

THE  
MINUTES  
OF THE

SIXTY-SECOND

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

Presbyterian Church

IN THE

United States

WITH

AN APPENDIX

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A. D. 1922  
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RICHMOND, VA.

PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE OF PUBLICATION

1922

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Bible Cause .....	4,844	
Orphans' Homes .....	76,263—	344,997
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Total Benevolences .....		\$ 666,599
Miscellaneous .....	\$ 242,572	
Current Expenses and Contingent Fund .....	234,147	476,719
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Grand total for all causes .....		\$ 1,143,318

MRS. W. C. WINSBOROUGH.

### VIII. Report of the Permanent Committee on the Sabbath and Family Religion

The Permanent Committee on the Sabbath and Family Religion would respectfully report to the General Assembly that the past year has been the most satisfactory, both in work done and results obtained, that we have ever been able to report.

Through the kindness of the Program Committee of the Montreat Conference, we had three days, last August, in which our work was presented to large and sympathetic audiences. The Lord's Day Alliance furnished three speakers for the program from without the bounds of our Assembly. These, with Dr. I. Cochrane Hunt, Southern Secretary of the Alliance; Dr. Russell Cecil; and the Chairman of the Permanent Committee stressed the claims of the Lord's Day and the Family Altar from various points of view. And, no doubt, our success during the year is in large measure due to the interest there created. We desire at this point to express our thanks to the Lord's Day Alliance for the help so generously given at that time, and also later, when the program in the interest of the Lord's Day was given in the Sunday Schools.

One other factor entered into our success for the year. For the first time the Stewardship Committee of the Assembly took notice of the work and provided generous financial assistance. Here we desire to express our thanks to the Committee for the aid thus given.

Three years ago, the Assembly directed that the second Sunday in January, or a Sunday as near thereto as possible, be observed by all our ministers as a timely opportunity to present the claims of Family Religion. Two years ago, the Assembly set aside the Sunday immediately preceding the meeting of the Assembly as a suitable occasion for presenting the claims of the Lord's Day. We have presumed to ask ministers and sessions to continue the use of these days for the same purposes year by year since. But we think it would be more in order, and we would feel easier about it, if the Assembly should consider it worth while either to give similar subjects and times a permanent place in our program. It is expected that every year sermons will be preached on these subjects, and we believe much advantage would be gained by having the days permanently fixed.

In addition to the sermons preached, many addresses have been delivered at conferences, conventions, and assemblies of various kinds by ministers and laymen, stressing the need for a better observance of the Sabbath, and worship in the home. The Auxiliary has given the Family Altar a place in the Standard

of excellence. We have printed and circulated 60,000 leaflets on the Sabbath and 105,00 on the Home and the Family Altar. Many letters have been written answering questions, giving suggestions, and acknowledging interest and sympathy in the work. Hundreds of families have started to hold family worship this year. Our records show 3,763 families actually enrolled in the Family Altar League; but we believe the true number of those actually enlisted is at least 50 per cent. greater. Reports from many churches fail to give numbers. They use such terms as "ten per cent.," or some other per cent. of membership. Hence, cannot be tabulated. But reports of additions are constantly coming in. Many Sessions now have committees who keep before their congregations the claim of the Family Altar, asking the members whether they have family worship, and having them enroll when they can. When this becomes the rule in all our Churches the Family Altar will come to its own.

While we greatly rejoice in the things already accomplished, we are not blind to the fact that we have scarcely touched the near border of the problem. The forces opposed to the Christian observance of the Lord's Day are rich and powerful, determined, conscienceless, and thoroughly organized. Their specious plea for recreation, innocent amusement, and the like, deceives many good people who think superficially into a sympathy with them, which they exploit skilfully to advantage. Education in the home, in the Sunday School, and from the pulpit, is the only thing that will meet the need. This education must be systematic, continuous, wise and aggressive. Our youth must be made to see the wrong of Sabbath desecration from every angle in order that the future may be property safeguarded.

The fact that, under the circumstances, we have accomplished so much is an indication that the Lord is with us in the fight, and that we are on the winning side, and it is strong encouragement to more heartily and courageously press on.

We would strongly recommend that a day each year be set aside on which in all our Sunday Schools a special program be provided in the interest of the Sabbath and Family Religion. The offering to be used to defray the expenses of providing the program and furthering the work. We would venture to suggest that the first Sunday in November be that day, or a day as near to that as possible. Such an occasion would offer an excellent opportunity for enlisting recruits in the Family Altar League.

The Permanent Committee is at present composed of the following: Rev. Robert Hill, D. D., Tyler, Texas, Chairman; Rev. C. T. Caldwell, D. D., Waco, Texas; Rev. J. N. Ivy, Wills Point, Texas; Mr. F. E. Williams, Tyler, Texas; and Mr. R. E. Magill, Richmond, Va.

For the Permanent Committee,

ROBERT HILL, *Chairman.*

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### IX. Report on Bible Cause

The annual report of the Permanent Committee on Bible Cause is herewith submitted.

Reorganization and advance have been the key words of the year. The circulation of the Society has increased many thousand, approximating the higher levels of past years. The advance in the Near East and in China has been