MINUTES

OF THE

MEMPHIS CONFERENCE

OF THE

Methodist Episcopal Church, South,

FORTY-FOURTH SESSION,

HELD IN

UNION CITY, TENNESSEE.

DECEMBER 12-17, 1883.

PUBLISHED BY THE SECRETARY.

MEMPHIS, TENN.
R. E. C. Divver & Co., Printers and Blank Book Manufacturers,
No. 44 Monroe Street, Memphis, Tenn.
1884.
Established 1841.

C. L. BYRD & CO.
Watchmakers, Jewelers
AND ENGRAVERS,

275 MAIN ST., Memphis, Tenn.

Importers and Dealers in
Watches, Diamonds, Jewelry

*Sterling-Silver,
SILVER-PLATED WARE, CLOCKS, Etc.

We have now on hand the

Most Complete Stock ever offered in this Market!

And solicit an inspection, whether with a view of
purchasing or not. Watches repaired by
competent workmen only.

JEWELRY MANUFACTURED TO ORDER.
MINUTES
OF THE
MEMPHIS CONFERENCE
OF THE
Methodist Episcopal Church, South,
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MEMPHIS, TENN.
R. E. C. Divver & Co., Printers and Blank Book Manufacturers,
No. 44 Monroe Street, Memphis, Tenn.
1884.
EXAMINING COMMITTEES APPOINTED FOR FOUR YEARS.

First Year—T. F. Sanders, J. S. Renshaw, T. J. McGill.
Second Year—W. A. Cook, G. W. Wilson, J. D. Sullivan.

BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION.

Rev. W. T. Harris, D. D., President; Rev. J. E. Beck, Vice-President; Rev. G. T. Sullivan, Secretary; John W. Elder, Treasurer.

JOINT BOARD OF FINANCE.


VISITING COMMITTEES.

McTyeire Institute—R. H. Mahon, G. H. Martin.
Memphis Conference Female Institute—W. L. Duckworth, Guilford Jones.
District High School at Montezuma—Thos. F. Sanders, J. M. Scott.
Wesleyan Female College—A. R. Wilson, W. M. Leatherwood.
District High School at Mt. Zion—J. G. Clark, G. B. Baskerville.

CONFERENCE CENTENARY COMMITTEE.

The forty-fourth session of the Memphis Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, began in the Baptist Church, at Union City, Tenn., Wednesday morning, December 12th, 1883, Bishop H. N. McTyeire presiding.

The Conference was opened by the Bishop, who gave out the hymn:

"And are we yet alive?"

After the singing, the Bishop led in prayer, and then read for the first lesson Psalm cxxvi; and for the second, 1 Cor. iii., beginning at the fourth verse. The Conference then sang the 561st Hymn.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When Admitted into Full Condition</th>
<th>CLERICAL MEMBERS</th>
<th>Post Office Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1831.</td>
<td>THOMAS J. NEELY*</td>
<td>Whiteville, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1836.</td>
<td>W. M. McFERRIN</td>
<td>Collierville, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1841.</td>
<td>THOMAS L. BOSWELL</td>
<td>Macon, Tenn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1842.</td>
<td>J. M. MAJOR*</td>
<td>Fulton, Ky.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1843.</td>
<td>JOHN RANDLE</td>
<td>Trenton, Tenn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1845.</td>
<td>FINLEY BYNUM</td>
<td>Casey's Station, Ky.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1845.</td>
<td>AMOS W. JONES</td>
<td>Jackson, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1846.</td>
<td>DAVID C. WELLS*</td>
<td>Grand Junction, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1846.</td>
<td>JAMES PERRY</td>
<td>Brownsville, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MINUTES OF THE MEMPHIS CONFERENCE.

CLERICAL MEMBERS—CONTINUED.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1846</td>
<td>BENJAMIN A. HAYES</td>
<td>Jackson, Tenn.</td>
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<td>1846</td>
<td>JAMES W. KNOTT</td>
<td>Memphis, Tenn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1847</td>
<td>WM. H. LEIGH</td>
<td>Paducah, Ky.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1847</td>
<td>ROBERT V. TAYLOR</td>
<td>Taylor's Chapel, Tenn.</td>
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<td>1848</td>
<td>GUILFORD JONES</td>
<td>Jackson, Tenn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>J. T. C. COLLINS</td>
<td>Fulton, Ky.</td>
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<td>1850</td>
<td>ALBERT H. THOMAS</td>
<td>Memphis, Tenn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>JEREMIAH MOSS*</td>
<td>Fulton, Ky.</td>
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<td>1851</td>
<td>JAMES M. SCOTT</td>
<td>Paducah, Ky.</td>
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<td>1851</td>
<td>A. R. WILSON</td>
<td>Brownsville, Tenn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>R. S. HARRIS*</td>
<td>Located.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>M. D. ROBINSON</td>
<td>Troy, Tenn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>E. E. HAMILTON</td>
<td>Ripley, Tenn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1854</td>
<td>W. T. HARRIS</td>
<td>Union City, Tenn.</td>
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<td>1854</td>
<td>R. A. UMPSTED</td>
<td>Humboldt, Tenn.</td>
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<td>1855</td>
<td>J. A. FIFE</td>
<td>Jackson, Tenn.</td>
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<td>1855</td>
<td>E. B. PLUMMER</td>
<td>Friendship, Tenn.</td>
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<td>1855</td>
<td>J. H. WITT</td>
<td>McKenzie, Tenn.</td>
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<td>1856</td>
<td>C. J. MAULDIN</td>
<td>Woodville, Tenn.</td>
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<td>1856</td>
<td>N. P. RAMSEY</td>
<td>Clinton, Ky.</td>
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<td>1856</td>
<td>J. M. SPENCE</td>
<td>Mayfield, Ky.</td>
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<td>1857</td>
<td>H. B. COVINGTON</td>
<td>New Boston, Tenn.</td>
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<td>1857</td>
<td>T. F. HOLMAN*</td>
<td>Capville, Tenn.</td>
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<td>1857</td>
<td>E. L. FISHER</td>
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<td>1857</td>
<td>A. C. SMITH</td>
<td>Macon, Tenn.</td>
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<td>1858</td>
<td>J. H. EVANS</td>
<td>Dyersburg, Tenn.</td>
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<td>1858</td>
<td>R. S. SWIFT</td>
<td>Scotts Hill, Tenn.</td>
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<td>1859</td>
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<td>1859</td>
<td>W. C. JOHNSON</td>
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<td>1860</td>
<td>T. C. ELLIS</td>
<td>Milan, Tenn.</td>
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<td>1860</td>
<td>B. F. PEEPLES</td>
<td>Milan, Tenn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>J. V. FLY</td>
<td>Sharon, Tenn.</td>
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<td>1862</td>
<td>M. M. TAYLOR</td>
<td>Alamo, Tenn.</td>
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<td>1863</td>
<td>D. M. K. COLLINS</td>
<td>Camden, Tenn.</td>
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<td>1867</td>
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<td>A. L. PRITCHETT</td>
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<td>1867</td>
<td>J. C. CREWS</td>
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<td>WARNOR MOORE</td>
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<td>J. H. GARRETT</td>
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<td>J. A. HEARD</td>
<td>LaGrange, Tenn.</td>
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<td>1870</td>
<td>W. M. PATTERSON*</td>
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<td>1870</td>
<td>J. G. PIRLTE*</td>
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<td>J. S. RENSHAW</td>
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<td>1873</td>
<td>W. O. LANIER</td>
<td>Spring Creek, Tenn.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**MINUTES OF THE MEMPHIS CONFERENCE.**

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<tr>
<td>1873</td>
<td>S. B. LOVE</td>
<td>Grand Junction, Tenn.</td>
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<td>T. J. McGUIIL</td>
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<td>J. G. CLARK</td>
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<td>W. L. DUCKWORTH</td>
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<td>W. H. EVANS</td>
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<td>B. MEDLIN</td>
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<td>GEORGE T. PEEPLES</td>
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<td>1873</td>
<td>W. H. BLALOCK</td>
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<td>1873</td>
<td>W. M. LEATHERWOOD</td>
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<td>1873</td>
<td>R. W. NEWSOM</td>
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<td>1873</td>
<td>A. N. SEARS</td>
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<td>1880</td>
<td>W. S. MALONE</td>
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<td>J. A. MOODY</td>
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<td>R. N. FREEMAN</td>
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<td>1880</td>
<td>W. F. BARRIER</td>
<td>Adamsville, Tenn.</td>
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<td>1880</td>
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<td>1880</td>
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<td>Braden, Tenn.</td>
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<td>1881</td>
<td>J. W. GRIMES</td>
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<td>1881</td>
<td>H. J. TURNER</td>
<td>Mt. Zion, Tenn.</td>
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<td>GEORGE W. EVANS</td>
<td>Benton, Ky.</td>
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<td>E. H. STEWART</td>
<td>Milburn, Ky.</td>
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<td>J. W. WATERS</td>
<td>Hickman, Ky.</td>
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<td>1881</td>
<td>LEWIS R. MARTIN</td>
<td>Located.</td>
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<td>1881</td>
<td>W. B. MATTHEWS</td>
<td>Scott's Hill, Tenn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>C. D. HILLIARD</td>
<td>Dresden, Tenn.</td>
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</table>
MINUTES OF THE MEMPHIS CONFERENCE.

CLERICAL MEMBERS—CONTINUED.

1882. D. M. EVANS.........................Symsonia, Graves Co., Tenn.
1882. JOSEPHUS EDWARDS..................Paducah, Ky.
1882. R. B. SWIFT........................................
1882. E. B. CHAPPEL............................Transferred.
1882. G. B. BASKERVILLE....................Covington, Tenn.
1882. W. T. LOCKE............................Bolivar, Tenn.
1883. S. A. STEEL...............................Memphis, Tenn.
1883. CLAYTON H. YATES....................Lynnville, Ky.
1883. JACOB F. CARL.............................Louis, Graves Co., Ky.
1883. JAMES B CURRIE.........................Columbus, Ky.
1883. EDWARD B. GRAHAM....................New Castle, Tenn.
1883. JESSE G. BURKS.............................Purdy, Tenn.
1883. ROBERT W. IRWIN......................Troy, Tenn.
1883. SAMUEL H. WILLIAMS..................Somerville, Tenn.

ON TRIAL.

W. J. NAYLOR.................................Briensburg, Ky.
JOHN G. JONES.............................Hinkleville, Ky.
R. E. HUMPHREY.............................Conyersville, Tenn.
PETER H. FIELDS..........................Lexington, Tenn.
W. C. WATERS..............................Camden, Tenn.
W. D. JENKINS..............................Lexington, Tenn.
S. F. CHAMBERS..............................Lexington, Tenn.
J. W. BLACKARD............................Big Sandy, Tenn.

LAY MEMBERS.

Dyersburg District—B. C. Bergie, N. W. Overall, L. P., George B. Sale, J. D. Robertson.*
*Those marked with an asterisk (*) were not present at any time during the Session.
B. C. Durham, lay alternate from the Dyersburg District, was substituted for J. D. Robertson, absent.

The following visitors were in attendance: Rev. R. A. Young, D. D., Secretary of the Board of Missions; Rev. D. R. McAnally, D.D., editor of the St. Louis Christian Advocate; Rev. Henry Hanesworth, presiding elder of the Poplar Bluff District, St. Louis Con-
ference; Rev. Elon Foster, D. D., of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Rev. George S. Savage, D. D., agent of the American Bible Society.

Rev. R. H. Mahon was elected Secretary; Rev. E. E. Hamilton, Assistant Secretary, and Rev. Warner Moore Statistical Secretary.

The hours of meeting and adjournment were fixed at 8:30 a.m. and 12 m.

The Presiding Elders who are a standing committee to nominate the usual committees made their report as follows, which was adopted:

COMMITTEES.


Board of Church Extension.—Elected last year.—W. T. Harris, D. D., President; J. E. Beck, Vice-President; G. T. Sullivan, Secretary; John W. Elder, Treasurer. Managers: W. I. McFarland, L. D. Mullins, R. W. Haynes, Guilford Jones and J. H. Witt.

Memoirs.—W. C. Johnson, Guilford Jones and J. A. Heard.

District Centenary Committees:

Memphis.—T. L. Boswell, R. H. Mahon and W. W. R. Elliot, Sr.

Brownsville.—W. C. Johnson, W. L. Duckworth, and W. A. Tanner.

Jackson.—A. R. Wilson, Guilford Jones and J. T. Jones.

Dyersburg.—J. H. Evans, G. B. Baskerville and John L. Webb.

Union City.—N. P. Ramsey, J. E. Beck and B. H. Bransford.


The order of business prescribed in the Book of Discipline was duly observed, and the questions asked and answered as follows:

Question 1—Who are admitted on trial?
Answer—Samuel F. Chambers and James W. Blackard.

Question 2—Who remain on trial?

Question 3—Who are discontinued?

Question 4—Who are admitted into full connection?

Question 5—Who are re-admitted?
Answer—Samuel H. Williams.

Question 6—Who are received by transfer from other Conferences?
MINUTES OF THE MEMPHIS CONFERENCE.

Answer—S. A. Steel, from North Mississippi, and Clayton H. Yates, from Tennessee Conference.

Question 7—Who are the deacons of one year?

Question 8—What traveling preachers are elected deacons?
Answer—Jacob F. Carl.

Question 9—What traveling preachers are ordained deacons?
Answer—Jacob F. Carl.

Question 10—What local preachers are elected deacons?

Question 11—What local preachers are ordained deacons?
Answer—William N. Matheny, Alexander C. McRae and Thomas J. Fleeman.

Question 12—What traveling preachers are elected elders?
Answer—John W. Waters, George W. Evans and Richard N. Freeman.

Question 13—What traveling preachers are ordained elders?
Answer—John W. Waters, George W. Evans and Richard N. Freeman.

Question 14—What local preachers are elected elders?
Answer—None.

Question 15—What local preachers are ordained elders?
Answer—None.

Question 16—Who are located this year?

Question 17—Who are supernumerary?

Question 18—Who are superannuated?

Question 19—What preachers have died during the past year?
Answer—Benjamin Peeples, Lewis R. Martin, Otis B. Whitten and James G. Pirtle.

Question 20—Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration?
Answer—All examined and passed.
Question 21—What is the number of local preachers and members in the several circuits, stations, and missions of the Conference?

Answer—Number of local preachers, 238; members, 35,334. (See statistical report.)

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

Answer—1052.

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

Answer—1924.

Question 24—What is the number of Sunday Schools?

Answer—387.

Question 25—What is the number of Sunday School teachers?

Answer—2692.

Question 26—What is the number of Sunday School scholars?

Answer—20,268.

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

Answer—$2500.00.

Question 28—What has been collected on the foregoing account, and how has it been applied?

Answer: $2104.80

Other Sources: 332.10

Total: $2436.90

Distributed as follows: (See Joint Board.)

Question 29—What has been contributed for Missions?

Answer:

Foreign: $6279.20

Domestic: 1012.95

Total: $7292.15

Raised for Church extension, $1506.15.

Question 30—What are the educational statistics?

Answer—Two Female Colleges and seven High Schools.

Question 31—Where shall the next session of Conference be held?

Answer—Memphis, Tenn.

Question 32—Where are the preachers stationed this year?
MINUTES OF THE MEMPHIS CONFERENCE.

APPOINTMENTS.

MEMPHIS DISTRICT.

THOS. L. BOSWELL, Presiding Elder.

Memphis:  
First Church, S. A. Steel.  
Central Church, R. H. Mahon.  
Hernando Street, David Leith.  
Saffarans and Georgia Street, W. S. Malone.  
Springdale Circuit, J. M. Maxwell.  
Bartlett Circuit, J. P. Walker.  
Embry Circuit, J. E. Treadwell.  
Bethlehem Circuit, J. W. Knott.  
Collierville and Germantown, W. A. Cook; W. M. McFerrin, supernumery.  
LaGrange and Moscow, J. A. Heard.  
Williston Circuit, J. S. Kershaw.  
Macon Circuit, A. C. Smith.  
Grand Junction, S. B. Love; D. C. Wells, supernumery.  
Saulsbury Circuit, J. D. Sullivan.  
LaGrange Female College, J. A. Heard, President.  
District High School at Wythe, A. H. Thomas, Principal.

BROWNSVILLE DISTRICT.

W. C. JOHNSON, Presiding Elder.

Brownsville Station, A. R. Wilson.  
Brownsville Circuit, G. H. Martin.  
Stanton Circuit, R. V. Taylor.  
Bradent Circuit, R. Y. Blackwell.  
Somerville Station, G. T. Sullivan.  
Dancyville Circuit, W. M. Leatherwood.  
Newcastle Circuit, E. B. Graham.  
Whiteville Circuit, Thos. P. Ramsey.  
Denmark Circuit, W. D. Jenkins.  
Bolivar Circuit, D. A. Ross.  
Falcon Circuit, J. G. Burks.  
Adamsville Circuit, W. F. Barrier.  
Shiloh Circuit, J. A. Russell.  
Wesleyan Female College, John Williams, President.  
Central Mexican Mission, W. M. Patterson, Superintendent.  
Mexican Mission Work, R. N. Freeman, J. W. Grimes.

JACKSON DISTRICT.

W. L. DUCKWORTH, Presiding Elder.

Jackson:  
First Church, Guilford Jones.  
East and West Jackson, B. F. Blackmon.

Jackson Circuit, J. A. Fife.  
Spring Creek Circuit, W. O. Lanier.  
Mifflin Circuit, supplied by J. M. Cunningham.  
Lexington Station, R. W. Newsom.  
Lexington Circuit, P. H. Fields.  
Scott's Hill Circuit, W. D. Matthews.  
Decaturville Circuit, R. S. Swift.  
Saltillo Circuit, George T. P. Peeples.  
Henderson and Montezuma, B. A. Hayes.  
Pinson Circuit, Thomas F. Sanders.  
Humboldt Station, Warner Moore.  
Trenton Station, G. W. Wilson.  
Trenton Circuit, F. B. Davis.  
Memphis Conference Female Institute, A. W. Jones, President.  
Agent Memphis Conference Female Institute, A. L. Pritchett.

DYERSBURG DISTRICT.

J. H. EVANS, Presiding Elder.

Dyersburg Station, E. K. Bransford.  
Dyersburg Circuit, S. F. Chambers.  
Newbern and Trimble, J. A. Moody.  
Mason's Hall Circuit, W. T. C. Young.  
Kenton Circuit, R. A. Umpstead.  
Alamo and Bells, M. M. Taylor.  
Alamo Circuit, B. Medlin.  
Friendship Circuit, E. B. Plummer.  
Woodville Circuit, C. J. Mauldin.  
Ripley and Durhamville, E. E. Hamilton.  
Covington Station, J. G. Clark.  
Covington Circuit, Thos. J. Simmons.  
Randolph Circuit, S. B. Adams.  
Hale's Point Mission, to be supplied.  
District High School at Mt. Zion, H. J. Turner, Principal.

UNION CITY DISTRICT.

W. T. HARRIS, Presiding Elder.

Union City, G. B. Baskerville.  
Hickman Station, J. W. Waters.  
Hickman Circuit, Finley Bynum.  
Tiptonville Circuit, to be supplied.  
Troy Circuit, R. W. Irwin.  
Salem Circuit, R. E. Graves.  
Center Circuit, R. B. Swift; M. D. Robinson, Supernumery.  
Obion Mission, supplied by E. D. Baker.  
Sharon Circuit, J. V. Fly.  
Martin Circuit, J. T. C. Collins.
MINUTES OF THE MEMPHIS CONFERENCE.

PARIS DISTRICT.

THOS. G. WHITTEN, Presiding Elder.

Paris Station, G. K. Brooks.
Paris Circuit, A. N. Sears.
Conyersville, S. H. Williams, R. E. Humphrey.
McKenzie Station, J. H. Roberts.
Gleason Circuit, J. H. Witt.
Huntington Circuit, R. L. West.
Bradford Circuit, O. P. Parker.
Trezvant Circuit, J. H. Garrett
Milan Station, R. M. King.
Murray Circuit, T. J. McGill, B. B.
Risenhoover, supernumerary.
Big Sandy Circuit, J. W. Blackard;
D. M. K. Collins, supernumerary.
Camden Circuit, W. C. Waters.
Lavinia Circuit, B. F. Peeples.
Colporteur American Bible Society, J.
H. Johnson.

TRANSFERRED.

D. L. Hines, W. G. Heffley, A. F.
Hendrix, to North Texas Conference;
H. M. Sears, J. B. Sears and E. B.
Chappell, to Texas Conference; N. Fu-
trell to White River and W. H. Blalock,
to St. Louis Conference.

H. N. McTVEIRE.

Walnut Grove Circuit, S. Weaver.
Fulton Station, Job R. Bell.
Fulton Circuit, Wade H. Frost.
Dresden Station, C. D. Hilliard.
Cottage Grove Circuit, to be supplied.
Lynnville Circuit, Clayton H. Yates.
Pisgah Mission, supplied by J. C.
Poyner.

PADUCAH DISTRICT.

J. M. SPENCE, Presiding Elder.

Paducah:
Broadway, J. M. Scott.
Locust Street, W. H. Leigh.
Paducah Circuit, Josephus Edwards
Hinkleville Circuit, J. R. Hardin.
Wickliffe Circuit, John G. Jones.
Milburn Circuit, J. J. Smith.
Columbus Station, J. B. Currie.
Clinton Station, W. C. Sellars,
Clinton Circuit, N. P. Ramsey.
Wingo Circuit, E. T. Hart.
Mayfield Station, J. C. Hooks.
Farmington Circuit, H. C. Gamble.
Murray and Benton, G. W. Evans.
Birmingham Circuit, C. D. Davis.
Briensburg Circuit, W. J. Naylor.
Benton Circuit, D. M. Evans.
Palestine Circuit, J. F. Carl.
District High School at Clinton, E. H.
Stewart, Principal.

R. H. MAHON, Sec'y.
APPENDIX.

REPORT OF THE CENTENARY COMMITTEE.

The Centenary Committee of the Memphis Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, (consisting of the Presiding Elder, one Minister and one Layman from each District, appointed by the Central Centenary Committee,) invoke the blessing of God in view of the duties and responsibilities laid upon them, and solicit the co-operation of all our preachers and people in the appropriate celebration of the Hundredth Year of Methodism as a Church in America.

Methodism as a religious movement began in England in 1739, and was introduced into America in 1766. Three years later, in response to Mr. Wesley's call, Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmoor offered their services, and aided by their brethren, came to America as missionary itinerant preachers. They were followed by Francis Asbury, and in 1772 he was appointed Superintendent by Mr. Wesley. The work of God advanced, and the infant societies increased, and from them preachers under a divine call went out into fields white unto the harvest. But the people, for the sacraments, were obliged to look to the clergy of the Establishment. These, for the most part, returned to England on account of the Revolutionary War. Hence, it was necessary (and most proper for these reasons) to organize the Methodists into a Church, in which not only the pure word of God would be preached, but the sacraments be duly administered, according to Christ's ordinance. Therefore—to use the words of an official document, the language of which we have abridged in this paragraph:

"Of the eighty-three traveling preachers in the New World, sixty were assembled at the memorable Christmas Conference in the city of Baltimore, in December, 1784, to welcome Thomas Coke, LL.D., recently set apart and ordained by Mr. Wesley to the office of Superintendent, or Bishop, of the Methodist societies in America. He and Francis Asbury were chosen to this high office by the voice of the Conference, and twelve faithful men were elected and ordained Elders. At this time, with the adoption of our Articles of Religion and the general system of discipline which has since governed us, the scattered societies became a fully organized Church.
Thus, in the providence of God, Methodism took an organic shape in a land peculiarly favorable to its growth, until within less than a hundred years our eighty-three traveling Preachers have become more than twenty-seven thousand, and her few members over four million. This numerical showing is in keeping with her moral and religious influence in the New World. What with the extent and character of her periodical literature, her institutions crowded by the youth of the land, the thousands annually converted at her altars, and the countless multitudes who attend upon her service, Methodism is an incalculable power in the land of her adoption. Her responsibility to God and man is augmented in like proportion."

Thus it appears that American Methodism as a Church was organized in 1784, and 1884, almost at hand, is the year for a Centenary Celebration.

Our General Conference of 1878 took the initiative in proposing officially that the year 1884, the Centenary of American Methodism, should be commemorated by all the Methodists on this continent, and resolved in favor of action to this end.

The Episcopal Address to the General Conference of 1882, invited renewed attention to this subject in the following language:

"Before another session of this body, the first hundred years since Methodism in America was formally organized will be completed. Its proper celebration would be a means of grace. The last General Conference took tentative action on this subject, but it remains for you to act more definitely. It might be well for this body not only to take advanced steps for concerted action in this direction with our brethren of other Churches, but to designate the objects upon which the liberality of the people may be directed on that Centenary occasion in their thank-offerings. The Centenary of the organization of American Methodism is an event too rich in suggestion, and too important in its bearings on the religion and civilization of our land, to pass without suitable celebration."

The General Conference appointed a Committee on the Centenary of American Methodism, to whom this part of the Episcopal Address was referred; also a paper on the same subject from leading members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The report of the Committee was adopted by the General Conference in furtherance of this action, taken by the previous General Conference, looking to "a Conference of Methodists in the United States and Canada, and other parts of the Continent of America, to be held in the city of Baltimore, at Christmas, in 1884;" and providing for a Centenary Celebration by "the people called Methodists" everywhere throughout our bounds. This report embraced the following resolution:

"Resolved, That in grateful acknowledgment of God's signal mercies, and by our increased prosperity and responsibility, we will endeavor during the year 1884 to raise the sum of two million
dollars, to be applied equally to the cause of Education, Church Extension and Foreign Missions, save where donors shall give special direction to their gifts, under the supervision of a Committee hereinafter named.

This report, further, provided for the appointment of a Committee, consisting of the Bishops and twelve Ministers, and twelve Laymen, charged with the duty of collecting and administering all funds contributed for Connectional objects, and clothed with authority to appoint sub-Committees in every Annual Conference, to aid in collecting funds for both local and Connectional objects, and to report to the General Committee all amounts raised for the payment of Church debts, the erection of Churches and parsonages, and all other local objects or needs, as well as for Connectional objects.

The details of the work required of the General Committee have been entrusted by them to a Committee, consisting of three Ministers and three Laymen, to be known as the Central Centenary Committee, viz: E. R. Hendrix, D.D., Chairman; W. P. Harrison, D.D., Secretary; James Whitworth, Treasurer; Bishop H. N. McTyeire, L. D. Palmer and J. G. Carter.

The Central Centenary Committee have appointed District Committees in every Annual Conference, and these together compose the Annual Conference Centenary Committee.

The Central Centenary Committee have submitted a plan of Centenary observance; and this plan faithfully followed, it is believed, will not only produce harmony of movement, but contribute to the best and largest success as the consequence and crown of the Centenary celebration; and especially as indicated in the following resolution, adopted by the Central Centenary Committee:

"Resolved, That the leading object of this Centenary observance is the spiritual improvement of our people by reviewing God's signal mercies during the hundred years of our organized life, and by calling out in suitable monumental form our gratitude for these blessings."

Let us emphasize this point: That so far as success is dependent upon form and order, the relations of the Central Centenary Committee and the Annual Conference Centenary Committee, and the duties and work growing out of these relations, are of the highest importance. This is the connection link of form and order with life and power, so far as these can be influenced by human agencies. Let the one inform and strengthen the others, directing, restraining and impelling; and let this influence be communicated through the proper channels to every District; to every Circuit, Station and Mission; to every Church and Congregation, not overlooking any Sunday-School or Church-School of whatever grade; to every home and to every heart. Thus will the Centenary Celebration mark an epoch brightened with the light of Heaven in the history of our beloved Methodism.
The Memphis Annual Conference, in its ministry and membership, according to character and ability, in view of obligations to the great Head of the Church, and in view of the grand memories of the past, the urgent needs of the present, and the bright hopes of the future, should with sister Conferences participate in the Centenary Celebration, heartily, practically, thoroughly, universally; every one, the strong and the weak, each in due proportion, that there may be a genuine and worthy advance all along the line, in the life and power of our holy religion.

First of all, and above all that can be desired or conceived in the light of God’s word and of the Holy Spirit; under the dictation of conscience, purified by grace, and under the impulse of heart’s “strangely warmed” by Christ’s love, let us place “the spiritual improvement of our people.” Let us seek a revival of the work of God—a restoration of the life of faith—in the reading and study of the Holy Bible; in secret prayer and domestic worship; in class and prayer meetings; in Sunday-School work; in care for the poor, the sick and the fallen; in constant and devout attendance upon the preaching of the work and all the ordinances of the Gospel, in the support of the institutions of the Church, and in the spread of the Gospel in all lands. Let us enforce discipline, not harshly nor rashly, but firmly and faithfully, using the most gracious means first and chiefly, but if need be using the rod also, that under pastoral care, reinforced by all the helps that can be given by the “true Israel” among the laity, the lame and the weak, and all the erring and all the perishing, may be brought back to the observance of the moral and the positive precepts of our holy religion, so admirably set forth by Mr. Wesley in the “General Rules,” that integrity of character and life, justice, mercy, pity and love may distinguish one and all; that self-denial and cross-bearing, the spiritual and not the carnal mind, the heavenly, the Christly mind, may prove that Methodists are an unworldly people, a peculiar people, zealous of good works. So shall we save our own souls and the souls of others; of our children and neighbors, and of the millions on millions for whom Christ died, though now they are dying without the sight of him—perishing for the bread of life, which, if we do but break it unto them, will be sanctified and increased, and sweetened unto us. Enlightenment and consecration, embracing the dedication of ourselves, all we are and all we have, all of thought and word, and deed, and influence to Christ as he is in himself, and as he is represented in suffering humanity—let this be the standard for all the Methodists in our Centenary Celebration.

But with reference to “spiritual improvement,” and in aid thereof, and as a demonstration of its reality and thoroughness, an essential requirement is that our gratitude for the blessings of Methodism be called out in “suitable monumental form.” Let every brother and every sister; the children as well as the adults, even the youngest, give something valuable, not of their
abundance, but of their poverty—something which shall be, whether large or small, the fruit of self-denial, the sign of sacrifice, as a thank-offering unto the Lord. Let this gift from everyone spring out of a heart full of gratitude to God, and full of courage in God—the courage of the faith which can and will say, in the words of the Lord Jesus: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Surely it is not too much to enlarge the limits of liberality so far as to insist that everyone, male and female, old and young, however poor, should cast a dollar into the treasury of the Lord—a dollar in observance of our Centenary, even though the giver might not be able to repeat the gift in a lifetime. At the same time, all those, and they are many, whose blessings from God are so great as to require an effort to get down to the line at which sacrifice can be made by them, should give their golden eagles, and not a few of them, scores, hundreds, and even thousands, in commemoration of the “Christianity in Earnest” to which they are indebted for their earthly fortunes, as they will be to all eternity for the salvation of their souls.

The special object of beneficence authoritatively determined by the General Conference of 1882, contemplates the raising of two million dollars to be applied equally to the cause of Education, Church Extension and Foreign Missions, with the understanding that donors may give other directions to their thank-offerings. Education—that the needy and worthy may be assisted in their efforts to attain unto power and polish for the uses of Christ’s cause, especially in the ministry of the Word of God. Church Extension—that the Lord’s poor may assemble for public worship in summer’s heat and winter’s cold, and that the advancing and widening frontier of our vast population struggling for homes on God’s earth may have also altars at which to offer prayer and praise together; and that Methodism, even our own, may hold and ever hold, its traditional position of duty and privilege in the great work of evangelization and home culture to be done in our own country, with its possibilities of good and evil beyond human conception. Foreign Missions, and especially the Anglo-Chinese University at Shanghai, the mission house and church edifice in the City of Mexico, and the mission school at Rio de Janeiro—that facilities and powers may be increased for putting the Methodist stamp deeply and lastingly upon those nationalities by bringing them to Christ through our missionaries.

These special objects are most worthy, and their achievement would honorably commemorate the toils, the trials and the triumphs of Methodism in America, as an organ of God through the course of One Hundred Years, and at the same time would demonstrate the spiritual improvement set before the Church as above all use “the heart’s desire and prayer to God” of every true son of Wesley, of Asbury, of McKendree, of Andrew, of Paine, on the eve of our Centenary Celebration.

The following resolutions, some of them adopted by a sister Con-
ference, in addition to the foregoing facts, opinions and sentiments, embody the conclusions of the Centenary Committee of the Memphis Annual Conference:

"Resolved, 1. That the first Sabbath in January, 1884, be observed throughout our bounds as a day of devout prayer for the divine blessing upon the Centenary services of the year, and for a general revival of religion; and that on that day our Preachers explain the nature and objects of the Centenary Celebration, and especially urge adherence to those doctrines and usages of early Methodism that have contributed under God to spiritual power.

2. That the last Sabbath in May, 1884, (and in our circuits and missions as many successive Sabbaths thereafter as may be necessary) be observed as a day (or days) of special Centenary services; and that the Central Centenary Committee be requested to furnish a programme of exercises therefor.

3. That on the fourth Sabbath in June, 1884, (and in our circuits and missions as many successive Sabbaths as may be necessary,) a children's Centenary Celebration be held—the children's offerings to be devoted to the establishment and aid of Sunday-Schools among the poor.

4. That—with the concurrence of the Central Centenary Committee—the raising of funds in aid of a District High School, or other Church Schools, when officially and formally approved and recommended by the District Centenary Committee, shall be an object in view; and funds in aid of any Church School, especially the McTyeire Institute, on account of its circumstances, may be raised in Districts other than the one in which it is located, if approved and recommended officially and formally by the District Centenary Committee. But the chief object, in behalf of education, shall be the raising of money for the Educational Fund of the Church, to be deposited in perpetuity with the Centenary Board of Trust of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, upon the condition that the interest thereon only shall be subject to the order of the Memphis Annual Conference, to be used solely for the maintenance and education of Christian young people of either sex, who shall be approved as promising eminent usefulness in the Church—preference to be given to the children of traveling Preachers and young men having in view preparation for the ministry of the gospel.

5. That prominence be given during the Centenary Celebration to the payment of Church debts, and the building, repairing and furnishing of Churches and parsonages—preachers in charge to obtain a correct account of all moneys raised for these and other local objects, and report the same to the Treasurer of this Centenary Committee.

6. That Preachers in charge, and Church officials generally, are authorized and urged to put into effect intelligently, zealously and faithfully the several purposes expressed herein, under the direction of this Centenary Committee and of the District Centenary Committees, respectively.
7. That an Executive Committee of five, consisting of Guilford Jones, D.D., President; R. H. Mahon, D.D., Secretary; S. H. Dunscomb, Treasurer; Rev. W. L. Duckworth and Rev. G. B. Baskerville be appointed to represent this Centenary Committee, with full power to devise ways and means, in harmony with the present action, to carry out as far as possible the various purposes here in view; and it is contemplated that they will promote public services to this end at the centers of population, and particularly during the District Conferences and other popular occasions.

8. That Guilford Jones, D.D., be appointed to preach a Centenary sermon before the Memphis Annual Conference during the session in 1884.

R. H. MAHON, Secretary.

GUilFORD JONES, Chairman.

SPIRITUAL STATE OF THE CHURCH.

Your committee to whom was referred the spiritual state of the Church present the following report:

There has been a small fraction over 3000 conversions within our bounds during the Conference year just closed, being a less number than during either of the two preceding years. Of this number it is believed that about four-fifths have connected themselves with our Church.

In the various Churches of the Conference there are about 250 regularly organized prayer-meetings, in which it is believed much good is accomplished. These meetings are generally reported as spiritual and edifying, yet it is matter of regret that many of these are only held during a portion of the year, the cool winds of coming winter generally driving them into winter quarters.

It is with regret that we report only a small number of class meetings throughout our entire Conference, about twenty per cent. of our Churches having regularly organized classes. But while this is true, we are glad to learn that in some of the Districts a marked increase in both prayer and class meetings is reported.

As regards family prayer, there is no doubt in the minds of your committee that this most sacred duty is very sadly neglected, especially in some parts of our work. No amount of teaching in the pulpit, the Sabbath-School, or elsewhere can supply the lack of home and family religion. It is in the home circle that impressions are made and characters formed, not only for time, but the results reach into eternity. And yet, notwithstanding its great importance as a means of grace, it is to a very large extent neglected.

We are glad to report the sacraments administered in nearly all our congregations, and from information received, a large proportion of our people are punctual in attendance.

From the above it will be seen that the social meetings of the Church and regular family devotions are too much neglected, and if it be true, as we are inclined to believe, that the number and
state of these social means of grace are an index to the spirituality of the people, it certainly appears to your Committee that we are not making that spiritual progress so essential to the character and well-being of the Church. And, not only so, but we would modestly and most respectfully suggest a fear, that, while we are actively and laudably too, engaged in attending to the financial and material interests of the Church, we may unwittingly neglect the spiritual interests. Let us be watchful just here, remembering that the real power and effectiveness of the Church consists less in members and material resources than in the power of God in the hearts of its individual members. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but "mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds."

From what has been said, we do not wish to be understood as taking a discouraging view of this subject, for we do most sincerely rejoice in consequence of the general prosperity of our Mission and Church Extension work, and in the general peace and harmony prevailing throughout the bounds of our common Zion. Yet, while we are grateful for the progress already made, and think we ought to be encouraged to go forward with renewed energy, still we fear, that, upon the whole, we are not, as before intimated, making that progress in spiritual things that we ought. Fidelity to the Church and fealty to God alike demands that we look squarely and earnestly at these facts, and then make such deductions as wisdom would approve.

Therefore, in view of the above facts, we would most respectfully suggest the adoption of the following resolutions, viz:

1. That, as ministers of Christ, we raise high the standard of Christian holiness, striving to attain to this blessed estate ourselves, and exhorting our people, one and all, to holiness of heart and life.

2. That we put forth special and continued efforts to reorganize and put into active operation the social meetings of the Church where they have fallen into disuse, and, as far as possible, give to every member of the Church something to do.

3. That the special attention of our members be directed to the great necessity of family devotions, and the proper training of the children of the household. To this end catechetical instruction should be given, and all other means used that are calculated to bring our children to Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

B. F. Blackmon, Chairman.
W. S. Malone, Secretary.
G. W. Evans,
G. B. Baskerville,
B. Medlin,
E. K. Bransford,
R. M. King.
REPORT ON BIBLE CAUSE.

Since last year's report the chief item to note in connection with the Bible work is, the fourth general canvas of the whole territory of the United States, undertaken by the managers of the American Bible Society. This is a gigantic and, as will easily be perceived, an all important work.

Your committee bespeak from all the preachers their hearty cooperation and sympathy with the Society in its great work.

During the month of October, in prosecuting this canvas, the colporteurs of the Society visited 62,778 families, and 856 were found destitute of the word of God.

As a Conference, we are committed to the spread of the Word of God, for we recognize it to be the basis of all the civil and religious liberty we enjoy.

It is a cause for thankfulness that through the medium of the various Bible Societies the Word of God is given to the nations in no less than 304 languages and dialects. Under the energetic management of Rev. Dr. Savage, the District Superintendent, the work within our bounds has been well attended to during the year, and collections have been taken up in this interest in a large proportion of the charges.

We are glad to report that the entire receipts for the last fiscal year of the American Bible Society were $651,641, showing an increase over previous year of $99,418.

The issues of the Society for the last year were 1,676,232 copies of the Scriptures, showing an increase over last year of 157,459.

In the fourth general supply the colporteurs of the American Bible Society have visited during the year 825,000 families. Of these there were found destitute 124,000. Of these destitute families 90,000 have been supplied.

There are twenty-eight Counties in the territory of the Conference. Of these eight have been canvassed during the year, ten partly canvassed, and nine in which no work has been done.

Within the bounds of our Conference the following shows the work done:

Families visited, 24,499; families found destitute of Scriptures, 4609; destitute families supplied, 3789.

Number of volumes of Scriptures distributed by sale and donation, 11,924. The expense of carrying on the work in our territory, over and above all receipts, and borne by the Parent Society at New York, has been $3029.

In view of these facts, and in view of the fact that the Parent Society is pressed financially in prosecuting this fourth general supply of the whole country, your Committee earnestly urge that every Minister in the Conference should take up a collection at an early day for this good cause.

It is the very least we ought to aim at, that enough money should be raised by the Christian people of West Tennessee, to
supply the destitute of their own territory with the Word of God.

Respectfully submitted,

J. P. Walker, Chairman.

David Leith, Secretary.

TEMPERANCE.

The Committee on Temperance submit the following report:

That we note with pleasure the marked improvement of the sentiment of our people in the bounds of the Memphis Conference on the subject of Temperance, there being some counties and towns in which drinking and the liquor traffic are almost suppressed.

We believe that nothing is hindering the progress of the Church, and impeding the march of our holy Christianity, so much as this gigantic evil; but we hope, pray and believe that this cause will ultimately prevail, and that our's will be a temperate people. The evils of intemperance are written in too bold and vivid colors for anyone to deny. It wrecks the physical man, creates false appetites that usurp uncontrollable sway over its victim, breaks down the constitution, leaves the subject open to the inroads of all diseases, and entails upon him and his posterity diseases that human skill and medicine are powerless to heal. It costs more to our own fair land than the whole machinery of government, education and Gospel combined, its aggregate being annually $800,000,000, Tennessee alone spending $20,000,000. Eighty-four per cent. of all the crime is attributed to it, while one out of every twenty of our able-bodied men is made a pauper, loafer, or criminal by drink. This large number could, by constant labor, earn $200,000,000 yearly. And yet the story is not half told. It spreads moral blight and desolation wherever known, and the angel of despair forever hovers over those that have fallen victims to its remorseless sway. Perhaps there are none that have not in some way felt the poison of its dart and shed tears over its bitter sting. No age, sex, rank or condition is free from its withering touch. It visits alike the palace and the cottage, the rich and the poor, the great and the small, the good and the bad, and its foul breath is felt wherever it goes.

It severs the sweetest ties known to man, casts its dark shadow over the unfortunate one who, in happy maiden hours, has pledged a life of faithfulness and love to one as dear as life itself. It enters the family circle, the type of heaven around which gather the most solid joys of earth, and father and son, brother and sister are alienated, and many a poor mother weeps tears over a drunkard's grave, and sorrows her life away. We recognize the Church as one of the most potent factors for the eradication of this great evil. Many societies have risen and done much good in their day, but to the Church, and Church alone, can we ever look for steady light on this great subject and her teaching, strong disapprobation
and life of her membership will ever be needed to create that public sentiment that will end in its complete overthrow.

To this end we recommend that the Conference reaffirm its former declarations on this subject that our ministers keep it prominently before our people. That a more rigid enforcement of discipline is necessary, and that we reassert our former purpose to do all in our power to create a public sentiment that will end in its complete destruction by operations of law.

R. Y. Blackwell, Chairman.

C. D. Hilliard,

H. C. Bailey,

N. W. Overall,

W. J. Lyle,

T. P. Ramsey,

J. P. Lashley,

Committee.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MISSIONS.

The Conference Board of Missions, in making this, their annual report, beg leave to state that they have prayerfully considered all the papers referred to them by the Conference, and all other matters pertaining to their work as a Board. We state, further, that we are gratified in being able to report the evidence of a still increasing interest among our people in the cause of Missions. We take it as an evidence of a deeper tone of piety pervading the Church. For one has well said that: "The religion of the Bible is a divine life, wrought in soul by the Holy Ghost, and its instinctive nature is to propagate itself by diffusion." The first impulses in the heart of a young convert, mingling with holy joy, is a desire to have somebody else converted; and in its deepest rapture, it wants the whole world converted. God designed that these impulses should find expression in action; that these desires should be gratified, and kept alive by doing something for the conversion of others. In this we have the reason why it is, that the individual, or the Church, that takes no active interest in the salvation of others, never prospers religiously. Hence, to have our Churches strong and prosperous at home, we must draw them out into active work in the great cause of Missions.

We do not assume that all who fail to give to the cause of Missions have no religion; by no means, many are truly religious, love God, and are willing to work and make sacrifice for His cause; but how, and where to work, is the point they wish to know. Hence, it is the duty of the preachers to give the needed instruction. To give the instruction properly, our preachers have need to be well posted with the divine teachings that bear on the subject of our substance, to aid in advancing the cause of God in the world. They should, in the second place, keep themselves posted as to the state of our Mission work in all the fields now
occupied, and of those proposed to be occupied by our Church. Being thus posted, they can point our people to the broad summer lands of Mexico and Brazil, where multiplied thousands are perishing for lack of knowledge. Moreover, those thousands are beginning to throw off the incubus of Romanism, and are looking to us as God’s appointed messengers to bring to them the pure word of God. Then the perishing millions of China call loudly for our help. In all these fields we have precious men and women, who need our sympathy and sustaining aid, and we should make them feel that they have it.

Last year our Conference averaged twenty cents to the member to the cause of Missions. This year the average.

But surely our people should give much more than that. It does seem that our people ought to average fifty cents a year for the cause of Missions—only one cent a week. Our people have need to be educated on this point, in order that they may rightly appreciate its importance, and our preachers must educate them.

There are still in the bounds of our Conference sections of country, where the people are too poor to support the preachers that may be sent to them. These are God’s poor, and should have the Gospel preached to them; they need the ordinances of the Church, and they look to us for the supply, and he who is sent to them should be supported.

During the past year our Domestic Mission work has been as follows:

Saffarans Street Mission has been served by J. P. Walker. He reports; Members, 90; baptized infants, 2; Churches, 1; sittings, 150; value, $2000. Sunday-Schools, 1; officers and teachers, 7; scholars, 35; expended for Sunday-Schools, $28; paid Church extension, $2.75. Foreign Missions, $5.00; Domestic Missions, $5.00. Conference collections, $2.80. Bishops, $9.80. Presiding Elder, $23.00; Pastor, $214.00.

Georgia Street Mission has been served by J. A. Moody. He reports: Members, 54; baptized infants, 3; received into Church, 21; Churches, 1; sittings, 250; value, $3300. Sunday-Schools, 1; teachers, 10; scholars, 102; expended for Sunday-Schools, $21.15. Paid Domestic Missions, $5.00. Conference collections, $3.50. Bishops, $11.85; Presiding Elder, $5.00; Pastor, $150.00.

Shelby Mission has been served by W. J. Naylor. He reports: Members, 40; received, 4; baptized, adults, 4; infants, 3; Sunday-Schools, 1; teachers, 2; scholars, 25; expended for Sunday-Schools, $3.25. Churches, 1; sittings, 200; value, $700. Paid Foreign Missions, $20.30; Domestic Missions, $6.15. Conference collections, $8.00. Bishops, $5.90; Presiding Elder, $17.22; Pastor, $103.28. We recommend that the Mission be discontinued, and the work given to adjoining Circuits.

Hale’s Point Mission has been served by Jno. Randle. He reports two appointments: members, 51; accessions, 7; conversions, 7; baptized, adults, 3. Preaching places are school-houses. Paid Bishops, $4.00; Presiding Elder, $1.30; Pastor, $40.20.
Obion Mission: The preacher appointed to this work failed to go, and it was served part of the year by two different preachers, employed by the Presiding Elder. Only a verbal report received, which states that the people in that region read the Gospel, and have no hope of supply, but promises, and cannot be reached by our Circuits as now arranged.

Scott's Hill Mission has been served by W. B. Matthews. He reports: Members, 206; baptized, adults, 18; infants, 10; accessions, 35; Churches, 5; sittings, 950; value, $625.00; other property, $80.00; Sunday-Schools, 3; teachers, 14; scholars, 100. Expended for Sunday-Schools, $10; Church extension, $3; Foreign Missions, $10; Domestic Missions, $3.43. Conference collection, $5.65; Bishops, $9.00; Presiding Elder, $23.08; Pastor $144.26.

Pisgah Mission has been served by J. C. Poyner. He reports: Members, 244; baptized, adults, 22; infants, 6; accessions, 40; Churches, 3; sittings, 900; value, $1000; other property, $50.00; Sunday-Schools, 1; teachers, 5; scholars, 40. Expended for Sunday-School, $2.50; paid Foreign Missions, $2.00; Domestic Missions, $3.00; Bishops, $2.00; Presiding Elder, $8.00; Pastor, $135.00.

South Paducah Mission has been served by W. H. Leigh. He reports: Members, 40; accessions, 40; baptized, adults, 8; Churches, 1; sittings, 200; value, $500; expended in building, $787.05; Sunday-Schools, 1; teachers, 15; scholars, 80.

The Board propose the following Mission work in our bounds for the ensuing year, and for the support of the same, make the following appropriations:

- Memphis District: Saffarans and Georgia Streets..............$400
- Dyersburg District: Hale's Point Mission......................100
- Union City District: Obion Mission..............................100
- Union City District: Pisgah Mission.............................100
- Paducah Mission: Locust Street................................400

The Board propose raising for Domestic Missions next year $1500, and assess the same on the several Districts as follows:
- Memphis District, $272; Brownsville District, $240; Jackson District, $200; Dyersburg District, $270; Union City District, $200; Paducah District, $170; Paris District, $150.

The assessment on our Conference for Foreign Missions is $10,300. The Board assess that amount on the several districts as follows: Memphis District, $1800; Brownsville District, $1650; Jackson District, $1425; Dyersburg District, $1800; Union City District, $1450; Paducah District, $1150; Paris District, $1025.

The amount raised for Domestic Missions during the past year from all sources is $1012.95. This has been paid pro rata to the respective claimants.

The amount raised from all sources for Foreign Missions is $6279.25, and has been sent to D. C. Kelly, Treasurer.
The Board received a communication from Samuel Watson, enclosing certain bank notes the "Citizens' Bank, of Nashville and Memphis," (now worthless) amounting to $111, and also a bill of costs, amount, $123.55. The said Watson claims that while "Treasurer of your society" the said money was paid to him by preachers as Missionary money, and he charged himself with it as so much received, and that he paid out "good money" for it. He says of the bill of costs: "It is just that you should settle it, and return to me the money I received and paid good money for."

The Board being unable to understand the case fully appointed R. J. Southall, L. H. Estes and Guilford Jones a committee to see said Watson and learn all the facts in the case and report at the next meeting of the Board.

The last business of the Board was to receive the resignation of Dr. W. T. Harris as President of the Board, and, on motion, elected Guilford Jones to fill the vacancy. Then Robert A. Haynes was elected Secretary in the place of G. Jones. Also R. V. Taylor, on account of ill health, resigned his place as Treasurer, and R. W. Newsom was elected to fill the vacancy.

Guilford Jones, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION.

The Board of Church Extension submit the following report:

The amount raised during the year for Church extension is $1506.15, of which $753.05 belongs to the Parent Board, and $753.10 to this Board of Church Extension. Of this amount there has been paid to our regular Treasurer $92.35

In hands of temporary Treasurer, Rev. J. H. Witt $660.75

Total $753.10

Paid to Rev. David Morton, Secretary $181.95

Balance due Parent Board $571.10

Total $753.05

The assessment for Church extension for the ensuing year is $2500.00, which is apportioned to the districts as follows:

Memphis District $475.00

Brownsville District $425.00

Jackson District $325.00

Dyersburg District $425.00

Union City District $350.00

Paducah District $250.00

Paris District $250.00

Total $2500.00

Respectfully submitted,

G. T. Sullivan, Secretary.

W. T. Harris, President.
The amount assessed by this Board for the widows and orphans of deceased Preachers, and the superannuated Preachers, was $2500. To secure this amount, the several Districts were assessed, and have paid the following:

**Memphis District.**—Assessed, $450; paid, $347.40; deficit, $52.60.

**Brownsville District.**—Assessed, $450; paid, $376.60; deficit, $73.40.

**Jackson District.**—Assessed, $340; paid, $315.90; deficit, $24.10.

**Dyersburg District.**—Assessed, $410; paid, $335.35; deficit, $74.65.

**Union City District.**—Assessed, $350; paid, $289.45; deficit, $70.55.

**Paducah, (Ky,) District.**—Assessed, $250; paid, $230.15; deficit, $19.85.

By reference to the above figures, you will see that we have received from the various charges the total amount of $2104.80; received from the Colvin bequest, $250; received from W. C. Johnson, int., $52.80; received from A. W. Jones, $246.45; received from other sources, $3.25. Grand total, $2436.90, which amount we have distributed as follows:

- Sister John Moss, $12; Sister P. T. Scruggs, $25; Sister T. P. Davidson, $25; Brother W. T. Plummer's children, $50; Sister Benj. Crouch, $75; Sister D. J. Allen, $75; Brother J. D. Slaughter's child, $50; Brother T. P. Hollman, $110; Sister T. C. Holmes, $50; Sister M. J. Hubbard, $125; Sister W. B. Seward, $175; Sister Nathan Sullivan, $125; Sister Mary Burns, $200; Brother S. B. Surratt's children, $50. (With R. H. Mahon, Trustee.) Sister F. M. Morris, $165; Sister Smith W. Moore, $112; Sister J. C. Corbett, $150; Brother J. C. Crewes, $25; Brother J. M. Flat, $90; Sister B. H. Bishop, $75; Brother H. B. Covington, $150; Sister D. C. McCutchen, $75; Sister Sallie Warren, $110; Sister J. G. Cole, $25; Sister J. G. Glasgow, $150; Sister W. H. Gillispie, $25; Sister J. G. Acton, $35. Reserved to pay to Warner Moore, as Secretary of Conference and of this Board for stationery, etc., $2.90.

We have assessed to the several Districts for this fund for the ensuing year the sum of $2500, and apportioned it as follows:

- Memphis District, $475; Brownsville District, $425; Jackson District, $325; Dyersburg District, $425; Union City District, $350; Paducah District, $250; Paris District, $250.

There was assessed for the support of the Bishop during the past year $1440, and apportioned and paid as follows:

- Memphis District.—Assessed, $260; paid, $260.
- Brownsville District.—Assessed, $260; paid, $260.
- Jackson District.—Assessed, $195; paid, $196.50.
- Dyersburg District.—Assessed, $235; paid, $235.50.
- Union City District.—Assessed, $200; paid, $200.
- Paducah District.—Assessed, $145; paid, $145.60.
- Paris District.—Assessed, $145; paid, $145.

For this amount we hold Bishop Kavanaugh's receipt for $145; and Bishop McDyeire's for $407; the balance of $891.60, we have paid to the Presiding Bishop.

For the support of the Bishops for the following year, we have assessed $1440, and apportioned as follows:

- Memphis District, $273; Brownsville District, $244; Jackson District, $189; Dyersburg District, $244; Union City District, $200; Paducah District, $145; Paris District, $145.

On the support of the Ministry there was on the roll 119 effective Preachers, and there was assessed for their support $58,903.50, and paid to them $51,247.49, showing a deficit for this fund, of $7657.01, making the average salary $430.60,
MINUTES OF THE MEMPHIS CONFERENCE.

We take notice with pleasure to the fact we are on rising ground, there having been paid in excess of last year for the support of the Ministry, $631.50; On Conference collections, $120.20; with an excess on Bishop Fund of 50 cents. Total excess for these three purposes of $752.10.

The paper received from A. G. Hawkins and others, in reference to the McTyeire Institute, has had respectful consideration, and we beg leave to say, as we have no available outlying funds, we cannot do anything for their relief.

All of which we respectfully submit.

C. J. MAULDIN, Chairman.

W. L. DUCKWORTH, Secretary.

A. E. SCOTT, Treasurer.

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

Your Committee on Books and Periodicals beg leave to submit the following Report:

The Annual Report of the Book agent placed in our hands (which Report was presented and examined, and its correctness certified to at a meeting of the Book Committee held June 30, 1873.) is most gratifying in its character. It shows that we have had a prosperous year. To every branch of business connected with the Publishing House there has been gain. This year our Publishing House has printed 4,154,492 books, pamphlets, and periodicals. Besides this a number of new and valuable books have been added to the general catalogue and to our Sunday School literature.

The Christian Advocate has reached a subscription of over 22,000. We regard it to be in a healthy condition, and promises, we believe, a still larger circulation. Including the Sunday School Magazine, the Sunday School Quarterly, Intermediate Quarterly, Illustrated Lesson Paper, Little People, and Sunday School Visitor, more than 3,500,000 of copies are sent out annually.

Our ministers will remember that they are all agents of the house, and its publications are expected to be circulated through them, and in this way its business sustained.

The Christian Advocate, our General Conference organ, taking into account its size—twenty pages—and the quality of paper on which it is printed, is the cheapest Church paper in the United States; and it is suggested by the book agent in his report that its friends should not be satisfied with less than 50,000 subscribers the coming Conference year. We believe that by an effort corresponding with the merits of the paper this can be done. No paper on the American continent, in our opinion, is exerting a greater religious and moral influence on the public mind; and, in our judgment, the paper meets the demands of the Church. Let us, therefore, use every effort in our power to give to it the 50,000 subscribers this Centennial year. Let every minister and layman feel that he has his part of the work to do, and begin at once, remembering that the General Conference has defined the basis of the business to be "cash or its equivalent."

Our Sunday School periodicals, we think, will compare favorably in quantity and quality, as well as price, with those of any
Church in the land, North or South, and meet the demand of the Church. We are glad to learn that only a few of our schools are without our own literature. We urge the use of our literature in all our Sunday Schools. We are glad to report that our Sunday School literature, under the management of Dr. Cunningham, assisted by Brother Lyons, is giving very general satisfaction, and that the demand for it is increasing.

Dr. Fitzgerald, as editor of the Christian Advocate, and Dr. Harrison, as editor of our General Catologue, will meet the demands of the Church.

The Quarterly Review, edited by the Rev. J. W. Hinton, D. D., and published at Macon, Ga., we heartily recommend to all who would keep abreast with the culture of the age, as many wise and thought­ful men, readers of it, have pronounced upon it most favorable judgment. We therefore commend it to our people of culture, and trust it will be sustained.

A book entitled “A Perfect Church Register,” by Rev. W. H. Leigh, has been presented to us by the author. After careful examination, we heartily commend it to the use of the Church. Its method of keeping the roll of ministers, officers, members and record of baptisms is concise and complete. Its size and shape make it convenient for general use, and its price puts it in the reach of every Church. It meets an obvious and long felt want of the Church.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

H. J. Turner, Chairman.

J. A. Moody, Secretary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT.

We, the Sunday School Board of the Memphis Annual Conference, beg leave to submit the following report:

We are gratified at the increased interest throughout the bounds of our Conference since our last annual meeting. The blessings of God have been upon our Sunday School work. We are glad to learn that material progress has been made in most of the pastoral charges. All the districts, except one, have held their District Sunday School Conferences with good success. In most cases extensive programmes were previously arranged, and speakers selected for the discussion of the various subjects chosen. Thus a considerable impetus has been given to the Sunday School cause throughout the different districts. Also a good many circuits have held Circuit Sunday School Conferences, which have been very productive of good. Quarterly reviews have been held in many places with happy results. We would repeat the action of the Board at the last session of the Conference in the following, with some additions:

First—That there be held annually in each pastoral charge, a Sunday School Conference; that the preacher in charge, cooperating with the Sunday School Superintendents in the bounds
of his work, fix the time and place of holding the same; that the preacher in charge be the presiding officer of such Conference; that, at these Conferences, such questions be discussed as will lead to a better organization of Sunday Schools, a better attendance of both parents and children, better methods of conducting each class recitation, and better methods of securing educational appliances or needful working tools, such as the proper kinds of literature, maps, blackboards, etc., and that this Conference be composed of all the preachers in the charge, and the officers and the teachers of the Sunday Schools.

Second—That Presiding Elders are requested to strictly observe the directions of the Discipline in regard to the holding of Sunday School Conferences within their respective districts; and that the said Conferences be composed of all the preachers and Sunday School Superintendents, and one delegate from each Sunday School within the bounds of the district.

Third—that a normal class be formed in each Sunday School.

Fourth—We would respectfully call the attention of our preachers to the law of the Church, which reads as follows: "It shall be the duty of every preacher in charge of every circuit and station to be present in all Sunday Schools in his charge as often as practicable."

Fifth—We earnestly recommend that untiring efforts be made to continue the sessions of our schools through the winter season.

Sixth—We also recommend that special attention be given to the disciplinary requirement of organizing our schools into Missionary societies.

In no department has our Sunday Schools made more rapid progress than in the improvement of literature. For ability and arrangement it ranks high; for neatness in appearance and cheapness in price it will compete with any of like character; for a high moral tone and sound theology it stands unimpeached.

We are gratified to know that our literature is so well edited, and so highly appreciated by our people; and we declare it to be the duty of pastors and superintendents to see that it is exclusively used in all our schools.

By investigating the statistics, we find that we have in the bounds of our Conference 387 schools; 2692 officers and teachers, 20,249 scholars, $5044.78 expended.

Owing to the very small increase during the past year, the Board feel it to be their duty to impress upon the preachers the absolute necessity of greater diligence and earnestness in connection with our Sunday School work for the coming year.

Resolved 1st, That in order to facilitate our work, we be empowered by the Conference to tabulate all our Sunday School statistics, so that the same be incorporated into our report, and that we be authorized further to prepare our own blanks for said statistics.

Resolved 2d, That as our Board is composed of two members—
one clerical and one lay—from each district, that they be considered as the special representatives of the Sunday School work in their respective districts, in co-operating with Presiding Elders and pastors for the furtherance of the same.

Resolved 3d, That a Sunday School anniversary be held on the Friday afternoon, at 3 p. m., of the Conference session, under the management of the Board.

J. T. C. Collins,
J. A. Heard,
S. B. Love,
W. M. Leatherwood,
G. W. Wilson,
F. B. Davis,
J. R. Pepper,
A. R. Boone,
A. M. Smith.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Your Board of Education beg leave to report that the importance of Education, directed and controlled by the Church, cannot be over-estimated, and it becomes us, as Christians, to meet fairly and fully the responsibility.

There are, within the bounds of this Conference, many institutions of learning, subject to, and enjoying the patronage of our Church, to which it affords us pleasure to give a hearty endorsement.

The Wesleyan Female College, located at Brownsville, Tennessee, is in a prosperous condition—seventy young ladies matriculated last session—and of this number eight received the honors of the College. The present session is doing well. The teachers are faithful. Over one thousand young ladies have received instruction, and over seventy have graduated.

McTyeire Institute, located at McKenzie, Tennessee, is doing a grand work in the cause of Education. Soon after the last session, the Rev. E. B. Chappell, who was assigned to this Institute, was transferred to Texas Conference, since which time the school has been under the control of Professors Williams and Goodloe, as joint principals; both are earnest, competent Christian educators. There are now in attendance pupils from not less than five States. Young Ministers are given tuition free, and children of Ministers are charged only half price. The location is healthy; surrounding influences good. The building is large and commodious, and is the property of our Church, but we are pained to have to report, that there is a debt of about $2800 hanging over it. The Church has already invested in this building, as we are informed, about $6000. Our people at McKenzie have contributed the most of this amount, and are, as we are advised, unable to do much more. They have appealed to this Conference for aid, and we most
earnestly recommend, that if it should be found practicable, that a portion of the outlying funds of this Conference be loaned to the Trustees, provided that the fund now in care of Rev. A. W. Jones be not disturbed, and would also call attention to the propriety of making this Institute one of the beneficiaries of the Centennial Fund, to be raised during the ensuing year.

The Dyersburg District High School, located at Mt. Zion, in Tipton County, Tennessee, is in a flourishing condition. It is under the Presidency of the Rev. H. J. Turner, and is one of our very best schools. This School has heretofore been known as Somerville "District High School."

The Memphis District High School has been located at Wythe Depot. A subscription has been raised, sufficient to insure the erection of suitable buildings at an early day. The location is said to be a good one, and we trust this will, in the near future, be one of our best District Schools.

The Jackson District High School, located at Montezuma, in Chester County, has been under the supervision of Rev. B. F. Blackmon for several years past, and is in a flourishing condition. It is doing a good work, and we desire especially to call attention to the fact, that there are no intoxicating liquors sold in the county or surrounding country. This School furnishes tuition to young Preachers and children of itinerant Ministers free, except incidental fees.

The Memphis Conference Female Institute, located at Jackson, Tennessee, is in a flourishing condition. The building and premises are reported in good repair and neatly kept. There are over seventy students in the boarding department, and the city patronage about as usual. The health of the students has been good during the past year. A competent and efficient corps of teachers are employed.

Lauderdale Institute, located at Ripley, Tennessee, is under the control of Prof. E. H. Randle, and is in a prosperous condition. It is well located. The buildings are commodious, and are owned by our Church.

Union City District High School, located at Troy, Tennessee, is in a flourishing condition. The attendance is large; teachers punctual and faithful in the discharge of duty. Everything connected with the School is working harmoniously under the administration of Rev. R. W. Erwin.

There are many other good things that might be said of all these Schools, but we presume it is unnecessary to consume time in enumerating them. We most cheerfully recommend to our people all of them as worthy of patronage, and would urge upon our people the great importance of maintaining and increasing the usefulness of all these schools by liberal patronage.

Vanderbilt University, located at Nashville, is in good condition. We give to it our most hearty endorsement, as it presents to our
people advantages inferior, as we believe, to no University in the nation. We desire to reiterate, without repeating what we said a year ago, in regard to this great University, and in addition thereto, to call attention to the following circular, setting forth the advantages of the “Messing System” adopted at the University, as follows:

THE MESSING SYSTEM AT VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY.

Nashville, Tenn., December 1, 1883.

The authorities of Vanderbilt University are highly gratified to announce, that since the opening of the session (Sept. 1) many students have clubbed together, and given to what is known as the Messing System a fair trial, with the most encouraging results. This system is a kind of club under the management of officers chosen by the club—a Secretary, a Steward, and a Matron—and all expenses are shared equally by the members. By this means good board is now furnished near the University at a cost of from $9 to $12 a month. This includes all necessary expenses: table-fare, room-rent, care of room, fuel, and light. Room furniture, which must be supplied by the student, costs from $6 to $15. The food is abundant, wholesome, well prepared, and gives universal satisfaction. The deportment of the students in this club, under operation of the rules and regulations enforced by themselves, is as good as can be found in any private boarding-house.

In the Academic Department all fees for the entire scholastic year are $65.

L. C. Garland, Chancellor.

We unanimously ask the Bishop to reappoint the Rev. A. W. Jones to the Memphis Conference Female Institute, the Rev. A. L. Pritchett as Agent and Chaplain for the same. The Rev. John Williams to the Wesleyan Female College, the Rev. H. J. Turner to the Dyersburg District High School, the Rev. E. H. Stewart to the Milburn High School, the Rev. A. H. Thomas to the Memphis District High School, and the Rev. J. A. Heard to LaGrange Female College.

T. F. Sanders,
J. S. Renshaw,
A. G. Hawkins,
S. A. Steel.
MEMOIRS.

REV. OTIS B. WHITTEN.

Rev. Otis B. Whitten was born in Wayne County, Tennessee, October 25, 1854; was converted, and joined the Church under the Ministry of Rev. T. F. Brown in the Fall of 1866.

When he grew to manhood, having received a fair education, he chose medicine as his profession, and in the Fall of 1878 went to the Medical Department of Vanderbilt University. Having taken one course of lectures, he went, in the Summer of 1879, to Kenton, Tennessee, and began the practice of medicine, where he greatly endeared himself to the people, and was making a fine reputation in his profession.

But God had a more important work for him to do. It was strongly and clearly impressed on his mind and heart that "woe is me if I preach not the Gospel." So, on application, he was licensed to preach by the Quarterly Conference of Kenton Circuit, Dyersburg District, October, 1879.

He was admitted on trial in the Memphis Conference at Mayfield, in November, 1879, and he was appointed to Newbern Circuit, Dyersburg District, where he did a good and successful year's work, and was exceedingly popular with the people.

The year 1881 he filled Dresden Station, where he had a good revival and was much beloved.

In 1882 he filled Fulton Station, where he was useful and popular, so that at the last Conference he was reappointed to Fulton Station, where, after a long and painful illness, he finished his work, March 2, 1883.

His remains were carried to his father's, in Wayne County, Tennessee, and buried by the side of two brothers, who had preceded him to the better land. His funeral sermon was preached by his cousin, Rev. T. G. Whitten, July 15th, to a large and sympathizing congregation.

Brother Whitten was one of the most promising young men of his day. There seemed to be for him a bright future. Naturally endowed with good intellect, had a good education, was soundly converted to God, a close student, loved his Master's work, fully consecrated, it was not strange that he succeeded wherever he went.
Brother Whittem was decided and firm; would not compromise principle, and yet conciliatory and stout-spirited, he drew the people to him. They loved him. He was an indefatigable worker himself and had the happy art of getting others to work with him. No wonder then that he succeeded.

To us it is sad that one so useful and so full of promise, should be taken so young, but “the Judge of all the earth will do right.” He lived well, died in peace, and is happy in “the Beautiful Home of the Soul.”

Guilford Jones,
W. C. Johnson,
J. A. Heard.

JAMES G. PIRTLE.

James G. Pirtle was born near Water Valley, Graves County, Kentucky, May 4, 1824, and died October 11, 1883. He professed religion at Mobley’s Camp Ground in 1840; was licensed to preach in 1851; was ordained deacon by Bishop Kavanaugh in 1855; was ordained elder by Bishop Andrew at Memphis in 1859, and received on trial in the Memphis Conference, at Paducah, in 1866. He was born, reared, converted, licensed to preach, spent the greater part of his life, and died in Graves County, Kentucky. It was here he was most extensively known and invariably loved. He served the Church as local preacher for fifteen years, during which time he was distinguished for his fidelity and great usefulness. About this period his country demanded his services. Responsive to her call, he marched into her service a company of brave and noble men, as the commanding officer. Though controlled by other obligations, subjected to many irregularities, and pressed by new and severe duties as a soldier, he was not unmindful of his greater commission to preach Jesus Christ and him crucified. He was active in scattering the seeds of life upon the field of death.

Returning from the scenes of strife and blood with a christian character untarnished by constant contact with army excesses, he gave himself more fully to the work of the Master. As an itinerant minister, his record is with the Church. For seventeen years his work embraced a number of circuits in Kentucky and Tennessee. Without educational advantages, or any special help, he went to his several fields of labor, an earnest and unpretentious preacher, trusting to the Holy Ghost to endow him with wisdom and invest him with power in winning souls to Christ. In this he was not disappointed. His ministry was not only acceptable, but unusually successful. He was great—not in the common acceptance of that word—but in the eye of his Master and brethren, because he faithfully served.

His life was marked with good results. On his whole pathway he has left the memorials of his pure christian example—his
laborious and self-sacrificing toil, his care for the sick and afflicted, his general kindness and affability to all, his love of souls, his good sermons, his earnest exhortations, his powerful prayers, which are now speaking, and will long speak for him, though dead.

J. A. Heard.

REV. LOUIS ROBION MARTIN.

Rev. Louis Robion Martin, son of William A. Martin and Charlotte Robion, his wife, was born in Chesterfield County, Virginia, March 29, 1839, and died at Woodville, Kentucky, September 12, 1883.

When a boy, he suffered for twelve months and more from white swelling, which left him a cripple for life. But the year of suffering was not without compensation. Indeed, it brought very rich blessings to him, in the moulding of character and in preparation for life's work and trials. At home, and in affliction, a mother's loving hands were ever ready to meet his wants, and she, an exceedingly pious woman, taught him by her beautiful life and words of wisdom, the religious principles, which, becoming strongest convictions, stayed and guided him through life's struggles, often so full of suffering, that a braver and stronger man by nature might have quailed and given up the battle.

It was, when about sixteen years old, he made a public profession of religion, and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at "Old Providence," in his native county. Soon after his reception into the Church, he was licensed as an exhorter and then as a local preacher; and all the while, from the date of his conversion, to the end of life, he was a devout and faithful Christian.

After advancement in his studies, he attended Randolph Macon College, Virginia, but on account of pecuniary embarrassment, he was obliged to withdraw himself before taking his degree. Then he taught school in some of the most prominent families of Virginia. In 1866 or 1867 he left Virginia and came to West Tennessee, teaching first in Haywood County and then in Lauderdale County, where he founded "Stonewall Academy." Thence he removed to Tipton County, and at Tabernacle taught a flourishing school for several years.

In 1879 he was admitted on trial in the Memphis Annual Conference and into full connection in 1881. His first appointment was to the Principalship of the District High School at Milburn, Kentucky, and in that work he was continued for three years, and taught without remuneration many pupils, besides those for whose tuition he received payment. Consequently he died as he had lived—poor in this world's goods, though rich in faith and works.

At our last session he was appointed to Hinkleville Circuit, where life's labors ended in the great triumph which God gives to his good and faithful servants.

His last illness was a return of the disease from which he had
MINUTES OF THE MEMPHIS CONFERENCE.

suffered in his youth. After preaching at night in Woodville, and going out while heated into the chilly air, he took cold and was soon prostrated, and, suffering much, he laid down upon his last bed. For four weeks, in great pain, he struggled without complaining or murmuring, enduring all in patience and hope. The last eight or ten days was a time of intense suffering, but grace was greater than nature, and the man of God enjoyed the victory of faith. In the battle of life and death for several days, he was sometimes delirious, but even then, true to life's habit, preaching, praying and praising absorbed his mind and heart. At last he died in faith and peace.

Thus ended the career of a good and true man, a logical thinker, a careful teacher, a ready speaker, a warm-hearted brother, a faithful follower of the Divine Master; and, in his family relations, an affectionate husband and father, whose death is deeply mourned by a loving wife and two children, and by many friends.

W. C. JOHNSON.

REV. BENJAMIN PEEPLES, M. D.

Rev. Benjamin Peeples, M. D., was born in Carter County, Tennessee, April 3, 1797. He professed religion in his native county, and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church when but a boy, and was licensed to preach when eighteen years old. He was admitted on trial in the Tennessee Conference in October, 1816, and traveled in succession Little River Circuit, in French Broad District; Henderson Circuit, in Kentucky, on the Ohio river; Hartford Circuit Green River District; and Dixon Circuit, Tennessee. He was ordained a deacon in 1818, and an elder in 1820. That year the Kentucky Conference was set off, but embraced a portion of Tennessee, and Brother Peeples fell on the side of Kentucky, and was appointed to Dover Circuit, with Hezekiah Holland for a colleague. The next year he was on the Fountain Head Circuit, and at the end of the year located.

At the Tennessee Conference, November, 1820, soon after the session of the Kentucky Conference, the last item in the minutes says: "Missionaries to that portion of Jackson's Purchase, embraced in the States of Kentucky and Tennessee, Lewis Garrett and Hezekiah Holland." But Holland, from some cause, could not go to the Mission, and Peeples, his colleague on Dover Circuit, was sent in his place. This I learned from Peeples himself. Peeples and Garrett met at the public Land office at McLemoresville and agreed to make that a dividing point between their fields of labor. Peeples during the year organized the old Sandy River Circuit, and Garrett formed the Forked Deer Circuit. Thus began the planting of Methodism in the territory now embraced in the Memphis Conference.

Some time in the year 1822, at the close of which year he located, Brother Peebles was married to Miss Martha Davidson Randle,
She was an orphan, sixteen years of age, with three small brothers. With these Brother Peeples at once came and settled in the wilderness, where he had formed a circuit the year before, and built up the home where he lived and died; and a pleasant home also it was for Methodist Preachers for sixty years. We think it proper to state here that no preacher, not even John Fletcher, was more fortunate than Brother Peeples in the choice of a wife. Young as she was, she proved from the start that she was well fitted for the responsible position she was called to occupy. The diversified cares and busy public life of Brother Peeples of necessity devolved the training of the children almost entirely on her. Besides her three brothers she had eleven children of her own, who grew up under her training, all of whom became devoted christians. One of her sons said: "My mother was the great spiritual power in the family." In the absence of her husband she always held family prayers; she would visit and pray with the sick; would pray in the prayer meeting, and at church, and anywhere where prayer was needed. Yet, she never neglected her domestic cares nor the duties of pleasant hospitality, for which she was noted. No wonder that her three brothers, John, Richmond, and Thomas W. Randle, and five of her own sons became worthy itinerant Methodist preachers. Thus our departed brother, aided by the prayers and piety of such a wife, besides the fruits of his own labor, sent out eight laborers into the harvest field of the Almighty.

After getting his home comfortably arranged, Brother Peeples entered the Conference again, and was on Beech River Circuit one year, and Sandy River two years, and then located again. With a large and growing family, and the meagre support given by the Church, he considered it his duty to seek some other means of providing for his household. He studied medicine and was a practicing physician for thirty years. Nor was his attention given entirely to that profession. A man of strong impulses, and strong in his native powers of intellect, he took an active part in the discussion of all questions that involved the welfare of the community in which he lived, and the political destiny of the whole country. Decided in his convictions, and outspoken in his opinions on all questions where he deemed that justice and truth demanded, he became prominent as a leader among the people. He was called to preside as Judge of the County Court of Henry County, and held the office until it was abolished by the Legislature. In 1858 he was appointed by the Governor of Tennessee one of two Commissioners, to act with a like Commission from Kentucky, to run and re-mark the line between the two States.

When we consider the multiplicity of pursuits in which those strong and active powers of mind were engaged for sixty-seven years—as preacher, farmer, doctor, lawyer and politician—we can but ask: What might he have accomplished, had all those forces been concentrated in the one great work of the gospel ministry?
What a polished shaft he might have been in our Zion! It was a matter of regret to our brother in the closing years of his life, and so expressed, that he had not given his entire life to the itinerant ministry. This he advised his sons to do, and this advice he impressed upon them more emphatically in his dying charge.

In 1869 Brother Peeples was re-admitted into the Memphis Conference, and continued one among us till August 22, 1883, when God called the aged pilgrim home. In his last lingering sickness his mind was clear to the last, and his heart was full of peace with God, and faith like holy sunshine lighted up his path as he entered the dark valley.

His funeral sermon was preached by Dr. W. T. Harris, at his homestead, on the day of his burial, and a large concourse of his fellow-citizens were present, giving expression to the high esteem in which he was held as a citizen and liberal-hearted Christian gentleman. The secular paper of his county says: "Benjamin Peeples was a man full of good works and love for his fellow-men, and his good deeds in the beauty of their radiance have gladdened the hearts of many, and will ever keep fresh the memory of him who gave them birth."

Guilford Jones.

TRIAL CASE.

We, the Committee, appointed by the Bishop to try the case of W. H. Evans, charged with unministerial and unchristian conduct, with the following specifications:

(1.) Specification—For refusing to do the work assigned him at the last Conference without justifiable reasons.

(2.) Specification—Violation of his ordination vows in declarations of disloyalty to the authorities of the Church.

We find the charges and specifications sustained with mitigating circumstances, and therefore decide that the presiding officer of the Conference give him a mild reprimand, and a gentle admonition to be very careful in the future.

J. P. Walker, Geo H. Martin.
W. A. Cook, R. A. Umpstead.

O. P. Parker, J. C. Hooks, A. H. Thomas, T. J. McGill, J. A. Russell, T. J. Simmons,
S. B. Adams.

Rev. W. H. Leigh was Chairman, appointed by the Bishop to preside, and the Conference elected Rev. E. T. Hart Secretary to keep the minutes of the trial.

After the decision of the Committee was read, Brother Evans appeared before the Conference, and the Bishop gave him a most
tender and godly admonition, which did not wound, but rather bound up that which was broken. The whole audience was touched with the good way in which the Bishop performed this delicate duty. At the end of the Bishop's remarks there was a spontaneous outburst of song—

"Help us to help each other, Lord,—
   Each other's cross to bear.
   Let each his friendly aid afford,
   And feel his brother's care."

APPEAL.

At the Fourth Quarterly Conference of the Hernando Street Church, Memphis, Rev. Thomas L. Boswell, presiding elder, in the chair, the following questions were submitted to the presiding elder, who decided as stated below. An appeal was taken by the Quarterly Conference to the Presiding Bishop of the Annual Conference.

Question—Can a Fourth Quarterly Conference adjourn to any day previous to the session of the Annual Conference to consider business necessarily belonging to the quarter, and to allow the record to show the business of the year completed?

Answer—The Quarterly Conference may adjourn from day to day for the purpose of transacting pending business, but cannot adjourn to a distant day to take up business that would properly belong to another Quarterly Conference.

Question—Does the business transacted between the date of this Quarterly Conference, October 13th, and the sitting of the Annual Conference, on December 12th, belong to the fourth quarter of this, or the first quarter of next year?

Answer—It belongs to the first quarter of the next year, so far as the records of the Quarterly Conference are concerned.


To which ruling an appeal was prayed and granted to the Bishop presiding at the next session of the Memphis Conference. Bishop McTyeire affirmed the decision of the Presiding Elder.

RESOLUTIONS—ADOPTED.

Resolved, That the Preachers are hereby instructed to hand in their statistical reports by the close of the second day of the next session.

C. J. Mauldin.
A. E. Scott.

Resolved, That we hereby tender our warmest thanks to the citizens of Union City for the delightful hospitality extended to this Conference. Also to the Mobile and Ohio; Nashville and Chattanooga; Chesapeake and Ohio; and Memphis and Louisville Railroads for favors extended over their lines.

S. A. Steel.
R. H. Mahon.
Resolved, That we do hereby tender our thanks to the Baptist Church of this city for the free use of their house of worship, in which we have held our session; and also to all the other Denominations for the tender of their churches to preach in.

J. H. Roberts,
J. A. Heard,
W. I. McFarland,
G. H. Martin.

CENTENARY COMMITTEE, REVISED.


Brownsville District.—Rev. W. C. Johnson, D. D., Memphis, Tenn.; Rev. A. R. Wilson, Brownsville, Tenn.; Prof. W. A. Turner, Dancyville, Tenn.


DISTRICT CONFERENCE JOURNALS.

Your Committee, to whom the District Conference Journals were referred, beg to report that the Journal used by the Memphis District Conference is the one prepared by the publishing house. It fails to show to what Annual Conference the District belongs, and does not contain a complete roll of members. There are fifteen Quarterly Conference records belonging to this District—only eight were submitted to the Committee for examination. The Journal is complete in all other respects. It contains full marginal notes, which enabled your Committee to examine it with much more ease than Journals containing no such notes.

The Brownsville District Conference Journal is the one prepared by our publishing house. It fails to show to what Denomination or Annual Conference the District belongs. In all other respects the Journal is complete. This District has eighteen Quarterly Conference records—only twelve were submitted to the Committee, who report "twelve of these records have been submitted to
us. They are in the main kept in substantial books, and in very good order.” The last clause leaves your Committee in doubt as to whether the books are in good order or the minutes.

The Jackson District Conference Journal is the one prepared by our publishing house. It does not contain a full roll of members, but is complete in every other particular. The Committee on Quarterly Conference records report twelve out of the fifteen belonging to the District submitted to them for examination.

The Dyersburg District Conference Journal is an ordinary blank book. It should have inserted after the word “District” the word “Conference,” and after the word “Memphis” the word “Annual.” It should also contain, in plain handwriting, at the top of each page, the date of the proceedings. The Committee report that seven of the seventeen Quarterly Conference records, belonging to this District, were submitted to them for examination, otherwise this Journal is correct.

The Union City District Conference uses an ordinary blank book for a Journal. It does not show to what Annual Conference the District belongs, and does not contain a full roll of members. It should also contain, at the top of each page, the date of the proceedings. Five of the eighteen Quarterly Conference records belonging to this District were submitted to the Committee for examination, who report: “They are in the main kept right. These were the only minute books furnished us, and we find in each of these quite a number of questions left unanswered.” The latter part of the report is worse than the former in this, that it shows they were not in the main correct, and that the Presiding Elder should see to it that the questions are answered in accordance with the discipline.

The Paducah District Conference uses an ordinary blank book for the Journal. It does not show to what Annual Conference the District belongs. It should contain, at the top of each page, the date of the proceedings. The necessity of this is made more apparent in this Journal than any other, the minutes of 1883 being copied into the Journal between the minutes of 1880 and 1882. Sixteen Quarterly Conference records, belong to this District. The Committee report “that they had examined the Conference records, and found that they had been kept in a neat and business-like style.” If this means every Quarterly Conference record belonging to the District was submitted to the Committee for examination, and found to be kept in accordance with the discipline, then this is the banner District in this Conference.

The Paris District Conference uses an ordinary blank book for a Journal. Its Journal is complete in every particular, except it does not show a full roll of its members.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

L. H. Estes, Chairman.
### MEMPHIS DISTRICT.

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### RECAPITULATION.

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