

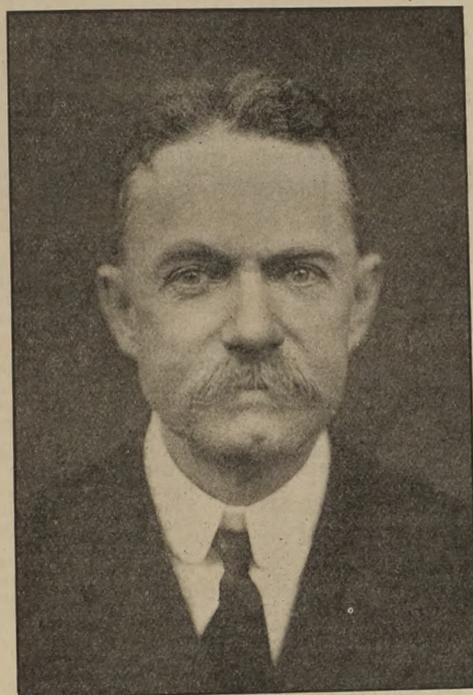
# Christian Observer

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT.

Vol. 105.

LOUISVILLE, KY., MAY 30, 1917.

NO. 22



Rev. John M. Wells, D. D.  
Moderator of the Assembly of 1917.

**OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY.**

Several commissioners raised the point of order that the adoption of Dr. Richards' substitute did not make it the final action of the Assembly, but only substituted it for the original motion.

The moderator ruled that such was the case and declared that the unfinished business was the consideration of Dr. Richards' resolution as the original motion, and that substitutes or amendments were in order.

Dr. A. B. Curry offered the following substitute:

**DR. CURRY'S RESOLUTION ON OGLETHORPE.**

The Assembly hears with pleasure of the refounding of Oglethorpe University at Atlanta, Ga., and of the re-opening of this venerable institution of learning.

The Assembly appreciates the expressed willingness and desire of the Board of Directors of Oglethorpe University to transfer its property interests to the General Assembly by vesting the same in a Board of Trustees, holding the property in trust for the Assembly, and to give the Assembly general control of the institution through right of approval of the election of its directors.

The Assembly regards this as evidence of the sincere desire and purpose of the founders of Oglethorpe University to make this institution thoroughly Presbyterian in its ideals and management.

While the Assembly does not deem it expedient at this time to accept the trust thus offered, it bids God speed to the noble men engaged in this enterprise, and lays no obstacle in the way of their appealing for funds to those of our churches and members who may be willing to help in building such an institution.

In taking this action the General Assembly would remind our people of the paramount claims of our Presbyterian and Synodical schools and colleges upon their interest and liberality.

Dr. Thornton Whaling offered the following substitute (which was written by Dr. C. W. Grafton) to Dr. Curry's substitute.

**RESOLUTION ON OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY**

Written by Dr. C. W. Grafton.

Resolved: (1) That the Assembly records its appreciation of Dr. W. L. Lingle, and his associates in the arduous work they were called upon to perform.

(2) That the Assembly commend the zeal and energy of the managers of Oglethorpe University, and wish them great success in building up an institution in Georgia which we trust will be a blessing to generations.

(3) That the Assembly decline to adopt Oglethorpe University and decline to commend it to the churches for their contributions.

(4) That the Assembly urge our Presbyteries and Synods to increased diligence in building up and maintaining their schools and colleges.

The vote on Dr. Grafton's resolution was: For, 117; against, 82. It was carried.

The vote was then taken on Dr. Grafton's resolution as a substitute to Dr. Richards' resolution. The vote was overwhelmingly in favor of Dr. Grafton's resolution—the affirmative vote being 174; the negative vote was not counted.

Dr. Grafton's resolution was then adopted unanimously as the action of the Assembly in the matter of Oglethorpe University.

**Report of Standing Committee on Church Societies.**

Rev. T. M. Hawes, D. D., Chairman, presented the following report of the Standing Committee on Church Societies which was adopted:

**CHURCH SOCIETIES.****Report of the Standing Committee.**

The Standing Committee on Church Societies submits the following report and in doing so desires to call especial attention to the report on Women's Societies. The marked increase in gifts and other activities is due in large measure to the efficiency of the Women's Auxiliary, the fifth annual report of which is in your hands. We call especial attention to the following facts:

(1) An increase in the number of mission study classes resulting in the sale of more than twice as many mission study books as in the previous year indicating an intelligent interest in this great work of the Church.

(2) Under the direction of the Auxiliary a neat and commodious building has been provided at Montreat as a headquarters for the Women's work.

(3) The goal of a half-million dollars has now been reached. A large part of the benevolent offerings of the Women's Societies has passed through the treasury of the

local church, to the different executive committees, which is the desire of the Woman's Auxiliary.

(4) The Auxiliary held at Stillman Institute, Tuscaloosa, Ala., a conference for the negro women of our Church, the first of its kind ever held by any denomination for Negro women. The Auxiliary characterizes this as perhaps the most important single accomplishment since its organization.

(5) The Assembly recommends to the Women's Societies the organization of the Woman's Auxiliary, and urges that they affiliate with their respective Presbyteries; and further, that as far as possible, through this channel, they dedicate to our Lord and Master their time and energy which will be an acceptable service.

The Committee also desires to call attention to the organized work among men and boys as indicated by the reports sent in from the various societies.

There are 277 societies having a membership of nearly 7,000, contributing to all causes over thirty-one thousand dollars. In view of these encouraging results your Committee recommends:

(1) That such societies be organized in all our churches.

(2) That the men's organization be known as the Presbyterian Brotherhood, with the Bible class as the nucleus of the society.

(3) That the boys' organization be known as the Covenanters, with senior and junior divisions, and their work so conducted as not to interfere with the work of the Christian Endeavor societies.

(4) That these organizations be made attractive by outings, innocent amusements, and athletic sports; and that attention be given to speaking and praying in public.

The reports from the various societies of young people are particularly gratifying, showing as they do that there are 1,490 organizations with a total membership of 36,082. They have contributed to all the causes of the Church, the total amount being \$38,318. These societies are under the control of the sessions of the church and do a much larger work than can be indicated by the figures that tell of their gifts to the benevolent causes. They make a large contribution to the development of Christian character, and to works of mercy and love that cannot be estimated in money.

Your Committee submits the following recommendations:

(1) We recommend that the General Assembly declare unmistakably its approval of young people's societies, as organizations for the expression of religious belief, the principles of which have been instilled into the minds of the young in the Christian home, in the Sunday school, and in the church; and which as other experience declares occupy a place in Church life which no other organization can fill.

(2) That the General Assembly instruct the sessions, so far as their fields permit, to organize their young people into such societies, which shall be under sessional supervision.

(3) That the General Assembly again commend to each church the Christian Endeavor Society, which has been richly blessed of God for thirty-six years for the spiritual culture of millions of young people throughout Protestant Christendom; and which possesses sufficient flexibility for all varieties of circumstances in which churches may be found; and which exercises no authorities over the separate organization incompatible with their control by sessions.

(4) That the General Assembly warn the sessions against allowing the young people to grow up in forgetfulness of the history and tenets of our historic Church or in ignorance of her present activities, and to that end urges them, so far as possible, to send one or more of the young members of their congregation to such conferences, under Presbyterian auspices, as that to be held at Montreat from June 28 to July 8, 1917, in which some of the Church's most approved leaders will give instruction.

T. M. Hawes, Chairman.

Pending its adoption, the Assembly heard an address by Mr. Karl Lehmann, Southern States Secretary of the United Society of Christian Endeavor.

The following telegram was received from

**The Reformed (German) Church in America:**

Dayton, Ohio, May 22, 1917.

Moderator General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Ala.:

The General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States now in triennial session in Dayton sends cordial greetings to the General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church. We join hands and hearts with you in our common task. Read John 17:20, 21.

Charleston E. Miller, Pres.

Rev. J. C. Tims, Chairman, made the following report of the Standing Committee on the Sabbath and Family Religion, which was adopted:

**SABBATH AND FAMILY RELIGION.****Report of the Standing Committee.**

It is hardly necessary to say that the Sabbath and Christianity stand or fall together. If the Sabbath shall continue to be more and more given to business and amusement, spiritual values will be largely forgotten. We are face to face, also,