MINUTES
OF THE
MEMPHIS CONFERENCE
OF THE
Methodist Episcopal Church,
(SOUTH,)
THIRTY-NINTH SESSION,
HELD AT
JACKSON, TENNESSEE,
December 4-9, 1878.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE CONFERENCE.
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PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE CONFERENCE.

MEMPHIS:
Boyle Printing Company, 317 Main Street.
1879.
MINUTES
MEMPHIS CONFERENCE.
1878.

The Thirty-ninth session of the Memphis Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was held in Jackson, Tenn., December 4th–9th, instead of Paris, Tenn., the place appointed by the last session—the change having been made by the Bishop on account of the late prevalence of yellow fever in that town. Bishop R. Paine presiding.

Devotional service was conducted by the Bishop, who read the fifth chapter of Ephesians, and after the 272d Hymn had been sung, led in prayer.

The Secretary of the last Conference being absent, Robt. H. Mahon was chosen Secretary pro tem. The roll of clerical and lay members was called as follows.


The names of Edward C. Slater, Phineas T. Scruggs, W. T. Plummer, Warren B. Seward, James G. Acton, I'avid R. S. Rosebrough and John S. Harris also were called and it was reported that they had died during the year.

Lay Members,—


Jackson District—J. M. Cunningham (L. P.), Milton Brown, J. T. Beveridge, N. C. Riggs.


Paducah District—D. J. Fraser, J. C. Davis (L. P.), W. H. Moss, C. A. Haskell.


Many visitors were present during the session, including Dr. J. B. McFerrin, Agent of the publishing house at Nashville, Dr. A. W. Wilson, Missionary Secretary, and Dr. J. H. Brunner, President of Hiwasse College.

Robert H. Mahon was elected Secretary, E. E. Hamilton Assistant, and Warner Moore, Statistical Secretary.

*The names of absentees are marked with an asterisk.
The Presiding Elder of the Jackson District, and the city pastors were appointed a Committee on Public Worship.

The Presiding Elders were appointed to nominate the usual committees, and after consultation submitted the following report which was adopted, viz:


The questions in the Discipline were duly considered and answered, viz.:

Question 1.—Who are admitted on trial?

Question 2.—Who remain on trial?

Question 3.—Who are discontinued?
Preston H. Miller.

Question 4.—Who are admitted into full connection?
John M. Major.

Question 5.—Who are re-admitted.
None.

Question 6.—Who are received by transfer from other Conferences?
Edward T. Hart?

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

Question 8.—What traveling preachers are elected deacons?
John M. Major.

Question 9.—What traveling preachers are ordained deacons?
John M. Major.

Question 10.—What local preachers are elected deacons?
King D. May, Pinkney C. Atkins, Franklin A. Bryant, Robert L. Burkhead, Francis M. Atherton, Claiborn M. Herrin.

Question 11.—What local preachers are ordained deacons?

Question 12.—What traveling preachers are elected elders?

Question 13.—What traveling preachers are ordained elders?

Question 14.—What local preachers are elected elders?
James R. Williams.

Question 15.—What local preachers are ordained elders?
James R. Williams, Thomas D. Clement.

Question 16.—Who are located this year?
None.

Question 17.—Who are supernumerary?

Question 18.—Who are superannuated?

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

Question 20.—Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration?
Yes.
Question 21.—What is the number of local preachers and members in the several circuits, stations and missions of the Conference?
Local preachers, 271; white members, 29,511; colored, 14; Indian, 2.

Question 22.—How many infants have been baptized during the year? 665.

Question 23.—How many adults have been baptized during the year? 2084.

Question 24.—What is the number of Sunday schools? 317.

Question 25.—What is the number of Sunday-school teachers? 1932.

Question 26.—What is the number of Sunday-school scholars? 14,300.

Question 27.—What amount is necessary for the superannuated preachers, and the widows and orphans of preachers?
$2000.

Question 28.—What has been collected on the foregoing account, and how has it been applied?
$1,814.45, which has been applied for the benefit of the superannuated preachers, and the widows and orphans of preachers. (See Report of the Board of Finance.)

Question 29.—What has been contributed for Missions?
Foreign Missions, $3,403.70; Domestic Missions, $987.15.

Question 30.—Where shall the next session of the Conference be held?
Mayfield, Ky.

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

MEMPHIS DISTRICT.
J. A. Heard, Presiding Elder.

Memphis:
First Church, R. H. Mahon.
Central, W. T. Harris.
Hernando Street, J. C. Hooks.
Saffarans Street Mission, T. C. Holmes.
Georgia Street Mission, to be supplied.
Springdale, R. N. Freeman.
Bartlett, G. B. Baskerville.
Bethlehem, J. S. Renshaw.
Collierville and Moscow, J. A. Fife.
Macon, S. B. Adams.
Willistown, T. L. Boswell.
LaGrange and Saulsbury, W. A. Cook.
Middleton, W. S. Malone.
State Female College, John S. Collins, Professor.
Editor Western Methodist, W. C. Johnson.

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

Somerville Station, James A. Moody.
Somerville Mission, W. D. F. Hafford.
Bolivar Station, W. M. McFerrin.
Whiteville, J. G. Clark.
Dancyville, J. M. Spence.
Stanton, John Randle.
Covington and Tabernacle, E. E. Hamilton.
Covington Circuit, W. M. Leatherwood.
Randolph, J. A. Corbitt.
Belmont, R. V. Taylor.
Gratitude, N. Patrell.
Embury, J. P. Walker.
Braden, A. C. Smith.
Grand Junction, R. W. Newsom; D. C. Wells, Sup.
JACKSON DISTRICT.

J. H. Evans, Presiding Elder.

Jackson:
First Church, S. B. Suratt.
East and West Jackson, G. K. Brooks.
Jackson Circuit, James Perry; J. H. Johnson, Sup.
Spring Creek, A. F. Hendrix.
Humboldt Station, Guilford Jones.
Brownsville Station, S. W. Moore.
Brownsville Circuit, W. L. Duckworth.
Denmark, Richard Hill.
Mifflin, Z. W. Richardson.
Henderson and Montezuma, S. B. Love; J. S. White, Sup.
McNairy Mission, to be supplied by Wm. Freeman.
Purdy, T. F. Sanders.
Adamsville, D. A. Ross.
Pinson, R. A. Umstead.
Memphis Conference Female Institute, A. B. Jones, President; A. W. Jones, Professor and Agent.
We-leyan Female College, John Williams, President.
Jackson District High School, B. F. Blackmon, Principal.

DYERSBURG DISTRICT.

A. R. Wilson, Presiding Elder.

Dyersburg Station, G. T. Sullivan.
Newbern, O. P. Parker; R. S. Harris, Sup.
Kenton, T. H. White.
Yorkville, W. H. Evans.
Trenton Station, J. M. Scott.
Trenton Circuit, N. Sullivan.
Alamo and Bellville, C. J. Maudlin.
Alamo Circuit, W. T. C. Young.
Friendship, E. F. Peeples.
Woodville, G. H. Martin.
Ripley and Durhamville, Warner Moore.
Ripley Circuit, T. J. Simmons.
Hales Point Mission, T. P. Holman.
Trimble Mission, John T. Wiggins.

DRESDEN DISTRICT.

B. A. Hayes, Presiding Elder.

Dresden Station, E. B. Plummer.
Union City Station, A. T. Scruggs; J. E. Beck, Sup.
Martin, E. K. Bransford; R. E. Graves, Sup.
Cottage Grove, R. M. King.
McKenzie Circuit, H. B. Covington.
Fulton, J. T. C. Collins; J. Moss, Sup.
Walnut Grove, F. Bynum.
Hickman Station, G. W. Wilson.

Sharon, W. C. Sollars.
Tiptonville, J. D. Bush.
Troy Circuit and Mission, J. A. Russell.
Job R. Bell; M. D. Robinson, Sup.
Hickman Circuit, J. M. Platt.
Dresden High School, E. T. Hart, Principal.

PADUCAH DISTRICT.

W. H. Leigh, Presiding Elder.

Paducah Station, N. P. Ramsey.
Paducah Circuit and City Mission, J. V. Fly.
Mayfield Station, C. J. Nugent.
Columbus Station, J. H. Collins.
Hinkleville, C. D. Davis.
Blandville Mission, J. E. Treadwell.
Clifton, R. L. West.
Milburn, Circuit, J. J. Smith.
Wingo, W. H. Frost.
Benton, T. E. Hall.
Wadesboro, H. C. Gamble.
Briensburg, J. R. Hardin.
Birmingham, T. N. Ragsdale.
Murray, B. B. Risenhoover.
Clanton Station, W. G. Heffley.
Paducah District High School and Milburn Station, L. R. Martin.
Milburn Mission, to be supplied.
Pine Bluff Mission, to be supplied.

PARIS DISTRICT.

J. H. Witt, Presiding Elder.

Paris Station, A. L. Pritchett.
Paris Circuit, F. B. Davis.
Spring Hill, R. R. Nelson.
Paris Landing, Giles Leath.
Camden, J. D. Sullivan; D. M. K. Collins, Sup.
Huntingdon, H. M. Sears.
Trezevant, M. M. Taylor; T. C. Ellis, Sup.
Salem, T. L. Beard.
Lexington Station, J. J. Brooks.
Lexington Circuit, W. H. Blalock; R. Y. Blackwell, Sup.
Decaturville, J. J. McGill.
Scott's Hill Circuit and Mission, R. S. Swilt.
Saltillo, Wm. Hay.
Morgan's Creek, A. N. Sears.
McKenzie Station, J. M. Major.
Lavinia, W. O. Lanier.
Big Sandy, J. B. Sears.
Milan Station, J. M. Maxwell.
W. M. Patterson, Missionary to Mexico.

TRANSFERRED.

H. B. Scruggs, to North Mississippi Conference; W. T. Bolling, to Western Virginia Conference.
MEMOIRS.

**John S. Harris.**

Rev. John S. Harris, the son of William Brown and America Harris, was born in Wilson county, Tennessee, September 28, 1848. His parents were good and faithful members of the M. E. Church South, and his father a class-leader for many years. Under the favorable influences exerted upon his mind in the family circle, he was led, in the period of youth, to yield his heart to God, and become an experimental Christian. But the precise date of his conversion I have not ascertained.

He was admitted on trial into the Memphis Annual Conference, in the fall of 1874, and appointed to the Trenton Circuit, as junior preacher, where he labored faithfully and successfully during the year. In the fall of 1875 he was appointed in charge of the Lexington Circuit. On this Circuit his qualities as a sweet-spirited, genial, lovely Christian minister, were clearly manifested. Amidst his zealous and constant labors in traveling, preaching, and altar exercises, by day and by night, in uncomfortable houses, he contracted the fatal disease, which soon discovered itself in a hemorrhage from the throat and lungs. But he held on, unwilling to yield. At the ensuing Conference, after another severe hemorrhage, he would not consent to take a supernumerary relation, though urged to do so by his presiding elder and other brethren. He seemed all on fire for the work of God and immortal souls. In the fall of 1876, he received his last appointment, Spring Hill Circuit, and commenced his labors with earnestness and zeal. But his health continued to decline until July, when he found it necessary to resign and return home. At his mother's, in Collierville, Tennessee, surrounded by relations and friends, March 11, 1878, he passed away to his home in the paradise of God. Shortly before his departure, when questioned by Brother Plummer, in regard to his preparation for death, he said: "That question is already settled. I am all right; I am ready and willing to go and be at rest."

Our young brother has left us just as he had entered upon his career of usefulness in the ministry. The Great Head of the Church has seen fit to remove him from the Church below, to the Church triumphant in heaven. Happy and glorious transfer, which we hope ere long to realize and enjoy!

**A. W. Jones.**

**William T. Plummer.**

The Rev. William Thaddeus Plummer was born in Columbia, Tennessee, March 30, 1820. He was the son of James R. and Eleanor Plummer, who were devoted Christians and zealous Methodists, and whose religious character and virtues survived them in the lives of a large family of children. From such a consecrated house it is not strange that two of the sons became ministers—William T. and James R.—the latter an eminent member of the Tennessee Conference, and that the eldest daughter became the wife of an itinerant preacher, the Rev. Thomas R. Randle, of the same Conference. William T. Plummer was educated at old La Grange College, and also at Jackson College, in his native town. His attainments in literature and science were of a highly creditable grade, and through life he was a general reader and close thinker in the higher departments of letters. He was admitted into the Tennessee Con-
ference about the year 1841, and labored for a number of years with great zeal and success, both in circuits and stations. We cannot, for want of information, give the names of the fields of labor he occupied. In the year 1846, while filling Pulaski station, he was happily married to Miss Margaret Shall, a young lady of culture and many Christian and personal graces. She preceded him to the better land several years. He was again married to Mrs. Ware, of Clarksville, a Christian lady of noble character, who made his home bright and happy again. At the end of his pastorate in Pulaski, he located, and entered into business as a druggist in that place. He afterward removed to Memphis, and continued the same business there for a number of years. During all these years he was a model local preacher, sustaining the itinerant ministry with his money, his prayers, his counsel and sympathy, and preaching with them and for them as much as opportunity allowed. In 1866 Brother Plummer was re-admitted into the traveling connection, as a member of this Conference, and for two years was in charge of Macon Circuit. In 1868, 1869, 1870, and 1871, his appointment was the presidency of the Somerville Female Institute, where he did good work in the cause of education. In 1872 he was called to the presidency of Bellevue Female College, at Collierville, Tennessee, where his labors were crowned with signal success, and from which he went to his great reward. He died at his post of duty, in sweet peace and triumphant faith, on the 27th of March, 1878.

From a notice of his life and labors, published in the Western Methodist, we copy as follows: "During this (his last) year, in addition to his duties as President of the College, he was serving Shelby mission—preaching the gospel to the poor and destitute. Having a strong mind, well improved and stored with much knowledge, a sound and warm heart, and a cheerful disposition, and above all, being firm in the Christian's faith, he was an able preacher, and often his words of truth and power were followed by great and gracious results. In prayer, both public and private, he was remarkably gifted, as well as in exhortation. Some of his efforts in revivals, particularly at camp-meetings, in the days of his youth, are still referred to by those who witnessed them, on account of their wonderful influence and effectiveness. Full of work, standing at the post of duty, and prepared to die as well as to live, he bade us farewell.

We are happy to add what we learn from his pastor, that though he suffered greatly in body during his last sickness, he was patient under it all, and spoke in language that none but a true Christian can employ, of the blessed comforts of our holy religion, and died witnessing the power of Christ to remove the sting of death. He has left a pure record, a good name, a worthy example, and at last a most cheering testimony to the sufficiency of Christ's religion in life's final conflict.

His was one of those well rounded characters that friendship loves to think of when death has broken earth's ties—one of those dear Christians, whom brotherly eyes gaze after when they go up from earthly presence—of whom surviving brethren are wont to say,

"How blessed the Christian when he dies!"

S. W. MOORE.
Warren B. Seward.

The Rev. Warren B. Seward, son of John and Nancy Seward, was born in Rutherford county, Tenn., February 24, 1829. Here he was brought up and lived, till 1851, when he moved to West Tennessee, and settled in Gibson county. He was licensed to preach by the Quarterly Conference of Trenton circuit, October 27, 1860—the Rev. N. Sullivan, presiding elder. He was ordained deacon by Bishop Paine, at Covington, Tenn., October 8, 1865; ordained elder by Bishop McTyeire, at Paris, Tenn., November 29, 1868. Bro. Seward remained a local preacher for some years, rendering such service as he could with the care of a large family upon him. In 1887, he was admitted on trial into the traveling connection, and was appointed to the Denmark circuit, which he traveled two years. The four years following he was in the Jackson circuit. The next year he was in charge of Kenton circuit; then returned to Jackson circuit for one year. In 1875-76 he traveled in Trenton circuit. In 1877-78 he was stationed at Alamo and Bells. Here his health failed. He was of robust nature, but his disease prostrated him. On the 2d day of April he died in peace.

Brother Seward's early advantages were good. His education was more than ordinary, while his moral and religious training was such as to imbue his mind with the truth as it is in Jesus, at an early age. He had a well-balanced mind, of fine sensibilities, abounded in humor, yet he suffered no spirit of levity to compromise his dignity as a Christian minister. He was not a brilliant preacher. He was plain, practical. He had a simple easy style in the pulpit. His sermons were short, animated appeals to the hearts and consciences of the people—rather hortatory than otherwise. Yet he succeeded in bringing men to Christ. Had he entered the ministry with full consecration in early life, he would have been superior as a pastor. As it was, he had no mean gifts in that way. He knew how to approach men, and how to deal with delicate questions of conscience. Those struggling under convictions felt free to seek his advice. In the sick room he removed the usual restraints, and strengthened his patient with hope. His last illness was protracted, but under it he was patient and submissive to the divine will—his end was peace.

R. H. MAHON.

James G. Acton.

The Rev. James G. Acton was born in Virginia, and came to Jackson, Tenn., in company with his father's family early in life. When he grew up, he followed the occupation of merchant tailor for a few years. After that, in obedience to the divine call, he entered the sacred ministry about the year 1841, and spent the remainder of his life in this high and holy calling. Most of this period he spent with the Memphis Annual Conference. Part of the time he was a member of the Tennessee Annual Conference, and filled important stations. And he labored a few years in connection with the Florida Annual Conference. Afterward he returned to this Conference, in which he spent the remainder of his days on earth. His last appointment was that of Sunday school agent. In the discharge of the duties of his agency, he went to Martin Depot to fill an appointment, but feeling sick in the afternoon, and thinking he was going to have a long spell, he returned by Jackson to Bolivar. On his arrival he was so prostrated that he had to be helped out of the train, and
placed in a chair at the depot. He soon became speechless, and remained in the chair till the carriage was brought to convey him home. But he never spoke again, and died in about two hours. The next day, July 14th, he was buried in the Bolivar grave-yard, and the Rev. S. B. Suratt performed the funeral service. It is believed that the intense heat contributed much to his sudden death.

Some years ago he was happily married to Mrs. Annie Roper, of Bolivar, who made him a most excellent wife. She still lives in sorrow and gloom, to lament the loss of a most devoted husband. The character of Brother Acton is well and extensively known. He was a kind hearted man, social in his nature, and of a jovial turn of mind. While, like many others he possessed certain peculiarities, which rendered him unacceptable to some, and perhaps, detracted from his usefulness in different localities, yet, to those who understood his disposition and were best acquainted with his habits, he was always an agreeable companion. He was dignified in personal bearing, and careful in deportment; but always free, honest and independent in the expression of his opinions, on the various topics of discussion, whether political, civil or religious. As a Christian, he was decided, constant and uniform. He sought not to be regarded as exceedingly pious, and though not very demonstrative in his religious feelings, he was ever sincere in advocating the truth, and zealous for good. He possessed an abiding faith in Christ, and earnestly labored for the promotion of the cause of Christianity, in its various fields of usefulness. His ministerial labors were always earnest and faithful, and often produced, under the blessings of God, the happiest results. He was a plain, pointed, able and practical preacher of the gospel. In these respects he had few superiors. A sound theologian, he was a successful advocate and defender of the faith. He seemed always ready to preach, and while he seldom, if ever, failed in the pulpit, he often reached the truly beautiful, sublime and eloquent. The happy effects of his sermons have been felt by many, and will be fully manifested in the eternal state. Long has he lived and moved among the members of this Conference; but he has gone to the grave and will be seen by us no more in this life. In Christ he lived and died, and with him we hope to reign in the kingdom of immortal blessedness.

A. W. JONES.

David R. S. Rosebrough.

The Rev. David R. S. Rosebrough, son of Samuel and Mariam Rosebrough, was born in Fayetteville, Tenn., Nov. 2, 1842. His parents removed in 1850, to Shelby county, Tenn. There he grew to manhood. Endowed by nature with a bright mind and a warm heart, he gave early promise of excellence in character and life, and from childhood he was the joy and hope of his family. His father's purpose was to give him the benefit of a liberal education. Accordingly he was sent to the best schools in the country. In his seventeenth year he entered Emory and Henry College, Va., where he made rapid progress in his studies. With pleasure he anticipated his graduation, after which he would continue his studies in preparation for admission to the practice of law. But at the close of his first college year, duty and affection called him away, to travel with and wait upon an invalid brother. Not long afterwards, his mind already religiously inclined, was forcibly impressed by
his brother's death in the far South; and so while bereaved indeed, he returned home with a blessing beyond price—with a fixed purpose to devote himself to God's service. His mother had passed away to the better land in 1852; and his father's death, in 1862, more than ever, and most decidedly stirred his soul and disposed his thoughts and feelings in favor of the new life. Though not yet regenerated, he sought and served the Lord. But the war between the States was then raging, and he became a soldier of the South. In the army he was brave and true, and a model man in the estimation of his comrades; indeed, they looked upon him as a Christian in the full sense. While a private he was elevated to the position of Assistant Adjutant General of Dobbins' Brigade. Its duties he performed with fidelity, and he enjoyed the highest esteem of officers as well as soldiers in the army. For some time he was a prisoner of war, at Alton, Ill., where he contracted disease which brought him almost to the grave. When exchanged he was no longer able to do army service. The war ending, he returned to the old homestead near Memphis, and his educational opportunities having passed away with the lapse of time, he decided to spend his life quietly in the cultivation of the soil. May 23, 1866, he married Miss Mattie C. Williams, daughter of the Rev. Jere. Williams; and in the following September, at Bethlehem Church—the Rev. T. P. Holman, pastor—he was thoroughly renewed in the spirit of his mind, born of the Holy Ghost. Immediately he connected himself with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. From that time he experienced a call to the ministry—a clear, strong consciousness, borne in upon his soul from on high, that it was his duty to preach the gospel of Christ. To the call of the Master he harkened, conferring not with flesh and blood. It was his wish and purpose to resume and continue his college studies, preparatory to the ministry; but yielding to the judgment of his presiding elder, the Rev. John Moss, and his pastor, the Rev. T. P. Holman, he applied for and received a license to preach the gospel of Christ, and in the Autumn of 1867, was admitted on trial in the Memphis Conference. His first appointment was Hernando Circuit—Springdale, 1868–9, 1869–70, 1870–71, 1871–72, Somerville Station, 1872–73, 1873–74; Memphis City Mission, 1874–75; Bible Agency, 1875–76; Bartlett Circuit, 1876–77, 1877–78. 

An enlightened, spiritual and practical Christian, endowed with uncommon natural abilities, well improved by study, amiable, refined, modest, yet firm, conscientious in the highest degree, and irreproachable in his life, an Israelite in whom there was no guile, a man as nigh faultless as it is possible for our frail human nature, hardly ever, if ever erring, unless in judgment—having dedicated himself soul and body to the Master's service, he fulfilled the ministry committed to him with sincerity, earnestness and fidelity, worthy of honor in the Church, on earth and in heaven; and his ministry was signally owned of God, in the conversion of sinners and the upbuilding of believers. It may be truly said of him that he kept his ordination vows. He was diligent, punctual and submissive to the authorities of his Church. He was strong in faith and much given to prayer. He studied closely God's word, and such other books as help to the knowledge of the same, laying aside the study of the world and the flesh; and so he added constantly to his stores of knowledge, and improved in power and polish of thought and speech; and hence as a preacher he was clear, forcible, instructive, impressive, and eminently faithful to truth and duty. He framed and fashioned his life, and the lives of his family,
according to the doctrine of Christ, and so made both himself and them wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of Christ. He ministered the discipline as well as the doctrine of Christ, as the Lord hath commanded. He was ever ready to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrines, and publicly and privately he taught and warned the people, visiting from house to house, and especially caring for the poor, the sick and the afflicted. He maintained quietness, peace and love among all Christian people. He was truly a messenger, a steward, a watchman, a shepheard, teaching and premonishing, feeding and providing for the Lord's family; seeking for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and for his children in the midst of this evil world, that they might be saved through Christ forever. Such was his life as a Methodist traveling preacher; and as a member of this body he was useful and faithful, especially as one of the Secretaries, he was excellent—his true, clear and very beautiful work in our Journal is perfectly in harmony with his life among us—true, clear and very beautiful, the one like the other. And in every relation of life, as son, brother, husband, father, as citizen, neighbor, friend, he was a man worthy of trust, and love and praise; and now that he has gone from us, worthy of our tears and sighs, and of remembrance forever.

But we must come to the last scene. During the yellow fever epidemic our dear brother continued his ministerial labors on Bartlett Circuit, going from and returning to his beautiful new home in the suburbs of Memphis. In the midst of his duties he was seized with yellow fever, and after an illness of five days, he was called by the Master to his heavenly reward. The dying man of God was most tenderly ministered to by friends and neighbors, as well as by relations. He was not afraid to die; indeed, it is remarkable, that through his life as a Christian, he never had any dread of death—it was a subject he loved to contemplate, and many were his foretastes of the bliss beyond, awaiting him. That noble servant of the church, Rev. W. P. Barton, of the North Mississippi Conference, watched by the bedside of the dying preacher during his last night on earth. On religious topics suited to the occasion, they freely conversed, and our brother, in the awful crisis, stayed his soul on the Redeemer, and was fully alive to the glory of his calling. He quoted and commented with much force on the apostle's words: "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." In this faith, this persuasion, he died the next morning, September 9th, 1878, and the same day his body was laid to rest in Elmwood, Brother Barton reading the burial service: "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them." The Memphis Conference mourns the death of a faithful brother. The church laments the removal of an able and useful minister. A dear wife, with four lovely children, a sister and other relatives sorrow, but not without hope, over the departure of him who as husband, father, brother, kinsman, deserved all their love. Heaven was enriched and rejoiced when Rosenbrough entered through the golden gates into the city of the Great King. May we all meet him there!

W. C. JOHNSON.
MINUTES OF THE MEMPHIS CONFERENCE.

Edward C. Slater, D. D.

The Rev. Edward C. Slater was born in Louisburg, Va., March 1, 1818. He was converted to Christ under the ministry of the Rev. Norval Wilson, of the Baltimore Conference, and in his eighteenth year, at Salem, received license to preach the gospel. For some two years he was in the local ranks, and engaged in teaching. Removing to Tennessee he became Principal of a school in Maury county. In 1838 he was admitted on trial in the Tennessee Conference, and in due time was graduated to deacon's and elder's orders; and continued in the regular work till he was transferred to the Memphis Conference in 1855. We need not name all the appointments which he filled in succession, but among them were many of the most important in that old Conference, such as Shelbyville, Murfreesboro, Lebanon, Huntsville, Columbia, and McKendree, at Nashville. For several years he labored extensively and successfully in Middle and West Tennessee, as Agent of the American Bible Society. In the Memphis Conference he was presiding elder on the Jackson District from 1855 to 1859. He was then elected President of Andrew College, and remained in that position until the College was suspended by the war. He then took charge of the church in Paducah, Ky., and filled that station until 1867. Then he was two years on the Paducah District. At the Conference in 1869, he was appointed to the First Church in Memphis, and continued there for four years, then one year at the Central Church, and then three years at the First Church in Jackson, Tenn.; then again returned to the First Church in Memphis. This was his last appointment—his last field of labor; from it God took him to heaven.

Dr. Slater was one of our greatest and noblest men; a man of rare genius, learning and eloquence. As a pulpit orator he had but few equals; and he was also an able expounder of the doctrines of the bible, successful in winning souls to Christ, and a most excellent pastor. He was much beloved by his people wherever he labored, and highly respected by the whole community, and honored and esteemed by his brethren in the ministry.

Dr. Slater married in 1834, Miss Ann Eliza Linster, of Murfreesboro, Tenn. She dying, left three children, Thomas, Elizabeth and Mary. In 1854, he married Miss Mary C. Cole, of Madison county, Tenn. Of this marriage was born Edward E., who died two years ago, a young preacher of rare promise; and Sallie, Annie, Gertrude and Lee. His dear wife soon followed her husband to heaven, as did also two daughters, Miss Mary and Miss Sallie; young and lovely, accomplished and pious, ready for the call of the Master, as were their parents.

We close this memoir with what Dr. Johnson has said of the last hours and death of our brother in the Western Methodist:

"During the yellow fever epidemic of 1873 in this city, we, with many others, witnessed the faithful labors of Dr. Slater, then pastor of the First Methodist Church. Returning to the same charge, after an absence of four years, he was here again, though older and feebler in body, to minister to the sick and dying in the midst of an epidemic, the most afflict ing and fatal ever known among us. True to his God, and to his brethren, he faltered not, but hastened to and fro, everywhere, rendering material as well as spiritual comfort to the sick and dying, burying the dead and comforting the bereaved. Saturday night, September 7th, at the suburban residence of one of his mem-
bers, Mrs. Q. C. Atkinson, where his family were sojourning, he was stricken down, and Monday morning, between eight and nine o'clock, very suddenly and unexpectedly he passed away, having been sick only about thirty-six hours. While sitting up in bed, partaking of some nourishment, a glass of milk with rice, he fell back and expired almost in a moment. But few people knew of his illness until they knew also of his death. We deeply regretted that tidings of his departure did not reach us until the hour of his burial, that we might at least have mingled our tears with the few that stood around his grave at Elmwood. In his illness and death, he was kindly ministered unto by brethren of his charge, John A. Holt, and John Waynesburg, of the Masonic Relief Board. The funeral service was conducted at the grave by Dr. Dalzell, a physician and clergyman also, of the P. E. Church, from Shreveport, La. We learn that Dr. Dalzell made some very appropriate and comforting remarks, founded on the text: 'Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.' The Rev. W. P. Barton, at our request, writes:

"September 9th, that noble martyr, Dr. Slater, was by Dr. Dalzell laid in the Mason's Rest. We sometimes, in a feeling of admiration call men martyrs who are not entitled to the honor. But Dr. Slater was fully entitled to it. On the 15th of August I talked to him in reference to his views of the fever. He said to me: "I am an older man than in '73. I am feeble. I don't think I can last through the siege, but by God's help I will do what I can." There was the martyr looking the danger steadily in the face, and for Christ's sake, and his church's sake, and humanity's sake, he faced death, and justly won the martyr's crown. His noble and now sainted daughter Mollie, told me only a few days before her death, that her father talked over the duty and danger of the situation. She said her father had determined before the fever to go to the mountains a few weeks, to repair his feeble health, but as soon as he was certain the fearful storm was breaking, he said in his family: "I can't leave my charge now. Methodism would sink in Memphis, to rise no more. I must stay if it costs me my life." His family were of the same mind. His noble daughter, when speaking of her father's resolve to stay with his charge, though that resolve had already cost her her father, mother, sister, and was in a few days to cost her own life also, said with solemn earnestness: "Pa did right. I would rather he had stayed and died as he did, than desert his people in the hour of their greatest calamity."

GUILFORD JONES.

Phineas T. Scruggs.

The Rev. Phineas Thomas Scruggs, the fifth son of Finch and Nancy Scruggs, was born in Davidson county, Tenn., March —, 1806. He professed faith in Christ at a prayer meeting in his father's house in Lauderdale county, Ala., in 1824; was licensed to preach and admitted on probation in the Tennessee Conference in 1826; was married to Minerva Rivers, in 1828. He traveled first Buffalo Circuit, then Winchester Circuit, afterwards filled several appointments in West Tennessee, then in the bounds of the Tennessee Conference. He was the first stationed preacher in Paris, appointed there in 1831. Subsequently he filled Florence Station, Ala., and Columbia, Tenn. In 1836 he was appointed agent for LaGrange College. On account of inadequate support for a young and growing family, he adopted the profession of law, located
at the Conference held in Somerville, Tenn., in 1837, and settled in that town. In 1839, on account of conscientious scruples about exercising the functions of the ministry in connection with a secular profession, he voluntarily surrendered his ministerial credentials. From that time until 1871, he was actively engaged in his profession—for six years was a Circuit Judge in North Mississippi. In 1872, at our Conference in Somerville, Tenn.,—where thirty-five years before he located—he was re-admitted into the traveling connection. Since his re-admission he has been stationed in Paris, LaGrange and Collierville, and for two past years was, by reason of failing health, in a supernumerary relation. He was elected Judge of the Criminal Court in Memphis during last summer, receiving a large majority over strong competition—a fact that evinces the confidence of the people among whom he had lived longest, in his personal virtues and legal attainments. Brother Scruggs died at his home, seven miles from Memphis, October 19, 1878, of the fatal pestilence that swept from West Tennessee so many eminent and honored citizens, from our church so many worthy members, and from our Conference so many able ministers. His illness lasted only six days. The messenger found him calm amidst the alarms of the plague, and his death was peaceful and even joyful. He leaves a widow (his second wife,) a son and two daughters, who with several grandchildren and a host of warm friends and loving brethren, lament his death and fondly cherish his memory.

Phineas T. Scruggs was no ordinary man. He possessed a massive brain, a high toned and delicately strung emotional nature, and an individuality that rendered him a man of mark in every position he chose to occupy. In the early days of his ministry he ranked among the foremost men of his age and country, being esteemed by popular verdict the peer of the most eloquent pulpit men of the times. During the long exile from the pulpit, which he imposed upon himself, his friends never ceased to wish for his return, knowing that his true sphere was to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ. Alas! how soon after his return was his voice hushed in perpetual silence! He has passed over the river, and we doubt not has found rest under the shade of the trees that grow by the River of Life.

S. W. MOORE.

R. W. Blew.

Resolved, 1. That we deem it becoming to mention in this memorial service the name of Robert W. Blew, late business manager of the Western Methodist, who, with nearly all his family, fell a victim to the late plague in Memphis.

2. That we sincerely lament the death of Brother Blew—the zealous working layman, the faithful friend of the Church and ministry, the wise instructor of the children, the meek and gentle Christian—and here mingle tears for him, in connection with those we shed for our brethren in the ministry.

S. W. MOORE,
R. H. MAHON.
SPIRITUAL INTEREST OF THE CHURCH.

Your Committee on the Spiritual Interest of the Church present the following as the result of their investigation:

We inquire, first—What is the spiritual interest? What does it mean? We understand this question to refer specifically to the life of the Church—that inner life, the fruit of which is to so eminently distinguish us from unbelief and sin as to entirely remove us from all affiliation with a godless world, and all “communion with the unfruitful works of darkness.”

Our spirituality is the operation of the power of God upon us; the revelation of the life-giving energy of the Holy Ghost within us, by which we are made holy in heart and life, and which giveth blessed assurance of the most gracious and glorious presence and power of the Great Head of the Church to guide and support us amid the trials and labors of this life, purifying us unto himself a “peculiar people, zealous of good works.”

With this definition as the standpoint from which to proceed in the further investigation of this important interest, we inquire, secondly: What is the present condition of the Church within our bounds, as to spirituality? And, basing our conclusions upon the facts furnished us by the presiding elders and preachers in charge, we feel that we have great reasons to be devoutly thankful to God for the success which has attended our ministry during the present year. They are almost unanimous in bearing testimony to the marked improvement in this highest interest of the Master’s cause.

There have been over three thousand conversions, and nearly as many accessions to the Church. There is much evidence also of a deeper and more genuine revival work among us than for several years past. Our preachers testify that in all their fields of labor there are many faithful men and women who are earnestly devoted to every interest of our holy Zion; and who are always ready to co-operate with them, seeking to build up these great interests and lead souls to Christ, that they may be saved from sin and eternal ruin. We are also much gratified to find that there has been no little improvement in social meetings in many places, especially prayer and class meetings.

But, notwithstanding these evidences of general improvement in our spiritual upbuilding, it is the conviction of your committee that there is yet much to be done before we shall have reached that high position in spiritual life which it is our privilege to attain. We therefore inquire, thirdly: How can this, our most vital interest, be promoted? And we answer—

1. By plain, earnest Scriptural preaching. There are, in these days of worldly mindedness and infidelity, many reasons why we should preach closely and plainly the doctrines of the Holy Scriptures, earnestly striving to enforce the absolute necessity of true repentance and faith, and of holiness of heart and life; teaching our people everywhere, and all the time, that unless they observe these great prerequisites to final salvation they cannot be saved. And as our attention has been especially directed to the subject of sanctification, by the Conference, we urge upon all the preachers the great importance of not only seeking the abundant graces thereof themselves, but to keep constantly before their people this distinctive doctrine, proving to them from the Scriptures that without holiness they can never see the Lord.

2. By diligent and loving pastoral work, “visiting from house to house,” remembering as they go to encourage the faithful, to reprove the negligent
and to rebuke sin, is one of the specific duties of every pastor, and one we
would lay great stress upon, since, in our judgment, its faithful observance is
highly essential to spiritual advancement.

3. By guarding the door of the Church. This, dear brethren, involves an
item in ministerial fidelity to which, it is feared, we do not give the attention
it deserves. We should be very careful to exercise much discretion in receiv­
ing members into the Church, seeking to keep out all who do not give full
proof of "an earnest desire to flee from the wrath to come, and be saved from
their sins."

4. By attendance upon the social meetings of the Church. Your committee
are of opinion that a general revival of prayer and class or experience meet­
ings of any other name, would do more looking to general growth in grace and
an increase in the knowledge of Christ than anything we can do, more than
we have done, for the accomplishment of this great end. And would urge a
faithful effort upon the part of all the preachers to lead all our people to a
proper appreciation of their great importance among us.

5. By the mild but firm administration of discipline. Your committee re­
gard this as highly essential in official duties, since it is the only safe instru­
ment whereby our Church can be kept pure. We therefore insist that where­
ever and whenever an unholy element is discovered among us it should at
once be removed, either by reforming or cutting off guilty parties.

6. By family religion. This seems to be our greatest want in the religious
education of our families. We are pained to know that so few of our families
attend regularly to the duties of domestic worship. Your committee submit
that, in their judgment, it is highly important that the pastors give special
attention to this subject in their respective charges; that we should all strive to
show our people the highly beneficial results of home religion to any and every
family where its duties are properly and constantly observed; and the awful
dearth resulting to our Zion on account of their great neglect thereof. And
while we regard pastoral instruction and Sunday school work as of great
good among us, we yet insist that their faithful observance do not and cannot
compensate for the neglect of parental instruction and home religion.

Respectfully submitted.

S. W. MOORE,
S. B. ADAMS,
JOHN RANDLE,
A. C. SMITH,
J. V. FLY,
H. M. SEARS,
J. D. BUSH,
Committee.

MISSIONS.

The Conference Board of Missions present the following report:

1. Saffaran Street Mission has been served by G. W. Wilson. He reports 91
members, 1 Sunday school, 11 teachers, 66 scholars, 200 volumes in library, 1
church, 150 sittings; value, $3000. Paid presiding elder, $16 35, and
preachers, $316 85.
2. Georgia Street Mission has been served by L. D. Mullins, a part of the year, and he served it well until disabled by affliction. He reports 69 members, 60 Sunday school scholars and 11 teachers, 1 church, 300 sittings; value of property, $4000.

3. Shelby Mission has been served by W. T. Locke. He reports 30 members, 1 church, 250 sittings; value, $500. Paid— for Missions, and $15 to the preacher.

4. Bolivar Mission has been served by D. A. Ross. He reports 126 members, 2 local preachers, 4 churches, 1200 sittings; value, $700. Paid for Missions $2 50, to the preacher $123.

5. McNairy Mission has been served by George W. Atkins. He reports 1 local preacher, 56 members, 51 adults baptized, 3 Sunday schools, 7 officers and teachers, 50 scholars, 5 churches, 500 sittings; value, $500; paid preacher, $40.

6. Trimble Mission has been served by N. W. Overall. He reports 120 members, 3 churches, 750 sittings; value, $800; expended for building churches, $600; paid Bishops, $5; Conference collection, $4; Missions, $10; presiding elder, $20; preacher, $80 35.

7. Mississippi River Mission has been served by W. W. Jenkins. He reports 75 members, 16 adults and 3 infants baptized, 2 Sunday schools, 75 scholars, $15 for Sunday schools, 1 church, 200 sittings; value, $200. Conference collections, $20; paid for Missions, $35; presiding elder, $16 75; preacher, $69 75.

8. Troy Mission has been served by R. M. King, and has been reported with Troy circuit.

9. Lynnville Mission has been served by J. W. Poyner. He reports 1 local preacher, 70 members, baptized 8 adults and 6 infants; 2 churches, 400 sittings; value, $600. Paid for building churches, $100; for Bishops, 50 cents; Conference collections, $1; for presiding elder, $3; and preacher, $42 95.

10. Blandville Mission has been served by J. H. Collins. He reports 160 members, 2 Sunday schools, 40 scholars, 1 church, 150 sittings; value, $40. Paid for Bishop, $3; for Missions, $10; for presiding elder, $10; to the preacher, $150.

11. Milburn Mission has been served by R. F. Burkheard. He reports 88 members, 2 Sunday schools, 34 scholars. Paid for Sunday schools, $3 50; for preacher, $38 50.

12. Paducah City Mission has been served by C. D. Davis. He reports 20 members, 1 Sunday school. The Mission was served in connection with the Paducah circuit, and recommend that it be made a part of the circuit.

13. Pine Bluff Mission has been served by T. M. Ragsdale. He reports 40 members received into the Church, 3 baptized, 2 churches; value, $50; paid preacher, $9 35. Had 20 conversions, most of them went to the Baptists and Presbyterians.

Monday, December 9, 3 P. M., the Board met—W. T. Harris, Vice President, in the Chair.

On motion, it was ordered that the assessment of $5000 on our Conference be apportioned to the several Districts on the same basis as it was last year, as follows: Memphis District, $935; Somerville District, $825; Jackson District, $845; Dyersburg District, $770; Dresden District, $825; Paducah District, $490; Paris District, $570.
MINUTES OF THE MEMPHIS CONFERENCE.

Received for Foreign Missions from collections on the various charges, $2667 50; contribution from F. B. Kerr, $500 00; City Bank, $1 00, $501; from other sources, $225 20; total, $3403 70.

Received for Domestic Missions from collections on the various charges, $894 95; from the anniversary collection, $92 20; total, $987 15.

This has been paid out as follows: To Safl'aran Street Mission, $116; Georgia Street Mission, $116; Shelby Mission, $87; Bolivar Mission, $87; McNairy Mission, $87; Trimble Mission, $58; Mississippi River Mission, $30; Troy Mission, $116; Lynnville Mission, $58; Blandville Mission, $58; Millburn Mission, $29; Paducah City Mission, $116; Pine Bluff Mission, $29.

The Board proposed to raise $1000 for Domestic Missions, which amount is assessed to the several Districts as follows: Memphis District, $200; Somerville District, $165; Jackson District, $425; Dyersburg District, $165; Dresden District, $280; Paducah District, $105; Paris District, $115.

The Board propose the following plan of Mission work for the ensuing year, viz.:

- Memphis District—Saffaran Street, $150; Georgia Street, $50.
- Somerville District—Somerville Mission, $100; Bolivar Mission, $50.
- Jackson District—McNairy Mission, $75.
- Dyersburg District—Hale's Point Mission, $100; Trimble Mission, $50.
- Dresden District—Lynnville Mission, $50.
- Paducah District—Paducah City Mission, $100; Blandville Hill Mission, $100.
- Paris District—Scott's Mission, $100.

The Board of Missions elected the following officers for the ensuing four years: W. C. Johnson, President; W. T. Harris, Vice President; Guilford Jones, Secretary; R. V. Taylor, Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,
T. L. BOSWELL, President.

G. JONES, Secretary.

EDUCATION.

Your committee to whom were referred the papers and documents from the several institutions of learning, to which allusion is hereinafter made, beg leave to submit the following report:

We find much reason for congratulation in the fact that so many institutions of learning are now in successful operation in our Church. Methodism has always been a patron of education, increasing in every element of power and influence among men. The education of our children has ever been an object of great solicitude, and at no period in our history has the Church given more consideration to the subject than at the present time. Schools standing in organic relations to the Church are multiplying, and much of the best talent among us is employed in the intellectual training of the rising generation, under the wholesome influence of moral and religious association. We deem it a pleasant duty to encourage, by all possible means, the several institutions thus engaged in the intellectual development of the youths committed to their care. This is evidently of binding obligation upon us in view of the truth, so clearly taught by experience, that the training of the intelligence, without a corresponding culture and regulation of the emotional part, will
leave the mind with a partial development, which gives it a bias alien to re-
ligion, and renders it susceptible to the baleful, and often fatal influence of
opinions that are at war with Christianity. Let education and religion go
hand in hand, training every element, co-operating in aiding the mind in its
progress to maturity, then the development will be normal and therefore safe.

Your committee think that we cannot too earnestly urge our brethren to aid
this great cause by patronizing our schools and bringing their united influence
in establishing them upon a foundation that will command the confidence,
sympathy and support of the people.

Several of the schools under our patronage have submitted reports of their
condition and prospects, and we are pleased to state that in most of them there
is great promise for the future.

1. The Vanderbilt University claims special attention, because it is in
organic relation with the Conference; because its Faculty, composed of dis-
tinguished educators, is worthy of our confidence; and because its course of
study, and the organization of its several departments are such as to supply
every want and to meet the demand of the age in which we live. We would
specially note that the School of Civil Engineering has recently been organ-
ized, and the University is prepared to give a thorough and complete course
of instruction in that profession.

2. The Memphis Conference Female Institute, located at Jackson, Tenn., is
too well known to need a special statement of its advantages. We know its
Faculty—we know its character. The former have been tried, the latter has
been established upon a basis of honest work, and confirmed by the attain-
ment of undisputed success. The Rev. A. B. Jones has been placed at the
head of this institution; and he fully sustains the high position given it by his
venerable father, the Rev. A. W. Jones, who, as Professor, is still giving it his
aid and influence; and with the various facilities and improvements now sur-
rounding it, we feel confident that it will reach a much higher position as an
institution of learning than ever enjoyed by it before.

3. The Wesleyan Female College, located at Brownsville, Tenn., has en-
joyed its former prosperity with increased patronage during the past session,
and with bright prospects for the future. This institution promises to wield
a wholesome influence in educating and christianizing the daughters of our land.

4. The McKenzie College, located at McKenzie, Tenn., has been in opera-
tion for several years, and the present organization of the Faculty has established
confidence in the minds of its friends and supporters. The Trustees speak
very encouragingly of this school, as to its many advantages, its location,
healthfulness, etc., and are expecting increase of patronage and renewed pros-
perity. Its course of instruction is thorough and comprehensive, and its arrange-
ment methodical. The Normal Department, under a trained and experienced
educator, is an important feature in this school, to which we invite special
attention.

5. The State Female College, located at Memphis, Tenn. Although we have
received no written report from this school, we learn it has recently resumed
the duties of the fall session under the control and direction of Mrs. H. N.
Collins. It has been suspended during the fall, owing to the prevailing epi-
demic, but we hope it will soon enjoy its wonted prosperity.
6. The Paducah District High School, at Milburn, Ky., established two years ago, is the property of our Church. The Trustees report that, "If the Methodists of the District can be induced to patronize this school, they can succeed in building up an institution that will be worthy of the Church." They report good buildings, well furnished, and only need the aid of the Church to insure success.

7. The Somerville District High School, located at Mt. Zion, Tenn., is reported by the Trustees to be in a prosperous and growing condition, and in favor with the people, and owing to its pleasant surroundings many have been attracted there for the purpose of educating their children.

8. The Jackson District High School is reported to be in a flourishing condition. It is the property of the Church, and has been in operation two years. The Board of Trustees are very confident that this school property, well managed, will be second to none of its class in our bounds. We heartily indorse it and recommend it to the people as worthy of their patronage.

Your committee have noted with gratitude the gracious religious and moral influences which our schools are exerting over their pupils, and we can confidently recommend to parents and guardians those mentioned in this report, knowing that the morals of their children will be studiously guarded. And we further recommend that the Visiting Committee be specially urged to visit, and thereby encourage the several institutions, not only at the Commencement exercises, but frequently during the active duties of the session.


WM. A. TANNER, Chairman.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sunday Schools would respectfully submit the following report:

We regard the Sunday school second to no interest of the Church. All children should be taught of God, brought up for God. This is the grand mission of the Church, and the Sunday school is the mighty factor in its accomplishment. Then, should Superintendents be wise, teachers prompt and the children punctilious in the organization, management and maintenance of schools. We think it a prominent duty of every pastor to attend, supervise and carefully watch the workings of every school in the bounds of his charge. We not only commend, but most earnestly recommend, our own Sunday school literature, as we value the religious training of our children and the youth of our land. Especially no other publications can be found better, and we think none so good, as the Magazine, Visitor, Lesson Papers, Little People and other religious matter issued by our Southern Methodist press.

The report of the Statistical Secretary furnishes the following items as to the Sunday school interest in our bounds: Sunday schools, 317—increase, 24; officers and teachers, 1932—increase, 13; scholars, 19,782—increase, 199; volumes in libraries, 14,270—increase, 71; magazines taken, 625—increase, 39; Visitors, 846—decrease, 255; Our Little Peoples, 2191—decrease, 14; Lesson
Papers, 4087—increase, 409; moneys expended for Sunday school purposes, $2203 41—decrease, $487 03.

Resolved, 1. That as pastors of the Church of Jesus Christ, we will labor with renewed zeal and fidelity to promote the Sunday school cause and the instruction of the children in the knowledge and love of God.

2. That we cordially recommend our Sunday school literature, and as pastors we will strive to circulate through the Church, and supply all our schools with the same.

W. T. HARRIS, Chairman.

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS—NO. 1.

The Committee on Books and Periodicals beg leave to submit the following as their Report No. 1, on the indebtedness of the Publishing House:

We have had before us the reports of the Book Agent and Book Committee, at Nashville, from which we learn that the indebtedness of the Publishing House is about $300,000, and the interest increasing all the time. They are satisfied that they cannot pay the interest on this debt at the present rate, and pay any part of the principal; but they do believe they can meet the interest on the above amount, if fixed at four per cent. per annum, in addition to annual expenses of the House; and hence they are of the opinion that the only practical method of dealing with this vast indebtedness is to issue coupon bonds of the following denominations, viz.: $50, $100, $500, $1000, bearing four per cent, per annum, payable at Nashville, Tenn., on the first day of January and July of each succeeding year. Your committee are favorably impressed with the practicability of this plan, and in view of the great importance, if not absolute necessity, of the Publishing House in order to supply the Church with a sound Christian literature, and having a great desire to see the House relieved of its financial embarrassment, therefore

Resolved, 1. That the Memphis Conference approves the plan proposed by the Book Committee, and respectfully urge our people to accept it by purchasing the bonds according to their ability.

2. That we further recommend that our people give their united support to the House by giving it their patronage in buying and circulating the books, thereby rendering a double benefit in supporting the House and circulating the best religious literature in the world.

Respectfully submitted.

T. L. BOSWELL, Chairman.

Books and Periodicals—No. 2.

The Committee on Books and Periodicals beg leave to present the following as their Report No. 2, respecting our periodical literature. And

1. The Christian Advocate—our Connectional organ—published at Nashville, Tenn., deserves high commendation as an able and popular religious newspaper. Dr. Fitzgerald, the new editor, is giving the highest degree of satisfaction, leaving but little, if anything, to be desired in his part. The Book Agent has reduced the size and price of the paper without reducing the amount of reading matter, and contemplates further improvements as the paper enlarges its subscription list. The Agent and Editor are calling loudly for 30,000 subscribers, which would enable them not only to speak more extensively to the
Church, but furnish the means to pay the interest on the Publishing House debt. Your committee earnestly recommend the Christian Advocate to the patronage of our preachers and people.

2. Our Sunday school literature, comprising the Magazine, Visitor, Little People and Lesson Papers, is beyond all praise. We do not know how the work could be better done than Dr. Cunyngham is doing it. We are highly pleased with the proposed change, to take effect in January next, of the loose Lesson Papers, as heretofore published, to the Lesson Quarterly, and we warmly recommend this, with all our Sunday school papers, to the extended patronage of our people. We are gratified to know that this department of our publishing interest is prospering in a high degree. May it be increased a thousand fold!

3. The paper referred to us from Dr. T. O. Summers, the Book Editer, concerning the new edition of the Discipline, embodying all the changes ordered by the late General Conference, and the Journal of that session, has been considered, and we earnestly recommend our people at large, and at once, to supply themselves with the Discipline of the Church, and the preachers, at least, with the Journal of the General Conference. The price of the Discipline, and our books generally, has been reduced as low as they can be consistently with any profits, and we do hope that the ministers and friends of the Church throughout our bounds will come up, one and all, to the support of our publishing interest, by giving their undivided patronage to them, and thereby benefit themselves and support the institutions of the Church.

4. Last, but not least, we call special attention to the Western Methodist, edited and published at Memphis, Tenn., by Dr. W. C. Johnson. It was suspended during the late epidemic at Memphis, but since, it has set out afresh in its weekly visits, bearing messages of peace and love and blessing to the thousands of our Israel. The publisher intends to supply the missing numbers during the epidemic by extending the time of subscription. The editor proposes to increase the interest and usefulness of the paper by publishing weekly Notes on the Sunday school Lessons, foreign and domestic correspondence, and occasional contributions from able writers who have not heretofore communicated with the Church through the columns of the Western Methodist.

We write our sorrows and lamentations, in common with thousands of our children, Church members and friends, at the loss we have sustained in the death of Uncle Bon. His name will never be forgotten, for "the righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance"—it is as ointment poured forth. And as our loss is his gain, we bow with submission to the divine will, praying that the Great Head of the Church will raise up some one to fill his place.

The Western Methodist, our Conference organ, is well worthy of a place in all our families and the support of all our people, and we urge them to do their duty toward giving to it a circulation of ten thousand subscribers.

Resolved, 1. That we take great pleasure in recommending the Christian Advocate to the patronage of our people.

2. That we will use our best endeavors to supply all our Sunday schools with our Sunday school literature.

3. That we will make special efforts to introduce the Western Methodist into all the families of our respective charges.

Respectfully submitted.

T. L. BOSWELL.
MINUTES OF THE MEMPHIS CONFERENCE.

BIBLE CAUSE.

Your committee has made diligent inquiry for information respecting the work of the Church in the dissemination of the holy Scriptures, which are able to make us wise unto salvation, and which are as a light to our feet and a lamp to our pathway, and notwithstanding the infinite importance of every one having the word of truth, we find, as a Church, within the bounds of this Conference, we are sadly deficient.

There is also a painful neglect on the part of Church members in searching the Scriptures, which was a positive command of our blessed Master while he was in the world, and light, trashy literature is indulged in in the place thereof.

Resolved, 1. That each preacher and layman urge upon the people, both privately and publicly, the importance of studying the holy Scriptures.

2. That a collection be taken in all our congregations, at a suitable time, for the American Bible Society, and reported to the nearest auxiliary.

Respectfully submitted.

THOMAS G. WHITTEN, Chairman.

TREASURER’S REPORT.

MEMPHIS DISTRICT.—First Church, Foreign Missions, $135 48; Domestic Missions, 00. Central Church, 47 57; 00. Hernando Street, 22 20; 00. Saffaran Street, 19 75; 8 55. Georgia Street, 00; 00. Springdale, 10; 6. Bartlett, 23; 00. Bethlehem, 102 40; 34 50. Collierville and Moscow; 00; 00. Shelby Mission, 00; 00 80. LaGrange and Saulsbury, 30; 00. Middleton, 15; 00. Macon, 153 75; 39 25. Total, $559 15; $89 10. Of which receipts, $215 25.

SOMERVILLE DISTRICT.—Somerville, Foreign Missions, 00; Domestic Missions, 00. Bolivar and Grand Junction, 15; 8 25. Bolivar Mission, 00; 2 50. Whiteville, 30 70; 20. Dancyville, 90 75; 35 75. Stanton, 34 20; 9 10. Covington and Tabernacle, 10; 5. Randolph, 00; 4 75. Gratitude, 47 30; 00. Embury, 15; 2. Lucy, 1 50; 1 50. Covington Circuit, 32 29; 14 25. Total, $276 74; $103 10.


DRESDEN DISTRICT.—Dresden Station, Foreign Missions, $6; Domestic Missions, $5. Dresden Circuit, 65; 7. Union City and Troy, 14 50; 5. Cottage Grove, 4 80; 00. McKenzie Circuit, 34; 15. Boydsville, 00; 00. Lynn-
MINUTES OF THE MEMPHIS CONFERENCE.

ville, 00; 00. Fulton, 38 50; 10. Walnut Grove, 33 10; 16. Hickman Station, 09; 00. Hickman Circuit, 39; 14. Tiptonville, 8; 10. Troy Circuit, 16; 15. Total, $249 90; $98.


PARIS DISTRICT.—Paris Station, Foreign Missions, $13 50; Domestic Missions, $6 50. Paris Circuit, 7; 4. Spring Hill, 3; 00. Paris Landing, 6; 5. Camden, 6 05; 3. Huntingdon, 3 80; 4 25. Trezavant, 8; 5. Salem, 5; 2. Lexington, 00; 00. Clarksburg, 11 80; 00. Decaturville, 30; 3 60. Scott's Hill, 5; 2. Saltville, 5; 4 26. Morgan's Creek, 4; 00. McKenzie and Milan, 18 50; 4 20. Lavinia, 31; 5 50. Total, $157 65; $49 31.

R. V. TAYLOR, Treasurer.

FINANCE.

I. SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY.—Assessed, $59,585 15; receipts, 38,829 08; amount paid last year, 44,263 11; falling off from receipts of last year, 5434 03. This deficiency, we admit, is to some extent to be attributed to the stringency of finance, and to the loss and demoralization resulting from the epidemic which has so disastrously prevailed in some of our Districts, but a much better result could have been attained. By examining the statistics we find that a number of our pastors have the collections to be raised by themselves, all full, while they report large deficiencies in their own salaries. This demonstrates that the Church at large is less culpable than the stewards; and the laymen of this Board, many of whom are stewards, insist that an earnest, persistent effort be made to wipe out this reproach.

II. THE CONFERENCE COLLECTION.—The Districts were assessed, have paid and are deficient, as follows:

Memphis District—Assessed, $350; paid, $219 10; deficiency, $130 90.
Somerville District—Assessed, $320; paid, $165 20; deficiency, $154 80.
Jackson District—Assessed, $335; paid, $265 35; deficiency, $69 65.
Dyersburg District—Assessed, $290; paid, $317 75; excess, $27 75.
Dresden District—Assessed, $240; paid, $164 90; deficiency, $75 10.
Paducah District—Assessed, $225; paid, $168 50; deficiency, $56 50.
Paris District—Assessed, $240; paid, $126 30; deficiency, $113 70.
Total assessed, $2000; paid, $1427 10; deficiency, $572 90.

From other sources—$70 of the amount appropriated to Sister Bell, and returned to the Board by Brother N. J. Caldwell; interest from A. W. Jones, $246 45; interest from R. W. Blew & Co., $70 40. We hold A. W. Jones' due bill for $93 45, with interest from November 25, 1877; from member of Conference after account was closed, 50 cents; making cash from all sources, $1814 45.
The Board approved the action of Brother Caldwell in the matter of collecting and returning to the Conference Fund the remnant of the appropriation made last year to Sister Bell, since her surviving children were not claimants under the law. The Rev. N. P. Ramsey is continued as Trustee for W. B. Ramsey's children, and O. P. Parker for Barney McCutchen; also Thomas England for Sister J. G. Glasgow.

We have appropriated cash on hand, as follows: Sister John Moss, $100; W. B. Ramsey's children, 160; Sister P. T. Scruggs, 50; Sister T. P. Davidson, 100; Sister Anna M. Acton, 25; Brother J. C. Crews, 65; Sister Benjamin Bishop, 50; Sister M. J. M. Hubbard, 35; Sister J. G. Glasgow, 200; Sister D. C. McCutchen, 50; Sister D. J. Allen, 63; Sister J. W. Mathis, 25; Sister W. B. Seward, 175; Sister F. M. Morris, 100; Brother Benjamin Peebles, 100; Sister Sallie Warren, 81; Barney McCutchen, 80; Sister M. C. Crouch, 75; Sister Mary Burns, 240; Brother C. C. Glover, 20; to loss on silver, 45 cents; to Bishop Paine's traveling expenses, 10. Total, $1814.45.

We have assessed the Districts for the Conference Collection, as follows: Memphis District, $437.50; Somerville, 400; Jackson, 418.75; Dyersburg, 362.50; Dresden, 300; Paducah, 281.25; Paris, 300. Total, $2500.

This Board appropriated, at the last session of the Conference, $158 to Sister Bell, and it was afterward discovered that Sister Bell had, at the time the appropriation was made, been dead six months. We would call the attention of our pastors to this circumstance, as it illustrates the necessity of a careful inquiry into the condition of Conference claimants, and a faithful report of the same.

III. The Bishops' Fund.—The Districts were assessed, have paid and are deficient, as follows:

Memphis District—Assessed, $232.50; paid, 203.90; deficiency, 28.60.
Somerville District—Assessed, $207.50; paid, 156; deficiency, 51.50.
Jackson District—Assessed, $212; paid 212.20; excess, 20 cents.
Dyersburg District—Assessed, $175; paid, 177.25; excess, 2.25.
Dresden District—Assessed, $145; paid, 123.45; deficiency, 21.55.
Paducah District—Assessed, 125; paid, 125.
Paris District—Assessed, $145; paid, 132; deficiency, 13.

Total assessed, $1242; paid, $1129.80; deficiency, $112.20.

The assessment aggregates $1242. We have paid Bishop Paine in cash, $854.80. We find Bishop Keener's receipt for $131.50; Bishop Paine's receipt for $143.50. Total, $1129.80.

We have assessed the Districts for the following year for the support of the Bishops, as follows: Memphis District, $232.50; Somerville District, $207.50; Jackson District, $212; Dyersburg District, $175; Dresden District, $145; Paducah District, $125; Paris District, $145. Total, $1242.

Respectfully submitted.

J. T. C. COLLINS, Chairman.

THOS. W. CROWDER, Secretary.
EXAMINING COMMITTEES.

Admission on Trial—R. H. Mahon, T. E. Sanders, W. L. Duckworth.
First Year—Guilford Jones, G. B. Baskerville, S. B. Surratt.
Third Year—A. W. Jones, W. T. Harris, J. M. Spence.
Fourth Year—S. W. Moore, C. J. Nugent, J. M. Scott.

COMMITTEE ON MEMOIRS.

W. C. Johnson, S. W. Moore, Guilford Jones.

BOARD OF FINANCE.


VISITING COMMITTEES.

Memphis Conference Female Institute—J. H. Evans, S. B. Surratt, Guilford Jones.
Wesleyan Female College—S. W. Moore, Warner Moore, W. L. Duckworth.
State Female College—J. A. Heard, R. H. Mahon, W. T. Harris.
Jackson District High School—T. F. Sanders, R. A. Umstead, G. K. Brooks.
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### STATISTICS.

#### MEMPHIS DISTRICT.

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#### SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

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#### CHURCH PROPERTY.

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#### COLLECTIONS.

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#### SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY.

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### SOMERVILLE DISTRICT.

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### STATISTICS.

MEMPHIS DISTRICT.

- **First Church.**
- **Central Church.**
- **Grace Church.**
- **Sufficiency Street Mission.**
- **George Street Mission.**
- **Springdale.**
- **Bolivar.**
- **Collinwood.**
- **Largraville.**
- **LaGrange and Madison.**
- **Macon.**
- **Total.**

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### SOMERVILLE DISTRICT.

- **Somervile Station.**
- **Railway and General Factories.**
- **Union Mills.**
- **Denyville.**
- **Simond.**
- **Car lots and Tabernacles.**
- **Carrington.**
- **Gratitude and Bethab.**
- **Hartly.**
- **Total.**

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|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| First Church | 300 | 510 | 350 | 485 | 350 | 200 |
| Trenton | 300 | 450 | 350 | 425 | 300 | 200 |
| Adamsville | 300 | 450 | 350 | 425 | 300 | 200 |

**Dyersburg District**

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<td>750</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi River Mission</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Dresden District**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dresden</td>
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<td>450</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dresden City</td>
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<td>450</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carter's Grove</td>
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<td>450</td>
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<tr>
<td>McCombs Grove</td>
<td>300</td>
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<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hopkins Grove</td>
<td>300</td>
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<td>Lindale Mission</td>
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<tr>
<td>McAllister</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>450</td>
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<td>300</td>
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<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hackett Station</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>300</td>
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<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tompkins Mission</td>
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<td>450</td>
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<td>300</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two O'clock and Mission</td>
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<td>450</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission Creek</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
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</table>

Total | 300 | 450 | 300 | 300 | 200 | 100 |
### PADOCAH DISTRICT.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paducah Station</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0:25:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herrin</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>0:25:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Paducah</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>0:25:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moundsville</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>0:30:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burlington</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>0:30:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paducah</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>0:30:50</td>
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</table>

### PARIS DISTRICT.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paris Station</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0:25:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oronogo</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>0:25:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paducah</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>0:25:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moundsville</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0:30:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burlington</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>0:30:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paducah</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>0:30:50</td>
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### RECAPITULATION.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memphis Division</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>0:30:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paducah Division</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>0:30:50</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The table data represents travel time in hours and minutes for various stations within the districts.
ESTABLISHED 1843.

S. MANSFIELD & CO.

Strictly Headquarters for

PURPOSE DRUGS AND MEDICINES,

At the Lowest Prices.

Great Reduction in the Price of Drugs, Medicines, &c.

We take pleasure by this means of informing you that we have in store, and are constantly receiving fresh from direct Importers and Manufacturers, the most extensive and varied assortment of goods in our line ever brought to this city, all of which we offer for sale at prices hitherto unknown in this market.

Fully appreciating the condition of the people, owing to hard times and scarcity of money, we have determined to sell Drugs and Medicines, and all other goods pertaining to our business, embracing as it does many thousands of articles, at the VERY LOWEST GOLD PRICES.

Purchasers will find upon application, that our goods are cheaper than can be had in any Southern or Western house; and in quantities and styles to suit them, put up and handled only by experienced men.

We have every facility for obtaining goods of the PUREST and BEST QUALITY, FRESH and GENUINE, direct from the manufacturers, in the largest quantities, and from our long experience in the Drug Business, we flatter ourselves that our efforts to serve the public will be appreciated and sustained.

Hoping to have your patronage and the privilege of convincing you personally that our DRUG HOUSE IS STRICTLY HEADQUARTERS FOR PURE GOODS, at the very lowest prices, we are,

Very Respectfully,

S. MANSFIELD & CO.,

DRUGGISTS.

Store and Sales Rooms 301 & 303 Main Street,
Warehouse & Laboratory, 101 & 103 Court Street.

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275 Main Street,
MEMPHIS, TENN.

IMPORTERS AND DEALERS IN
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JEWELRY, SILVER,
SILVER PLATED WARE,
TABLE AND POCKET CUTLERY,
CLOCKS, BRONZES,
FANCY GOODS AND SPECTACLES.

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FOR LADIES', MISSSES AND
CHILDREN'S GARMENTS,
AND GENT'S UNDERWEAR.

Our Fashion Catalogues mailed
free, with full directions how to
take measure.

Shows over 5000 cuts latest
style garments as they will look
when made.

Full instructions with each
pattern.

ADDRESS

J. B. ALDRICH,
General Agent,
254 SECOND ST.,
MEMPHIS, TENN.

N. B.—An Agent wanted in every
town.

SEWING MACHINES.

PRICES DOWN!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF MACHINE</th>
<th>Without Cover</th>
<th>With Cover</th>
<th>Drop Leaf &amp; Drawers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic</td>
<td></td>
<td>35</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grover &amp; Baker</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howe</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remington</td>
<td>25</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stewart</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheeler &amp; Wilson</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weed</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I deal only in New Machines, direct
from the Factory, and guarantee them
for four years.

Needles, Oils, Parts, Attachments
and Repairs for all Machines.

Special terms given to Dealers and
Agents on Application.

J. B. ALDRICH,
254 SECOND STREET, MEMPHIS.