

National Convention,

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

NATIONAL CONVENTION

TO SECURE THE

RELIGIOUS AMENDMENT

OF THE

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

HELD IN

CINCINNATI, JAN. 31, AND FEB. 1, 1872.

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF

THE ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT.

PHILADELPHIA :

JAS. B. RODGERS CO., PRINTERS, 52 & 54 NORTH SIXTH STREET.

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The Eighth General Convention of the friends of this measure assembled in Thom's Hall, Cincinnati, on Wednesday, January 31, at 2 o'clock, P. M. The hall was filled with a large and attentive body of delegates and spectators.

In the absence of Justice Strong, of Washington, President of the National Association, the Convention was called to order by one of the Vice-Presidents, Prof. O. N. Stoddard, LL. D., of Wooster University. Prayer was offered by the Rev. B. P. Aydelott, D. D., of Cincinnati.

The Chairman then read the call for the Convention as follows :

CALL FOR A NATIONAL CONVENTION.

GOVERNMENT is instituted for man as an intellectual, social, and moral and religious being. It corresponds to his whole nature. It is intended to protect and advance the higher as well as the lower interests of humanity. It acts for its legitimate purposes when it watches over domestic life, and asserts and enforces the sanctity of the marriage bond; when it watches over intellect and education, and furnishes means for developing all the faculties of the mind; when it frowns on profaneness, lewdness, the desecration of the Sabbath, and other crimes which injure society chiefly by weakening moral and religious sentiment, and degrading the character of a people.

Acting for such purposes, government should be established on moral principles. Moral principles of conduct are determined by moral relations. The relations of a nation to God and his moral laws are clear and definite:

1. A nation is the creature of God.
2. It is clothed with authority derived from God.
3. It owes allegiance to Jesus Christ, the appointed Ruler of nations.
4. It is subject to the authority of the Bible, the special revelation of moral law.

In constituting and administering its government, then, a nation is under obligations to acknowledge God as the author of its existence and the source of its authority, Jesus Christ as its ruler, and the Bible as the fountain of its laws and the supreme rule of its conduct.

Up to the time of the adoption of the National Constitution, acknowledgments of this kind were made by all the States. They are yet made by many of the States. And in the actual administration of the national government the principle is admitted. But the fundamental law of the nation, the Constitution of the United States, on which our government rests and according to which it is to be administered, fails to make, fully and explicitly, any such acknowledgment. This failure has fostered among us mischievous ideas like the following: The nation, as such, has no relations to God; its authority has no higher source than the will of the people; government is instituted only for the lower wants of man; the State goes beyond its sphere when it educates religiously, or legislates against profanity or Sabbath desecration.

The National Association, which has been formed for the purpose of securing such an amendment to the Constitution as will remedy this great defect, and indicate that this is a Christian nation, and place all Christian laws, institutions, and usages in our government on an undeniable legal basis in the fundamental law of the nation, invites all American citizens who favor such an amendment, without distinction of party or creed, to meet in Thoms' Hall, Cincinnati, on Wednesday, January 31, 1872, at 2 o'clock, P. M. All such citizens, to whose notice this call may be brought, are requested to hold meetings and appoint delegates to the Convention.

WILLIAM STRONG, U. S. Supreme Court,

President of the National Association.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

His Excellency, JOHN W. GEARY, *Governor of Pennsylvania*,
 His Excellency, JOHN W. STEWART, *Governor of Vermont*,
 His Excellency, JAMES M. HARVEY, *Governor of Kansas*,
 The Hon. JAMES POLLOCK, *Ex-Governor of Pennsylvania*,
 The Hon. MARSHALL JEWELL, ** Ex-Governor of Connecticut*,
 The Hon. WM. MURRAY, *Supreme Court of New York*,
 FELIX R. BRUNOT, Esq., *Board of Indian Commissioners, Pittsburgh, Pa.*,
 GEORGE H. STUART, Esq., *Philadelphia, Pa.*,
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 The Rev. A. A. MINER, D. D., *President of Tufts College, Mass.*,
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 Prof. O. N. STODDARD, LL. D., *Wooster University, Ohio*,
 The Rev. M. SIMPSON, D. D., *Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church*,
 The Rev. J. BLANCHARD, D. D., *President of Wheaton College, Ill.*,
 JOHN S. HART, LL. D., *Principal of State Normal School, N. J.*,
 The Right Rev. JOHN B. KERFOOT, D. D., *Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh*,
 The Right Rev. F. D. HUNTINGTON, D. D., *Bishop of the Diocese of Central New York*,
 The Rev. T. L. CUYLER, D. D., *Brooklyn*,
 The Rev. LEVI SCOTT, D. D., *Bishop of the M. E. Church, Delaware*,

General Secretary:

The Rev. D. McALLISTER, 410 W. 43d St. New York.

Corresponding Secretary:

The Rev. T. P. STEVENSON, 1405 N. 18th St. Philadelphia.

Recording Secretary:

The Rev. W. W. BARR, Philadelphia.

Treasurer:

SAMUEL AGNEW, Esq., 1126 Arch St. Philadelphia.

* See page 70.