MINUTES
OF THE
MEMPHIS CONFERENCE
OF THE
Methodist Episcopal Church, South,
THIRTY-FIRST SESSION,
HELD IN
BROWNSVILLE, TENNESSEE,
Nov. 16-22, 1870.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE CONFERENCE.

Nashville, Tenn.:
PRINTED AT THE SOUTHERN METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE.
1871.
CAROLINA

LIFE INSURANCE CO.,

Of Memphis, Tenn.

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PRINCIPAL OFFICE—NO. 42 MADISON STREET.
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COURSE OF STUDY.

The following revised Course of Study for ministers in the traveling connection was prepared and published by the Bishops, May 25, 1870:

FOR ADMISSION ON TRIAL.—The Bible, in reference to Doctrines generally; Wesley's Sermons on Justification by Faith, and on the Witness of the Spirit; Book of Discipline; the ordinary branches of an English education.

FIRST YEAR.—The Bible, in reference to its Historical and Biographical parts, and its Chronology; Book of Discipile, with special reference to Chap. I., Secs. 1 and 2; Manual of Discipline, Chaps. I. and II.; Ralston's Elements of Divinity; Watson's Institutes, Part IV.; The Preacher's Manual; Written Sermon on Repentance.

Books of Reference.—Watson's Biblical and Theological Dictionary; Theological Compend; Fletcher's Works; Watson's Life of Wesley.

SECOND YEAR.—The Bible, in reference to its Historical and Biographical parts, and its Chronology; Book of Discipline, with special reference to Chap. I., Secs. I. and 2; Manna of Discipline, Chaps. I. and II.; Wesley's Sermons, Volume I.; Ralston's Elements of Divinity; Watson's Institutes, Part III.; Smith's Elements of Divinity; Book of Discipline, with special reference to Chaps. II., III., and IV.; Manual of Discipline, Chaps. III. and IV.; Coppee's Rhetoric; Written Sermon on Justification by Faith.

Books of Reference.—Newton or Keith on the Prophecies; Angus's Hand-book of the Bible; Claude's Essay on the Composition of a Sermon; Watson's Sermons; Bickerstith on the Spirit of Life; Whately's Rhetoric.

THIRD YEAR.—The Bible, in reference to the Acts and Epistles, their analysis and design; Wesley's Sermons, Volume IV.; Watson's Institutes, Part II.; Coppee's Logic; Rivers's Mental Philosophy; Edgar's Variations of Popery; Book of Discipline, with special reference to Chap. V. to the end; Manual of Discipline, Chaps. V., VI., and VII.; Written Sermon on the Witness of the Spirit.

Books of Reference.—Young's Christ of History; Neander's Life of Christ; Hickok's Mental Science; Vinet's Pastoral Theology; Stevens's History of Methodism; Paine's Life of McKendree; D'Aubigné's History of the Reformation; Whately's Logic.

FOURTH YEAR.—The Bible, in reference to the Acts and Epistles, their analysis and design; Wesley's Sermons, Volume IV.; Watson's Institutes, Part I.: Powell on Apostolical Succession; Hickok's Moral Science; Mosheim's Church History; Summers on Baptism; Book of Discipline reviewed; Manual of Discipline, Chaps. VIII. and IX.; Written Sermon on Regeneration.

Books of Reference.—Butler's Analogy; Bingham's Antiquities; Rivers's Moral Philosophy; Happin's Homilies; Wall on Infant Baptism; Litton's Church of Christ; Neander's Church History; Liddon on the Divinity of our Lord; Conybeare and Howson's Life and Epistles of St. Paul.


NOTE.—The Examination will be confined to the Course of Study. The Books of Reference are recommended to be read, and the Commentaries to be consulted.

EXAMINING COMMITTEES.

APPOINTED IN 1870 FOR FOUR YEARS.

ADMISSION ON TRIAL.—B. A. Hayes, J. E. Beck, H. B. Avery.
SECOND YEAR.—J. A. Heard, A. R. Wilson, J. A. Fife.
MINUTES
OF THE
MEMPHIS CONFERENCE.
THIRTY-FIRST SESSION.
1870.

The Thirty-first Session of the Memphis Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was held in Brownsville, Tenn., opening in the Baptist Church, Wednesday morning, Nov. 16, 1870, and closing in the Methodist Church, Tuesday evening, Nov. 22, 1870.

Bishop Doggett conducted devotional exercises, which consisted of reading a lesson of Scripture, singing, and prayer; after which the Bishop made a brief address, and took the chair.

The Secretary of the last session called the roll of clerical members, namely:


* Deceased.
Minutes of the Memphis Conference.


This is the complete roll, after adding the names of several preachers, whose charges being on both sides of the line dividing the Memphis and North Mississippi Conferences, according to the action of the late General Conference, they were permitted to elect in which of the two Conferences they would have membership. The clerical members were very generally in attendance; the number of absentees unusually small.

The following lay-delegates from the several Districts were reported, namely:


Somerville District.—J. S. Dickason, James I. Williamson, J. C. Wilson, Richard Hill, (local preacher.)

Jackson District.—Milton Brown, B. F. Transou, S. E. Taylor, Jas. Blackmon, (local preacher.)

Trenton District.—W. L. Duckworth, Hardin J. Turner, (local preacher,) David Whitaker, Wise A. Cooper.

Dresden District.—A. N. Smith, (local preacher,) J. E. Freeman, B. A. Tansil, J. W. Freeman.

Paducah District.—W. W. Robertson, Robert T. Wright, (local preacher,) A. R. Lang, Wm. McK. Hubbard.


Iuka District.—A. M. Lambeth, jr.

J. W. Hollis, reserve delegate from the Dresden District, in the place of B. A. Tansil, absent, was admitted to membership; also Jonathan Luton, (local preacher,) reserve delegate from the Paris District, in the place of J. W. Fisher, absent; Thomas P. Lloyd, reserve delegate from the Iuka District, in the place of A. M. Lambeth, jr, absent; George Johnston, (local preacher,) reserve delegate from the Trenton District,
in the place of Hardin J. Turner, granted leave of absence during part of the session.

The following visiting brethren were present, viz., the Rev. Dr. Redford, of the Southern Methodist Publishing House; the Rev. Dr. McFerrin, Missionary Secretary; Logan D. Dameron, of the Southwestern Book and Publishing Company; R. W. Blew, of the Western Methodist; the Rev. W. E. Cobb, of the White River Conference; the Rev. J. C. Reed, of the Louisiana Conference; the Rev. T. B. Harbin, of the Illinois Conference; the Rev. W. F. Camp, of the West St. Louis Conference; the Rev. J. W. Lewis, of the St. Louis Conference; the Rev. S. P. Whitten, of the Tennessee Conference, and Agent of the American Bible Society. Also the Rev. Messrs. Gillespie and Russell, of the Presbyterian Church, and the Revs. W. H. and B. G. McLeskey, and the Rev. Mr. Pope, of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Besides these, there were present and welcomed, our late fellow-members, the following brethren of the North Mississippi Conference, viz., the Revs. J. H. Brooks, R. A. Neblett, J. W. Honnoll, J. W. Boswell, J. W. Knott, J. C. Lowe, E. J. Williams, J. F. Armstrong, John Barcroft, T. F. Brewer, E. B. Plummer, J. W. Poston, D. L. Cogdill.

W. C. Johnson was nominated and elected Secretary; Edgar Orgain, Assistant Secretary; John E. Beck, Statistical Secretary.

The hour of meeting was fixed at 5 o'clock A.M., and that of adjournment at 12½ o'clock P.M.

The bar was fixed at an imaginary line across the room, from the inner side of the third windows from the chair.

A. H. Thomas, John Moss, Thos. L. Boswell, W. H. Leigh, F. Bynum, were appointed to nominate members for the usual regular Committees; and their report having been presented and read, was adopted, constituting the following Committees, viz.:

Public Worship.—W. H. Leigh, G. Jones, S. E. Taylor.


Bible Cause.—J. G. Acton, H. B. Avery, John S. Dickason, Thos. L. Beard, W. T. C. Young.

Subsequently, Edgar Orgain, R. H. Mahon, A. R. Lang, and J. H. Travis, were excused from serving with the Committee on Education; and H. B. Covington, W. W. Faucett, R. T. Wright, and T. F. Lilly, were appointed in their places. Also, Samuel Watson was added to the Committee on Memoirs.

Conference being fully organized, proceeded with the business of the session, which, as far as possible, is given here, after the usage of the Church, and the form laid down in the Discipline.

Question 1.—Who are admitted on trial?

Question 2.—Who remain on trial?

Question 3.—Who are discontinued?
J. G. H. Wilson.

Question 4.—Who are admitted into full connection?

Question 5.—Who are readmitted?
James M. Spence, Anthony T. Scruggs.

Question 6.—Who are received by transfer from other Conferences?
James A. Heard, from the Mobile Conference; William D. Stayton, from the Louisiana Conference.

Question 7.—Who are the deacons of one year?

Question 8.—What traveling preachers are elected deacons?

Question 9.—What traveling preachers are ordained deacons?

Question 10.—What local preachers are elected deacons?

Question 11.—What local preachers are ordained deacons?
Minutes of the Memphis Conference.


Question 12.—What traveling preachers are elected elders?


Question 13.—What traveling preachers are ordained elders?


Question 14.—What local preachers are elected elders?


Question 15.—What local preachers are ordained elders?


Question 16.—Who are located this year?

N. A. D. Bryant, P. J. Kelsey, David C. Wells, Richmond S. Harris.

Question 17.—Who are supernumerary?


Question 18.—Who are superannuated?


Question 19.—What preachers have died during the past year?

(See Memoirs.)

Question 20.—Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration?

Their names were called over, one by one, and their characters examined and passed.

Question 21.—What is the number of local preachers and members in the several circuits, stations, and missions of the Conference?

There are 261 local preachers, and 25,177 members. (For details, see Report of Statistical Secretary.)

Question 22.—How many infants have been baptized during the year?

621.

Question 23.—How many adults have been baptized during the year?

1,604.

Question 24.—What is the number of Sunday-schools?

244.

Question 25.—What is the number of Sunday-school teachers?

1,786.
Minutes of the Memphis Conference.

Question 26.—What is the number of Sunday-school scholars? 11,984. (See Report on Sunday-schools.)

Question 27.—What amount is necessary for the superannuated preachers, and the widows and orphans of preachers? $1,950.

Question 28.—What has been collected on the foregoing account, and how has it been applied? $1,285, which was applied for the benefit of the superannuated preachers, and the widows and orphans of preachers. (See Report of the Joint Board of Finance.)

Question 29.—What has been contributed for missions? $1,932 50, besides $470 on the old debt, raised during the year, and the assessed amount on the same during the present session. (See Report of the Conference Board of Missions.)

Question 30.—Where shall the next session of the Conference be held? Trenton, Tenn.

Question 31.—Where are the preachers stationed this year?

MEMPHIS DISTRICT.
A. H. Thomas, Presiding Elder.

Memphis:
Second Street, E. C. Slater.
Central, A. L. Prichett.
Hernando Street, L. D. Mullins.
Saffran Street, Greenwood, and City Mission, W. M. Patterson.
Springdale and Bethel, D. R. S. Rosebrugh.
Bartlett, T. P. Davidson.
German town, Thomas Joyner.

COLLIERSVILLE DISTRICT.
W. C. Johnson, Editor Western Methodist.

SOMERVILLE DISTRICT.
John Moss, Presiding Elder.

Somerville Station, W. D. F. Hafford; J. T. Baskerville, supernumerary.
Whiteville, Warner Moore (to be transferred).
Bolivar Station, S. B. Suratt.
Embury, M. D. Fly.
Mount Zion, C. J. Maukin.
Covington and Taberlane, G. B. Baskerville.
Wesley, A. C. Smith; James Perry, supernumerary.
Clifton and Consoradia, M. H. Cullum.
Dancyville, Ashley R. Wilson; R. V. Taylor, supernumerary.
Somerville Female Institute, W. T. Pymmer.

JACKSON DISTRICT.
William T. Harris, Presiding Elder.

Jackson Station, James A. Heard.
East Jackson, W. T. Boiling.
Jackson Circuit, W. B. Seward, T. F. Sanders.
Humboldt and Milan, Edgar Orgain.
Brownsville Station, Guilford Jones.
Taberlane, B. A. Hayes.
Memphis Conference Female Institute, A. W. Jones, President.

TRENTON DISTRICT.
W. H. Leshon, Presiding Elder.

Trenton Station, Smith W. Moore.
Trenton Circuit, M. M. Taylor; N. Sullivan, supernumerary.
Cageville, B. M. Barrow.
Friendship, John Randle.
Dyersburg Station, H. B. Avery; G. B. Allen, supernumerary.
Dyersburg Circuit, W. J. Mahon.
Kenton, N. P. Ramsey.
Brownsville Circuit, James M. Scott, J. S. Renshaw.
Gibson, John C. Reed (to be transferred.)
Ashport Mission, to be supplied (by Jonathan Richardson.)
Andrew College, S. W. Moore, President.

DRESDEN DISTRICT.
J. G. Aaron, Presiding Elder.

Dresden Station, B. F. Blackmon.
Dresden Circuit, J. M. Spence.
Hickman Station, to be supplied.
Hickman Circuit, James G. Pirle.
Madris Bed, E. B. Plummer.
Troy, Wade H. Frost; M. D. Robinson, supernumerary.
Union City Station, John E. Beck.
Richland, Simpson Weaver.
Boydsville, W. J. C. Young.
McKenzie Circuit, H. B. Covington; J. C. Crews, supernumerary.
Murray, B. C. McCutchen.
PADUCAH DISTRICT.

R. H. MAHON, Presiding Elder.

Paducah Station, Joseph H. Evans.
Blandville, to be supplied (by J. A. Mason); B. H. Bishop, supernumerary.
Columbus and Clinton Station, Findley Bynum.

Clinton, James M. Flatt.
Milburn, F. A. Wilkerson.
Mayfield Station, Jasper V. Fly; A. L. Hanson, supernumerary.
Benton, Wiley B. Quinn.
Wadesborough, to be supplied.
Birmingham, Thomas C. Ellis.
Briensburg, to be supplied.

PARIS DISTRICT.

John H. WITT, Presiding Elder.

Paris Station, F. S. Petway (to be transferred).
Paris Circuit, W. A. Cook; D. M. K. Collins, supernumerary.

McKenzie Station, Samuel A. Mason.
Conyersville, Thomas R. Litter.
Camden, to be supplied (by Thomas E. Hall).
Huntingdon, Janius P. Walker.
Trezvant, R. A. Umstead.
Salem, Benjamin F. Peeples.
Lexington, R. S. Swift.
Morgan’s Creek, Benjamin Peeples.
Decaturville, Rauben R. Nelson.
Saltillo, J. R. Sykes.

TRANSFERRED.


MEMOIRS.

TUESDAY EVENING, November 22.

The Report of the Committee on Memoirs was submitted, and having been read, was adopted, viz.:

Your Committee on Memoirs beg leave to present the following report:

REV. JAMES BRYANT MCCUTCHEB, son of Rev. David C. and Priscilla McCutchen, was born, near Murfreesboro, Tenn., Aug. 26, 1829, and removed with his parents to Gibson county, Tenn., in 1835. He professed religion at home in the fourteenth year of his age, and attached himself to the Methodist Church. He was licensed to preach, and joined the Memphis Annual Conference, at Brownsville, in 1852. His first appointment was Camden Circuit, which he traveled in 1853; Mt. Pinson, 1854; Tishomingo, 1855. On this latter appointment he was happily married to Miss Susan W Barnett, who proved a helpmeet indeed to her husband, and preceded him to the better land. She died in 1867, leaving three children. Brother McCutchen traveled ——— in 1856; 1857 he was on Clinton Circuit; 1858–59 he traveled the Paducah Circuit; 1860, Murray Circuit; 1861, Tishomingo Circuit. During this year he was elected chaplain of the 7th Kentucky regiment, C. S. A. In this service he continued till the close of the war, devoting his time and energies to the cause of religion among the soldiers. After the war, Brother McCutchen resumed his place as a regular traveling preacher: 1866–67 he was on the Cageville Circuit; Trenton Circuit, 1868; and again Cageville in 1869–70, where he closed his labors and sufferings, August 23, 1870. Brother McCutchen was a self-made man, having received but a limited education in his youth, but by industry and hard study he had acquired a very good English education, and no mean acquaintance with the Latin and Greek languages. His preaching was of a plain, practical character, exhibiting a large acquaintance with the sacred Scriptures, and with the standard literature of the Church. He was not of a polemical turn of mind, but
when our doctrines were attacked he always showed himself a fearless champion and a trustworthy debater. But few men in our ranks are better prepared to defend our doctrines than he was, and yet he cherished a noble catholicity of sentiment and feeling, that did credit at once to his head and heart. He was not merely acceptable, but popular and useful, making many friends wherever he went. He preached his last sermon on the evening of the first Saturday in August last, and went from the pulpit to his bed with a severe attack of flux. The best medical skill that the country afforded was promptly employed, and all that human skill and kindness could do was faithfully done, but in vain. For the first two weeks he talked but little—his disease being so painful as to require the almost constant use of opiates. He bore his sufferings, however, with great fortitude, telling his friends from the first that his sickness was unto death, and four or five days before his death he predicted that it would occur on the next Sunday morning. After he had arranged all his temporal business, he seemed fully to give himself up, soul and body, to the will of God; every thing like doubt and fear seemed to be gone. He embraced every opportunity to declare the goodness and mercy of God, frequently shouting aloud his praises. All through the week preceding his death he was in this happy frame of mind. The evening before he breathed his last, in the presence of several members of the Church, he reviewed his life and labors: he spoke of his conversion, his call to the ministry, his work as an ambassador of Christ, with the most fervent expressions of gratitude to God for the honor and the blessings conferred upon him, and deplored his shortcomings and the little improvement he had made, deeply regretting that he had not more fully consecrated himself to the service of God. Still he felt that he had not lived in vain, but had been the humble instrument in the hands of his Master in doing some good. Referring to the doctrines which he had preached to the people, he said: "I have preached the truth." At the time he uttered this language he was conscious that he was already walking under the clouds that overhang the last valley. He had preached them honestly and faithfully while living, and now, while dying, he reaffirms the truth of these precious doctrines: now, while engaged in life's last battle, and under the solemn consciousness that he would presently stand before his Maker, he still witnesses to the truth of the doctrines which he had preached. Blessed be the name of God for this dying testimony! Brother McCutchen had felt the truth and power of the gospel often, but he realized now, as he had never done before, the truth, the completeness, and the glory of the gospel. His mind remained unclouded to the last. During the whole of Saturday night he was in the most happy state of mind, singing and shouting the praises of God; not the least cloud in his moral sky; not a single doubt or fear. "My way," said he, "is as clear as a sunbeam;" and as he went lower and lower into the cold river, he sent back the soul-cheering cry, "All is well:" until nine o'clock Sabbath morning, August 28, 1870, he passed to his glorious reward. Thank God he has left to us the savor of a good name, and the heritage of a good example, by which we are encouraged to press on until we join our dear brother in the skies!

REV. J. D. SLAUGHTER was reared by pious parents, and early in life sought and found peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Not long after this he attached himself to the M. E. Church, South, at Clifton Camp-ground, in Tipton county, Tenn., where he was converted. He continued a consistent member of that Church until he was licensed to preach in 1857, and recommended to the Memphis Annual Conference, into which he was received on probation, and continued to travel
and preach until after he had graduated and been ordained an elder. Some ten years ago he asked and received a supernumerary relation, in which he continued to preach as health and circumstances would allow, until the meeting of our Conference at Holly Springs, twelve months ago. By this time he considered himself able to do the work of a travelling preacher, and was appointed by Bishop Kavanaugh to Em­bury Circuit, with Brother A. C. Smith. This was his last appointment. He entered upon his labors soon after Conference, and continued to fill his appointments regularly until some time in the month of May, 1870, when he was prostrated by the fatal disease which ended at once his labors and his sufferings. Brother Slaughter died of something like typhoid fever, after an illness of about two weeks, bearing his sufferings with great patience. He expressed his confidence in the blessed Redeemer frequently during his illness, and left to sorrowing loved ones the heart­comforting testimony that he was going home. His end was calm, peaceful, and triumphant. “Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord.” He died May 30, 1870, and his remains were interred near the spot where he was converted, there to be watched by angels until God shall bid him rise. Now that Brother Slaughter is gone, we feel to write it down, and lay it up in the archives of our Conference, that oncoming generations may read it, that he was a true man, a good man, a servant of the Most High God. In all the relations of life, whether at home or abroad, in sickness and in health, he was the same meek, humble, devoted follower of Christ. Farewell, dear brother, we will soon meet you again. Brother Slaughter leaves a disconsolate widow and two little children, who have special claims upon our sym­pathies, our prayers, and our providence. May the Lord bless Sister Slaughter and her fatherless children, together with the large number of relatives and friends who loved our brother while living; and revere him now dead!

REV. JOSEPH PINCKNEY McCALL was born in Mississippi; professed religion while young, and joined the Methodist Protestant Church. He soon felt it to be his duty to preach the gospel, and accordingly applied to and received license to preach from the Methodist Protestant Church. Soon after this the war came on, and Brother McCall went out as a volunteer in the Southern army, in which he continued until his health failed. It was perhaps in 1864 that the writer made his acquaintance in Tipton county, Tenn., and a friendship commenced between us that was only broken off by death. During the war the Church to which he had belonged in Mississippi was scattered and broken up, and he had lost his papers. In this condition he applied to the writer, and was received into the Church, and in due course recom­mended to the Quarterly Conference, and licensed to preach. In the fall of 1866 he was recommended and received on trial in the Memphis Annual Conference. His first appointment was Wesley Circuit, with Rev. A. R. Wilson as preacher in charge. At the Conferences in 1867-68, he was sent to Dresden Station. His last appoint­ment was Hickman Station, at which place he labored faithfully until he was called from labor to his great reward. He fell asleep calmly and triumphantly, (at the house of a friend in Hickman, Ky.,) after a severe illness, on the 8th of April, 1870. We learn that Brother McCall said but little during his sickness in regard to his future prospects, but what little he said was quite satisfactory. He leaves an untarnished record. All that we know, and all that we have heard, justifies the state­ment that a good and useful young man has fallen. He was universally popular with the people wherever he went, and was rapidly winning his way to place and distinction among us. One prominent trait in his character was his child-like sim-
plicity, and his perfect willingness to be led and governed by older brethren. As a preacher, he was above ordinary for one of his age; having an active mind, and being of studious habits, he acquitted himself well in the pulpit, and had it pleased our heavenly Father to preserve his life, he would have been a flaming minister of the New Testament; but he has gone home to rest. Peace to his memory!

**REV. WILLIAM McMAHON** was born in Dumfries, Prince William county, Va., December 16, 1785 or 1786. In his early childhood his father removed to Hampshire county, Va., where he soon died, leaving a widow with six sons and four daughters. His mother was a deeply pious woman, and early impressed his heart with the truth and necessity of religion. Under the ministry of the Rev. James Ward he was fully awakened, and not long after, at a camp-meeting held near Old Town, in the State of Maryland, he was happily converted to God. He was appointed class-leader by Rev. Peter Cartwright, and afterward licensed to exhort by Rev. James Quinn. Brother McMahon was found to be so useful as an exhorter that he was soon licensed to preach, and at the Conference of 1811 was received into the traveling connection. His first appointment was Silver Creek, in the Territory of Indiana. At the Conference of 1812 he was sent to Kentucky, where he remained four years, and traveled the Lexington, Shelby, Jefferson, and Fleming Circuits. During the few years which he passed in Kentucky he was remarkably useful. Under his ministry thousands were awakened and converted to God. In 1816 he was transferred to the Mississippi Conference to take charge of a District. He started on his journey with Bishop Roberts, but was taken sick at Nashville, and there transferred by Bishop McKendree to the Tennessee Conference, and appointed to Nashville Circuit. Since that time he has been one of the master-spirits of the Tennessee and Memphis Conferences. His health having failed, he located, and removed from North Alabama to DeSoto county, Miss., in December, 1835. Before the Indians were removed, or civil government organized, he was there preaching and building up the Church of God. He was readmitted into the traveling connection at the second session of the Memphis Conference, held in the fall of 1841, and appointed to the Holly Springs District, where he remained four years. Your committee cannot follow the line of our venerable brother's labors farther for the want of accurate information. Suffice it to say, that he continued in the regular work, preaching with a power and success such as but few men ever had, until his health gave way. For several years before his death he sustained either a supernumerary or a superannuated relation to the Conference, still preaching and laboring, however, even beyond his strength. The war reduced Brother McMahon to the most abject poverty. It was very mortifying to him to be entirely dependent. He was sorely tried at this point, but God raised up friends for him wherever he went, and he gratefully realized that the "righteous are not forsaken." "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end."

Soon after our last General Conference (which he had greatly desired to attend, and which he very greatly enjoyed) he went to Paducah, where his son-in-law, Rev. J. N. Temple, resides. After his arrival in Kentucky, there seemed to be no very marked change in his health, but he sank gradually under the weight of years and infirmities, until he finally fell asleep in Jesus. A merciful Providence preserved him to see his brethren at the General Conference, and then to go and die among his relatives. He rests from his labors, and his works do follow him. Many will rise up in the last day and call him blessed.
Minutes of the Memphis Conference.

Your committee feel incompetent to do justice to his character and talents. Few men during the present century have exerted a greater influence upon Methodism in the South. For fifty years he held up the cross and preached the doctrines of Christianity in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi, leaving holy footprints, and winning votaries to Christ. He was, in many respects, a most remarkable man. No one ever had the reputation that he had in North Alabama and Mississippi. Those who have only known him for the last few years are not prepared to appreciate him, nor can we fully realize the great debt of gratitude we owe, under God, to him. It is, perhaps, enough for us to say that a great and good man has fallen. May his zeal, his piety, and his final victory encourage us in the great work to which we have been called, and may the mantle of this venerable prophet of God fall upon some one of us!

Respectfully submitted,

M. H. CULLUM, Chairman.

The following record occurs in Thursday's Journal:

The name of Michael J. Blackwell having been called, John Moss made suitable and affecting reference to his high character as a Christian minister, his faithful labors, and his triumphant departure from earth. A memoir will no doubt be prepared for the printed Minutes, at the North Mississippi Conference, in the bounds of which he lived and died.

The Secretary of the North Mississippi Conference was ordered to furnish a copy of the memoir of Michael J. Blackwell to the Secretary of the Memphis Conference, as requested by him, to be enrolled in its records.

[copy.]

**THE REV. MICHAEL JOSEPH BLACKWELL** was born on Win yaw Bay, Georgetown District, S. C., Aug. 30, 1800. He was converted to God under the ministry of the Rev. Samuel Dunwoody, by whom he was baptized and received into the Church in June, 1826. Not long after his conversion he felt himself called of God to the work of the Christian ministry, which call he resisted, according to his own statement, for twelve years, all which time he represents himself as having much soul-trouble and unrest, and but little, if any, of the joys of salvation. Through an unmistakably visible Providence, and the powerful leadings of the Holy Ghost, he gave himself up to the work. He was licensed to preach by the Quarterly Conference of Marshall Circuit, the Rev. Malcolm McPherson presiding, March 7, 1840. November, 1841, he was admitted on trial in the Memphis Conference, and appointed to Hernando Circuit. He was ordained deacon by Bishop Soule, November 5, 1843, and elder, by Bishop Andrew, Nov. 26, 1846. His successive appointments were: 1842-43, Hernando Circuit; 1844-45, Holly Springs Circuit; 1846, Holly Springs Station; 1847, Salem Circuit; 1848, Wesley Chapel, Memphis, Tenn.; 1849, Belmont Circuit; 1850, Holly Springs Circuit; 1851, Chulahoma Circuit; 1852, Hernando Circuit; 1853-54, Grenada District; 1855-56, Holly Springs District; 1857, Ripley District; 1858, '59, '60, '61, Aberdeen District; 1862, '63, '64, '65, supernumerary; 1866, Aberdeen District; 1867, supernumerary; and at the Conference held in Paducah, Nov., 1867, he was supernumerary, which relation, on account of great and increasing affliction, he justly sustained until his death, which occurred at half-past two o'clock in the morning, Dec. 22, 1869, at his residence in Marshall county, Miss.
This man of God stood in the front rank of our Israel. In our Annual Conference sessions he was regarded as one of the wisest of our counselors. He presided ably and satisfactorily at the session held in Granada in 1862. He was repeatedly elected a delegate to the General Conference. Although he never sought polemic strife, yet when the cause of truth demanded, he proved to be a ready and able debater, putting to silence the gainsayers of our holy religion.

His powers of analysis were very great, and his knowledge and learning extensive.

In the delivery of his sermons his style was pure, beautiful, dignified, and powerful, enrapturing as well as instructing his hearers.

Few men had a deeper insight into the word of God. He was truly a master workman, bringing out of God's treasury things new and old, rightly dividing his word, and giving to each his portion in due season.

His discourses always breathed the spirit of the great Teacher. He was truly an ambassador for Christ, and executed his great commission in the spirit of Christ, making full proof of his ministry in every place and on all occasions. No man was ever more diligent. When laboring above his physical strength, which he often did, his brethren would persuade him to desist, that his valuable life might be longer spared to the Church, he would answer that he had resisted the call of God in his early manhood so long that his soul always felt straitened for time in which to do his Master's work.

In the home circle, and in his more private intercourse with the people, his life was beautiful and attractive. He was eminently faithful in the pastoral office. His conversation was in heaven, whence he ever seemed to be looking for the glorious appearing of the Lord Jesus.

He was the subject of severe and most painful bodily affliction for several months preceding his death. He bore his sufferings with marked patience and resignation. His room seemed rather the vestibule of heaven than the chamber of death. His mind seemed to lose sight of all his sufferings, and to be wholly taken up with his reward, which, by faith, was in plainest view.

He often expressed himself to his family, his physician, and attending friends, that his state of preparation for death was thorough. His humility, his patience, his faith, was strong to the last moment of life. His mind retained its clearness and vigor to the very last, and notes of triumph and victory dwelt upon his tongue, and were heard by his brethren and attendants above the roar of death's river.

Thus, in life and in death, this great man walked with God, and he is not, for God has taken him.

"Soldier of Christ, well done,
Praise be thy new employ;
And while eternal ages run,
Rest in thy Saviour's joy."

May we, his brethren of the North Mississippi Conference, emulate his perfect Christian example, and meet him in heaven!  

E. E. HAMILTON, Chairman.
STA T IST ICS.

MONDAY MORNING, November 21.

The Report of John E. Beck, Statistical Secretary, was submitted, and having been read, was adopted, viz.:

Memphis District.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARGES.</th>
<th>White Men %</th>
<th>Local %</th>
<th>Negro %</th>
<th>Enrolled Bapt.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second Street Church</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>1 23</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Church</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hernando Street Church</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saffarans St. &amp; Greenwood</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springdale &amp; Bethel Station</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raleigh Circuit</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germantown Circuit</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall Circuit (in part)</td>
<td>87</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1482</td>
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Somerville District.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARGES.</th>
<th>White Men %</th>
<th>Local %</th>
<th>Negro %</th>
<th>Enrolled Bapt.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Somerville Station</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newcastle Circuit</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bolivar Station</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middleburg</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macom Circuit</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embury Circuit</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mount Zion Circuit</td>
<td>450</td>
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<td>Covington Station</td>
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<td>Tabernacle Circuit</td>
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<td>Wesley Circuit</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dancyville Circuit</td>
<td>288</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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Jackson District.

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Negro %</th>
<th>Enrolled Bapt.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jackson Station</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Jackson Station</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson Circuit</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humboldt &amp; Milan Station</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brownsville Station</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Denmark Circuit</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Spring Circuit</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medon Circuit</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Spring Circuit</td>
<td>659</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purdy Circuit</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4018</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>286</td>
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</table>

Trenton District (continued).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARGES.</th>
<th>White Men %</th>
<th>Local %</th>
<th>Negro %</th>
<th>Enrolled Bapt.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kenton Circuit</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gibson Circuit</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3646</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>75</td>
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Dresden District.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARGES.</th>
<th>White Men %</th>
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<th>Enrolled Bapt.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hickman Station</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hickman Circuit</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madrid Bend Circuit</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Troy Circuit</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union City &amp; Troy Station</td>
<td>237</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richland Circuit</td>
<td>621</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boydsville Circuit</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>McKenzie Circuit</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Murray Circuit</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4734</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>244</td>
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Paducah District.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARGES.</th>
<th>White Men %</th>
<th>Local %</th>
<th>Negro %</th>
<th>Enrolled Bapt.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paducah Station</td>
<td>289</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paducah Circuit</td>
<td>422</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Biandville Mission</td>
<td>111</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbus Station</td>
<td>72</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton Circuit</td>
<td>650</td>
<td></td>
<td>43</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestine Circuit</td>
<td>444</td>
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<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mayfield Station</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benton Circuit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wadesboro Circuit</td>
<td>387</td>
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<td>Birmingham Circuit</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Briensburg Circuit</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2977</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>238</td>
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Paris District.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARGES.</th>
<th>White Men %</th>
<th>Local %</th>
<th>Negro %</th>
<th>Enrolled Bapt.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paris Station</td>
<td>110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paris Circuit</td>
<td>589</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conyersville Circuit</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camden Circuit</td>
<td>663</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Huntingdon Circuit</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Trezevant Circuit</td>
<td>564</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hickory Ridge Mission</td>
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<td>Morgan's Creek Circuit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lexington Circuit</td>
<td>421</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dceanville Circuit</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>New Salem Circuit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4634</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>346</td>
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Minutes of the Memphis Conference.

Iuka District (in part.)

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burnsville Ch. (in part)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corinth Circuit (in part)</td>
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<td>La Grange &amp; Middleton Sta</td>
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<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonesboro Ch. (in part)</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>14</strong></td>
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Holly Springs District (in part.)

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memphis District</td>
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<td>91</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerville</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>4018</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trenton</td>
<td>2946</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dresden</td>
<td>4734</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paducah</td>
<td>3277</td>
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<td>88</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paris</td>
<td>4621</td>
<td>83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iuka</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holly Springs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>25,177</strong></td>
<td><strong>263</strong></td>
<td><strong>621</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,604</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The number of conversions reported this year, under a regulation of the Conference, 3,623.

SPIRITUAL INTERESTS OF THE CHURCH.

TUESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 22.

The Report of the Committee on the Spiritual Interests of the Church was submitted, and having been read, was adopted, viz.:

Your Committee on the Spiritual Interests of the Church feel very profoundly the importance of the subject intrusted to them for investigation, and report. They naturally approach it with diffidence, lest they should fail to estimate results by a proper standard, or discriminate in questions of interest, according to a just scale of weight and measurement. Another year of ministerial labor has closed, and as workers together with the great Head of the Church, we have come to inquire into the net result of all our efforts. With a large outlay of material power, combined with and sanctified by divine influence, we find ourselves in the presence of that practical question, What has it paid? The debits and credits of so stupendous an investment and enterprise as this are not kept in earthly records, and no human accountant can draw a balance sheet therefrom, but it remains to be proclaimed in the great day of the Lord. We, then, are left alone to outward demonstration and visible effect, as the criterion by which to judge of the inner workings of the heart—appealing to that law of nature which determines the character of the tree by its fruit; or as spiritual husbandmen, we are permitted to look in upon the garner of our ingathering, hoping that every grain is sound, and duly protected against stealth or decay.

The very nature of the interests called in question is an assertion of our claim to spirituality as a Church. The direct influence of the Holy Ghost upon the heart, transforming and renewing our nature, and assimilating us into the holiness of God, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, is the doctrine which flows as the life-current through our ecclesiastical polity. Without this, we would be as a body without its soul—the earth without its sun. It is this, in common with other evangelical branches of the Church of Christ, which distinguishes us from many religiousists of
the present day. Our preachers preach it; our people believe it; all realize, or are seeking to attain and demonstrate it in their lives. Our beloved Methodism, apart from its characteristic mark of experimental godliness, would be a magnificent machine without locomotion—complete in its structure, with valve and cylinder, with rod and driving-wheel; but without propelling power, it would stand as a cumbersome mass of art, the merest imitation of the grand original as conceived in the mind of Wesley. But give it the breathings of the Holy Spirit, and it moves majestically upon its track of progress and development, drawing in its train the causes of Literature, Education, Sunday-schools, Missions, and every other enterprise that tends to the glory of God the Father. Methodism ceases to be itself when it ceases to advance, being predicated upon that living injunction, to "grow in grace, and in a knowledge of the truth, as it is in Christ Jesus our Lord." A member of our Communion, without the spiritualizing element of Christian character, is an erroneous representative of our doctrine, however beautiful and orderly may be his practice. We require an experience that strikes deeper than the mere salutary restraint of Church discipline—that makes a more lasting impression than the baptismal water upon the face—that which goes down into the soul, "tasting of the heavenly gift, and is made partaker of the Holy Ghost; and tasting of the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come." It is our business, as Christians, not to invent, but imitate; not to find a shorter and easier route, but walk in the footsteps of Christ, knowing that it is the "path of the just, that shines more and more unto the perfect day." It is this that translates Christianity from a beautiful theory into a practical business—from useless speculations into substantial duties—from an idea in the brain into an existence in life. It is here we receive our aggressiveness as a Church, and in proportion as our spirituality is increased, so will be our success—a success not measured by numerical ingatherings, but the outgrowth of scriptural holiness. And may we not appropriately suggest that there is a greater demand for this class of Christians now than ever before in the present generation? Yes, verily, the demand of the times upon us is most imperatively for specimen Christians! Not only one here and there, as perhaps the relic of a former Church dispensation, that was characterized by a continual groaning after a deeper work of grace; but with an entire membership imbued with the spirit of agonizing prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Ghost, with holiness unto the Lord, as our denominational signet. We desire our people, with simple, earnest, and unaffected piety, to stand firmly amid the whirl and foam of this superficial age, and with steady nerve and sober sense to rebuke the extravagance of theory, and the wildness of practice.

Your Committee would not assume the prerogative to sit in judgment upon, or expose the defects of Christian character, merely to be critical, but with becoming modesty call your attention to several points of danger, wherein the health of our Zion may be imperiled.

We allude, first, to the periodical type, which our piety seems to assume. There are reported, at the present session, large numbers of conversions and accessions, in which we greatly rejoice. A majority of these precious souls have been gathered into the fold within the last four months—one-third of our Conference-year. While we admit that in the summer there is more of physical comfort, and perhaps convenience, in holding our protracted-meetings, and that it is really the most appropriate season for them, yet we would ask, What becomes of the remaining two-thirds of our working time? As the Church retires into winter-quarters, does there not go along with it a relaxation from duty, both with ministers and members, and, to a large
extent, a suspension, by common consent, of the Lord's business, until the winter is past and the crops are made or harvested? We would not declare that the spirituality of the Church must, of necessity, decline; but what is there to excite holy aspiration, enkindle zeal, brighten hope, strengthen faith, or, in a word, to deepen experience? Does not the Christian, seemingly at least, retire with the idea that he must winter upon the grace which he has gathered in summer? And in consequence of this, how many souls there are, lean and feeble, if not actually starved, whose spiritual rations have been exhausted before the day of supply rolls around in its season!

This is the evil, but what is the remedy? Allow us to suggest that the remedy is in our own hands, as pastors and ministers of the word. We should urge upon the trustees of Church-property to prepare for winter use, if necessary, our houses of worship, and by public ministration and private instruction, impress upon our members that they are in duty bound to use the various means of grace, according to opportunity, and not convenience and pleasure—that difficulties are not to be magnified into impossibilities, and to "trample under foot that enthusiastic doctrine that we are not to do good unless our hearts be free to it." If with this our appointments are filled when it is possible to reach them; our preaching be plain, practical, earnest, and affectionate, looking to immediate results; our pastoral visits quadrupled, going from house to house, "instructing, reproving, or exhorting all we have any intercourse with;" urging upon our people the necessity for a deeper work of grace; stimulating them to the performance of every Christian duty; educating them into that faith that looks for the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit in all their meetings, either public or private, then will the Church not only maintain her spiritual status, but actually bloom, and bear fruit while mantled in the snows of winter.

We allude, in the second place, to the neglect, in a large degree, of the social meetings of the Church. These means of grace come in, most naturally and appropriately, in the absence of regular pulpit ministrations. These serve to encourage and keep alive Christian communion and fellowship—to cultivate both personal and family piety, and are not necessarily to be confined to houses of public worship, but held in private circles, as in the primitive days of the Church. Upon the subject of class-meetings particularly, we would only reflect the views so forcibly advanced by our presiding Bishop, and some of the older members of Conference. We are still bound as Methodists to attend to our class-meetings, though not under the penalty of losing our Church relations. Referring to the prescribed duty of preachers, in connection with this subject, we would ask, with decided emphasis, if all this has been done? Through our instrumentality they can and should be revived.

We allude, in the third place, to the neglect of family prayer, not only among the private, but official members of our Church. At this point there are evidences of unsoundness and decay, which threaten to deepen into a disease too malignant and formidable to be cured. A deliberate and willful neglect of the salvation of one's own children is prima facie evidence of the absence of spiritual development in the heart of the parent. As an exception to the rule, a fair religious exterior may sometimes be maintained, by force of discipline or stern authority, but the germ of Christian life has not been deposited in the fresh and fertile heart of childhood, through religious instruction and family prayer, and therefore there can be no promise of a certain harvest of good to that household; "for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." In intimate connection with this, which, indeed, may be
considered an offshoot from so radical an evil, there is an alarming failure, upon the part of parents, to dedicate their children to God in infancy, through the ordinance of baptism. This is greatly to be deplored. If the extent of these fearful omissions of Christian duty and obligation could be accurately ascertained by statistics, it would reveal to us a more alarming condition of our Zion than we have ever dreamed of, amid the surrounding shouts of new-born souls, or in the flush and excitement of a revival season. What can we do as ministers to arrest these evils, and repair the damage already done? May the great Head of the Church invest us with wisdom, commensurate with our responsibility!

Your Committee must acknowledge that the field is too vast to explore in the time allowed, and too full of interest to be embodied in a meager Conference report; and while they have observed spots of unfruitfulness and sterility here and there, they are greatly rejoiced to declare that a larger proportion of the Master's vineyard is filled with a vigorous and luxuriant growth, promising an abundant harvest to be gathered into the garner of our Lord.

In conclusion, they would offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, 1. That we will rigidly observe our duty, as prescribed in the Discipline, with reference to class-meetings, that they may be speedily restored to the Church, as one of her most valuable means of grace.

2. That each Presiding Elder be required to preach at least once during the year, in every circuit and station within the bounds of his District, upon the subject of family religion, and the duty of Methodist parents to have their children baptized in infancy, and to urge the preachers, through their pastoral visits, or otherwise, to keep these subjects before the minds of the families in their respective charges.

Respectfully submitted,  JAMES A. HEARD, Chairman.

MISSIONS.

WEDNESDAY MORNINO, November 16.

A Communication from the Rev. J. B. McFerrin, D.D., Missionary Secretary, was presented, and having been read, was, with the last printed report of the Domestic Board, and a blank form of a Constitution for a Conference Board, laid on the table for the present.

It was, on motion, resolved that we proceed to organize a Conference Board of Missions, under the new regulations of the late General Conference.

Thereupon, the blank form for a Constitution, furnished by the Missionary Secretary, was taken from the table, and having been read, it was (the blank being filled) adopted, as follows:

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Board shall be denominated and known as the Board of Missions of the Memphis Annual Conference, auxiliary to the Board of Missions of the M. E. Church, South.
ART. 2. The officers of the Board shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and five Managers, who shall be chosen quadrennially by the Conference. In case of vacancy by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Board shall fill the vacancy, subject to confirmation by the Conference.

ART. 3. The President, and in his absence, the Vice-President, shall preside at all meetings of the Board.

ART. 4. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

ART. 5. The Treasurer shall take charge of all the funds and property of the Board, subject to the order of the Board, and shall make an accurate and full report, annually, of all the receipts and disbursements of the Board.

ART. 6. The Secretary shall keep a full and complete record of the proceedings of the Board, and make the Annual Report of the Board.

ART. 7. Forty per cent. of all the collections made for Missions in the bounds of the Conference shall be transmitted to the Treasurer of the Board of Missions of the M. E. Church, South, at Nashville, Tenn. Should any surplus accrue, after defraying the expenses of Missions in this Conference, it shall also be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Board of Missions, M. E. Church, South.

ART. 8. There shall be a public anniversary of this Board at the time and place of the meeting of the Annual Conference. At said anniversary, a report, or an abstract of the report, of the Board and Treasurer shall be made, and the interests of the missionary cause promoted in such manner as the Board shall deem expedient.

The following brethren were nominated and elected officers of the Board, viz.: Samuel Watson, President; T. L. Boswell, Vice-President; J. H. Evans, Secretary; Philip Tuggle, Treasurer; A. R. Wilson, Milton Brown, S. E. Taylor, J. M. Scott, Thomas Joyner, Managers.

The Communication of the Missionary Secretary, with printed report, was taken from the table, and referred to the Conference Board of Missions.

THURSDAY MORNING, November 17.

Philip Tuggle was excused from serving as Treasurer of the Conference Board of Missions, and R. W. Blew was elected Treasurer.

SATURDAY MORNING, November 19.

The following resolutions were read, viz.:

Resolved, 1. That the honor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is involved in the payment of the old missionary debt.
2. That the Bishop be requested to appoint some member of this body to collect, receive, and forward the amount assessed to the Memphis Conference—$1,650.
3. That an effort be made at this Conference to aid in the liquidation of this old debt.

The above resolutions are recommended by the Board.

(Signed) S. WATSON, President.
J. H. EVANS, Secretary.

Thereupon, the Missionary Secretary made a brief statement of the facts in connection with this debt, and of the plan now in course of execution for its payment. Then, in accordance with the plan, he
appealed for contributions and pledges to the amount which the General Board expected from the Memphis Conference; stating that persons responding might obtain the aid of others—congregations or individuals—but must be responsible themselves for the amount pledged by them, and to be paid by the 1st of March next; and in a short time the amount of $1,700 was pledged, in sums of $200, $100, and $50.

Then the resolutions were adopted.

MONDAY MORNING, November 21.

The Bishop announced the appointment of W. C. Johnson, under a resolution adopted on Saturday, to receive and remit to the Treasurer at Nashville, the moneys pledged for the payment of the old missionary debt.

TUESDAY EVENING, November 22.

The Report of the Conference Board of Missions was submitted, and having been read, was adopted, viz.:

The Board of Missions would respectfully submit the following report of their operations for the year now closing:

Blandville Mission, in the Paducah District, has been under the charge of Rev. H. R. Caldwell, who reports it in a healthy condition, with signs of improvement. There are one hundred and eleven members of the Church, one house of worship, valued at $500; there have been nine conversions during the year, and twenty-four received into the Church; there are three Sabbath-schools, fifteen officers and teachers, one hundred and twenty pupils, and two hundred volumes in library.

Hickory Ridge Mission, in the Paris District, has been under the pastoral care of Rev. W. Christenberry, who reports fifty members, two houses of worship, valued at $500, thirteen adults baptized, ten conversions, three Sabbath-schools, twenty-three officers and teachers, one hundred and twenty-nine pupils, $4.50 raised for Sabbath-school purposes, and $17 paid to the missionary.

These are the only appointments recognized in the Minutes of the Conference as missions; but in addition to these, there are appointments in the Memphis, Somerville, Jackson, Dresden, Paducah, and Paris Districts; and in the Iuka, Holly Springs, Aberdeen, Water Valley, and Sunflower Districts, of the North Mississippi Conference, unable to give any thing like a sufficient support to their pastors, and to which appropriations were made by the Board, at our last Annual Conference, amounting in the aggregate to $2,675.

To pay these appropriations, we have collected from the circuits and stations as follows:

Memphis District.—Second Street, $70.75; Central, 3.00; Hernando street, 24.00; Saffarans Street and Greenwood, 24.00; Springdale and Bethel, 29.00; Raleigh Circuit, 31.15; Germantown Circuit, 39.00; Marshall Circuit, 31.40; Byhalia and New Salem, 32.00; Byhalia Circuit, —; Olive Branch Circuit, —; Total, 254.30—assessed, 450.00.

Somerville District.—Somerville Station, —; New Castle Circuit, $20.70; Bolivar Station, 10.00; Middleburg, —; Mason Circuit, 38.60; Embury Circuit, 21.40; Mount Zion Circuit, 15.00; Covington Station, 5.00; Tabernacle Circuit, 30.90; Wesley Circuit, 50.00; Dancyville Circuit, 30.00. Total, 221.60—assessed, 475.00.
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Jackson District—Jackson Station, $50.00; East Jackson Station, —; Jackson Circuit, 35.00; Humboldt and Milan, 25.00; Brownsville Station, —; Denmark Circuit, 69.60; Big Spring Circuit, 8.75; Medon Circuit, 43.75; Rock Spring Circuit, 16.00; Purdy Circuit, 18.30. Total, 266.40—assessed, 350.00.

Trenton District.—Trenton Station, $29.50; Trenton Circuit, 26.00; Carnegieville Circuit, —; Ripley and Mount Pleasant, 7.00; Brownsville Circuit, 145.00; Dyersburg and Union Station, —; Dyersburg Circuit, 25.00; Kenton Circuit, 20.00; Gibson Circuit, 7.00. Total, 259.50—assessed, 300.00.

Paris Circuit.—Paris Station, $8.00; Paris Circuit, 20.00; Conyersville Circuit, 10.00; Camden, —; Huntingdon Circuit, 4.00; Trezevant, —; Hickory Ridge Mission, —; Morgan’s Creek Circuit, 10.00; Lexington Circuit, 13.90; Decaturville, —; New Salem, 12.80. Total, 73.70—assessed, 250.00.

Dresden District.—Dresden Station, $3.00; Dresden Circuit, 25.00; Hickman Station, 21.65; Hickman Circuit, 15.00; Madrid Bend, —; Union City and Troy Station, 22.00; Troy Circuit, 20.00; Richland Circuit, 16.50; Boydsville Circuit, 27.50; McKenzie Circuit, 2.00; Murray Circuit, 15.00. Total, 167.65—assessed, 225.00.

Paducah District.—Paducah Station, $33.00; Paducah Circuit, 16.85; Blandville Mission, —; Columbus Station, —; Clinton Circuit, 10.00; Palestine Circuit, 24.00; Mayfield Station, 11.00; Benton Circuit, 5.00; Wadesboro Circuit, —; Birmingham Circuit, 20.50; Briensburg Circuit, 5.00. Total, 125.35—assessed, 225.00.

Iuka District.—$100—assessed, 100.

Holly Springs District.—Chulahoma Circuit, $25.

Whole amount from all the Districts, $1,598.50; received from Anniversary Collection, 406.00; balance in treasury last year, 506.12. Making a grand total of $2,440.62. This amount we have disbursed as follows:

Ten per cent. to Parent Board, $194.00; Memphis District, 225.00; Somerville District, 100.00; Jackson District, 150.00; Dresden District, 200.00; Paducah District, 550.00; Iuka District, 500.00; Holly Springs District, —; Aberdeen District, —; Water Valley District, —; Sunflower District, 200.00. Making in all, $2,299.00—leaving in treasury, 171.62.

The Board is of opinion, and has so resolved, that for the future appropriations should not be made to the Districts, but to specific appointments, and that these should be known to the Board as missions, and so recognized in the Minutes of the Conference, and be required to make report of their statistics, general condition, etc., to this Board.

Under the advice of the Bishop and Presiding Elders, we have made the following appropriations for the ensuing year: Memphis City Mission, $500.00; Shelby Mission, 250.00; Dresden District, 200.00; Paducah Mission, 200.00; Ashport Mission, 250.00; Mifflin Mission, 100.00. Amounting in all, to $2,000.00.

To secure this amount it will be necessary that the Conference raise $3,500, as only sixty per cent. of the whole amount collected can be used by us for our Domestic Missions. We have not thought it advisable to assess the Conference, from the fact that many brethren believe that more money can be raised without it. We would, however, most earnestly entreat each preacher to press this subject upon his congregations, and collect for this noble cause every dollar possible. We regret the smallness of these appropriations—would that we could make them larger. But taking
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The collections of the two past years as our data, we could not venture upon more. We trust a brighter day is dawning upon us, and that we shall be able another year to increase these appropriations; to enter and cultivate all the unoccupied territory in our bounds, and give to our self-denying missionaries an ample support. This we can do—we will do, if each member of this Conference will do his duty in urging the subject upon the attention and liberality of the people.

In addition to these items, which properly belong to this Board, the following amounts, collected for the old debt of the Foreign Board, have been reported to us:

Memphis District.—Central, $5.00; Hernando Street, 29.00; Springdale and Bethel, 25.00; Germantown, 21.60.

Somerville District.—Macon Circuit, $10.00; Embury Circuit, 5.35; Tabernacle Circuit, 3.50; Wesley Circuit, 17.20; Dancyville Circuit, 12.30.

Jackson District.—Jackson Station, $20.00; Jackson Circuit, 24.00; Denmar Circuit, 70.00; Rock Spring Circuit, 17.75; Purdy Circuit, 9.00.

Trenton District.—Trenton Circuit, $22.00; Cageville Circuit, 21.40; Ripley and Mount Pleasant, 20.00; Brownsville Circuit, 9.50; Dyersburg Circuit, 12.25.

Dresden District.—Boydsville Circuit, $33.00; Murray Circuit, 75c.; Columbus Station, 13.25.

Paris District.—New Salem Circuit, $11.50.

Iuka District, $6.15.

Chulahoma Circuit, 28.50; Pontotoc Circuit, 20.00.

Total, $470.

Of this amount, $139 has been paid in to this Board, and paid over by us to Dr. McFerrin. The remainder is reported to have been forwarded to the Foreign Board during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. Evans, Sec'y.

EDUCATION.

FRIDAY MORNING, November 18.

The Annual Reports of the Trustees of Andrew College, Trenton, Tenn., and the Memphis Conference Female Institute, Jackson, Tenn., were presented, and having been read, were referred to the Committee on Education.

SATURDAY MORNING, November 19.

The Annual Report of the Trustees of the State Female College was presented, and having been read, was referred to the Committee on Education.

MONDAY MORNING, November 21.

A Communication from the Trustees of the Wesleyan Female College, at Brownsville, was presented, and having been read, was referred to the Committee on Education.
The Report of the Committee on Education was submitted, and having been read, was taken up item by item, and those relating to Preparatory Schools, and to the Memphis Conference Female Institute, the State Female College, and Andrew College, were adopted, except the plans for raising funds for Andrew College. Items relating to those plans were discussed for some time, and laid upon the table for the present. Then the report was re-committed.

TUESDAY MORNING, November 22.

That part of the Report on Education which was laid on the table yesterday—concerning plans for raising funds for Andrew College—was taken up, and the committee was permitted to withdraw it.

The Report of the Committee on Education, or that part heretofore re-committed, was again presented, and as amended was adopted, and then the amended Report, as a whole, was adopted, viz.:

As the mind is the efficient engine of power in man, and the great receptacle of knowledge, its proper cultivation and training is indispensable to every useful employment, to every important profession, and to every elevated and noble enterprise; and as the mind is indissolubly connected with the soul, and affords the only medium of access to the heart, education must necessarily make its impress upon every Christian grace, every religious engagement or exercise, and every institution of the Church. Literary institutions, therefore, in their legitimate and efficient influences, must have a most important bearing upon the utility of Sunday-schools, upon the success of the ministry, and upon the accomplishment of every religious undertaking of the Church. The school-room and the Church are thus very closely and intimately connected with each other, and the reciprocal influences they exert are of a most salutary character. In the opinion of your committee, the subject of education is well worthy of the careful attention and earnest consideration of the members of this Conference, and in its proper tendencies and essential relations is eminently consistent with the great work of the ministry.

And now we emphatically ask the question, Have we not, as members of this Conference, and as a great religious community, viewed this subject with too great indifference, and to our own injury, in numerical strength and spiritual power, withheld our efforts and means from the successful establishment of our institutions of learning? That many imperfections and great defects have existed in our literary enterprises, and in the educational system that has prevailed among us, must be manifest to all who are properly informed on the subject. In the opinion of your committee, the time is now come for the Church, through her ministers and membership, to put forth her most earnest and zealous efforts to improve the system of education, and to establish our leading institutions of learning on the most successful and permanent basis.

We therefore recommend to the preachers and people of our Church the establishment of preparatory schools and academies, male and female, in every station and circuit wherever practicable, on the following plan:

1. That they shall be regarded as auxiliary to the chartered institutions which have been received and acknowledged among us as first-class colleges.
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2. That great care shall be exercised in the selection of teachers well qualified in mind and heart.

3. That a suitable preparatory course of studies shall be adopted, and, as far as practicable, uniform in subjects and text-books, and to this end the teachers of these schools shall consult the president of some of the established colleges.

4. That the Presiding Elders shall present, at each session of the Conference, a written report of the number and condition of such schools within the limits of their respective Districts.

We would farther direct the attention of the Conference to the reports of the trustees of the Memphis Conference Female Institute, the State Female College, and Andrew College, at Trenton. These reports, which are the only ones referred to your committee, are full and satisfactory.

1. The Memphis Conference Female Institute at Jackson, Tenn., has enjoyed a peaceful and prosperous year. During the last collegiate year the patronage reached the number of two hundred and eighteen pupils, of whom eleven were promoted at its close to the degree of M.E.L., and five to that of A.M. The institution is represented as still prosperous (numbering one hundred and sixty-four even at this early period of the year), and well prepared in all respects to impart a liberal and Christian education. The report is such as to call forth our sincere congratulations, hearty approval, and earnest recommendation. We recommend the reappointment of the Rev. A. W. Jones, D.D., President.

2. The report of the State Female College is highly satisfactory and commendatory. Its patronage during the last scholastic year reached the number of two hundred and twenty-one pupils, of whom nine received, at the close of the year, the degree of M.E.L. The year which closed in June last was one of its most prosperous. We regard the institution as well worthy the patronage of the community at large in all its departments, and cordially recommend it to the confidence of our people. We ask the reappointment of the Rev. Charles Collins, D.D., President.

3. The report of Andrew College represents the last as the most prosperous year of its existence, the number of students enrolled during the year being one hundred and seventy-two, fifteen of whom were studying for the ministry. A large number of the students were religious, and maintained their Christian character with fidelity. We recommend the reappointment of the Rev. S. W. Moore, D.D., President.

In view of the decided and general opposition to the plans proposed by the Committee for raising money for present necessities, and securing an endowment of $100,000; and in view of the fact that the Committee would not have them adopted without great unanimity and cordial approval; we therefore resolved, that, in our judgment, it is better to withdraw this financial plan, and we recommend in its place the following resolution, viz.:

Resolved, That we hereby authorize the trustees of Andrew College to raise any amount of money that, in their judgment, may be needed for present purposes, by a mortgage on the property, and to provide for the payment of the interest in their own way.


Your Committee had under consideration the report of the trustees of the Wesleyan Female College, located at Brownsville, and are pleased with its condition and pros-
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pects. The College numbers fifty-four pupils, and has an adequate corps of competent teachers. It deserves success on account of location and facilities for instruction. We recommend it to the confidence and patronage of our people.

W. D. F. Hafford, Chairman.

S. B. Suratt offered resolutions giving authority to the trustees of Andrew College to raise funds for improvements, etc., which being seconded, were, after some discussion, on motion, laid on the table.

Conference, on motion, requested the Bishop to appoint William T. Plummer to the Somerville Female Institute.

Tuesday evening, November 22.

The following officers of the Ministerial Education Aid Society were elected by the Conference, viz.: A. W. Jones, President; B. A. Hayes, Secretary; A. Jackson, Treasurer; and it was understood that they should take steps to give new life and energy to the Society.

The following Visiting Committees to our literary institutions were appointed, viz.:

Andrew College.—S. B. Suratt, W. C. Johnson, Guilford Jones.
Wesleyan Female College.—W. T. Harris, J. A. Heard, Guilford Jones.

Sunday-Schools.

Monday morning, November 21.

The Report of J. T. C. Collins, Sunday-school Agent, was presented, and having been read, was referred to the Committee on Sunday-schools.

Tuesday Morning, November 22.

The Report of the Committee on Sunday-schools was submitted, and having been read and amended, and the last resolution having been laid on the table, was adopted. The report as adopted is as follows:

In presenting their report, your Committee would first make an exhibit of the statistics of the Sabbath-schools, which are as follows:

Memphis District—Schools, 12; officers and teachers, 160; pupils, 1,116; volumes in library, 2,272; money collected, $568.87; conversions, 50; Visitors taken, 415.

Somerville District—Schools, 36; officers and teachers, 248; pupils, 1,588; volumes in library, 3,260; money collected, $961; conversions, 51; Visitors taken, 161.
Jackson District.—Schools, 47; officers and teachers, 379; pupils, 2,570; volumes in library, 5,340; money collected, $697; conversions, 217; Visitors taken, 207.

Trenton District.—Schools, 36; officers and teachers, 205; pupils, 1,681; volumes in library, 2,521; money collected, $630; conversions, 25; Visitors taken, 120.

Dresden District.—Schools, 16; officers and teachers, 113; pupils, 1,016; volumes in library, 2,252; money collected, $630; conversions, 25; Visitors taken, 120.

Paducah District.—Schools, 28; officers and teachers, 201; pupils, 1,044; volumes in library, 3,628; money collected, $383; conversions, 25; Visitors taken, 150.

Paris District.—Schools, 61; officers and teachers, 440; pupils, 2,696; volumes in library, 3,129; money collected, $242.60; conversions, 153; Visitors taken, 102.

Iuka District.—Schools, 4; officers and teachers, 40; pupils, 273; volumes in library, 330; conversions, 120.

Total.—Schools, 244; officers and teachers, 1,786; pupils, 11,984; volumes in library, 22,732; money collected, $3,562.47; conversions, 673; Visitors taken, 1,313.

"And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord." "This day is the Scripture fulfilled in your ears." The shadow of the dial is moved backward from the zenith to the dawn of manhood. An institution has been organized in the cradle. Unto babes is the word of life revealed. The Sabbath-school has assumed proportions greater in magnitude than any other institution of the Church. An infant Church has grown up; its membership is computed by the thousand. Of its thrift and strength we have barely a conception. But like all young institutions, its efforts hitherto have been strictly subjective; acquiring "bone, and strength, and sinew." Its mission, objectively, has not yet been defined. It now seeks to enter the vineyard of the Lord and toil for the Master. The Church is the mother of the Sabbath-school—she should determine the objects it should accomplish. Upon us, therefore, this responsibility devolves. Of this your committee are deeply conscious. To it they have given much prayerful consideration. They would enounce this as the conclusion at which they have arrived: Let the Sabbath-school aid in educating the ministry.

By this we mean that the financial resources of the Sabbath-school shall be so developed as that, after supplying its own wants, there may remain a surplus which shall be appropriated to the sustenance of those young men who are students in the school of the prophets. Is this practicable? We answer, It is. For, first, no Sabbath-school is scripturally taught unless its first lesson be, "Give to God." The basis of salvation is a gift. Before he asked us to give, he gave his Son to die for us.

Second. This systematic giving will yield a revenue, even a surplus, over the expenses of the school: otherwise, the system and duty of giving have not been properly instilled. We know of one school conducted on this principle, which, after paying all demands, had a large surplus in its treasury. There are in the Memphis Conference two hundred and forty-four Sabbath-schools. They average more than fifty pupils each. Suppose each pupil contribute two cents per week, in the aggregate their contributions would amount to more than $12,000 per annum. Now, suppose we deduct half this amount on account of delinquencies, there would still remain in the treasury $6,000. Now, suppose half this amount be consumed in defraying the expenses of the school, there would then still remain a net surplus of $3,000 per annum. But $3,000 per annum would defray the expenses of as many students for the ministry as would satisfy the increasing demands of the Memphis Conference.
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However, our suggestion is more easily comprehended in the following resolutions:

Resolved. 1. That the pastors present the subject of finance to each Sabbath-school under our care, urging the adoption of the 'ticket system' of contribution, by which each member of the Sabbath-school gives one or two cents weekly to the Sabbath-school cause.

2. That this money, after paying the expenses of the school, may be appropriated to the educating of young men studying for the ministry.

Resolved. 1. That we recognize with great pleasure the organization of a Sunday-school Society, by a Sunday-school Convention, composed of delegates from the several Districts, during the present session of our Conference.

2. That we ask the reappointment of the Rev. J. T. C. Collins to the Sunday-school Agency.

Respectfully submitted, S. B. Suratt, Ch'n.

J. T. C. Collins, B. F. Transou, and A. R. Boone were nominated and elected delegates to the Sunday-school Convention, authorized by the General Conference, to be held May next, in Nashville. Reserves elected: James Blackmon, James I. Williamson, S. B. Suratt.

J. T. C. Collins was nominated and elected Sunday-school Secretary to represent this Conference in correspondence with the Sunday-school Secretary elected by the General Conference.

During the session of the Conference, a Sunday-school Convention was held, composed of delegates from the several Districts in the Conference. A Sunday-school Society was organized under the following Constitution, viz.:

ARTICLE I. This Society shall be styled "The Memphis Conference Sunday-school Society" of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

ART. II. The object of this Society shall be to promote the cause of Sunday-schools by collecting and disseminating information, and exercising a fostering care over Sunday-schools within the bounds of this Conference.

ART. III. Section 1. This Society shall be composed of the preachers and delegates from the Sunday-schools and Sunday-school Societies of the Memphis Annual Conference of the M. E. Church, South.

Sec. 2. There shall be four delegates from each Presiding Elder's District, to be elected by the District Sunday-school Convention, or by the District Conference.

ART. IV. Section 1. The officers of this Society shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Recording Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Sec 2. There shall be a Board of Managers, consisting of one minister and one layman from each Presiding Elder's District in the Conference.

Sec. 3. The officers of the Society shall be ex officio members of the Board of Managers, and also officers of the Board of Managers.

ART. V. It shall be the duty of the officers of the Society and Board of Managers to attend to the general interest of the Sunday-school cause; to establish new schools, improve those already in existence, raise funds for this purpose, organize
and keep in active operation circuit and station societies, and devise methods of advancing, by all possible means, the religious instruction of children and youth.

ART. VI. Section 1. The President of the Society shall have the general supervision of the Society, preside at its meetings, and shall present an annual report of its condition and operations to each annual meeting of the Society, and in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents shall perform his duties.

Sec. 2. The Recording Secretary shall keep correct minutes of the Society and of the Board of Managers, notifying all officers and members of their election, and performing all other duties appertaining to his office. The Assistant Secretary shall aid the Secretary in the performance of his duties, and in his absence perform the duties required of the Secretary.

Sec. 3. The Corresponding Secretary shall perform all the regular duties of his office; and when the interest of the Society requires it, shall correspond with the General Conference Secretary, and the auxiliary societies and schools in the bounds of the Conference. He shall carefully file all communications addressed to the Society; keep faithful copies of all letters written by him relative to the affairs of the Society, and shall make a full report of his proceedings to the Board at its annual meeting.

Sec. 4. The Treasurer shall receive all money accruing to the Society, and upon the order of the Board of Managers, disburse the same, and make a report of the same to the Board at its annual meeting.

ART. VII. Section 1. The annual meeting of the Society shall take place during the session of the Conference, at which the officers of the Society and Board of Managers shall be elected. There shall also be an anniversary meeting during the session of the Conference, the exercises consisting of a report from the President, addresses, and such other exercises as the Board of Managers may deem necessary.

Sec. 2. The annual meeting of the Board of Managers shall be held previous to the meeting of the Society, and when necessary, there may be a called meeting of the Board, when ordered by the Chairman or any three members.

ART. VIII. The auxiliary societies, through their Presidents, and where no society exists, the schools, through their Superintendents, shall make an annual report of the statistics and condition of their several schools to the Corresponding Secretary during the month of September.

ART. IX. Any vacancies in the offices or Board of Managers of the Society occurring in the interim of the annual sessions, may be filled by the Board of Managers for the unexpired term.

ART. X. At any annual or adjourned meeting of the Society or Board, five members shall constitute a quorum.

ART. XI. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any annual meeting.

The following Constitution was adopted, and recommended for the organization of auxiliary societies:

A CONSTITUTION FOR AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.

ARTICLE I. This organization shall be called —— Sunday-school Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, auxiliary to the Sunday-school Society of the Memphis Annual Conference.
ART. II. The object of this Society shall be to advance the cause of Christianity through the instrumentality of Sunday-schools, and to the accomplishment of this end, it shall, by every means in its power, sustain and strengthen existing schools, and establish new ones wherever possible.

ART. III. The ministers, officers, teachers, and scholars of all the schools represented in this Society shall constitute its membership.

ART. IV. The officers shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, Recording Secretary, and a Treasurer; all of whom shall be elected at the anniversary meeting.

ART. V. The officers of the Society, together with one representative, chosen annually from each school belonging to the Society, shall constitute a Board of Directors, who shall have power to transact the business of the Society.

ART. VI. The Society shall hold an anniversary meeting on the — of —, the exercises of which shall consist of election of officers, addresses, singing, etc.

ART. VII. The Board of Managers shall hold meeting to receive reports from all the schools as to number and condition, and make a full report to each regular meeting of the Society. They may make such "by-laws" for their government as they may think proper, provided that they do not conflict with this Constitution.

ART. VIII. The officers of the Society shall be *ex officio* officers of the Boards.

ART. IX. The President shall conduct all necessary correspondence with sister societies, and make annual reports during the month of September, to the Corresponding Secretary of the Memphis Annual Conference. The Treasurer shall disburse money on the order of the President, and report the same to the Board at its annual meetings. The Board of Managers shall fill all vacancies occurring in officers of the Society.

ART. X. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the Board of Managers at any regular meeting.

The Officers of the Society were elected as follows:

President—A. W. Jones, Jackson, Tenn.


Corresponding Secretary—J. T. C. Collins, Jackson, Tenn.

Recording Secretary—W. M. Patterson, Memphis, Tenn.

Assistant Recording Secretary—A. H. Bradford, Brownsville, Tenn.

Treasurer—David Whitaker, Cageville, Tenn.

The following persons were elected a Board of Managers for the ensuing year:


*Jackson District.*—B. A. Hayes and James Blackmon.

*Trenton District.*—H. B. Avery and David Whitaker.

*Dresden District.*—J. E. Beck and W. L. McCutchen.

*Paris District.*—W. A. Cook and T. F. Lilly.

*Paducah District.*—W. W. Faucett and W. W. Robertson.
BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, November 16.

The Annual Exhibit of the Southern Methodist Publishing House, with a communication from the Rev. A. H. Redford, D.D., Book Agent, was presented, and having been read, was referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

THURSDAY MORNING, November 17.

Samuel Watson, Agent of the Book and Tract Society, made his report, which, having been read, was referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

The Annual Report of W. C. Johnson, Editor of the Western Methodist, was presented, and having been read, was referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

FRIDAY MORNING, November 18.

Dr. Redford made an address in behalf of the various interests of the Southern Methodist Publishing House at Nashville—the books and periodicals issued by it; and was followed in a few remarks by Brother Dameron, in regard to the South-western Book and Publishing Company, at St. Louis.

MONDAY MORNING, November 21.

The Report of the Committee on Books and Periodicals was submitted, and having been read, was, after brief addresses by Drs. Redford and McFerrin, and by W. C. Johnson, adopted, viz.:

Your Committee on Books and Periodicals have had the several subjects referred to them under consideration, and beg leave to submit the following report:

1. The Western Methodist.—This paper has been so repeatedly indorsed by this Conference, that it would seem to be a work of supererogation to add any commendations to what has already been adopted at each annual session of this body. We can truly say, in the language of the report of the committee last year, that "we take much pleasure in expressing our unqualified approbation of the management of this paper." The editor has fully redeemed his pledges given for the enlargement and improvement of the paper. He deserves not only great credit and our sincere thanks, but, more than ever, the hearty support of all the preachers and members of the Church. We indorse the action of our delegates in nominating and having him elected to a second quadrennial term as the editor. We are much gratified that he has associated with him so competent a business man as Brother R. W. Blew, to whom the paper is much indebted for its financial success. We heartily indorse the editorial conduct of the paper, and approve the action by which the whole State of Arkansas is pledged to support this, their, as well as our organ; therefore,

Resolved, 1. That it is the sense of this Conference that the very best arrangement has been made by which to secure permanently, on a solid basis, a journal of the first class, worthy of all the patronizing Conferences, and of the Church which they represent.
2. That we will use our best endeavors to place a copy of the *Western Methodist* in every family within our bounds.

3. That we cordially invite our brethren of the North Mississippi Conference, with most of whom we have been so long and so pleasantly associated, and with whom we part so reluctantly, to join with us in this, their paper as well as ours, and let it be an indissoluble cord by which we shall be bound together.

2. *Our Southern Methodist Publishing House.*—We are very much gratified at the healthy and prosperous condition of the House, as shown by the Exhibit of the worthy Agent, Rev. A. H. Redford, D.D. Its constantly increasing business and unlimited financial facilities, spoken of by the Agent, must enable him to meet the most sanguine expectations of its friends. We cannot too strongly recommend our preachers and people to patronize this, our own establishment, by purchasing the books and circulating the periodical literature adapted to every class of readers in our Church. We would, in this connection, call special attention to Dr. Summers’s "Commentary on the Gospels," as being the best exposition of the Scriptures for Sabbath-schools and families, of which we have any knowledge. It should be circulated all over our land. Also, Bishop Paine’s "Life and Times of Bishop McKendree;" Dr. Redford’s "History of Methodism in Kentucky;" Dr. McFerrin’s "History of Methodism in Tennessee," and Bishop McTyeire’s "Manual of the Discipline," a new edition of which has been recently issued, embracing the acts of the late General Conference.

3. *The Christian Advocate.*—We are gratified to learn that this old and popular paper has a larger circulation than at any former period since the war. The enlargement of its size, and the reduction of its price, should double its subscription in a short time. This being the General Conference organ, published at the head-quarters of Southern Methodism, with Dr. Summers for its editor, and the number and character of its contributors, should give it universal circulation all over our Church. Each preacher should subscribe for it, and, next to our own Conference organ, should promote its circulation.

4. *The New Monthly Magazine.*—We look forward with much interest to the publication of this periodical. The reputation of the editor, Rev. William P. Harrison, D.D., as a scholar and writer, insures, we believe, that the wants of the Church will be more fully met than they ever have been, by this periodical. Let all the preachers, on their arrival at their respective charges, canvass them thoroughly, and secure, as soon as possible, all the subscribers they can for this Magazine. As this work is designed mainly for the ladies, get them to aid in procuring subscribers. It is to be a first-class periodical in every particular. Each number is to be embellished with the likeness of a prominent minister or layman. Our newly-elected Bishop Keener will grace the first number; Brother Lithgow, of Louisville, that prince of laymen, will appear in the March number. Let us, brethren, all unite to make this Magazine worthy of our wives, sisters, and daughters, and thus supply the place of the light literature of the day.

5. *Sunday-school Visitor.*—This periodical continues to increase in interest and value to the children. Its circulation now is fifty-five thousand. After the 1st of January it will be issued in a monthly, semi-monthly, and weekly form, adapted to the varied wants of the numerous class for which it is designed. Dr. A. G. Haygood, who was elected by the General Conference to manage these periodicals, is eminently qualified for this important and interesting work. Each number is to be beautifully illustrated. Every child in the Church should be furnished with the *Visitor.*
Minutes of the Memphis Conference.

6. *Southern Quarterly Review.*—We beg leave to refer to the action of our General Conference, and to indorse the arrangements made by that body, and in accordance therewith to recommend to our preachers and people the forthcoming new series of the *Southern Quarterly Review*, beginning with the January number. The learned editor, Dr. Bledsoe, has already secured for it a chief place in American literature; and with Bishop Doggett, Professor Smith, of the University of Virginia, and the Rev. Dr. Wilson, of Baltimore, appointed by the College of Bishops to be associated with Dr. Bledsoe in conducting the theological department, we anticipate from it a highly important and influential contribution to our Church literature.

7. We will simply quote from the report of Dr. Garland, Chairman of this committee last year, on the Colored Church paper:

"A paper to be circulated among the colored members of the M.E. Church, South, seems to be required by the wants of that people. The Bishops, at their annual meeting in St. Louis, approved of the measure, and favored the appointment of the Rev. Samuel Watson to the editorship of said paper. At the recent session of the Memphis Annual Colored Conference, such a paper, under the name of the *Christian Index*, was established, and the Rev. Samuel Watson unanimously elected to that office.

"We hope this Conference will approve said appointment, and will ask the Bishop to assign Brother Watson to that work; and, moreover, that it will cooperate, as far as practicable, in giving circulation to the paper."

The General Conference elected S. Watson editor of said paper.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

S. WATSON, Chairman.

FINANCE.

SATURDAY MORNING, November 19.

The report of J. H. Brooks, Treasurer of the delegation of the Memphis Conference to the late General Conference, was submitted, showing that, after defraying the expenses of all who presented claims, he has remaining the sum of $70.25. The report was referred to the Joint Board of Finance, with instructions to receive the money for the benefit of superannuates, widows, and orphans—dividing it equally between the Memphis and North Mississippi Conferences.

MONDAY MORNING, November 21.

The subject of Church-property was, on motion, referred to the Joint Board of Finance.

TUESDAY MORNING, November 22.

The Report of the Joint Board of Finance was submitted, and having been read and amended, was adopted, viz.:
Minutes of the Memphis Conference.

The Joint Board of Finance respectfully submit this their report.

It is with regret, brethren, that we submit a report which we feel to be so imperfect in many of its features, but for want of information on many subjects, we are unable to do otherwise.

Church-property.—On the question of Church-property and its probable value, the reports from the preachers to us have been so few, that we are unable to form an estimate, and beg leave to withhold any report, indulging the hope that greater diligence will be employed in securing information on this subject in time to come.

Support of the Ministry.—On the probable allowance and support of the ministry, we make no report. Sufficient data on which to base anything like a correct estimate, could not be obtained.

The amount assessed the Conference in its present form, for the support of the superannuated preachers, the widows and orphans of deceased preachers, is $1,950.00. Of that amount the following has been paid:

Memphis District, $228.45; Somerville District, 297.75; Jackson District, 227.85; Dresden District, 146.55; Paducah District, 102.50; Paris District, 82.65; Trenton District, 177.05; Iuka District, 19.00. Total, $1,281.80. [Deficit, $678.20.] Which has been distributed as follows: Sister D. J. Allen, $100.00; Sister Campbell, 150.00; Sister Hubbard, 40.00; Sister McFarland, 95.00; Sister Henderson, 120.00; (Sister Henderson, from Mrs. Link, 10.00, not counted); Sister Morris, 200.00; Rev. C. C. Glover, 101.80; Sister Warren, 25.00; Sister Cole, 25.00; Sister Gillespie, 25.00; Rev. E. Tidwell, 100.00; Rev. W. B. Ramsey’s children, 60.00; Rev. R. H. Burns, 100.00; Sister Peeples, 100.00; Sister Morgan, 40.00. Total, $1,281.80.

The Board also received from J. M. Corner, $5.00, which was appropriated to the payment of statistical blanks.

The Board directs that Brother T. F. Lilly be continued as trustee of the fund apportioned to Brother Ramsey’s children, under the same restrictions imposed at the time of his appointment.

The Board has in hand money received from Rev. Thos. Joyner, interest due the “Preachers’ Aid Society,” $48.42, which is yet unappropriated for the following reason, viz.: A communication having been received from R. C. Clark, Esq., Treasurer of the “Preachers’ Aid Society,” in connection with his annual report, tendering his resignation as Treasurer, and asking an equitable division of the fund between the Memphis and North Mississippi Conferences; the Board recommends that the division be made, and retains the fund until the negotiation can be accomplished. It recommends that Rev. Amos W. Jones and B. A. Hayes be appointed to attend the session of the North Mississippi Conference, at Water Valley, Miss., and act in behalf of the Memphis Conference in this division. The notes, etc., are now in the possession of Brother Hayes. But we recommend that Col. A. H. Bradford be appointed Treasurer of the fund belonging to the Memphis Conference after division.

On the support of our Bishops it is indeed most painful to us to report. The amount necessary to be raised before the division of our Conference, was $1,400.00. After division, it was still required of the Memphis Conference to raise that amount. We are sorry to say that but little over one-half the sum has been received. We pretend not to account for the deficiency, but feel constrained to remind the Presiding Elders, at this juncture, that they are responsible for the collection of the amounts assessed their Districts, and not the preachers in their charges. We feel sure that our people are willing to afford our General Superintendents at least food and raiment.
for themselves and families, and, if proper diligence be employed, we are satisfied that the Memphis Conference can discharge this part of its obligation.

The amounts assessed the Districts are as follows:

Memphis District (in Tennessee), $111.00; Somerville District, 188.00; Jackson District, 141.00; Dresden District, 98.35; Paducah District, 96.35; Paris District, 94.00; Trenton District, 141.00. There has been paid on that amount, from the Memphis District, $111.00; Somerville District, 209.05; Jackson District, 150.75; Dresden District, 80.85; Paducah District, 118.00; Paris District, 49.35; Trenton District, 106.00; Iuka District, 47.50. Total, $872.54. Deduct uncurrent funds, $2.30, leaving $870.20. Of this amount there were in Bishops' receipts $150.00, leaving in actual cash only 690.20.

Of the fund collected to defray the expense of the Memphis delegation, there was handed to the Board an excess of $35.10, $20 of which are appropriated to the traveling expense of our presiding Bishop; the balance appropriated to Bishops' Fund, 15.10; making our total credit on settlement with the Bishop, 885.30; leaving deficit of 514.70. We beg that the Presiding Elders be requested to raise as much of this amount as possible on their first rounds the ensuing year.

It is required for the support of the Bishops the ensuing year to raise $1,400 which is apportioned to the Districts as follows:

Memphis District, $260.00; Somerville District, 260.00; Jackson District, 215.00; Dresden District, 160.00; Paducah District, 160.00; Paris District, 145.00; Trenton District, 200.00. Total, $1,400.

For the support of the superannuated preachers, etc., we have assessed the Memphis District, $260.00; Somerville District, 260.00; Jackson District, 215.00; Dresden District, 160.00; Paducah District, 160.00; Paris District, 145.00; Trenton District, 200.00. Total, $1,400.

Respectfully submitted,

Milton Brown, Chairman.

Robert H. Mahon, Secretary.

There being a deficiency in the collections for the Bishops' Fund, it was resolved that the members and visitors present should each give $5.00, if they felt able to do so at the time, and a collection was made amounting to $136.20.

The following resolution, offered by Guilford Jones and John Moss, was adopted, viz.:

Resolved, That the Joint Board of Finance are instructed to assess the deficiency in the Bishops' Fund for this year to the Districts, and that the Presiding Elders be required to collect the amounts assessed, on their first round of quarterly meetings, and to forward the same immediately to Dr. Redford, at Nashville.

The following resolution was adopted, viz.:

Resolved, That the Conference collection made on Madrid Bend Circuit, about $21.00, now in the hands of Brother Wilson, who is absent, be added to the amount appropriated to Sister McFarland, by the Joint Board of Finance.

Conference having appointed A. W. Jones and B. A. Hayes Commissioners to represent this body at the session of the North Mississippi Conference on the subject of a division of the common property, the following resolution was adopted, viz.:
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Resolved, That we recommend our commissioners to favor a pro rata division of the common property—that is, according to the membership of the two bodies.

Tuesday Evening, November 22.

Report No. 2 of the Joint Board of Finance was presented, and having been read, was adopted, viz.:

The Board recommends that Col. Riggs, of the town of Purdy, be appointed trustee of the fund apportioned to Rev. E. Tidwell, with directions to employ it solely for the benefit of Brother Tidwell.

It is furthermore ordered by the Board, that the Treasurer of the Preachers' Aid Society be required to appropriate to the benefit of the Rev. Henry Bell and Sister Slaughter, $50.00 each, so soon as that amount of cash comes into his hand; or if that amount be not received by him, that he make an equal division of such funds as he does receive, between these two claimants.

Milton Brown, Ch'n.
Rob't H. Mahon, Sec'y.

The Bishop announced the appointment of the Joint Board of Finance in part, viz.:


The Bishop stated that he omitted the appointment of the lay members, and expected them to be appointed at the opening of the next annual session.

Bible Cause.

Monday Morning, November 21.

The report of the Committee on the Bible Cause was presented, and having been read, was adopted, viz.:

The Committee on the Bible Cause beg leave to submit the following report:

Believing the Holy Scriptures to be a divine revelation, and that through their teaching only we have a true knowledge of God and the plan of salvation, it is self-evident that they should be placed within the reach of all. Your committee deem it unnecessary to enter into an elaborate argument to prove to this Conference the paramount importance of a free circulation of the Bible among all classes of society as a means of promoting true religion, and a pure morality founded on its precepts. This is all Protestant Christians admit. In view of the strenuous efforts made by Romanists, and others who sympathize with them, to exclude God's word from the schools of the country, and to discourage as much as possible the general reading of this divine record, it behooves all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, and desire the spread of scriptural holiness over these lands, not to relax their efforts in the good and noble cause of sending the message of truth to every man's door, in such a cheap form that no one may be left without the word of life. The American Bible Society has labored faithfully for the accomplishment of this sensible end, and no
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better plan of working out this grand purpose presents itself to your committee, than by a cordial support of the Society, and by aiding its accredited agents in their work of faith and labor of love. Much has been done, yet much remains to be done in this great field of usefulness. We are gratified to learn, through the agents of the Society, that a great part of the work of supplying the western portion of the State and the adjacent counties in Kentucky, has already been accomplished, and that efforts are now being made to complete the work. For this we feel devoutly thankful to the great Head of the Church.

We, therefore, present for your adoption the following resolutions:

Resolved, 1. That we owe a debt of gratitude to the American Bible Society for its many and noble benefactions made to our people in the last few years.

2. That we invite its agents to visit our congregations, and we pledge ourselves and urge our people to cooperate with them in their good work.

3. That we will aid and assist the Auxiliary Bible Societies, wherever established in our bounds, and do all we can to render them efficient.

4. That we urge our people to read the Bible more and study it more carefully as the standard of their lives, and to teach it faithfully to their children.

All of which is respectfully submitted, J. G. Acton, Chairman.

PARSONAGES, ETC.

Saturday Morning, November 19.

Milton Brown, chairman of the Committee on Parsonages, Church Extension, and Ministerial Support, reported verbally that he was instructed unanimously by the Committee, which consists of the entire lay membership of the Conference, to ask for the final discharge of the Committee—the plan adopted at Paducah in 1867 being impracticable, and the duties devolved upon the Committee being such as should receive the attention of the clerical and lay members alike.

Thereupon, after some discussion, the Committee was granted a final discharge.

DISTRICT CONFERENCES.

Tuesday Morning, November 22.

T. L. Boswell and W. H. Leigh offered resolutions on the composition and election of members of the District Conferences, and after some discussion they were referred, with the entire subject, to a Committee appointed by the chair, consisting of T. L. Boswell, John H. Witt, and Thomas Joyner.
The Report of the Committee on the Composition of the District Conferences and the election of the members, in addition to the traveling and local preachers, was submitted, and having been read, was adopted, viz.:

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of lay representation in the District Conferences, beg leave to present the following resolutions, viz.:

Resolved, 1. That the lay delegates to the District Conferences shall be composed of two delegates for every hundred members in each pastoral charge, and an additional delegate for every fraction of two-thirds the above ratio of representation; provided that no pastoral charge be deprived of two delegates in the District Conference.

2. That the delegates be elected by the Quarterly Conferences of the several pastoral charges, at the first Quarterly Conference in each Conference-year.

T. L. Boswell, Chairman.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISO.

Tuesday Morning, November 22.

The Bishop presented the action of the General Conference with reference to a change in the Constitution, in the following paragraph read from the Journal of the General Conference of 1870, page 331:

That the following proviso, if it receive a two-thirds majority of this body, be sent round to the several Annual Conferences; and if it receive a three-fourths vote of the same, it shall be inserted in the Discipline in lieu of the aforesaid paragraph:

"Provided, that when any rule or regulation is adopted by the General Conference, which, in the opinion of the Bishops, is unconstitutional, the Bishops may present to the Conference which passed said rule or regulation, their objections thereunto, with their reasons, in writing; and if then the General Conference shall, by a two-thirds vote, adhere to its action on said rule or regulation, it shall then take the course prescribed for altering a restrictive rule, and if thus passed upon affirmatively, the Bishops shall announce that such rule or regulation takes effect from that time."

Thereupon, a rising vote was taken, and the action of the General Conference was concurred in unanimously—there being 79 votes.

GEORGE W. D. HARRIS.

Tuesday Evening, November 22.

George W. D. Harris, our venerable brother, having signified his inability to do effective work, and his desire that the Conference should fix his relation, was, on motion of T. L. Boswell, granted a superannuated relation.

The following resolutions, offered by G. Jones and W. C. Johnson, were adopted unanimously, and by a rising vote, viz.:

Resolved, 1. That we hereby record our profound sympathy with our venerable and beloved brother, the Rev. G. W. D. Harris, D.D., in his retirement from the effective work, and our hearty thanks to the blessed Master, whose grace has richly abounded in his servant, and crowned a long life with eminent usefulness in the
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traveling ministry; and we fervently pray God to grant unto him that the light upon his path may shine more and more unto the perfect day.

2. That we respectfully and earnestly request Dr. Harris to prepare for the columns of the Western Methodist, Reminiscences of his Itinerancy, particularly in the bounds of the Memphis Conference.

PUBLICATION OF THE MINUTES.

Tuesday Evening, November 22.

The Secretary made a Report concerning the publication of the Minutes of last year—showing that, after defraying expenses, a surplus had been contributed to the building of Springdale Church; and after being read, the Report was adopted. Thereupon, the following resolution was adopted, viz.:

Resolved, That the Secretary publish, in pamphlet form, the Minutes of this year; and that each member, clerical and lay, remit to the Secretary $1, immediately upon receiving his quota of copies.

[NOTE.—Let each member remit by mail, without delay, to W. C. Johnson, 22 Jefferson street, Memphis, Tenn.]

THANKS.

Tuesday Evening, November 22.

The following resolutions were presented by J. H. Evans and A. B. Fly, and having been read, were adopted unanimously by a rising vote, namely:

Resolved, 1. That we express our gratitude to the citizens of Brownsville for the generous hospitality displayed in the entertainment of the Conference during its session.

2. That we thank the officers and brethren of the Baptist, Presbyterian, and Cumberland Presbyterian Churches, for the use of their respective houses of worship.

3. That we thank the Superintendents of the various railroads over which we have traveled in reaching Brownsville, for favors to members of our body, in the way of reduced fare.

THE END.

Tuesday Evening, November 22.

The Bishop read the Wesleyan hymn—

"And let our bodies part"—

which was sung with the spirit and the understanding; and the Conference, with a great throng of visitors, united in prayer, led by G. W. D. Harris.

The Bishop made a brief and impressive address, and announced the Appointments; after which Conference adjourned sine die.

A doxology was sung, and the benediction was pronounced by the Bishop.
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W. C. JOHNSON, EDITOR.

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