

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION

OF THE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN

SYNOD OF NEW-JERSEY.

Held at Centreville, Northampton Co., Pa., from October 2d to 5th, 1863.

New-York:

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1863.

OFFICERS OF THE NEW-JERSEY SYNOD.

President: Rev. J. N. UNRUH, Daretown, Salem Co., N. J.
Secretary: Rev. A. HILLER, German Valley, Morris Co., N. J.
Treasurer: Mr. A. B. WELLER, Stewartsville, Warren Co., N. J.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF HOME MISSIONS AND EDUCATION.

Rev. J. C. DUY, *Chairman*; Rev. E. DEYOE; Rev. A. HILLER,
and Messrs. J. R. FISHER and A. B. WELLER.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE.

Rev. J. C. DUY, Rev. Jos. H. BARCLAY, and Rev. J. I. BURRELL.

SPEAKERS FOR NEXT YEAR.

Synodical Sermon, the SECRETARY.
Preparatory Sermon, Rev. J. C. DUY.
Sacramental Sermon, Rev. J. I. BURRELL.
Address on Education, " " "
Address on Missions, Rev. A. HILLER.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE EV.-LUTHERAN

SYNOD OF NEW-JERSEY.

Centreville, Pa., Oct. 2d, 1863.

According to adjournment, the *Evangelical Lutheran Synod of New-Jersey* met this evening in the Lutheran Church, at Centreville, Pa., which is under the pastoral care of the Rev. J. I. Burrell. Preaching at 7 o'clock, P. M., by Bro. J. W. Lake, late of Hartwick Seminary.

FIRST SESSION.

Saturday, Morning, Oct. 3d, 1863.

Synod assembled for the transaction of business. The President, Rev. J. C. Duy, having called the Synod to order, opened the session with singing, reading the scriptures, and prayer; humbly thanking the Great Head of the Church for the past tokens of His favor, and earnestly supplicating the Divine guidance and blessing upon our deliberations. After further devotional exercises, the clerical roll was called, and the delegates from congregations presented their credentials and were duly received.

The following is a list of the clerical members and lay delegates composing the Synod at its present meeting:

Ordained Ministers.

Post Office.

Rev. J. C. Duy,	New-Germantown, N.-J.
" P. A. Strobel,	Clarksville, N.-J.
" E. Deyoe,	Saddle River, N.-J.
" J. N. Unruh,	Daretown, N.-J.
" J. H. Barclay,	Stewartsville, N.-J.
" A. Hiller,	German Valley, N.-J.
" J. I. Burrell,	Stone Church, North'pton Co., Pa.

Licentiates.

† Rev. Jacob Bockstahler,	Bridgeton, N.-J.
† Rev. J. W. Lake,	German Valley, N.-J.
† " Richard Lazarus,	Catasagua, Lehigh Co., Pa.

* Absent.

† Received at this session.

Lay Delegates.

J. R. P. Fisher,	New-Germantown, N.-J.
George P. Apgar,	Spruce Run, N.-J.
Lewis Hitchner,	Friesburg, N.-J.
George H. Weller,	Stewartsville, N.-J.
J. R. Terhune,	Saddle River, N.-J.
J. V. Stryker,	German Valley, N.-J.
Joseph Engler,	Centreville, Pa.

Treasurer: A. B. WELLER, Stewartsville, N.-J.

*From the Congregation.**Delegates from Sister Synods.*

Rev. B. M. Schmucker,	Pennsylvania Synod.
" C. A. Ebert,	New-York, Synod.

Advisory Members.

Rev. M. Officer,	Financial Agent Foreign Missionary Soc.
" G. F. Gardner,	Pennsylvania Synod.
" Malic,	Presbyterian Church.
" MacNair,	" "
" Wood,	Methodist "
" Cook,	" "
Mr. J. W. Lake,	Student from Hartwick Seminary.
" Richard Lazarus,	" " Selins Grove.

The President read his annual report, which was received and laid on the table to be referred to a Committee. The following is the report:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Beloved Brethren,—

Through the forbearing and supporting mercy of our God, we are permitted again to meet in Synodical Convention.

During the whole of the past year, the struggle for the maintenance of our Government has continued, vast districts of country have been laid waste; thousands of lives have been sacrificed; and numberless homes have been filled with lamentation and woe, because of loved ones who have perished in the hospital, or fallen on the battle-field. Happily, so far as the field committed to our care is concerned, we have been spared from these chastising strokes. And while we deeply sympathise with those whose lot it is thus to suffer, we would be sincerely grateful for our exemption from the various trials which so many of our fellow-citizens have been called to endure. We have enjoyed without molestation our usual mercies, temporal and spiritual, and we should give it in charge to our souls, and all that is within us, to bless the Lord and to magnify His holy name.

Although special awakenings have not been as numerous as in former years in our churches, yet their condition for the most part has been peaceful and prosperous, and we have every reason to put our trust in God, and go forward with zeal, and hope to possess the land before us:

Dismissions and Changes.

Immediately after the adjournment of Synod last fall, Rev. J. L. Rau

left his mission-field in Southern New-Jersey, and removed to Petersburg, Canada, where he now has charge of several congregations. In the month of June last, I received a letter from him, requesting a certificate of dismission from our body, with a view of his uniting with the Canada Synod. His dismission was accordingly granted on the 29th of June, 1863.

Sep. 18, 1863, I received a letter from Brother Barclay, informing me that he had resigned his charge at Stewartsville, the pulpit there to be vacant on the first of November proximo, and that he had accepted a call to Lower Red Hook, New-York. His application for an honorable dismission has been granted. We exceedingly regret the removal of Brother Barclay from among us, and pray that he may be happy and abundantly successful in his new field of labor.

Our Mission Field.

After the removal of Rev. Rau to Canada, Rev. Mr. Bockstahler succeeded him in the charge at Bridgeton, Salem Co. I have heard incidentally that his efforts there have been acceptable and profitable. You will no doubt have a particular report on this subject through the Missionary and Education Committee.

Our Licentiates.

During the year we have assisted two young men in their preparatory studies at Hartwick Seminary. One of these has completed the prescribed course of theology, and will apply to us at our present session for license to preach the gospel.

Mr. C. Stoeffler, whom we sent to the Seminary last fall, was induced, some time in the spring, to take charge of a German Congregation in Saugerties, N.-Y. After being there awhile he applied to me for a license, which, after consultation with the other officers of Synod, I granted—said license expires at this time. At the recent meeting of the New-York Synod, he applied for examination with a view of being received as a member of that body, but was rejected. You must judge whether any action on our part is now necessary in his case.

The General Synod.

The next meeting of the General Synod will take place at York, Pa., on the first Thursday in May, 1864. It will be your duty and your privilege to elect two clerical and two lay delegates to attend the sessions of that important body.

Church Improvements.

The church in which we are now assembled has been recently enlarged, refitted, and improved, at an expense of some \$700, was re-dedicated to the service and glory of the Triune God on Sunday, Sep. 20th. Brother Deyoe preached the sermon on the interesting occasion, and the Pastor, Brother Burrell, performed the dedicatory services. May this temple long stand to diffuse its blessings far and wide, and may it prove to all who worship here, the house of God and the gate of heaven.

And now, Brethren, having served you for three consecutive terms as your presiding officer, while I sincerely thank you for the honor you have so repeatedly conferred upon me, and the confidence you have placed

in me, I cheerfully resign my chair, and hope that my successor will fill it far more efficiently than I have done.

May the great Head of the Church be with us in all our deliberations. May his spirit be with us to guide us into all truth—to bind our hearts together in christian affection, to guide and prosper us in all our future labors, and to fit us at last for a place at the right of the Majesty on high.

CENTREVILLE, PA, }
Oct. 3d, 1863. }

JACOB C. DUY,
President of the N.-J. Synod.

The following brethren were appointed the *Examining Committee*:
Revs. J. C. Duy, J. H. Barclay, J. I. Burrell.

The election of officers being in order, Messrs. *Lewis Hitchner* and *George Weller* were appointed tellers.

The following was the result:

President, Rev. J. N. Unruh.
Secretary, " A. Hiller,
Treasurer, Mr. A. B. Weller.

Various documents, Minutes of Synod, &c., were laid on the table, arranged by the Secretary, and referred to the following committees:

Committee No. 1: President's report, MESSRS DEYOE, BURRELL, FISHER.

Committee No. 2: MESSRS. BARCLAY, STROBEL, J. V. STRYKER.

Committee No. 3: MESSRS. DUY, BURRELL, ENGLER.

Committee No. 4: MESSRS. DUY, BARCLAY, DEYOE.

The reading of Parochial Reports being in order, the order of business was suspended, and the hour of 10 o'clock on Monday morning was fixed for hearing said reports.

The Treasurer read his report, which was accepted and referred to an auditing committee.

Committee: Messrs. J. R. Fisher and L. Hitchner.

Revs. Malic and MacNair, of the Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Cook, of the Methodist, were received as advisory members.

Synod adjourned until 3 o'clock, P. M.

Prayer by Rev. P. A. Strobel.

SECOND SESSION.

Saturday Afternoon, 3 o'clock.

Prayer by Rev. A. Hiller. Minutes of the former session were read and approved.

Revs. Gardner and Officer of the Lutheran Church, and Rev. Wood, of the Methodist Church, Philadelphia, were received as Advisory Members.

After a free discussion on the various Missionary Stations in New-Jersey, on motion, Synod

Resolved, That the Lower German Valley be recommended to

the Executive Committee as a suitable place for Missionary operations.

Committee on the Minutes of last year reported as follows:

Your Committee on the Minutes of last Synod respectfully report: We find nothing demanding the attention of this body, excepting on page 13 of Minutes, the action of Synod in regard to Brother Stœffler; but as the report of the Executive Committee will take up this item, we leave it to their action.

Jos. H. BARCLAY, } Comm.
P. A. STROBEL, }

Resolved, That the report be adopted.

The case of Brother Stœffler was referred to the Ministerium.

The delegate to the New-York Synod reported as follows:

Your delegate to the Evan. Luth. Ministerium of New-York would report, that he attended the late meeting of that body, held Sept. 5th, at Germantown, Col. Co., N.-J. He was received and treated in the most cordial and fraternal manner, and found the brethren of that important body much interested in the success and prosperity of our Synod. There was a large attendance of ministerial and lay delegates, and it was reported that considerable more money had been paid into the treasury than in any former year.

Rev. C. A. Ebert, of Newark, was chosen as the delegate to our Synod. Their next meeting is to be held in Rev. Mr. Wetzel's church, Utica, N.-Y.

J. C. DUY, Delegate.

Resolved, That the report be adopted.

Synod adjourned until Monday morning, 9 o'clock. Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Wood.

RELIGIOUS EXERCISES.

Friday Evening.—Brother Lake preached in the Lutheran Church. Text: 1 Pet. 2, 15.

Saturday Morning.—The President preached the Synodical sermon. Text: Col. 1, 18.

Saturday Morning.—Rev. J. N. Unruh preached the sermon and Rev. E. Deyoe conducted the services preparatory to the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Text: Jer. 35, 15.

Sabbath Morning.—Rev. J. C. Duy preached in the Lutheran Church to a large congregation. Text: Gal. 6, 14, followed by the administration of the Lord's Supper. Brother J. H. Barclay preached in the Presbyterian Church, at Williamsburg, and the Secretary preached in the Presbyterian Church, at Lower Mt. Bethel. Text: Mat. 26, 29.

Afternoon.—At 2 o'clock, a meeting of the Sunday-schools was held in the Lutheran Church, and addresses were delivered by the Revs. M. Officer and E. Deyoe. Although the Church was densely crowded, the "little folks" were very attentive through all the services, and were especially interested in Brother Officer's account of men and things as he saw them in heathen Africa.

Sabbath Evening.—Rev. J. H. Barclay preached in the Luth. Church, and Rev. E. Deyoe in the Methodist Church, at Richmond. Text: Heb. 12, 1.

Monday, 11 o'clock, A. M., the Secretary preached in the Luth. Church. Text: Heb. 13, 5.

THIRD SESSION.

Monday, 9 o'clock, A. M.

After devotional exercise, Synod was opened with prayer by Rev. E. Deyoe. Roll called. Minutes read and approved.

Mr. John A. Fritts was received as Commissioner from Spruce Run.

Committee No. 1, on the President's report, reported as follows: Your Committee, entrusted with paper No. 1, (The President's report) beg leave to say that they have attended to the duty assigned them, and the only items in said document requiring the attention of this body, is one relating the licensure of Mr. Stoeffler, which has been partly well discussed already.

Another item referred to in this report requiring the action of this Synod at this time, is the election of delegates to attend the next meeting of the General Synod. And your Committee would recommend that said election be the order of business for 2 o'clock this afternoon.

E. DEYOE,
J. I. BURRELL, } Committee.
J. R. FISHER, }

Resolved, That the report be adopted.

Rev. M. Officer, financial Agent of the Foreign Missionary Society of the General Synod, was invited to make some statements in regard to our Foreign Missions.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to draft resolutions in relation to Foreign Missions and present them to Synod this afternoon.

Committee: Revs. P. A. Strobel and E. Deyoe.

Committee No. 3 would respectfully report that the documents placed in their hands are,

1. Minutes of the 67th session of the New-York Ministerium.
2. Minutes of the 32d convention of the Hartwick Synod.
3. Minutes of the 116th session of the Synod of Pennsylvania.

The New-York Ministerium and the Pennsylvania Synod appointed delegates to attend the meeting of our Synod.

The Brethren composing these large and important bodies are zealously engaged in furthering the cause of the Master. We find nothing in these minutes demanding the special attention of our body.

J. C. DUY,
J. I. BURRELL, } Committee.
JOSEPH ENGLER, }

Resolved, That the report be adopted.

REMARKS ACCOMPANYING PAROCHIAL REPORTS.

REV. J. C. DUY.—We have had no season of special religious interest during the past year, but our congregation has been peaceful and prosperous.

I would here record, with gratitude to God, that the members of my Church who went out as nine-months'-volunteers in the 31st N.-J. Regiment, have returned, except two noble young men who died in the hospital in Virginia, with their religious character, so far as I can judge unimpaired.

Our contributions to various benevolent objects have been up to the usual mark. Our Sunday-school, numbering all of a hundred scholars and nearly twenty teachers, has been more than commonly interesting. We have abundant cause for thankfulness to the great Head of the Church for the many favors vouchsafed to us.

REV. P. A. STROBEL.—In addition to the \$13.00 here mentioned, my congregation raised \$10.00 during the year for education and missions, making \$23.00. This is a very small amount, and far below what we have heretofore done, but I hope to raise something more for our treasury before many weeks.

I am sorry that I cannot report the condition of my congregation as favorable as it was last year. We have felt the blighting influence of the present terrible civil war in its effects upon the tempers of some of our people. Yet we are not without encouragements. We believe God will sustain His own cause, and He will prosper our Zion in the future even more than he has done in the past.

Amongst the deaths during the year were three venerable mothers in Israel, aged respectively 79, 82, and 86. There is reason to believe they all died in peace, and have gone to their reward. Our Church has suffered a heavy loss in the death of Mr. Elias Fritts, one of our church officers, who was suddenly removed by being thrown from his wagon. He will be greatly missed in the Church, as he was amongst our most liberal and useful members.

A Sabbath evening prayer meeting has been established at the Church, which is well attended, and the interest has been constantly increasing.

REV. E. DEYOE.—The past Synodical year is now added to the number of our years, in which we have only to speak of the goodness of the Lord. We have not been left without the manifestations of the presence of God in our midst. At a meeting held in the early part of last winter in my Ramapo Congregation, some sixty persons professed to have met with a change of heart, nearly all of whom united with the Church. The Sabbath services are well attended. We feel that we have great reason to praise God for the past and trust him for the future.

REV. J. N. UNRUH.—I have much reason to be encouraged in my field of labor, more so than last year. The attendance upon the means of grace is good. During the year some twenty-five souls professed conversion, twenty of whom united with the Church. The Sunday-schools are in a most excellent condition. Our Missionary and Education contribution is not as good as last year, for which I am at a loss to account. We feel the effects of the war, a number of our young men have been and are still in the field. To the praise of those who returned, I would say, they came back still faithful to their Church, and I hope and pray it may be the case

with all of them. My people are very kind, scarcely a day passes but what we receive evidences of their kindness. May God bless them, and reward them with a "well done good and faithful servant."

REV. J. H. BARCLAY.—Nothing of special interest has transpired in my congregation during the present Synodical year. Peace and unity have prevailed, christian kindness has marked the course of the members towards their Pastor. The debt on the parsonage is reduced, leaving but a small amount remaining. Our Sabbath-school has contributed \$20 to the cause of Home Missions in this Synod.

REV. A. HILLER.—Of the amount reported for Missions and Education, \$27, were sent to the Treasurer last summer. The Church in the Valley is still under the Divine blessing in a prosperous condition. The attendance upon the preached word is uniformly good. We have kept up two prayer meetings during the past year, and the Sunday-school in the Church, which we also continued last winter, is in a flourishing condition. While we have not enjoyed any special season of grace, we have not been entirely without the Divine favor. For the most part, in the midst of these troublous times, we have been enabled peacefully to pursue the even tenor of our way. While the standard of spirituality among us is not as high as we would wish, still we are encouraged and thankful in view of the fruits of the spirit evident among us.

Besides the moneys reported, we contributed \$8 to the "Home for Little Wanderers," New-York City.

BROTHER.—J. I. BURRELL.—The attendance upon Divine Service unusually good. Liberality of the people increasing. Communion exceedingly large and full. Pastor and people have every reason to thank God and take courage.

Friesburg, Salem Co., N.-J., was chosen the place of next meeting. Synod adjourned until 2 o'clock, p. m. Prayer by E. Deyoe.

FOURTH SESSION.

Monday, 2 o'clock, P.M.

Synod met and was opened with prayer by the President. Roll called, minutes of the morning session read and approved.

The election of delegates to the General Synod; being the special order, Messrs. Lewis Hitchner and George Weller were appointed *Tellers*.

The Committee appointed to prepare a minute on the subject of Brother Officer in reference to the subject of Foreign Missions reported as follows.

Resolved, That Brother Officer or some other agent of the Foreign Missionary Society will be cheerfully welcomed to all the churches in the bounds of our Synod, and our people are earnestly requested to contribute liberally to the support of our Missionaries who have been or who may be sent to labor in the Foreign field.

Resolved, That our Pastors be requested to present the subject of Foreign Missions to the people of their respective charges as often

during the year as they may deem expedient, and that collections be taken up at least every year for this special object.

P. A. STROBEL, } Committee.
E. DEYOE, }

Resolved, That the report be adopted.

Election of delegates to the General Synod resulted as follows:—

<i>Clerical.</i>	PRIMARIL	<i>Lay Delegates.</i>
Rev. J. I. Burrell,		Dr. A. K. Seem,
“ J. C. Duy;		Robert Honeyman.

	SECUNDARIL	
Rev. E. Deyoe,		David H. Bonyhart,
“ J. N. Unruh,		Henry Blauvelt.

Messrs. J. R. Fisher and L. Hitchner, to whom the Treasurer's Report was referred as an Auditing Committee, reported the accounts of the Treasurer all correct.

The following is the Treasurer's account:

A. B. Weller, in account with the Synod of New Jersey.

DR.		
Cash received from	Rev. J. C. Duy, New Germantown,	\$56.92
“ “ “	Rev. P. A. Strobel, Spruce Run,	11.00
“ “ “	Rev. J. N. Unruh, Friesburg,	34.00
“ “ “	Rev. A. Hiller, German Valley,	53.00
“ “ “	Rev. E. Deyoe, Saddle River and Ramapo,	37.00
“ “ “	J. I. Burrell, Stone Church,	81.00
“ “ “	Rev. J. H. Barclay, Stewartsville,	24.00
“ “ “	Missionary Society, New Germantown,	50.50
“ “ “	Wm. Fulmer, Treasurer, Stewartsville, Sabbath-School	20.00
		\$367.42
CR.		
By cash paid for	<i>Domestic Missions</i>	
“ “ “	to Rev. Rau and Bockstahler	\$65.00
“ “ “	for <i>Educational Purposes</i>	
“ “ “	to J. W. Lake	\$105.00
“ “ “	to C. Stoeffler	23.00
“ “ “	to G. Enders	25.00
		\$153.00
By Cash paid for	<i>Synodical Purposes</i>	
“ “ “	for Printing Minutes	\$21.00
“ “ “	to Rev. E. Deyoe	3.00
“ “ “	to J. C. Duy	75
“ “ “	to J. H. Barclay	3.25
		\$28.00
Whole amount paid out		\$246.00
Balance in Treasury		\$121.42
	A. B. WELLER, Treasurer.	

DELEGATES TO OTHER SYNODS.

To the Synod of New-York . . . Rev. A. Hiller,
 " " " " Pennsylvania . . . Rev. J. C. Duy,
 " " " " East Pennsylvania Rev. J. I. Burrell.

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to have 500 copies of the Minutes printed.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be tendered to the Pastor and Members of this Congregation for their kind and christian hospitality extended to us during our sojourn with them.

Resolved, That we do now adjourn to meet at Friesburg, Salem County, N.-J., on Friday, the 7th day of Oct. 1864, at 7 o'clock, p.m.

The Session was closed with devotional exercises and the apostolic benediction by the President.

I certify, that the above is a faithful record of the proceedings of the Third Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of New-Jersey.

A. HILLER, Secretary.

MEETING OF THE MINISTERIUM.

FIRST SESSION.

The Ministerium held a session on Saturday morning after the adjournment of Synod, when on application by the Secretary for the licensure of Brother J. W. Lake from Hartwick Seminary,

Resolved, that Brother Lake be admitted to an examination with a view of being licensed by this body.

Adjourned with prayer by Brother Deyoe.

SECOND SESSION.

Monday Afternoon, 5 o'clock.

Examining Committee.

The Committee to examine Brother Lake of Hartwick Seminary report favorably upon his case. We recommend that he be licensed. We would also recommend Brother Lake to continue his studies especially in Greek and Church History, as he is somewhat deficient in these important features of his theological training.

J. H. BARCLAY, }
 J. I. BURRELL, } Committee.
 J. C. DUY, }

Resolved, that the report be adopted.

Mr. Conrad Stoeffler having made application for licensure:

Resolved, 1. That in the case of Mr. Stoeffler we deem it inexpedient to take any action which would oppose the action of the New-York Ministerium.

Resolved, 2. That as we have no suitable field of labor for him,

The Committee express the hope and prayer, that God will fill the hearts of all our people with increased zeal and liberality, and that we may all be prepared to perform faithfully and promptly every duty which may devolve upon us in our various spheres, remembering that "the night cometh in which no man can work."

Respectfully submitted.

P. A. STROBEL.	} Executive Committee.
J. H. BARCLAY.	
E. DEYOE.	
A. B. WELLER.	

Resolved, that the report be adopted.

Very interesting and instructive addresses were then delivered by the Rev. B. M. Schmucker, on the subject of Education, and by Rev. M. Officer, on Missions, after which the following members of Synod came forward and paid their \$1.00.

Rev. J. C. Duy.	Messrs. R. Fisher,
" P. A. Strobel.	G. P. Apgar.
" A. Hiller.	J. V. Stryker.
" E. Deyoe.	J. R. Terhune.
" J. N. Unruh.	Lewis Hitchner.
" J. I. Burrell.	J. Engler.
	G. Weller. A. B. Weller.

Rev. J. N. Unruh and wife and Mr. Lewis Hitchner and wife made Brother Duy a life member.

Joseph Stahley, John Dunbar, Dr. Hiram Long, Jacob Hartzel and Reuben Wagoner by paying \$1.00 each made Brother Burrell a life member.

Amount contributed by Synod	\$23.00
Contributed by the Congregation	31.00

Total \$54.00

The Rev. J. I. Burrell and A. Hiller were appointed to deliver addresses at the next annual meeting of the Society.

An election of officers resulted as follows:

Rev. J. N. UNRUH, *President*.

" E. DEYOE, *Secretary*.

MR. A. B. WELLER, *Treasurer*.

Revs. J. C. Duy, A. Hiller and E. Deyoe and Messrs. J. R. Fisher and A. B. Weller were appointed the Executive Committee for three years.

Resolved, That the next annual meeting of this Society be held at Friesburg, N. J., on Monday, Oct. 10th, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

Closed with the benediction.

E. DEYOE, *Secretary*.