

Rev. R. B. C. Howell was elected President, and addressed the Convention in substance as follows:

From my heart, I thank you for this renewed testimonial of your kindness and confidence. For five successive years, you have been pleased to honor me with this high position and gratefully have I received it. I have performed the duties imperfectly, I know, but yet to the best of my ability. If errors have been committed, and it is but natural that there should have been, in a an administration of so many years--they were errors of the head and not errors of the heart. On this subject I feel profoundly grateful and can truthfully say that I have a conscience void of offence to God or man. At the close of the last session, I determined that I would decline a re-election at the present meeting. The influences that led to this determination were various, but it may be sufficient to say I thought I had long enough occupied the chair and that it was time to retire to give place to another. The position, too, is a difficult one--a position of constant anxiety, and I was desirous to be relieved from its responsibilities, especially as I knew there were others more capable of performing the duties effectively.

Local troubles have given me name and identity with certain great problems of church polity. I have seen a disposition to

to convert this Convention into a ecclesiastical court--to the subversion of those great principles which have existed ever since the foundation of the church--principles which I love and will always adhere to; and I fear my retaining the office may be made the occasion of the introduction of new and disturbing elements in your body. You are assembled here from the whole South and have greater questions to consider than mere disputes which belong to local churches. This is, in some measure, a missionary body. Relying upon your sympathetic support, brothers and sisters have gone into foreign land. Let not their interest be embarrassed by bringing into your body questions which do not belong here, and which you have no right to consider. Were this the place for the conflict, I would cheerfully enter the list and maintain the cherished principles of the church. This Convention must confine itself to the objects prescribed by the Constitution. The great principles of the gospel, the gospel of Christ--must be preached throughout the world--at home and abroad. Glorious is the work before us and great the responsibility. What can we do if our converts are divided? What can we accomplish without God's blessings resting on us? What good can we effect without singleness of purpose, unity, and harmony among ourselves?

And now, brethren, in conclusion, I respectfully but firmly resign the office of President of the Convention.

On motion of Rev. Dr. Jeter, the resignation of Dr. Howell ~~was~~ so firmly tendered, was accepted by the Convention. The Rev. Fuller of Baltimore, Maryland was declared elected President of the Convention. He took the chair, he made an appropriate ad-

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thanking the Convention for the honor unexpectedly bestowed upon
him.