MINUTES
OF THE
MEMPHIS CONFERENCE
OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
(SOUTH)
FORTIETH SESSION,
HELD AT
MAYFIELD, KENTUCKY,
NOVEMBER 19-25, 1879.
PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE CONFERENCE.

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WILLS & WILDBERGER, PRINTERS, 317 MAIN STREET,
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1880.
The fortieth session of the Memphis Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South was held in Mayfield, Kentucky, November 19–25th, 1879. Bishop H. H. Kavanaugh presiding.

Devotional service was conducted by the Bishop, who read the fourth chapter of 2d Corinthians and after the 272 Hymn had been sung, led in prayer. The Conference then sung the 595th Hymn when Dr. S. W. Moore led in prayer.

The Secretary of the last Conference called the roll of clerical and lay delegates, as follows:

**Clerical Members.**


LAY MEMBERS.

Jackson District.—Milton Brown, W. C. Cason, J. J. Blackmon, Isaac B. Day, L. P.
Dresden District.—E. D. Baker, Dr: S. W. Godwin, G. W. Hearne J. A. Blythe.
Paris District.—Dr. J. T. Irion, G. W. Rogers, Isaac T. Bell, A. G. Hawkins.

J. B. England, reserve delegate from Paducah district, was substituted in place of R. F. Burkhead, absent.

Many visitors were present during the session, including Dr. O. P. Fitzgerald, editor of the Christian Advocate; Rev. R. A. Young, D.D., Secretary of the Board of Trustees of Vanderbilt University; Rev. Dr. Geo. S. Savage, Agent of the American Bible Society, who addressed the Conference in behalf of the Society; Rev. J. S. Frasier, of St. Louis, Conference; Rev. J. R. Peeples, of Kentucky Conference, and Rev. Bishop Wayman of the African M. E. Church.

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

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


The names of absentees are marked *.


Board of Finance appointed at last session—


The following amendment to the Conference Board of Missions, was adopted:

Resolved. That the Board shall consist of one Clerical and one Lay member from each Presiding Elder District to be elected by the Conference instead of the members of the Joint Board of Finance as heretofore.

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?
W. W. Jenkins.

Question 4.—Who are admitted into full connection?
Geo. T. Peeples, John S. Collins, Zach. W. Richardson, E. K.

Question 5.—Who are re-admitted?
B. Medlin, Simpson Weaver.

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

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

Question 8.—What traveling preachers are elected deacons?
G. T. Peeples, John S. Collins, Z. W. Richardson, Wm. S. Mal­one, J. A. Moody, John T. Wiggins, R. N. Freeman, J. B Sears
R. W. Newsom, A. O. P. Sears.

Question 9.—What traveling preachers are ordained deacons?

Question 10.—What local preachers are elected deacons?

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?
Wm. J. Barnes, R. D. C. Dodd.

Question 15.—What local preachers are ordained elders?
R. D. C. Dodd.

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?
Nathan Sullivan.

**Question 20.** Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration?
J. S. White, expelled from the church and ministry.

**Question 21.** What is the number of local preachers and members in the several circuits, stations and missions of the Conference?
Number of local preachers, 249; members, 33,793.

**Question 22.** How many infants have been baptized during the year?
590.

**Question 23.** How many adults have been baptized during the year?
2576.

**Question 24.** What is the number of Sunday-schools?
313.

**Question 25.** What is the number of Sunday-school teachers?
2053.

**Question 26.** What is the number of Sunday-school scholars?
16,125.

**Question 27.** What amount is necessary for the superannuated preachers, and the widows and orphans of preachers?
$2,500.

**Question 28.** What has been collected on the foregoing account and how has it been applied?
$1,612 50. (See report of Joint Board.)

**Question 29.** What has been contributed for Missions?
(See report of Board of Missions.)

**Question 30.** Where shall the next session of the Conference be held?
Trenton, Tennessee.

**Question 31.** Where are the preachers stationed this year?
MEMPHIS DISTRICT.

A. H. THOMAS, Presiding Elder.

Memphis:
First Church, R. H. Mahon, W. M. McFerrin.
Central Church, S. W. Moore.
Hernando Street, Guilford Jones, L. D. Mulins, Sup.
Saffarian Street, T. C. Holmes.
Georgia Street, J. E. Treadwell.
Springdale, R. N. Freeman.
Bartle ct, G. B. Baskerville.
Bethlehem ct, J. C. Hooks.
Collierville and Moscow, J. A. Heard, B. A. Freeman.
Macon State College, A. H. Johnson.
State High School, L. R. Mattin.
State Missions, J. H. Roberts, J. E. Beck.
Belleview Female College, J. A. Heard, Pres.

SOMERVILLE DISTRICT.

T. L. BOSWELL, Presiding Elder.

Newcastle ct, John Randle.
Belmont ct, R. V. Taylor.
Whiteville ct, J. G. Clark.
Danceville ct, J. M. Spence.
Covington and Trabuco, W. M. Leatherwood.
Covington ct, J. S. Renshaw.
Gratitude ct, N. Futrell.
Mt. Zion Station and Principal of Somerville District High School, Hardin L. Turner.
Embry ct, J. P. Walker.
Braden ct, A. C. Smith.
Stanton ct, J. W. Poston.

JACKSON DISTRICT.

J. H. EVANS, Presiding Elder.

Jackson:
First Church, E. E. Hamilton.
East and West Jackson, W. C. Sellers.
Jackson ct, James Perry, J. H. Johnson, Sup.
Spring Creek ct, Z. W. Richardson.
Humboldt Station, G. K. Brooks.
Brownsville Station, W. T. Harris.
Brownsville ct, W. L. Duckworth.
Denmark ct, Richard Hill.
Mifflin ct, W. A. Freeman.
Henderson Station, R. W. Newsom.
Montezuma, and Professor in Jackson District High School, S. B. Love.
Pinson ct, R. A. Umpstead.
Trenton ct, W. H. Evans.
Memphis Conference Female Institute, A. B. Jones, President—A. W. Jones, Prof.
Wesleyan Female College, Jno. Williams, Pres.
Jackson District High School, B. F. Blackmon, Principal.

DYERSBURG DISTRICT.

A. R. WILSON, Presiding Elder.

Dyersburg Station, G. T. Sullivan.
Dyersburg ct, O. P. Parker, R. S. Harris, Sup.
Newbern C. O. Whitten.
Rutherford ct, B. F. Peeples.
Trenton Station, J. M. Scott.
Alamo and Bellville, C. J. Mauldin.
Alamo ct, J. M. Maxwell.
Friendship ct, W. T. Young.
Woodville ct, G. H. Martin.
Ripley and Durhamville, Warner Moore.
Ripley ct T. J. Simmons.
Hale's Point Mission, to be supplied (by W. A. Vancey).

UNION CITY DISTRICT.

N. P. RAMSEY, Presiding Elder.

Union City Station, J. H. Roberts, J. E. Beck.
Sup.
Martin ct, J. T. C. Collins.
Dresden and Grove Hill, R. M. King.
Cottage Grove ct, J. A. Russell.
Boydville ct, Bryant Medlin.
Fulton Station, J. W. Knott.
Fulton ct, F. Bynum.
Walnut Grove ct, R. E. Graves, Jeremiah Moss, Sup.
Hickman Station, E. K. Bransford.
Sharon ct, S. Weaver.
Tiptonville ct, C. D. Davis.
Hickman ct, J. G. Frithe.
Troy ct and Mission, E. B. Plummer Job R. R. Bell, M. D. Robinson, Sup.
Dresden High School, E. T. Hart, Principal.

PADUCAH DISTRICT.

W. H. LEIGH, Presiding Elder.

Paducah Station, S. B. Suratt.
Paducah City Mission, J. V. Fly.
Paducah ct, E. H. Stewart, T. N. Ragsdale, Sup.
Mayfield Station, T. G. Whitten.
Columbus Station, J. D. Bush.
Hinkleville ct and Mission, J. W. Gooch, one to be supplied (by D M Evans).
Clanton Station, W. G. Heffley.
Clinton ct, R. L. West.
Benton ct, W. S. Malone.
Wadesboro ct, H. C. Gamble.
Briensburg ct, J. R. Hardin.
Paducah District High School, L. R. Martin, Principal.

PARIS DISTRICT.

B. A. HAYES, Presiding Elder.

Paris Station, A. L. Pritchett.
Paris ct, F. C. Davis.
Big Sandy ct, A. N. Sears.
Spring Hill ct, T. T. Holman.
Ministers:

Huntington ct, T. J. McGill
Trezvant ct, T. L. Beard, T. C. Ellis, Sup.
Salem ct, J. B. Sears
McKenzie Station, H. M. Sears.
Morgan Station, M. M. Taylor.
Murray ct, B. B. Risenhoover
Morgan's Creek ct, W. H. Hullock.
McKenzie College, B. B. Chappell, President.
J. J. Brooks, Agent.

Bolivar District.

J. H. Witt, Presiding Elder.

Bolivar Station, G. W. Wilson.
Bolivar Mission, W. F. Barrier.

Pocahontas Mission, Giles Leath.
Purdy ct, to be supplied (by T. P. Ramsey)
Adamsville ct., D. A. Ross.
Saltillo ct., J. D. Sullivan.
Decaturville, Wm. Hay.
Lexington Station, J. A. Moody.
Lexington ct. George T. Peeples.
Scott's Hill ct and Mission, R. S. Swift.
Grand Junction ct., A. F. Hendricks, D. C. Wells, Sup.
W. M. Patterson, Superintendent of Mexico City Mission.

Transferred.

C. J. Nugent, to Kentucky Conference; T. E. Hall, to Illinois Conference.
The Rev. Nathan Sullivan was born in Williamson county, Tenn., September 13, 1812. He enjoyed the inestimable blessing of Christian instruction and example from childhood. Not only were his parents Christians, but his father, Rev Jacob Sullivan, was a Methodist local preacher, and faithful to the close of a long life, while his mother was a deeply pious woman, whose gentle influence pervaded all her home. In his thirteenth year, before any evil habits could be formed, Nathan Sullivan was soundly converted to Christ, and happily numbered with the people called Methodists. From that time, till our brother died and went to heaven, he was zealously, constantly, and successfully engaged in the great work of his Lord and Master, ever striving to render faithful service and to do good to the souls of men. In early manhood he was licensed to preach the gospel, and for some years was active in the local ranks; but under the moving of the Holy Spirit he longed to devote himself wholly to the ministry of Christ, desiring to yield to God's call and spend all his life in the itinerancy. Accordingly, in 1838, he was admitted on trial in the Tennessee Conference, and in 1840, the year when the Memphis Conference was organized, he was admitted into full connection as a member of this body. Ever since, without interruption, his name, always fair, has remained on our roll—his character unchallenged and irreproachable—his reputation established as a good, true, and useful man of God. Thus he lived among us for forty years and more, until it pleased God to remove his well-tried and approved servant to a higher and better position, and now he enjoys in heaven the great reward of his fidelity. Except some years in the supernumerary relation, our brother was ever an effective traveling preacher, chiefly on circuits, though for some time in the presiding eldership—an office which he filled with usefulness to the Church and credit to himself. The charges served by him were numerous, and not only in pleasant places where comforts abound, but in rough places also, among the hills and through the swamps, never neglecting God's poor; amid privations often, and with arduous labor, he went forth, preaching Christ, warning sinners, and establishing the Church in the faith of the gospel.

Many now living will in the great day join the sainted dead in pronouncing benedictions upon Nathan Sullivan; and better still,
through all eternity, we believe, he will rejoice in the approval of the master—"Well done!" Though not classically educated, our brother was well versed in the elements of his own language—in the knowledge compressed within the range of the ordinary schools of the country as they were in his boyhood. His education was completed in the itinerancy. The Bible was his principal text-book, and under it he gave himself to the study of theology as it is set forth in the standards of the Church. Thus he became an able expounder and defender of Christian doctrine. His discourses, thoroughly elaborated, comprehensive, and at the same time minute, were well calculated to instruct and build up believers, and his exhortations and appeals to sinners were often most impressive, awakening many from their slumbers, and urging them to Christ for salvation. Cheerful yet grave, modest but firm, wise in counsel and true in every relation of life, he was highly esteemed in society, beloved in the Church, and honored by the brethren in the ministry. Among us, who knew the sterling virtues of the man, he always stood well, and even high, and not only in the Annual Conference, but in the General Conference also, his brethren relied upon him. And we loved him dearly, for we knew his sweet, gentle, fervent spirit, a lover of God and of all who loved God, a man with a warm heart and a clear head; yet not sentimental merely, for he regulated his feelings by the requirements of truth and justice, and so was ever firm in his maintenance of righteousness at whatever sacrifice. In 1838 our brother married Miss Mary Jane Ross, and their marriage was greatly blessed of God. She lives to mourn his departure, but in sweet hope of the reunion. The happiness of their marriage was enhanced by the children who were born to them—children who are following their steps toward the better country. One son is a rising and promising physician, and two others, Jacob and Grant T. Sullivan, are beloved and useful members of this body, preachers who breathe the spirit of their father. Since 1856 our brother resided in Gibson county, and among his neighbors of every class, the wicked as well as the religious, he held a high place—all confided in him and looked to him as a tower of strength, and now all mourn his death. Our brother departed this life June 14, 1879, dying of typhoid malarial fever; which, assuming a malignant form, did its work in spite of the best medical skill and the tenderest attentions of family and friends. Awhile before death his wife said to him, "You are dying!" He calmly replied, "My
dear, I am almost home." Five minutes before he ceased to breathe, being speechless, he raised his hand and pointed heavenward, and thither, doubtless, his soul winged its way. At Oak Grove Church, where our brother's family worship, his remains were interred, after a very appropriate sermon by the Rev. A. R. Wilson, who was assisted in the burial-service by the Rev. Guildford Jones and J. M. Scott. Nathan Sullivan will no more respond to the call of his name at our annual sessions—he has heard the call from on high. Soon we shall meet him again, and meanwhile we will cherish his memory. "The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance."

Rev. Jonathan D. Stewart.

The Committee on Memoirs have considered the paper referred to them, signed by E. E. Hamilton and T. L. Beard, and offer its substance for adoption, as a well-deserved expression in reference to the life and death of the Rev. Jonathan D. Stewart, of Memphis, well known, not only as a preacher of the gospel, but as a scholar and educator of high rank.

Whereas, the Rev. J. D. Stewart, a local preacher of the First Church, Memphis, Tenn., having been employed by the presiding elder and placed in charge of Georgia-street Church in that city; and whereas, he was faithful, efficient, and highly useful, building up the charge with great success up to the time of the appearance of yellow fever in July last; and whereas, he did in a noble and self-sacrificing spirit remain with those of his charge that could not fly from the plague, and gave himself, his time, and talents, as an angel of mercy, ministering to the sick and dying, and to the bereaved in their sorrow; therefore,

Resolved, That we honor the memory of our departed brother, highly esteeming his Christian virtues as displayed in life and death; and that we mourn his departure from a life of usefulness, while we rejoice in the assurance that he has entered upon life eternal in heaven. To his widow and to his children, now fatherless and motherless, we offer our sincere and earnest condolence, with prayer to God for his providential and spiritual blessings upon them, and we direct our Secretary to furnish them a copy of this action.
The Committee on Memoirs beg leave to submit the following tribute as most worthy of adoption and record:

The Rev. Lovick Pierce, D. D., of the South Georgia Conference, was born in North Carolina, March 24, 1785, and died in Sparta, Georgia, November 9, 1879. Beginning his ministry in 1804, he preached the gospel with eloquence, power and success, and was eminent in the highest councils of the Church to the close of a very long life—his ministry extending through seventy-five years. In view of his Connectional character and influence, recognized, not only among us but in all lands where Methodism has an existence,

Resolved, 1. That we magnify the grace of God as displayed in the life and death of Dr. Lovick Pierce, the patriarch of American Methodism, the last living link binding the present generation with the fathers by whom our Church was planted and trained on this continent.

2. That while we express our high sense of his shining virtues, his great gifts, and his extraordinary usefulness, we will strive to hearken unto his late earnest appeals to the Church in behalf of the ancient landmarks of Methodism.

3. That a copy of this action be forwarded by the Secretary to Bishop Pierce, with the request that he prepare for publication a biography of his father, assured as we are that the son can best perform this work, alike due to the memory of a great and good man of God and to the interests of the Church so dearly loved and so long served by him.

Respectfully submitted,

W. C. Johnson, Chairman.
MEMPHIS CONFERENCE REPORTS.

Spiritual Interests of the Church.

Your Committee has made diligent inquiry concerning all the facts involved in this report, the results of which are presented.

With devout thankfulness to God, we report the most extensive revival-work that has crowned our labors for many years past. There have been 5,117 conversions, with an accession of 4,067 to the church. There are within our bounds 450 regular prayer-meetings, also 116 regular class-meetings, and 700 family altars. With these facts as the basis of our report, we joyfully submit that in the confident opinion of your Committee the spiritual interests of our holy Zion have been greatly advanced by the labors of the past year. However, we are fully persuaded that there is yet much room for improvement in this, the most important interest of the Master's cause. In our judgment, a more universal observance of the social meetings, especially prayer and class-meetings, would secure to us an increase of spiritual strength that can not be supplied by any other means. Again, basing our conclusion upon the facts before us, we submit that in our opinion our greatest deficiency is in home religion; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we will use our utmost endeavors to bring all of our people to a permanent conviction of the importance of the social meetings, and to higher appreciation of the essential benefits resulting from their faithful observance.

Resolved, That we will also urge our people to more faithful observance of religious worship in their homes.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. Scott,  
G. K. Brook,  
J. H. Collins,  
A. L. Prithett,  
J. S. Renshaw,  
N. Futrell,  
J. D. Bush, Secretary.

MISSIONS.

The Conference Board of Missions present the following report:

Saffarans-street Mission has been served the past year by the Rev. T. C. Holmes. The work was doing well at the breaking out of the yellow fever in Memphis, but was sorely afflicted by that sad visitation. The preacher in charge reports 1 Sunday-school, 12 officers and teachers, 100 scholars, 100 volumes in library, 1 church, 150 sittings, value, $2,500; paid presiding elder, $15.35.
paid preacher in charge, $308.75; paid to Foreign Mission, $7.95; to Conference-fund, $9.25; for other purposes, $50.00.

From Georgia-street Mission we have no report. The Rev. J. D. Stewart, who supplied the work, died at his post during the epidemic of the past year.

Somerville Mission was served the last year by the Rev. W. D. F. Hafford. During the year 1 church has been organized, with 12 members; 1 Sunday-school, with 30 scholars. Much good has been accomplished by its efficient management. Five dollars were raised for Sunday-school purposes.

Bolivar Mission was served the past year by the Rev. W. F. Barrier; has 190 members, 8 local preachers; 5 adult baptisms, 19 conversions; 1 Sunday-school, 6 officers and teachers, 25 pupils; 7 churches—worth $800; 1,000 sittings; paid presiding elder, $2.50; paid preacher in charge, $110; raised for Conference-fund, $4; for Domestic Missions, $1.65; for Foreign Missions, $1.35.

McNairy Mission was served past year by Rev. W. A. Freeman. He reports three appointments in a flourishing condition, that might be added to adjacent circuits. No statistics.

Hale's Point Mission served the past year by the Rev. T. P. Holman, who reports 58 white members, 2 colored members, 1 church, value, $300; paid preacher in charge, $100; Bishop's fund, $5; Conference-fund, $6; Foreign Missions, $10; 2 infants baptized; 2 accessions; raised for other purposes, $6. The Mission is in tolerably good condition.

Trimble Mission was served by the Rev. J. T. Wiggins. Three churches—value, $800; 900 sittings, 133 members, 6 adult baptisms, 33 accessions. Paid preacher in charge, $111; paid presiding elder, $14; collected for Foreign Mission, $20; for Conference-fund, $3; for other purposes, $22.50.

Lynville Mission was served by the Rev. J. G. Pirtle; has 70 members, 1 local preacher, 2 churches, 400 sittings—value, $600; collected for Conference-fund, $1; paid preacher in charge, $30; paid presiding elder, $8.

Paducah City Mission was served by the Rev. J. V. Fly. No church or membership, and consequently no statistics.

Blandville Mission was served by the Rev. J. E. Treadwell, who reports 170 members, 1 Sunday-school, 7 officers and teachers, 40 pupils, 1 church—value, $40; paid to Bishop's fund, $3; to the Conference-fund, $2; to Foreign Missions, $10; to Domestic Missions, $4; paid preacher in charge, $140; paid presiding elder, $5.58.
Scott’s Hill Mission was served by the Rev. R. S. Swift, who reports 334 members, 8 churches—value, $1,750; adult baptisms, 34; infant baptisms, 3; 5 Sunday-schools, 75 officers and teachers; number of pupils not given; paid preacher in charge, $120.45; paid presiding elder, $24; to Bishop’s fund, $6; to Foreign Missions, $1; for other purposes, $120.

We have received with pleasure a communication from the Woman’s Missionary Society of the Memphis Conference. We rejoice in their work, and in the prospect of such good to the cause of Christ, through their instrumentality. Most heartily we commend this society to the good will of our preachers and people, and especially the preachers in all our charges, asking them to co-operate in this promising work for Christ and for souls.

The Board has received for Domestic Missions, from the various charges, $654.90; from anniversary collection, $97; making a total of $751.90, which has been applied pro rata to meet the appropriations of last year.

The Board proposes to raise for Domestic Missions, for the ensuing year, one thousand dollars, which we assess to the districts as follows: Memphis District, $150; Somerville District, $135.00; Union City District, $130; Paducah District, $110; Paris District, $110; Jackson District, $145.00; Dyersburg District, $140.00; Bolivar District, $80. Total, $1,000.

We make the following appropriation for Domestic Mission work: Memphis District—Saffarans-street Church, $150; Georgia-street Church, $150. Somerville District—Somerville Mission, $100. Union City District—Lynnville Mission, $50; Obion Mission, $75. Paducah District—Blandville Mission, $50; Pine Bluff Mission, $50. Bolivar District—Bolivar Mission, $100; Pocahontas Mission, $100; Buck River Mission, $100. Total, $925.

We have received from the various charges, for Foreign Missions, $3,536.20; from anniversary collection, $122.05, and from Wadesboro Circuit, not reported last year, $6, making a total of $3,664.25; of which $2,405 has been forwarded to J. W. Manier, Treasurer, Nashville, per Dr. O. P. Fitzgerald, leaving a balance of $1,259.25 to be accounted for in cash and receipts.

We are assessed for Foreign Missions $6,000, which we assess to the districts as follows: Memphis District, $900; Somerville District, $810; Jackson District, $870; Dyersburg District, $840; Union City District, $780; Paducah District, $660; Paris District, $660; Bolivar District, $480.
We are pleased to report, also, that the sum of three hundred and sixty-five dollars has been subscribed, to be paid on or before the first of March next, a contribution for the purpose of purchasing a printing-press for the Mexican City Mission, of which our beloved brother, the Rev. W. M. Patterson is the Superintendent. This is in addition to the regular contributions to Missions.

This Board is satisfied that if every member of this body will do his whole duty, the assessments will be met.

W. C. JOHNSON, President.

J. S. RENSHAW, Secretary pro tem.

EDUCATION.

Your Committee are of the opinion that it would be entirely satisfactory to the Conference in presenting their report, to confine themselves to a brief reference to the several colleges and high schools receiving your patronage and enjoying your fostering care. It is a matter of devout gratitude that each year furnishes additional evidence of the high appreciation and hearty support of these institutions of learning by the Church and people generally within your bounds. The good effect of these colleges and schools is abundantly manifest in whatever direction you may turn your eyes. The mental and moral training of the young people of the land must have the effect of augmenting the piety and enlarging the influence of the Church of the future in her subsequent grand career of usefulness. But we intended a reference only to the institutions already established, and we must keep to the text.

Vanderbilt University.—This institution of magnificent proportions and grand promise to the Church and the whole country, was founded in Nashville, Tenn., by the munificence of Cornelius Vanderbilt, and for this he shall be in everlasting remembrance. The best advertisement that can be given this University would not be a Conference-report, but a free and general circulation of its annual catalogues. The most distinguished educators of the land fill its many departments of all learning. "The University is not a school of reform for vicious boys. Its work is to aid earnest, manly young men in acquiring the best education their means and talents will allow." We heartily commend it to all who may be able to avail themselves of its complete facilities for the education of their sons in whatever department of learning they may select, whether in Biblical, literary, or scientific—whether in law or in medicine.
The Memphis Conference Female Institute, Jackson, Tenn.—This old and reliable institution is still on the highway of prosperity and usefulness. We review its entire history with profound satisfaction. It has been only a blessing to the Church, and has ever been the pride of our Conference. Under the present efficient management it equals in every respect any other period of its existence. We bespeak for it continued and increasing patronage. We would emphasize its importance and ample facilities for imparting instruction to the young ladies who may enter its halls to receive mental and religious culture, and thus go out as others have done from the same consecrated place to adorn the home circle, and to be efficient workers in the Church of God.

The Wesleyan Female College, Brownsville, Tenn., is not so old, nor so young, as other institutions of learning that will be named in this report, yet it commands the attention of a large circle of admirers and friends, and does not appeal in vain to an appreciative public for patronage. It has long since established itself in the confidence of the people. This school has been interrupted in its course by the calamities that came upon that community last year, and by the threatened return of yellow fever the past summer. We earnestly hope that it may be speedily and permanently recovered from any loss it may have sustained by the fearful visitation referred to.

The State Female College, Memphis, Tenn.—There is a tone of sadness in the report of this President of the honored institution, which calls for our sympathy. This heretofore prosperous school has suffered with the people of Memphis generally, and yet the Faculty are not without hope. Its location and efficient management, under usual favorable circumstances, will assuredly enable it to regain its former prestige. It is our fervent prayer that this hope may be realized.

The McKenzie College, McKenzie, Tenn., was established by Paris, Dresden and Dyersburg Districts. The Trustees give assurance of their entire satisfaction with the Faculty as now constituted. They are confident of their ability to conduct the school in a manner that will commend it to the favor and patronage of the public generally. It has already accomplished much good, and is seeking to enlarge its sphere of usefulness. There is good reason why this school should be sustained and perpetuated. We commend it to the public generally.

The Paducah High School, Milburn, Ky.—This school is rep-
presented to be in a "healthy condition," under the Presidency of the Rev. L. R. Martin. He has given satisfaction to the friends and patrons generally. We advise those who are interested specially in this educational enterprise, to give to the school hearty and unanimous support. We very much desire prosperity for this and all the other high schools in the bounds of the Memphis Conference.

The Somerville District High School, Mt. Zion, Tenn.—The prospect of this school is brightening. At no period since it has been established has there been greater confidence in its ultimate success than at present. The buildings are large and its facilities ample. Your Committee heartily commend this high school to the liberal support of the district in which it is located and after which it is called. We are glad to know that the Trustees have been so fortunate as to procure the services of Rev. Hardin J. Turner as President of this institution.

The Jackson District High School, Montezuma, Tenn., is reported by the Trustees to be in a satisfactory condition. They think the location fortunate, as it is easy of access from every point. It is in the right place. Your Committee feel encouraged by the number and character of high schools established in our Conference. Their attention has been especially called to the Jackson District High School, as one well deserving the confidence and patronage of the district in which it is located. All these high schools are the property of the Church.

We ask the Bishop to appoint the Rev. A. B. Jones to the Female Institute, at Jackson, Tenn.—Rev. A. W. Jones, Professor; the Rev. E. T. Hart to the Dresden School, at Dresden, Tenn.; the Rev. B. F. Blackmon, at Montezuma, Tenn.; the Rev. Jno. Williams, Wesleyan Female College, Brownsville, Tenn.; the Rev. Hardin J. Turner to the Somerville District High School, Mt. Zion, Tenn.; the Rev. L. R. Martin to Paducah District High School; and the Rev. E. B. Chappell to Paris, Dresden and Dyersburg District High School, McKenzie, Tenn.

W. D. F. HAFFORD, Ch'n.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Committee on Sunday-schools, realizing something of the importance of this particular work, report that, next to the preaching of the gospel, there is no greater; that its interests are inti-
mately connected with those of the Church, and are among the most sacred belonging to it. As the work is so holy and peculiar in its nature and character, alike important to the Church and the world, so should be the character of those engaged in it. They should be pious, energetic, learned in the things of God, anxiously desiring the salvation of souls. We are glad to note that, since it has been the policy of the Church for the Quarterly Conferences to elect Sunday-school Superintendents, there has been decided improvement in the tone and character of our schools. The Superintendents are mainly men of strong faith in God, and of wisdom, endeavoring to secure punctual teachers and systematic work. They are becoming more alive to its interests in many places.

It is now nearly or quite a century since the organization of this institution. During this period incalculable good has been accomplished, and your Committee believe there has never been so much energy and system in this field as now. The work is prospering, good is being effected, and large numbers of the children are being converted and joining the Church. In many charges they are doing valuable service for the cause of missions.

Our Sunday-school literature, published at Nashville, and edited by Dr. Cunyngham, is superior to any we have seen, and is fully adapted to meet the demands of the people; is well suited to the capacities of the young; and is growing in favor almost everywhere.

While there are complaints from some quarters that the music and hymns are usurping the place of some of our more solid, sacred poetry, and interfere with congregational singing, in others it has only been found to develop a better service of song.

But while we rejoice in success we find there is much land yet to possess, for in many portions there has never been a school, and in others where the work is very defective, and great want of men and women adapted to the work; therefore be it

Resolved, That as Pastors we will endeavor, where it is at all practicable, to have a school in every Society in our charges, and secure the best possible work.

Resolved, That we heartily recommend our own literature, published at Nashville, and will do all we can to circulate it.

J. T. C. COLLINS, Chairman.

W. C. SELLARS, Secretary.
BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

A sound and religious literature exerts a powerful influence on the mind and heart of the youth of our country. It directs and controls in great measure their characters and destinies for time and eternity. Too great carefulness, therefore, cannot be exercised in supplying our people with the best books, periodicals and papers. They should all be pure, elevating and refining, as well also as instructive, orthodox and religious. Such publications and books are contained in our publishing house at Nashville, and may be purchased on reasonable terms—and this supply, it is believed, will become more and more ample, useful, and attractive, for generations to come. For we infer from the reports and papers placed in our hands, that the entire indebtedness, amounting to $400,000, has been provided for by subscriptions, so that when the money subscribed has been collected, all the old debts will be paid off, and the publishing house enter upon a career of usefulness more encouraging than at any previous period of its history.

Of the many useful books on its shelves, we feel disposed to direct special attention to the Methodist Discipline and Hymnbook, and express our earnest wish that they may be circulated among all the families of our Conference. Every member of the Church should have them. We do hope that the time will never come when the good old Hymn book shall be substituted by the popular song-books of the day, however excellent and suitable they may be in their proper place.

The Quarterly Review is a periodical very much needed, and while it has not entirely met the wishes of all its friends, yet it has been quite creditable under the circumstances, the first year of its existence; and under the able editorship of the Rev. T. O. Summers, D.D., LL.D., we confidently hope it will soon attain a high degree of literary, scientific and theological excellence. We cordially recommend it to all our preachers and people.

The Christian Advocate, our Connectional paper, edited by Rev. O. P. Fitzgerald, D.D., needs no commendation from us. Its merits are well known and highly appreciated, and its circulation is rapidly increasing. We hope that the number of its subscribers may soon reach 30,000, and more.

Our Sunday-school papers and periodicals are, throughout, excellent, and well adapted to the purpose for which they are intended. They ought to be used in all our Sunday-schools. Dr.
Cunnyngham is accomplishing a great work for the children of the Church.

Resolved, That we heartily endorse the books of our Publishing House, our Sunday-school literature, and the periodicals authorized by the General Conference, and recommend their circulation among our people.

The Western Methodist, our own Conference organ, deserves special notice at this time. It has suffered greatly by reason of the yellow fever in Memphis for two successive years. This has rendered it necessary, in the judgment of the editor and many of its friends, that it should hereafter be published in Little Rock, Ark. While we deeply regret the necessity of its removal, yet, under the circumstances, we approve the change, and willingly retain it as our Conference organ. It is a good, readable family newspaper. Its reading is pure, correct in theology and morals, and breathes a Christian spirit. We hesitate not to say that no weekly paper introduced into our families is more constantly and thoroughly read by all the members than the Western Methodist. And we recognize with great pleasure that “Cousin Louise” is to continue in the children’s department; she is eminently qualified, and will doubtless contribute much to their entertainment and profit. We are pleased to learn that the editor, Rev. W. C. Johnson, D.D., has succeeded in uniting with his paper the Church News and the Arkansas Methodist, and that he has engaged the services of Rev. J. W. Boswell and Rev. J. Haralson as Associate Editors. This encourages the hope of a speedy and triumphant success.

Resolved, That we will use our zealous efforts to promote the circulation of the Western Methodist among all the families of our several charges.

A. W. Jones, Chairman.

BIBLE CAUSE.

Your Committee, to whom was referred the Bible Cause, ask to submit the following report:

We regard the circulation of the Holy Scriptures in all nations, and amongst all people, as a duty imposed upon the Church paramount to all others, and essential to Christianize the world. The Bible is God’s truth, and the only hope to properly enlighten all people. We would urge more liberality upon our people everywhere, in sending it to benighted lands, that its light may shine into their hearts, and bring them to God through Christ. The
American Bible Society was organized in 1816, since which it has published 36,052,659 volumes of the Scriptures, in 85 languages and dialects. During the fiscal year closing May last, it published 1,187,854 copies, showing an increase over the previous year of 330,361. During the year closing March 31, 1879, there were sent into the State of Tennessee, from the Bible House, New York, 36,978 volumes, 25,697 of which were donations to supply the great destitution existing. We rejoice to know that this Society has made the Bible the cheapest book in the world, having published a neat, readable Bible for 25 cents, and a New Testament for 5 cents.

Resolved, 1. That we recognize with delight the presence of Brother George Savage, Agent of the American Bible Society, in our midst, and that we highly appreciate the great work in which he is engaged, in distributing the word of God among our people, and that we will heartily co-operate with him in our respective fields of labor.

2. That, in accordance with the action of our last General Conference, and in view of what the American Bible Society has done for our Church, each preacher take up an annual collection in each congregation, and report the same to this Conference. Respectfully submitted,

N. P. Ramsey, Chairman,
W. A. Cook,
W. C. Cason,
B. F. Peeples,
E. D. Baker,
J. J. Brooks,

A. C. Smith, Secretary.

Committee.

TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee respectfully submit the following report on Temperance:

Whereas, It is a fact too well known to be more than mentioned, that the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage is a great factor against the prosperity of the Church and the glory of God; and, whereas, within the bounds of our Conference the use of intoxicating liquors, as a beverage, by many of the members of the Church, and even by stewards and class-leaders, either at the fashionable sideboards, within the precincts of home, in the gilded saloon, the obnoxious doggery, or the more inveigling beer-garden of the day, great injury has accrued to the Church, and the prosperi-
ty of Christianity has in a great measure been crippled by its baneful influence; and, whereas, we believe that no minister, steward, class-leader, or any other officer or member of the Church, can, with any degree of propriety or safety, indulge in the same, anywhere or under any circumstances mentioned above, without damage to their immortal souls and injury to the cause of Christ; therefore, be it

Resolved, 1. That we, in Conference assembled, do deprecate the use of spirituous liquors in all of its forms, the buying and selling of the same, and that we will enforce the Discipline in all our charges on this vital point.

2. That we will endeavor to relieve our boards of stewards, and all of our official positions, of such members as are addicted to the use of spirituous liquors, or bartering in the same.

A. B. Jones, Chairman,
J. R. Wiggins,
J. A. Fife,
J. A. Russell,
E. N. Tisdale,
W. G. Heffly,
J. M. Maxwell.

JOINT BOARD OF FINANCE.

Support of the Ministry.—Assessed, $52,133 50; paid, $41,288 46; deficiency, $10,845 04. There are 106 effective preachers in this Conference. The amount received gives them an average salary of $389 42. Should we exclude from this estimate a few permanent stations and the districts, the average salary would only be a few dollars over three hundred. By a comparison of this with preceding years we find that our people have decreased in liberality more than the times would justify. We are gratified, however, to report the amount received this year to exceed the amount paid last year for the same purpose ($2,398 42), and with returning prosperity we feel that we can look with well-grounded hopes for still greater achievements in this direction. To have the itinerancy free and circulating through our entire bounds, there must be increased liberality on the part of the Church. Out of these meagre salaries it is impossible for preachers to move their families from year to year, as is contemplated in our itinerant system. Our preachers, therefore, are being localized, against their wishes and the interests of the Church.
Inseparably connected with the support of the ministry is the subject of parsonages. In 1872 there were 12 parsonages; now there are 23. If the brethren, lay and clerical, would go forth from this Conference resolved to build parsonages in all their respective charges, the day would not be far distant when a new tide of spiritual prosperity would sweep over our country. Let us thank God for what has been done, and the year to come accomplish more in this direction.

ConfERENCE Fund.

Memphis District.—Assessed, $437 50; paid, $214 85; deficit, $222 65.

Somerville District.—Assessed, $400; paid, $290 50; deficit, $109 50.

Jackson District.—Assessed, $418 75; paid, $345 05; deficit, $73 70.

Dyersburg District.—Assessed, $362 50; paid, $325 05; deficit, $37 45.

Dresden District.—Assessed, $300; paid, $234 95; deficit, $65 05.

Paducah District.—Assessed, $281 25; paid, $185 25; deficit, $96.

Paris District.—Assessed, $300; paid $119 55; deficit, $180 45.

Total assessed, $2,500; total collected, $1,705 20; deficit, $794 80.

Amount A. W. Jones, due bill and interest, $105 50; A. W. Jones, amount and interest, $246 45; W. C. Johnson, $58 48—making $400 13. Total Conference collection, $2,115 33.

We have appropriated as follows: Sister John Moss, $75; Sister Rosebrough, $25; Sister A. T. Scruggs, $25; Sister T. P. Davidson, $75; Sister W. T. Plummer, $50; C. C. Glover, $100; Sister M. C. Crouch, $65; Sister D. J. Allen, $84 08; Sister J. G. Acton, $25; Sister Mathis, $25; J. D. Slaughter’s children, $100; T. J. Neely, $25; Sister M. J. M. Hubbard, $41 75; Brother J. R. Sykes, $100; Sister W. B. Seward, $125; Sister Mary Burns (O. P. Parker, Trustee), $175; Sister F. M. Morris, $150; Barney McCutchen (Brother C. J. Mauldin, Trustee), $25; Sister Nathan Sullivan, $100; Brother J. C. Crews, $75; Sister J. G. Glasgow, $125; W. B. Ramsey’s children, $150; Sister B. H. Bishop, $50; Sister D. C. McCutchen, $50; Brother Benjamin Peebles, $100; Sister Sallie Warren, $50; Sister M. A. Gillispie, $88; Sister Martha Cole, $50.

We have received since account closed $13 50 from Hinkleville Circuit, Paducah District, and appropriated it as follows: Sister D. J. Allen, $6 75; Sister Hubbard, $6 75, which is shown in above appropriations.

We have assessed for Conference collections $2,500, and divided it among the several districts as follows: Memphis District, $301;
Minories of the Memphis Conference.

Somerville District, $382; Jackson District, $413; Dyersburg District, $393; Union City District, $292; Paducah District, $272; Paris District, $292; Bolivar District, $155.

Bishop's Fund.

Memphis District.—Assessed, $232.50; paid, $177.60; deficit, $54.90.

Somerville District.—Assessed, $207.50; paid, $207.50.

Jackson District.—Assessed, $212; paid, $212.

Dyersburg District.—Assessed, $175; paid, $175.

Dresden District.—Assessed, $145; paid, $135; deficit, $10.

Paducah District.—Assessed, $125; paid, $125.65; excess, 65 cents.

Paris District.—Assessed, $145; paid, $145.

Total by districts assessed—$1,242; paid, $1,177.75; deficit, $64.25.

We hold Bishop Paine's receipts for $146.50. The remainder, $1,031.25, we have paid to Bishop Kavanaugh. We found an excess of ten dollars, which we appropriated to pay the Bishop's traveling expenses.

We have assessed the districts for the support of the Bishops as follows: Memphis District, $150; Somerville District, $190; Jackson District, $205; Dyersburg District, $195; Union City District, $145; Paducah District, $135; Paris District, $145; Bolivar District, $77.

Total, $1,242.

Respectfully submitted,

G. B. Baskerville, Chairman.

A. E. Scott, Treasurer.

T. W. Crowder, Secretary.
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EXAMINING COMMITTEES.

Admission on Trial.—W. L. Duckworth, W. C. Sellers, T. F. Sanders.

First Year.—Guilford Jones, G. B. Baskerville, S. B. Suratt.


Third Year.—A. W. Jones, W. T. Harris, J. M. Spence.

Fourth Year.—S. W. Moore, J. T. C. Collins, J. M. Scott.

Committee on Memoirs.—W. C. Johnson, S. W. Moore, Guilford Jones.


Wesleyan Female College—W. T. Harris, W. L. Duckworth, Warner Moore.


Jackson District High School—R. A. Umstead, R. W. Newsom, Richard Hill.


Belleview Female College—S. B. Adams, W. A. Cook, J. A. Fife.

State Female College—S. W. Moore, R. H. Mahon, G. Jones.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, 1.—That we tender our thanks to the brethren of the Baptist, Cumberland Presbyterian and Christian Churches, for the use of their houses of worship during the session.

2.—To the citizens and families, one and all, for the hospitable entertainment shown to the members and visitors.

3.—To the Officers of the various Railroads for a reduction of rates to and from the Conference, but especially to Col. N. Monsorrat., Superintendent of the Paducah & Memphis Road, not only for the usual reduction of fare but for a special train for the accommodation of members after adjournment.

E. E. Hamilton.

J. S. Renshaw.
Dear for Brogue [illegible],

G. K. [illegible],

The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] if you can
discuss [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible].

[illegible] from [illegible] [illegible] and pull the
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and