

Record
 of the
 Minutes
 of a
 Wesleyan Anti-Slavery Convention.

Held in Andover, Mass.
 Agreeably to the following

Notice.

A Wesleyan Anti-Slavery Convention will be held at the Methodist Church in Andover, Mass., on Wednesday, the first day of February next, to commence at ten o'clock, A. M. The principal object of the Convention is, to discuss principles, pass resolutions, and prepare for a grand rally in the Spring. All, both ministers and laymen, who are in favor of the ultimate formation of a Wesleyan Methodist Church, free from Episcopacy and Slavery, are invited to attend and become members of the Convention. Those who may wish to attend as spectators, will not be excluded. The Convention will probably be in session two days. We hope to see our friends, who can conveniently attend, from all parts of New-England.

December, 1842.

Signed

J. Horton,
 S. Lee,
 C. Scott,
 S. C. Sunderland.

[Published in the second number of the True Wesleyan.]

Morning Session First day.

The Wesleyan Anti-Slavery Convention, appointed to be held in Andover, Mass., February 1st 1843, met according to appointment, and was called to order by Rev. Gotham Horton, of Boston, Mass. The Hon. Seth Sprague, was then appointed chairman *pro-tem*, and Rev. L. C. Wallack, Secretary *pro-tem*. The Convention was opened with prayer by the Secretary; after which, the "Call" was read, and all persons agreeing with the objects therein set forth, were requested, by vote, to give their names as members of the Convention.

The following persons were chosen a committee to nominate officers for the Convention, viz:—S. Horton, C. Scott, J. Kimball, J. R. Jackson, and J. H. Wellman. Their report was as follows: for President, Hon. Seth Sprague, Sr., of Duxbury, Mass.; for Vice Presidents, Hon. Seth Sprague, Sr., of Duxbury, and Rev. S. Horton, of Boston. For Secretaries, Rev. L. C. Wallack, of Providence, and Rev. F. W. Sawyer, of Princeton, Mass. The above nominations were confirmed by the Convention.

The President, after taking the chair, entertained the Convention with some appropriate remarks in reference to the favourable characteristics which distinguish this section of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

A committee was appointed to prepare business for the Convention, consisting of the following brethren:—S. Lee, J. Horton, J. Tate, D. Arnold Jr., T. King, J. R. Jackson, J. Kimball, J. Haven, and C. Scott. While this committee were preparing business, Seth Sprague, Sr., addressed the Convention, in a very interesting manner, with reference to the important objects for which this Convention was called.

The business committee reported the following resolutions. [See resolutions No 1 to 12, inclusive.]

On motion of C. Scott, voted, that our brethren of the M. E. Church, who agree with us in the sinfulness of all slaveholding, and also all brethren of other evangelical churches, who agree with us in our general objects, be invited to take seats as corresponding members of the Convention.

Resolution No. 1 was read, and after being ably discussed by S. Lee and D. J. Robinson, was unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 2 was read, and adopted without debate.

Resolution No. 3 was read, and while it was pending, the Convention adjourned to meet at half past one o'clock, P. M.

Afternoon Session.

The Convention came together at half past one o'clock, P. M., and was opened with prayer by Mr. Sawyer.

The discussion of the 3^d resolution was resumed, further discussed by H. Cummings and S. Lee, and then adopted.

Voted, that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at half past six o'clock, this evening.

Resolutions No. 4 and 5 were read, and discussed by D. J. Robinson, H. Cummings, Seth Sprague, Sr., C. Scott, and S. Lee. During this discussion, it was voted to adjourn.

Evening Session.

Convention met according to appointment, and was called to order with

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prayer by Rev. S. Hoes. The discussion of the 4th and 5th resolutions was continued by D. S. Robinson, C. Scott, and L. Pea, when they were passed unanimously.

Resolution 6th was then read and ably discussed by Seth Sprague, Sr., S. Hoes, L. Pea, J. Horton, H. Cummings, C. Scott, and P. W. Sawyer, and adopted.

Immediately subsequent to this, it was voted to adjourn until tomorrow morning at nine o'clock.

Morning Session, Second day.

Convention met, pursuant to adjournment, and opened with prayer by Rev. S. Hoes.

The business committee reported resolutions No. 13 to 16 inclusive. Resolution No. 7 was read and discussed by S. Sprague, Jr., L. Pea, Wm. H. Brewster, F. Goddard, S. Sprague, Sr., B. Arnold, Jr. and others, and adopted.

Resolutions Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14, were read and passed.

Resolution No. 15 was read, discussed by J. Horton and D. S. Robinson, and adopted.

Resolution No. 16 was read and adopted.

Voted, That a committee be appointed to nominate the committees to be provided for in resolutions, No. 12 and 16, to wit: a committee on Discipline, and one on Correspondence. This committee was composed of S. C. Maltack, A. T. Nute, and A. B. Curry, who reported as follows:—for Committee on Discipline, Rev. Messrs L. Pea, J. Horton, and C. Scott, and Messrs Wm. Blakemore, Seth Sprague, Jr., and J. H. Jackson.

Committee on Correspondence, Rev. Messrs J. Horton, C. Scott, and L. Pea. The report was adopted by the Convention.

Resolution No. 17 was read, and after an animated debate principally among the lay brethren, was adopted.

Resolutions from 18 to 21 inclusive, were read and adopted.

Voted, That the thanks of this Convention are kindly tendered to the trustees, for kindly granting us the use of this house.

Voted, That we kindly tender our grateful acknowledgments to the citizens of Andover, for their kind and hospitable entertainment of the members of this Convention.

Voted, That a collection be now taken to defray the expenses of the Convention.

Voted, That the proceedings of this Convention be published in the True Wesleyan.

The Convention, at a quarter past 4 P.M. adjourned *sine die*.

Resolutions.

1. Resolved, That the holding or treating human beings as property, or claiming the right to hold or treat them as property, is a sin against God; a sin in itself, a sin in principle, and a sin in practice; a sin under all circumstances, and in every person who so holds or treats human beings or claims the right so to hold or treat them, and no apology can be admitted in justification of the act.

1. Resolved, That slaveholding being a sin, and a sin under all circumstances, and in every person practising it, and all slaveholders being sinners by consequence, they ought not to be admitted to membership in any Christian church, any more than other sinners, and to admit and suffer them to remain in the church, is to make the church so doing responsible for the sin of slavery.

2. Resolved, That the M. E. Church, by neglecting to enforce her rules against slavery, and by making statutory provision for the existence of slaveholding in the church, by refusing to disapprove of the doings of those conferences which have declared that slavery is not a moral evil, by passing a resolution in its highest legislative and judicial body, excluding coloured persons from the right to give testimony in church trials; by suffering one of the bishops to advocate the right to hold slaves by the golden rule, in some cases; by not calling the bishops to an account for putting pro-slavery resolutions in Southern conferences, while they refused to put Anti-Slavery resolutions in the Northern conferences; by condemning modern abolition in the General Conference, while it refused to condemn slaveholding in the church; and by suffering some of the annual conferences to try, suspend and expel ministers for holding and pushing the doctrine of the inherent sinfulness of slavery; has proved itself to be a pro-slavery, a slaveholding and slavery-defending church, and is justly chargeable with the crime of slavery.

3. Resolved, That whenever the majority of a church sanctions or tolerates in its communion an evil, either in principle or practice, which ought of right to exclude an individual from membership, the minority may of right, and ought of bounden duty, to withdraw from such church, they being opposed to such evil, and take such measures as their best judgment shall direct for the maintenance of the public worship of God, and the due administration of the ordinances of the gospel among themselves.

4. Resolved, That slaveholding being a sin, which in our opinion ought to exclude an individual from membership in a Christian church, and such slaveholding existing in the M. E. Church, and being tolerated therein by the consent and suffrage of a majority beyond our control, and we having remonstrated against the same, and laboured for years, in the use of such means as are in our power, to effect a reformation and purify the church from this sin, and the majority still refusing to hear us, and being in no wise reformed by our admonitions and labours, therefore we feel ourselves called upon, by our love of purity in the church of Christ, to withdraw from the M. E. Church, as the only means left us of escaping the pollution and guilt of slavery.

5. Resolved, That, in our view abolitionists cannot honestly remain in a slaveholding or slavery-defending church, longer than they have a consistent hope of purifying the same from the sin of slavery, not merely by the force of civil law, (but by the repentance of all slaveholders and apologists, be they in the North or in the South) and as we can no longer entertain such hope of the M. E. Church, the time has come for us to secede, and will come for others to follow our example, so soon as they cease to hope that the church may be brought to repentance for the sin of slavery by their instrumentality, within a reasonable time of Christian labor.

7. Resolved, That the government of the M. E. Church, as contained in the Discipline, and explained and administered by its Episcopacy, is antirepublican, and is, in principle, an encroachment upon natural rights, and in its administration subversive, not only of true Christian liberty, but frequently of the sacred right of conscience.

8. Resolved, That the power which the bishops of the M. E. Church have wielded against the sacred cause of the bleeding slave, and the success with which they have resisted its true and holy principles, and retarded its progress in the M. E. Church, have not only convinced us of the danger of confiding such unlimited power to individual men, however correct in principle and pure in heart we may regard them at the time, but has alarmed us for the safety of the people's rights, under such a system, whenever a question arises between the governed and the power that governs.

9. Resolved, That a sense of duty to God, the obligation resting upon us to do what we can to preserve the purity of Christianity, a love for the enjoyment of true Christian liberty, and a desire to leave this blessing as an inheritance for our children, induces us to call upon all of the same views and feelings, to unite with us in the organization of a Wesleyan Methodist Church, free from Slavery and Episcopacy.

10. Resolved, That we recommend to our friends throughout the non-slaveholding States, who entertain the views set forth in the foregoing resolutions, to assemble in General Convention, at Utica, in the State of New York, on Wednesday, the 31st day of May next, for the purpose of effecting the organization contemplated in the preceding resolution, and for the adoption of such measures as may be deemed necessary to carry the same into effective operation.

11. Resolved, That the Convention approve of the formation of those Wesleyan Methodist Societies which have already been organized, and that it be recommended that such societies be formed, without further delay, in all places where it is practicable, preparatory for the general organization proposed in the preceding resolution.

12. That a committee of Correspondence be appointed, whose duty it shall be to advise with, and provide for the temporary supply of such societies, so far as they may be able, and so far as their assistance may be desired, and that all such societies as may desire their advice or assistance, and all preachers who are willing to aid, or desirous of being employed, by way of supplying such societies, be invited to correspond with said committee.

13. Resolved, That while as Methodists we adhere to that form of Christian truth embodied in the doctrines taught by the venerable John Wesley, we believe ourselves fully authorized, in the formation of a church polity, to "follow the Scriptures and the primitive church."

14. Resolved, That while no particular form of church government is laid down in the Scriptures, the principles which should be recognized in every form, are in those Scriptures clearly revealed, and that among those principles the right of the laity to a voice in the government of the church, stands out as prominently as any other.

15. Resolved, That Mr. Wesley, in appointing Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury to the work of superintending the American Methodist societies, did not design to create an American Methodist episcopacy, invested with the prerogatives now held by that office.

16. Resolved, That a committee of six be appointed to prepare and publish, in the True Wesleyan, the form of a Discipline for the Wesleyan Methodist Church in the United States of America, subject to the action of the General Convention, and also prepare an address to our abolition brethren, whom we have left behind in the M. E. Church, on the impropriety of remaining in the communion of a pro-slavery church, and one whose government is anti-scriptural.

17. Resolved, That we highly approve of the course pursued by our brethren, Orange Scott, Gotham Horton, and La Roy Sunderland, in withdrawing from the Methodist Episcopal Church, at the time and in the manner they did, and in proposing a plan for church organization upon pure Wesleyan principles; and so long as they adhere to the principles they profess and maintain, with the Christian meekness, moderation and firmness, which they have thus far manifested, we pledge them our individual and united support. And we also recommend the paper established by Messrs Scott and Horton, under the name True Wesleyan, as worthy the support of a Christian public; and we pledge our support and aid to enlarge its subscription list, and in furnishing communications for its columns.

Whereas, we have been informed that some twenty preachers and six hundred members have, during the last year, seceded from the M. E. Church, in the State of Michigan, calling themselves Wesleyan Methodists; and whereas, we have also learned, that it was their wish to unite with their Eastern brethren; therefore,

18. Resolved, That our Wesleyan brethren in Michigan, be earnestly requested, to send a full representation, to the General Convention to be held at Utica, N. Y. May 31st 1843, for the purpose of assisting in the general organization; that all the Wesleyan Methodists in the United States, may form one connection.

19. Resolved, That all other Wesleyan Methodist churches, which do now, or may hereafter exist, be invited to send representatives to the General Convention.

20. Resolved, That should circumstances arise, which, in the judgment of the committee of Correspondence, should require an alteration either in the time or place of holding the General Convention, they be authorized to make such alteration; provided suitable notice be given.

21. Resolved, That the committee of Correspondence be authorized to call local Conventions, whenever it may be deemed expedient, prior to the contemplated Convention in the spring or summer; and if absolutely necessary to the interests of the cause, to change the time and place fixed upon for said Convention.

Roll of members.

Names	Residences
Hon. Seth Sprague, Junr.	Duxbury, Mass.
" Seth Sprague, Sr.	" "
Hon. Orange Scott	Boston, "
" Gotham Horton	" "
Mr. J. W. Willman	" "