



Yours in Christ,
J. J. Schmucker.

LIFE AND TIMES

OF

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BY

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"I have lived, and am dying, in the faith of Jesus."

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CHAPTER SEVENTH.

1819—1823.

NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE CHURCH—SPREAD OF THE CHURCH—INITIATORY STEPS—CONVENTION IN BALTIMORE—OBJECT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD—HAGERSTOWN—NEW ERA—EFFORTS FOR UNION—JACOB'S TESTIMONY—KRAUTH'S TESTIMONY—SCHMUCKER IGNORED—BEALE M. SCHMUCKER'S TESTIMONY—DR. DIEHL'S ACCOUNT—SCHMUCKER'S DIARY EXTRACTS FROM HIS LECTURE—HIS PRESENCE AT BALTIMORE, HAGERSTOWN, AND FREDERICK—FRAMES ITS CONSTITUTION AND FORMULA OF GOVERNMENT—SECESSION OF PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD—HIS SUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO SAVE THE GENERAL SYNOD.

The General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, in the United States of North America, was organized in Hagerstown, Md., in 1820. The Lutheran Church of this country was not then very large. It is estimated that there were then in the whole country only 170 ministers, 850 congregations, (some of which were very small indeed) and about 35,000 members.

These were scattered over a great extent of country, principally in the eastern part of Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Maryland and Virginia, and North and South Carolina.

The following were the only synodical bodies then organized :

The Synod of Pennsylvania, with 85 ministers.

The Synod of New York, with 17 ministers and eighteen congregations.

The Synod of Maryland and Virginia, with 15 ministers and 5,863 members.

The Synod of North Carolina, with 12 ministers.

The Synod of West Pennsylvania was organized in 1825, with 7 ministers.

“As the church began to diffuse itself over a more extended territory, and the number of district synods was increased, the propriety of forming some central bond of union was often discussed. The conviction, from year to year, deepened among those who were interested in the prosperity of the church, that a step of this kind was necessary, in order that injudicious divisions might not arise, and that more general uniformity in the usages and practice of the church might prevail. Our best men felt, that the occasional intercourse of the District Synods, through their representatives, assembled in a general convention, would secure to the church great advantages, and impart increased strength and more efficient action to all those enterprises, in which conventions are so essential to success. This was the origin of the General Synod, which forms a new epoch in our history, and has been a great blessing to the church.”—*Ev. Quarterly, Jan. 1869.*

The initiatory steps were taken by the Synod of Pennsylvania, which is the mother of the other Synods, and embraced more ministers and members at that time, than all the others put together. The first traces of it are found in the meeting of the Synod at Harrisburg, in 1818, of which Dr. J. G. Schmucker, was then president, and at which it was

“*Resolved*, that the Synod regard it as desirable, that the different Evangelical Synods in the United States should, in some way or other, stand in closer connection

with each other, and that the Reverend Ministerium be charged with the consideration of the matter, and if the Reverend Ministerium recognize the advisability of it, that some such desirable union be effected if possible." "Extraordinary unanimity and the most hearty concord and brotherly love prevailed at this meeting, for which the secretary records fervent thanksgiving." *

The officers were appointed a committee to give efficacy to the movement. Communications expressive of the Synod's action were accordingly forwarded to the other Synods, and they were invited to send deputies to the next annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Synod, to be held in Baltimore, on Trinity week, in 1819, for the purpose of considering the expediency of organizing a General Synod.

At that convention a letter was read from Pastor Quitman, of New York, favoring a more intimate union of the Synods. And the North Carolina Synod, holding, "that toward such a union of our church all possible assistance ought to be rendered," promptly elected its secretary, Rev. Gottlieb Shober, to attend the above meeting in Baltimore, and in the name of the Synod, endeavor to effect such a desirable union. He was accorded a seat and a vote, and his presence for this particular object gave great encouragement to the Synod to proceed, and it became the paramount subject of consideration. A committee was appointed, consisting of Revs. F. D. Schaeffer, J. Daniel Kurtz, and J. George Schmucker, with Messrs. Demuth, Keller and Schorr of the laity, and the delegate, Rev. G. Shober, to examine the whole matter and to outline a plan as early as possible.

* Seven years before the Pennsylvania Synod had taken the initiatory steps for the organization of a General Synod; namely, in the year 1811, "Revs. Storch and Shober introduced and advocated the opening of correspondence with the Pennsylvania Synod, in accordance with the warmly expressed wishes for a closer union with these brethren of our common faith."—*Minutes N. C. Synod.*

The report of the committee was thoroughly discussed, and its plan for the establishment of a General Synod adopted by a vote of 42 to 8. Its first paragraph states that, "in view of the extension of the church over the greatest part of the United States of North America, and as the members of the said church are anxious to walk in the spirit of love and concord, under one rule of faith, * * * it appears to be the almost unanimous wish of the existing synods or ministeriums, that a fraternal union of the whole Evangelical Lutheran Church in these United States might be effected by means of some central organization."

The plan thus adopted by the Synod of Pennsylvania was signed by J. George Schmucker, President, and Conrad Jaeger, Secretary, and was published for general distribution among all the ministers and delegates of the several synods, with the understanding, that they were to take action upon it as soon as possible, and that, if three-fourths of the synods adopted it, "at least in its spirit and essentials," the President of the Synod of Pennsylvania should proceed to call a convention of deputies who at such time and place as he might determine, would meet for the purpose of framing for themselves a constitution, to be conformed as nearly as possible to the plan proposed.

The proposition having been favorably received by the requisite number of synods, the convention for effecting an organization was announced to be held at Hagerstown, Md., October 22, 1820. There appeared as deputies from the Synod of Pennsylvania, Drs. George Lochman, F. W. Geisenhainer, Christian Endress, J. G. Schmucker, H. A. Muhlenberg, (a son of Henry E. Muhlenberg, D. D., and grandson of the Patriot), and Messrs. Christian Kunkel, William Hensel, and Peter Strickler; from the Synod of New York, Drs. F. P. Mayer and F. C. Schaeffer; from the Synod of North Carolina, Revs. G. Shober and P

Schmucker ; from the Synod of Maryland and Virginia, Drs. J. D. Kurtz, D. F. Schaeffer, and Mr. George Shryock. "It was much regretted by all present, that from the Synod of the State of Ohio, the expected deputies did not appear."

J. D. Kurtz, D. D., was chosen President of the Convention, and H. A. Muhlenberg, D. D., secretary. A more important meeting was never held within the bounds of the Lutheran Church this side of the Atlantic, and a nobler band of enlightened men could not have been found at that time within her pale, or outside of it.

They seem to have realized the responsibilities with which they were charged in laying the foundation of a United Lutheran Church on this continent, and with the spirit of the utmost harmony they built so wisely that their structure, with some modifications, still remains, and has been by general consent one of the most powerful instruments in determining the character and advancing the general welfare of the church.

The organization of the General Synod forms a new era in the history of the Lutheran Church of this country. Although one cherished object of its founders has not been realized ; namely, the union of all the Lutheran Synods into one organic body, to work conjointly and harmoniously in extending the kingdom of Christ and the building up of the Lutheran Church ; yet incalculable good has been accomplished in the establishment of her literary and theological institutions, in awaking a deeper spiritual life among her people, a more active and liberal benevolence, resulting in the establishment of Home and Foreign Missionary and Church Extension Societies, and last, but not least, her reflex influence on those synods, which have receded from her, or have never even united with her. Already, during the Reformation period, divisions had rent the Protestant Churches into opposing factions.

Even in the days of Luther efforts were made to unite the Lutherans and the Reformed, the followers of Luther, Zwingle and Calvin, into Christian unity and brotherhood ; in America the effort was repeated to unite the Lutherans and Reformed into one Evangelical organization, but the efforts failed. So, alas, also the repeated efforts in America to unite all the Lutherans into one homogeneous Church have failed. The General Synod has tried it, the General Council has tried it, neither has succeeded, and at present the church is far more split up into opposing factions, than ever before. Voices are at this time again loudly calling for a united Lutheran Church in America. Colloquiums have been held, delegates exchanged, Lutheran Leagues are organized, committees on fraternal conferences appointed. What shall be the final result God only knows and time will show. But whether there shall be a united Lutheran Church in this country, embracing all the different languages, nationalities and organizations, bearing the Lutheran name, whether there shall be such a union or not, the General Synod, by the help and grace of God, will go forward, unchecked by opposition from without or misguided friends within her pale.

HIS EARLY CONNECTION WITH THE GENERAL SYNOD.

It has been objected that he could not have had any thing to do with the organization of the General Synod, because he was too young at that time, only 20 years of age, merely a licentiate, and did not become an ordained minister until 1823, nearly four years after the incipient steps had been taken.

The statement in the College Book, by his son, Dr. B. M. Schmucker, will throw some light on the subject. He thus writes of his father :

“ In the General Synod and its work he took an active

part, from his entrance into the ministry to the close of his life. Though not a delegate to that body until its third meeting in 1823, he was present in 1819, 1820, and 1821. When in 1823 the Ministerium of Pennsylvania withdrew, and the existence of the General Synod was imperilled, he was very active in the measures taken to prolong its life, and became prominent in the group of young ministers, whose energies were aroused to meet the demands of that decisive period."

We append Dr. Diehl's account of his early connection with the General Synod. Dr. Diehl was, indeed, a warm friend of Dr. Schmucker, although he did not agree with him in all his doctrinal views. He was regarded as "a very conservative man," and therefore his testimony is all the more valuable. Dr. Diehl writes :

"When Rev. G. Shober, of North Carolina, at the meeting of the Pennsylvania Synod, at Baltimore, brought forward the first formal proposition for the establishment of a General Synod, Mr. Schmucker was a student in the Princeton Seminary. He had, however, accompanied his father, who was President of the Synod, to that convention. When the convention for the framing and adoption of a constitution for a General Synod, met at Hagerstown, Oct. 22, 1820, he had entered the ministry and attended this convention, though not a delegate. That convention embraced a large portion of the ablest ministers in the church, Dr. J. G. Schmucker, Dr. Lochman, Dr. Endress, H. A. Muhlenberg, Dr. Mayer, Dr. F. C. Schaeffer, of New York, Drs. Schaeffer and J. Daniel Kurtz, of Maryland, were in that body. It is said that young Schmucker, a visitor present, interchanged views with the leading men, and was not without influence.

"At the first convention of the General Synod, at Frederick, Oct. 22, 1821, Mr. Schmucker was not a delegate.

So he could not take part directly in the initiatory steps and the organization of the General Synod. Yet, as his father, probably the most active member of the first two conventions, at Hagerstown and Frederick, treated his son Samuel, in many respects, as a companion, and discussed all church questions with him, there can be no doubt, that Samuel exerted considerable influence, through his father and other delegates, in the framing of the constitution, and at the first business convention. He was however a delegate to the second General Synod, at Frederick, Oct. 21, 1823. Here, also, we find him at once an active member, taking a leading part in all important business. He was one of the committee to examine a catechism prepared for the Synod. He offered a resolution, which was adopted, that the materials furnished by the minutes of the district synods, should be wrought into a pastoral address to the churches, in the name of the General Synod. He brought forward his proposition adopted by the Maryland and Virginia Synod, recommending the appointment of a committee on foreign correspondence. This was adopted. His Formula was now adopted also by the General Synod. He drew up, for the General Synod, the pastoral address to all the Lutheran churches in the United States, which was printed with the minutes,—an admirable production of eleven pages, giving a resume of all the synods in this country, and a general account of the Lutheran Church in Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Russia, etc. He was again a member of the third General Synod, at Frederick, Nov. 7, 1825. He was the author of many of the most important resolutions passed at this convention. He was one of the committee to report on an important letter from Dr. Planck, of the University of Goettingen. He furnished a translation of the letter. Both were printed. He also prepared the plan for the establishment of a Theological

Seminary, which embraced the germ and general principles of the charter and constitution afterwards of the Gettysburg Seminary. He was one of the committee to prepare a hymn-book, liturgy, and collection of prayers. The other members were Dr. J. G. Schmucker, C. P. Krauth, G. Shober, and B. Keller. He again wrote the pastoral address of the General Synod to the churches. And at this Synod he was elected the first Professor of Theology in the Seminary."

✓ The Pennsylvania Synod sent delegates to the first regular meeting of the General Synod, in 1821, and then abandoned her own child. Dr. Diehl gives a graphic account of Mr. Schmucker's herculean effort to save the infant organization from destruction after the Pennsylvania Synod's withdrawal:

"If Mr. Schmucker was too young to be one of the nominal founders of the General Synod, he is entitled to the lasting gratitude of the church for saving it from dissolution at the most critical moment. The mother Synod of Pennsylvania, after attending through her delegates one business convention in 1821, determined in 1823 to withdraw. This was considered the death-blow of the General Synod. The New York and the Ohio Synods had not come in. There were but two small Synods left in the General Synod,—that of Maryland and Virginia and that of North Carolina. West Pennsylvania was not yet organized. Samuel S. Schmucker, more than any other man, felt that this was the crisis of the Lutheran Church. If the noble effort of uniting the Synods, and organizing the church should be frustrated, there was no future in the country for the church of the Great Reformer. So general was the impression, in 1823, that no convention of the General Synod would be held in October that year, that the members of the Synod of Pennsylvania, living west of the Susquehanna,

and who were favorable to the General Synod, in appointing a special conference, with a view to organizing the West Pennsylvania Synod, fixed on the very day that had been appointed two years before for the meeting of the General Synod. When S. S. Schmucker, in Virginia, learned these things, he was deeply concerned. He thought the very life of the General Synod depended upon the West Pennsylvania brethren organizing their conference in advance of the day appointed for the General Synod, so that they might organize and send a delegation. The friends of the General Synod had now lost heart. It was believed that the delegates appointed by the North Carolina Synod, having learned the withdrawal of the Pennsylvania Synod, would not undertake a long journey to Frederick; for they looked upon the General Synod, as in the act of expiring. But there was one young Lutheran minister equal to the crisis. Samuel S. Schmucker determined if possible to save the youthful organization from this death blow. If he could help it, under Heaven's blessing, the bruised reed should not break, the smoking flax should not be quenched. He at once wrote to the North Carolina brethren, urging them by all means to come to Frederick in October. He wrote to the Tennessee brethren, urging them to send delegates. He wrote to several in Ohio; and to many of the West Pennsylvania ministers, urging them to change the time of their special conference, and hold it a few weeks earlier, so as to organize and appoint delegates. In letters to Ohio, Tennessee and North Carolina, he expressed a hope that the Pennsylvania Synod would reconsider her act, and at a future convention return. (This she did thirty years afterward.) He paid a visit to his father at York, to urge on him the change of time for the special conference. He called on all the brethren along his route, Reck, Schaeffer, Kurtz, Krauth, Sr., Herbst, etc. By

his herculean efforts he succeeded in turning the tide, and securing a respectable attendance of delegates at Frederick in October, 1823 :—two ministers from North Carolina, a full delegation from Maryland and Virginia, two clerical delegates of the West Pennsylvania Conference, and one commissioner from the Synod of Ohio. It is difficult to measure the momentous interests that hung upon the resolution he inspired in the fainting hearts of the brethren in that critical hour. He saved the General Synod from destruction, and, with her, secured the prosperity of the Lutheran Church in this country.”

The following extracts from his diary will give the reader an idea of his deep interest in the General Synod and his personal efforts to save it from dissolution :

“ I have within the last six weeks written sixteen letters to different parts of our church, in order to support the General Synod, which would have certainly been dropped, in consequence of the secession of the Pennsylvania Synod, had it not been for the exertions, which God enabled me to make during my tour down the country, after the death of my wife. I also, at the request of some of the clergy, wrote a long German address to the special conference, which met on the fifth inst., and is perhaps now in session at York, Pa. The time of their meeting had been appointed on the day of the meeting of the General Synod, but I persuaded father, (who was the pastor of Christ Church in York), to publish it two weeks earlier, so that they could adopt measures to support the General Synod, and send a deputy to the meeting. And my address to them was to promote this object. O, that God would bless his own work, and not suffer the gates of hell. to prevail in any respect against his kingdom!”

“ My soul has for four months past been most intensely

interested about the welfare of our church in Denmark, and Sweden."

While examining the Historical library in Gettysburg, we found among the literary remains of Dr. Schmucker, the following extracts from one of his lectures, delivered to the theological students. It appears to be the conclusion of one of his lectures on Church Government, and gives the account of the separation of the Pennsylvania Ministerium from the General Synod, and the successful effort made to save it from dissolution. It is an important document, and we give it herewith for the benefit of our readers :

HOW THE GENERAL SYNOD WAS SAVED FROM DISSOLUTION.

"With gratitude to God, we turn from the complicated, unstable and unsatisfactory code of human enactments, to the blessed Book which the Protestant Church in these United States regards as the ultimate and only infallible source of their views and legislation on the subject. The views of the Lutheran Church on this subject are detailed in the Formula of Government and Discipline, adopted by the General Synod, and prepared by appointment of said body, and of the Synod of Maryland and Virginia. As the circumstances of its organization and history cannot be without interest to all who expect to practice by the aid of this Formula through life, we will specify some of them, especially, as you have no other means of arriving at them in detail. The Formula consists of three parts. The first relates to congregations, their members and pastors; the second to synods; and the third to the General Synod.

"That part of the Formula which relates to individual congregations; viz: the first seven chapters, was prepared by us (Schmucker) in New Market, Va., as a member of a committee, consisting of Revs. A. Reck, B. Kurtz, and my-

self, appointed by the Synod of Maryland and Virginia, on September 24, 1821. It was presented to the committee at a meeting, held March 5, 1822, in the house of Rev. A. C. Reck, then pastor of the church in Winchester, Va. After having been examined and adopted by said committee, it was reported to the Synod in August, 1822, during its meeting at Cumberland. It was adopted by that body, and printed (not published) for the first time unofficially, at the expense of the late Dr. Schaeffer and myself, by George W. Sharp, in Fredericktown, Md., April 23, 1823, for the purpose of being laid before the General Synod. Having been submitted to that body in October, 1823, it was approved and recommended to other synods for adoption.

"The second part of the Formula which relates to district synods; viz: from Chapter VII to Chapter XX, inclusive, that is, till the constitution of the General Synod, was also prepared by us in conformity to the resolution of the General Synod at their session in Gettysburg, October, 1827, and reported to the next General Synod, convened at Hagerstown, October, 1829.

"It was adopted at the same session, and commended to the different district synods.

"The third part of the Formula, constituting Chapter XXI, is the constitution of the General Synod.

CONSTITUTION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD AND "PLAN ENTWURF," WHICH PRECEDED IT.

"At the time when the formation of the General Synod was first formally discussed, which was in the year 1819, East and West Pennsylvania Synods were embraced in one synodical body, which also comprehended the State of Maryland and part of Virginia. This meeting at which the preparatory steps were taken, convened in Baltimore on the Sunday after Whitsunday in 1819. As the minutes of that

convention, so far as they relate to this subject, were published in a separate pamphlet, which is now rarely met with, and as it presents a brief sketch of the reasons, which influenced the members of that body, and of the steps which were taken, we shall extract the paragraph more immediately concerned, and present a translation of it. It may not be amiss to state, that the '*Plan Entwurf*,' or sketch of a plan of union then adopted, had never been translated into English :

'WHEREAS the Evangelical Lutheran Church has, under the guidance of divine providence extended itself over the greater part of the United States of North America, and

'WHEREAS the members of said church are desirous of walking together in the spirit of love and unity, guided by one rule of faith ;

'Therefore, the ministers, and generally also, lay delegates of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, have hitherto annually met, and held synodical; or as others term them, ministerial sessions, in order to preserve the bond of love and unity, and to settle any differences, which may have arisen. But as the number of these synods or ministeriums, has been multiplied in consequence of the great extension of said church, and from the same cause may increase still more, and thus eventually unnecessary and injurious divisions might arise, and also deviations from the common design hitherto had in view by said church ;

'Therefore, the existing synods, or ministeriums, seem almost unanimously to desire, that a fraternal union of the entire Evangelical Lutheran Church in these United States might be formed by some central connexion.'

" Such, according to the statement of the parties themselves, were the reasons, which influenced them in endeavoring to form some bond of union in our church. At the meeting of the Pennsylvania Synod, above referred to, the Rev. G. Shober, a venerable minister of our church in North Carolina, appeared as delegate for the express pur-

pose of proposing and urging the formation of a general union among our synods. That zealous and respected father of our church, who has since gone to his rest, had prepared the outline of a plan, which was read before the synod, very much resembling the constitution of the Presbyterian Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. This was submitted by him to the Synod, and formed the basis of the discussion on the subject.

“Several days of fraternal deliberation took place, which *having ourselves been present*, we can testify, that the spirit of brotherly love most visibly reigned.

“The so-called ‘*Plan Entwurf*’; that is, sketch of a plan, was adopted. In this plan the strongest features of the outline, presented by Rev. Shober, were softened down, almost into congregationalism. The ‘*Plan Entwurf*’, signed by Rev. J. G. Schmucker, D. D., as President, and Rev. Conrad Jaeger, as Secretary of Synod, was printed and sent to all the different Lutheran Synods.

“The ‘*Plan Entwurf*’, having met the approbation of three fourths of the existing synods, the President of Pennsylvania Synod, according to the 11th section of the ‘*Plan Entwurf*’, published a meeting of the delegates, to form a constitution for the General Synod, at Hagerstown, on the 22d of October, 1820. At this convention Dr. Daniel Kurtz was chosen chairman, and Rev. H. Muhlenberg, secretary.

“From the Synod of Pennsylvania Dr. J. G. Schmucker, Dr. Lochman, Dr. Endress, Rev. F. C. Geisenhainer and Rev. H. Muhlenberg, together with the lay-delegates, C. Kunkel, Wm. Hensel and P. Strickler. From the Synod of New York, Rev. P. F. Mayer, and Rev. F. C. Schaeffer, with no lay-delegates. From the Synod of North Carolina, Rev. G. Shober and Peter Schmucker, with no lay-delegate, and from the Synod of Maryland, Dr.

Daniel Kurtz and Rev. D. F. Schaeffer, with the lay-delegate, Mr. George Shryock.

“The Synod of Ohio was also expected to send delegates, but they did not appear, and although I was present at the meeting, also, I do not recollect whether the reason was assigned on their minutes, and as my collection of Ohio minutes began with the year 1821, I am unable to say, what action that body took on the subject, although I well recollect, that their principal ministers were at first known to be favorable to the union, and were expected to unite in the establishment of the General Synod.

“The first regular General Synod under the constitution was held in Fredericktown, Md., October 21, 22, 23, in the year 1821. At this meeting delegates were in attendance from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, and North Carolina, but in consequence of a mistake in the advertisement by the secretary, which fixed the time one week earlier, than had been appointed by the Synod, about half of the delegates did not appear. Some started agreeably to the early advertisement, and hearing of the mistake on the way, turned back. The secretary himself, Dr. Endress, having come to York a week too soon, and finding that the brethren would not generally come, till the time appointed by Synod, remained a week at father's, and then went with him to Synod.

“In September of this year the Synod of Ohio had the constitution of the General Synod under consideration and postponed their final answer till the ensuing year, at which time the subject was resumed, and two delegates appointed to attend the meeting of the next General Synod, and report on the proceedings, after which the question of permanent union with said body should be finally decided. The delegates appointed were the Revs. P. Schmucker and Steck. There was therefore a very flattering prospect, at this time,

of the union of the whole Lutheran Church in the General Synod. There was then no other synod remaining, as the whole church was in 1821, embraced in the Synods of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, and North Carolina and adjoining States.

“ About this time an event occurred, which to all appearances was expected to put an end to the General Synod, and blast the hopes which had been cherished for the improvement of our Zion.

“ Owing to various disturbances and opposition excited by political demagogues, by infidels and by a few renegade Germans from Europe, the Synod of Pennsylvania, at a meeting held at Lebanon, May 26th–29th, in the year 1823, passed resolutions to relinquish the idea of sustaining a General Synod. Instead of nobly braving the opposition of ignorance, prejudice and irreligion, and taking measures to circulate better information among the churches, they resolved to abandon the General Synod, to take no steps towards establishing a theological seminary, and to adhere to those resolutions till their churches requested them to abandon them, and instructed their president to communicate these resolutions to the other synods who had united in the General Synod. As the Pennsylvania Synod at that time constituted more than half of the whole church, and had been chiefly instrumental in establishing the General Synod, her abandonment of the cause was deemed by nearly all as decisive of the fate of that institution. How fully this impression prevailed, may be seen from the fact that the members of the Pennsylvania Synod who resided west of the Susquehanna, some of whom were very warm friends of the General Synod, after the passage of the above resolutions at Lebanon, consulted together about holding a special conference, considering the General Synod as defunct, and appointed their conference on the very day

which had been fixed for the meeting of the General Synod in the ensuing fall. This was indeed an important crisis. It was evident that if this attempt to establish a General Synod should be abandoned, nothing like it could be attempted for years, and our church would continue in her former lifeless and distracted condition.

“ With these views, as soon as I heard of the recession of the Pennsylvania Synod, I felt convinced that faithfulness to the cause of our beloved Zion required a desperate effort to sustain the General Synod, notwithstanding the fearful odds of influence arrayed against it. I therefore immediately wrote to the principal brethren friendly to the cause, and in a few days determined to visit those brethren personally, and devise means to sustain the General Synod. With this view I started from home about a week after the news of the recession of the Pennsylvania Synod reached me, and visited the principal brethren. At Frederick in conjunction with Rev. D. F. Schaeffer, we wrote letters to all the ministers of the different synods who had been elected as delegates to the General Synod to be held in October ensuing, and besought them not to regard the course of the Pennsylvania Synod—assured them that the General Synod should be sustained, and begged them to attend.

“ I then went to Gettysburg to Rev. Herbst, who was one of our most zealous and active ministers, took him along to York, and there formed the following agreement, of which I still have the original memorandum, which runs as follows :

‘ At a meeting in York, July 15th, 1823, present J. G. Schmucker, J. Herbst and S. S. Schmucker, it was agreed :

1. That J. G. Schmucker shall publish the time of the West Pennsylvania special conference on the first Sunday in October (instead of the third Sunday.)

2. That J. G. S. and J. H., shall use their utmost influence at the Special Conference to have the following resolutions passed :

(a) *Resolved*, That we are convinced of the importance of the General Synod.

(b) That in Christian love we lay this, our opinion, before the next Synod at Carlisle.

(c) That two members of this conference be chosen to attend the General Synod at Frederick, and to present this, our opinion.

3. *Resolved*, That S. S. Schmucker promise and guarantee the presence of one or more members of the Maryland and Virginia Synod at the session of the Pennsylvania Special Conference to advocate the interests of the General Synod, and aid in forming plans for the furtherance of this object in conjunction with the Pennsylvania brethren.'

"Conformably to this arrangement, father assumed the responsibility of changing the time fixed by conference, and published the meeting of the conference two weeks earlier than had been determined at Lebanon. The conference met on the first Sunday in October in 1823. I had prepared and sent to them a long and earnest appeal, urging them by every proper motive not to think of abandoning the General Synod, which appeal was read and favorably considered. The result of their deliberations was, that the Conference adopted the resolutions which had been agreed on by us, and sent two delegates, father and Rev. Herbst, to the General Synod, which was held at the appointed time, and thus that system of measures secured which has since eventuated in the establishment of this seminary, the adoption of a system of government and discipline, a hymn book, and numberless other benefits to our beloved Zion.

"This General Synod, the second ever held in our American Church, consisted of seven ministers and two laymen ; viz., Daniel and D. Sherer of North Carolina ; Dr.

Daniel Kurtz, David Schaeffer, myself, and Mr. Lehr, and J. Ebert, of Md. and Va.; Dr. J. G. Schmucker and Rev. Herbst, of West Pennsylvania."

Concerning the above Dr. Richard remarks, in the *Lutheran Observer*:

"We thus see how and by whom the General Synod was saved. The principal part of the work was done by a young man not yet twenty-five years old. The crisis was without doubt the most important in the history of our Church in the United States. God had provided the man for the hour. The General Synod was sustained, its Lutheranism from that hour became more pronounced, and the Lutheran Church itself in this country was saved from that union with the Reformed, which was so long sought by the Pennsylvania Synod. 'Destroy it not for a blessing is in it.'"

It seems very singular that, with the exception of Dr. Diehl, none of the writers who profess to give a history of the General Synod, have said anything about the part which Dr. Schmucker took in its organization and preservation from dissolution. Dr. Jacobs, in his "History of the Lutheran Church in the United States," gives an account of the organization of the General Synod and the recession of the Pennsylvania Ministerium, but gives no hint of Dr. Schmucker's efforts to save it from dissolution.

Dr. Morris, in his "Fifty Years in the Ministry," gives a brief history of the General Synod and an extended biographical sketch of Dr. Schmucker; but unaccountably overlooks his participation in the organization of the General Synod, and his successful efforts for its preservation.

When the General Synod met in Hagerstown, where it had been organized in 1820, the President in his synodical sermon very appropriately emphasized the remarkable coincidence, that this, the 70th Anniversary of the General

Synod, was celebrated in the place where it had been organized, but in the printed copy of his sermon containing a brief history of the General Synod, I do not find the name of Dr. Schmucker once mentioned in connection with its origin or preservation.

In Dr. Wolf's book, "Lutherans in America," there is no allusion to Dr. Schmucker's agency in rescuing the General Synod from dissolution. This is all that is said about it: "The hopes which had been cherished for the improvement of our Zion seemed blasted, and many were disposed to abandon the project of a union. Happily the project was of God, and brave and capable men with strong faith and with true hearts, men capable of enduring hardship and of meeting the issue, were provided for the crisis."

We must presume that these later historians have not made themselves acquainted with all the facts in the case. Another generation has come up, "who know not Joseph."

