexpedient, and then on page 25 "a per centum upon all Synodical receipts" is actually voted towards Foreign Missions. In Rev. J. A. Sligh's report the duties of the Committee are clearly defined and great hopes expressed concerning results from their labors. This is followed by a resolution that each District Synod shall "superintend and manage" its own Home Missionary work, and devote their surplus funds to the said Central Committee. That is, when they have more money for Missions than they know what to do with, rather than throw it into the ocean or bury it in napkin, why send it to the Central Committee. A suggestion or two to I have done. In all the pages of the Minutes under consideration there is not one allusion to a meeting especially for prayer. A church without a prayer-meeting is so directly contrary to dear and cherished usages that one can not fail to experience pain at the omission. In the Formula for our government and discipline in the end of our Book of Worship, chapter vii, sections 1 and 2, we see the duty laid down and defended by Scripture quotations, and yet the highest ecclesiastical body ignores the duty! "Sweet hour of prayer!" lay members, as well as ministers, composing the General Synod, will be influenced by those composing and carrying on the business of Synod. They will go home under an influence that they have been mistaken in regard to the importance of this part of our Formula. Finally, the constitution of the Theological Seminary. This is a good document and creditable to the Committee who presented it. The item of a three-years' course presents itself in a two-fold aspect. The great need of ministers and the shortness of our educational funds call loudly for a two-years' course; and on the other hand, the necessity of thoroughness in qualification would ask for one more year. Between the two it is hard to decide. Circumstances should control this matter, for the present at least. Upon the whole the constitution is too stiff, too dogmatic, that is, confined within too narrow a limit. It enjoins no practical duties, no devotional duties are even named, but left to the Faculty. As I said, the constitution is good, and I do not wish to find fault with it, and hope it may never be abandoned; but I fear it is too narrow for all exigencies. X.

Abstract Of the Proceedings of the Eighteenth Annual Session of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Mississippi. The eighteenth annual session of the Synod of Mississippi convened in Both Eden church, Winston county, Aug. 24, 1873, at 11 o'clock, A. M., when the opening sermon was preached by Rev. T. A. Glenn, President of Synod, from Acts xx: 17-23. Would time and space permit, we would like to say a great deal about the sermon, as it was applicable and delivered in fine style. FIRST SESSION. SATURDAY, Aug. 2, 2 o'clock, P. M. The Synod was opened by the President with the usual services. The Secretary then called the roll, when the following answered to their names: Rev. T. A. Glenn, Rev. Jesse Morgan, Rev. R. M. Currie, Rev. W. T. Youngblood, Rev. A. S. Henagan. Absent—Rev. J. J. Miller and Mr. Jno. Ranch, Treasurer. The President then read and offered his annual report, which, on motion, was received, and tabled to be referred to a committee. The Synod then proceeded to elect its officers for the ensuing term, which resulted as follows: Rev. T. A. Glenn, President; Rev.

A. S. Henagan, Recording Secretary; Rev. R. M. Currie, Corresponding Secretary; Mr. R. T. Meek, Treasurer. The officers elected took their seats, when the Synod was declared organized. The certificates of lay delegates were now called for, which being handed to the Secretary, their names were enrolled, and they took their seats as members of Synod. Laymen—Mr. Jacob Baker, Mr. R. T. Meek, Mr. Austin, Mr. C. T. Morgan. Communications to Synod were next called for, presented, numbered and placed on the table to be referred to committees. The following committees were now appointed: On President's Report: Rev. A. S. Henagan, Rev. R. M. Currie. On Letters and Petitions: J. E. Austin and R. T. Meek. On Minutes: Rev. Jesse Morgan, Rev. W. T. Youngblood and Mr. J. Baker. On Contributions: Messrs. J. Baker and C. T. Morgan. On Treasurer's Report: Messrs. R. T. Meek and C. T. Morgan. On State of the Church: Revs. R. M. Currie, W. T. Youngblood, A. S. Henagan, to which, on motion, the President was added. On motion, Synod adjourned to meet Monday, 9 o'clock, A. M., with prayer by the President. Divine services were held in the church at 8 o'clock, P. M. Sermon preached by Rev. A. S. Henagan from Ps. lxxiv: 22. SERVICES OF THE SABBATH. At 11 o'clock, A. M., on the Sabbath, the President preached the funeral sermon of our departed brother, Eli Suber, after which the holy Sacrament was administered to a large number of communicants, the elements having been consecrated by Rev. Jesse Morgan. Again, at 4 o'clock, P. M., services in the church, when the funeral sermon of sister Richardson was preached by the President. SECOND SESSION. MONDAY, Aug. 4, 9 o'clock, A. M. The Synod opened with prayer by the President. Minutes of the previous session were read and approved. Committees, as far as prepared, now offered their reports, which were adopted. The committees on the state of the church and on contributions asked further time, which was granted. A motion was made and carried, deferring the reading and final adoption of the Revised Constitution of the Synod, to 9 o'clock, A. M., Monday. Reports from the pastors were called for and handed to the Secretary. Adjourned to meet Tuesday, 9 o'clock. Prayer by Mr. J. Baker. THIRD SESSION. TUESDAY, Aug. 5, 9 o'clock, A. M. Synod was opened with prayer by Rev. Jesse Morgan. Minutes read and approved. On motion, Mr. R. T. Meek and Rev. Jesse Morgan were appointed a committee to confer with the former Treasurer, Mr. Jno. Ranch, and request a report from him in this for the same to be placed upon the face of the minutes of the present session of Synod. The following resolution was offered: Resolved, That the churches composing this Synod be recommended by their pastors to give a more liberal support to our able and devoted church paper, the Lutheran Visitor, and that both ministers and laymen use more earnest endeavors to impress and urge the importance of reading the same, and in extending its circulation in the church. And that the thanks of this Synod be tendered its able and devoted editor for the faithful performance of his arduous duties, and the great good accomplished by his devotion and self-denial. Various resolutions were then offered which were adopted. The reading of the Revised Constitution was now performed, after which it was adopted as revised and amended. The committees who had been given further time now offered their reports, which were approved. The following, by Rev. W. T. Youngblood, was offered: Resolved, That this Synod tender a vote of thanks to Mr. Jno. Ranch for his past services, and the able and faithful manner in which he has ever discharged the duties of Treasurer of our Synod from its organization to the present session. Several others now offered resolutions, which were approved. The election of delegates to attend the next session of the General Synod was then held, which resulted as follows: Rev. T. A. Glenn, principal; Rev. R. M. Currie, alternate. The time and place of holding the next session of Synod was now determined and declared as follows:

New Hope church, Adams county, on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in October, 1873. The minutes of the entire session were now read and approved, after which Synod adjourned to meet at the time and place above specified. Closed with the services as laid down in Book of Worship, with prayer by the President. A. S. HENAGAN, Secretary. The Virginia Synod. Meet in Mount Tabor church, Augusta county, on the 7th of August. It was my privilege to attend its sessions as a delegate from the Synod of Maryland. Some notice of this meeting may be of interest to the readers of the Observer. It is not proposed to give any detailed statement of the business transacted, but to mark some facts and features impressed upon the mind in the visit. As something very unusual in the Synodical experience of most us, the Synod met in a church in the country. There is no town or village near Mount Tabor church in the midst of a fine agricultural region. The congregation was established many years ago, and has enjoyed the ministrations of some of the most prominent men in our church. Dr. D. F. Bittle served it at one time. If I mistake not, the sermon at the dedication of the church was preached by Dr. C. Phillip Krauth. The Synod was entertained by the members of the church living within a radius of some four miles from it. Their kind and generous hospitality, however, and their earnest interest in the doings and services of the Synod, removed the inconveniences which some might have feared would attend a meeting thus in the country, and made it altogether a most enjoyable occasion. The reception of the delegate from Maryland was most cordial, and he was made to feel entirely at home among the brethren of the Synod. A considerable number of them are alumni or former students of our institution at Gettysburg, and all full of the spirit and earnest in the work of our common Lutheran church. This fellowship between Synods in the different sections of our country can not but do good. It makes us understand each other better and love each other more. It makes us feel a oneness, as Lutherans Christians, which geographical lines can not divide. The proceedings of the Synod impressed my mind with the fact that our church in Virginia has a most laborious work on hand. The devotion and energy of the pastors and other brethren can not be mistaken. The Synod is manifestly composed of a body of whole-souled men. But they have a large territory, with but few strong churches. The impoverishment and depression left by the war still make it hard for many of the old charges to struggle along. The pastors must live on small salaries, cultivate large fields, and do their work under great self-denial. Much home mission ground is calling for attention. A report read in Synod of an exploration made along the line of the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad, revealed points of pressing importance and great promise; and these are specimens of the work to which Providence is calling the church in Virginia. The Synod needs more men and more money—needs them in a degree of urgency of which most of our northern Synods have little conception. But with its limited resources, the Synod is laboring with marked and effective consecration. The very struggles of the church have developed an energy and strength that promise the better time coming. While the work is so great, and the means so limited, the brethren are displaying a devotion and courage that will prove equal to the demands which the condition makes upon them. One could not fail to be struck—especially one sustaining close relation to another institution—with the unanimous and hearty co-operation of the members of Synod in the endeavor to build up Roanoke College, and the Theological Seminary at Salem. The idea of educating elsewhere seems not to be tolerated. Every student is sent there. The young men of the churches are looked up, and encouraged to go to Roanoke. Every pastor seems to be an earnest worker in this endeavor to build up the College. We have no reason to interpret this as any hostility toward any other institution, but simply as indicating that, having founded a college for that part of the church, they are a unit and in earnest in the purpose to make it a success. And such unanimity and energy mean success. Though we think that it would all be right if some of the students from the South were to enter the institutions at Gettysburg, yet viewed from the standpoint of the members of the Synod, their exclusive devotion to their college and seminary is a most commendable wisdom. The same degree of earnest work and steadfast co-operation on the part of the churches of Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York should be brought to bear upon the property of its institutions at Gettysburg.

The question of the union of the Southern Synods with the General Synod, or Council, North, has sometimes been alluded to in the Observer and elsewhere. I would love to see them in connection with the General Synod. I believe it would be better for our church in the South, were such a union effected. The simple item of advantage to their mission work would be no small thing. But I am led to believe that many of the brethren in Virginia feel that the first need of the Lutheran Church in the South is to attain a better and more conscious unity on its own ground. Conflicts are going on between different Synods. Some are independent of the general body. No movement toward union with the North could now carry the whole Southern Lutheran Church. It seems to be felt that no idea of such movement should as yet be brought forward. It is felt that the present endeavor of the Southern Synods ought to be after a truer and more cordial union among themselves. There is force in this. It may prove to be the best wisdom. In the meantime, it is well to cultivate a cordial church fellowship between our Northern and Southern Synods. They should in every possible way cherish the bond of their brotherhood in the Lutheran faith.—M. V. in Lutheran Observer.

Obituaries. Fell asleep in Christ, Saturday afternoon, August 16th, 1873, in Winchester, Va., at the residence of her grandfather, Oliver M. Brown, Esq., FANNY HAGEMAN, daughter of Rev. Theo. W. and Kate B. Dosh, aged 9 months and 29 days. Many friends, not only in Winchester and Charleston, but throughout our church, will sincerely sympathize with those who are afflicted by this dispensation of God's providence. Less than two years ago, under peculiarly trying circumstances, they were called upon to part with a very sweet little daughter, and now their Heavenly Father has asked of them another. They bow in humble submission to his holy will. They know that "He doeth all things well." They are comforted and sustained by the blessed hope of finding their loved ones again in the happy home which our Saviour hath gone to prepare for all who love him, and by the divine assurance that what they know not now of God's mysterious dealings with them, they shall know and be fully satisfied with hereafter. They sorrow not, therefore, as those who are without hope, nor as those who would repine at the Lord's doings. They are no strangers to the voice of him who hath said, "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven," and, as for themselves, they rest in humble confidence upon the pledge that "all things shall work together for good to them that love the Lord." May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, which alone can strengthen us for the trials and duties of life, and through which alone we may become meet for the inheritance of the saints in light, ever be continued to them and to all who humbly watch for the Lord's appearing.

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