MINUTES
OF THE
MEMPHIS CONFERENCE
OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH, SOUTH.
FORTY-SEVENTH, SESSION
HELD AT
JACKSON, TENNESSEE.
DECEMBER 8-15, 1886.
PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF CONFERENCE,
PADUCAH, KY.
Leigh Bros. Steam Pl., 7 B'way.
1886
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS.

FIRST DAY.

The Forty-seventh Session of the Memphis Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, began in the First Church in the city of Jackson, Tenn., Wednesday morning, December the 8th, 1886, Bishop W. W. Duncan in the chair. The Conference was called to order promptly at 9 o'clock by the Bishop, who read for the lesson 2 Cor., chapter vi. The hymn—

"And are we yet alive
And see each other's face?"

Was then sung, and the Bishop led in prayer. The Bishop then made some appropriate remarks and called the Conference again to prayer for a special baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Rev. Dr. Winfield, of Little Rock, led in prayer.

The Secretary of the last session called the roll of Clerical and Lay members, as follows, viz:

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LAY DELEGATES.

Brownsville District.—James L. Livingstone, Dr. Thos. G. McClellan, James A. Wray, Prof. W. A. Tanner.
Union City District.—A. E. Scott, E. T. Hollis, J. M. Moss, W. H. Gardner.*

* Absentees.
One hundred and two Clerical members and nineteen Lay delegates answered to their names.

W. B. Vanceleave, reserve lay delegate from McKenzie District, was substituted for Granville Goodloe, absent.

R. H. Mahon was elected Secretary, E. E. Hamilton, Assistant Secretary, and G. W. Wilson, Statistical Secretary.

The Conference resolved to meet at 9 A. M. and adjourn at 1 P. M.

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

**COMMITTEES.**

**PUBLIC WORSHIP.**

**SPIRITUAL INTEREST OF THE CHURCH.**

**BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.**

**BIBLE CAUSE.**

**TEMPERANCE.**

**DISTRICT CONFERENCE JOURNALS.**

**CONFERENCE RELATIONS.**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

**JOINT BOARD OF FINANCE,**
Appointed at the close of last session.

**BOARD OF MISSIONS,**
As now organized—a new Board to be organized later in the session.

**BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION AS NOW ORGANIZED.**

**COMMITTEE ON MEMOIRS APPOINTED PREVIOUSLY FOR FOUR YEARS,**
W. C. Johnson, Guilford Jones, A. R. Wilson.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD, APPOINTED PREVIOUSLY FOR FOUR YEARS,**

A communication from Dr. I. G. John, Secretary of the Board of Missions, was read and referred to the Conference Board of Missions.

Communications from Dr. W. G. E. Cunningham, Sunday School Secretary, the Rev. J. B. McFerrin, D. D., Book Agent; and Dr. David Morton, Secretary of the Board of Church Extension, were presented and referred to the appropriate committees without reading.

Prof. W. F. Tellett, of Vanderbilt University, Rev. David Morton, D. D., Dr. Geo. S. Savage, Agent of the American Bible Society, Dr.
A. R. Winfield, editor of the Arkansas Methodist, Rev. L. F. Whitten, of North Alabama Conference, were introduced to the Conference.

The Bishop also introduced the Rev. J. L. Vass, of the Baptist Church, Dr. J. N. Nall and Rev. Dr. Staymacher, of the Presbyterian Church, and Rev. I. D. Steel, of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, pastors in this city.

Reports from the Trustees of Wesleyan Female College at Brownsville, Tenn., McTyeire Institute, at McKenzie, Tenn., Dyersburg District High School, at Mt. Zion, Tenn., Memphis District High School, at Arlington, Tenn., and Jackson District High School, at Henderson, Tenn., were presented and referred to the Board of Education without reading.

On motion of Dr. W. C. Johnson, Dr. Boswell was added to the Committee on Memoirs to serve this session.

Prof. Tellett, on the invitation of the Bishop, addressed the Conference in behalf of Christian education in a very able and eloquent speech of nearly an hour. No body got tired. The Bishop then called Question 20: "Are all the preachers blameless in life and official administration?"

The names of T. L. Boswell, W. C. Johnson, Warner Moore, J. H. Evans, W. T. Harris, W. C. Sellsers, and J. H. Roberts, Presiding Elders, were called. Each made a brief statement of the state of the work in his district, and their character passed. R. V. Taylor, D. M. K. Collins, A. L. Pritchett, S. Weaver, S. B. Adams, R. Y. Blackwell, were passed and referred to the Committee on Conference Relations as applicants for supernumerary relation.

Rev. W. M. McFerrin had died during the year with a spotless character and in great peace. His name was referred to the Committee on Memoirs.

M. D. Robinson, James Perry, J. M. Major, J. M. Flatt, T. J. Neeley, T. P. Holman, D. C. Wells, and John Randle, were examined and passed and referred to the Committee on Conference Relations for the superannuated relation.

B. B. Risenhoover, J. A. Fife, and Job R. Bell, were passed.

Dr. W. T. Harris, Presiding Elder of the Union City District, presented the credentials of J. R. Bullington, a local deacon, who was expelled from the Ministry by the Quarterly Conference of Martin Circuit, on a charge of disseminating doctrines contrary to our standards and discipline.

The Bishop called Question 1.—"Who are admitted on trial into the traveling connection?"

W. F. Hammer, of Collierville and Germantown, Memphis District; Wm. A. Dungan, of Jackson Circuit, Jackson District; James H. Cason, of East and West Jackson Station, Jackson District; Thomas N. Wilkes, of Henning Circuit, Dyersburg District; Charles A. Coleman, of Randolph Circuit, Dyersburg District; Robert L. Norman, of Sharon Circuit, Union City District; Joel R. Knight, of
Huntingdon Circuit, McKenzie District, and Joseph J. Lessenburg, of Trezevant Circuit, McKenzie District, having been recommended by their respective Quarterly Conferences and having passed in examination before the Committee, were admitted on trial into the traveling connection.

It being five minutes to 1 o'clock, the hour of adjournment, the Chairman of Committees made their announcements.

Dr. Guilford Jones announced that Prof. W. F. Tellett would preach in this Church, and Dr. A. R. Winfield at East Jackson, at 7 P. M.

The Conference then adjourned, with the doxology and benediction by the Bishop.

SECOND DAY.

Thursday morning, December 9th, the Conference met at 9 o'clock, according to adjournment, Bishop Duncan in the chair.

The opening exercises were conducted by Rev. A. R. Wilson.

The calling of the roll was dispensed with.

The minutes of yesterday's session were read and approved.

James Freeman, lay reserve from Union City District, took the place of W. H. Gardner, absent.

Doyle Pearson, lay reserve from the Memphis District, took the place of Dr. D. G. Godwin, absent.

Dr. Thomas G. McClellan and J. A. Wray, lay delegates from Brownsville District, took their seats.


A communication from Dr. J. B. McFerrin, trustee of the Colvin fund, was read and referred to the Joint Board of Finance.

Rev. Dr. McFerrin, Book Agent at Nashville, Rev. Dr. Cottrell, of the Louisville Conference, and Rev. J. O. Wilson, of the South Carolina Conference, were introduced to the Conference by the Bishop.

Brother Wilson, by invitation of the Bishop, gave some account of the terrible earthquake that desolated Charleston, S. C., last September, and made an appeal for aid for our suffering churches in that city. The sum of $122.60 was contributed in cash, and the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That as Presiding Elders and Preachers in Charge, we will bring before our members and friends the claims of our suffering churches in the city of Charleston, S. C., and will make an earnest effort to secure funds for their relief from the damage sustained by earthquakes.

W. C. JOHNSON,
R. H. MAHON.
R. H. Mahon was appointed to receive all contributions made during the year for our churches in Charleston and to forward same.

A communication from the President and Board of Trustees of the Memphis Conference Female Institute, at Jackson, Tenn., also from the Brownsville District High School, at Dancyville, were referred to the Board of Education.

The Bishop called Question 8: "What traveling preachers are elected deacons?"

Answer.—W. W. Adams, W. J. Mecoy, C. C. Bell, J. H. Warmoth and Samuel L. Jewell, having passed in examination of character, and having stood an approved examination in the studies prescribed by the Bishops, were elected deacons.

Julius H. Cole, A. J. Anderson, H. B. Johnston, R. H. Pigue, and T. L. Adams of this class had been elected deacons as local preachers. They passed in examination of character, and being approved by the committee, were passed to the class of the third year.

Question 10.—"What local preachers are elected deacons?"

Andrew Allen, having been a local preacher three consecutively, and one year in the traveling connection, on the recommendation of the Quarterly Conference of the Perryville Circuit, Jackson District, was elected deacon, Wm. W. Butler, of Scott's Hill Mission, Jackson District, Charles A. Coleman, of Randolph Circuit, Dyersburg District, Lorenzo A. Derrington, of Benton Circuit, Paducah District, Joseph C. Denton, of Birmingham Circuit, Paducah District, Wm. J. House, of Milan Station, McKenzie District, and Joseph J. Lessenburg, of Trezevant Circuit, McKenzie District, having been duly recommended by their respective Quarterly Conferences, were elected deacons.

J. H. Evans presented a recommendation from the Quarterly Conference of Mt. Zion Circuit asking for the restoration of the credentials of Robt. A. Mickleburg, a local deacon who was expelled from the Church and Ministry two years before. His credentials were not restored.

The Board of Church Extension submitted report No. 1, which was accepted and ordered to record. [See Appendix.]

Report No. 2 of Board of Church Extension, which was adopted: [See Appendix.]

Communications from the officers of the Mississippi Central and the Mobile and Ohio Railroads were received offering to return all members and visitors to the Conference, who paid full fare coming, at one-third fare—on certificate of the Secretary.

W. A. Cook was elected a special Secretary to issue certificates of attendance.

Question 5—"Who are readmitted?"

Ans.—Joseph S. Carl, on the recommendation of the Quarterly Conference of Dyersburg Station, Dyersburg District, was readmitted into the traveling connection.
Question 3.—"Who are discontinued?"
Ans.—None.

Question 7.—"Who are the deacons of one year?"
Ans.—James W. Blackard, W. C. Waters, having passed in examination of character, and having stood an approved examination before the Committee, were passed to the class of the fourth year.

S. F. Chambers of this class passes in examination of character, but not having appeared before the Committee was continued in the class of the third year.

Dr. Guilford Jones moved that the action of the Conference fixing the hours of meeting and adjournment be reconsidered. Carried.

The Conference then resolved to meet after to-day at 8:30 A. M. and adjourn at 12:30 P. M.

Question 12.—"What traveling preachers are elected Elders?"
Ans.—Wm. C. Waters, Wm. J. Naylor, Wm. D. Jenkins, Peter H. Fields, and Rufus E. Humphrey, having passed in examination of character, and having stood an approved examination on the studies, were elected elders.

John G. Jones of this class passed in examination of character, but not having appeared before the Committee was continued in the class of the fourth year.

It now being five minutes to 1 o'clock, the hour of adjournment, Dr. Guilford Jones, on behalf of the Committee on Public Worship, announced that the Woman's Missionary Society, of the Jackson District, would meet in the audience room of this church at 3:30 P. M., and that the anniversary of the Board of Church Extension would be held at 7 P. M., to be addressed by Bishop Duncan, Dr. Morton and others.

The Rev. Geo. H. Martin was announced to preach at East Jackson at 7 P. M.

After other announcements, the Conference adjourned, with doxology and the benediction by Dr. McFerrin.

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THIRD DAY.

Friday morning, December 10th, the Conference met according to adjournment, Bishop W. W. Duncan in the chair. The devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. E. T. Hart.

Dr. W. C. Johnson presented the register of Vanderbilt University and the Rev. G. T. Sullivan presented the report of the Trustees of Marvin College, at Clinton, Ky., which were referred to the Board of Education.

The Bishop called Question 6—"Who are received by transfer?"
Ans.—H. D. Overton, a deacon, and a probationer in his fourth year, and R. F. Chew, an elder, were received from the St. Louis Conference;
John H. Johnson, an elder from Louisville Conference; and H. I. Stephens, a probationer of one year from North Texas Conference.

Rev. Dr. Savage, Agent of the American Bible Society, addressed the Conference in behalf of the Society and its work.

The Bishop, also, in a brief address, commended the Society, and urged the preachers to make collections for its work.

The Joint Board of Finance submitted report No. 1, which was adopted. [See Appendix].

Question 2—"Who remain on trial?"


Question 3—"Who are discontinued?"

Andrew Allen had been on trial one year, and passed his examination satisfactorily, but asked to be discontinued that he might go to school and complete his education.

R. H. Mahon moved that a committee of three be appointed on Colportage. Carried. The Chair appointed R. H. Mahon, W. C. Johnson and J. A. Wray.

On motion of W. H. Leigh, S. F. Chambers was added to the Committee on the Spiritual Interests of the Church.

The Rev. Sam. Small, the lately appointed Commissioner of Education, was introduced by the Bishop, and addressed the Conference on the educational work among the colored people.

A communication from Bishop Isaac Lane, of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, in America, sending greetings to the Conference and praying for sympathy and aid in behalf of education, was read.

Dr. Boswell moved that the Church Extension Loan Fund of this Conference be known hereafter as the G. W. D. Harris Loan Fund instead of the Memphis Conference Loan Fund. Carried.

Question 14—"What local preachers are elected elders?"

Ans.—F. C. Manley, of Lagrange and Moscow Circuit, Memphis District, Doyle Pearson, of Springdale Circuit, Memphis District.

A. E. Scott, of Martin Circuit, Union City District, Alvis N. Wilford, of Lynnville Circuit, Paducah District, and M. B. Towery, of Birmingham Circuit, Paducah District, having been recommended by their respective Quarterly Conferences, and having certified in writing their belief in the doctrines and discipline of the M. E. Church, South, were elected elders.

Question 19—"Who are admitted on trial into the traveling connection?"

Ans.—Thos. G. Pettigrew, on the recommendation of the Quarterly Conference of Adamsville Circuit, and being approved by the Committee, was admitted on trial.

Question 20—"Are all the preachers blameless, etc.”
Ans.—S. A. Steel, R. H. Mahon, J. M. Spence, D. D. Moore, A. R. Wilson, W. L. Duckworth, Guilford Jones, B. F. Blackmon, E. T. Hart, and B. Medlin, were examined and passed.

The Committee on Public Worship announced that Rev. E. B. Ramsey would preach at East Jackson at 7 p.m., and that Rev. Sam. Small would lecture at the meeting of Woman’s Missionary Society in this church at 7:30 p.m.

After the doxology the Conference adjourned, with the benediction by the Bishop.

FOURTH DAY.

Saturday morning, December 11th, the Conference met at 8:30 according to adjournment, Bishop W. W. Duncan in the Chair.

The devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. H. J. Turner.

The minutes of yesterday’s session were read and approved.

Question 20—"Are all the preachers blameless, etc."

Richard Hill, W. H. Leigh, and O. P. Parker, were examined and passed, and their names referred to the Committee on Conference Relations as applicants for the supernumerary relation. R. S. Swift was passed and referred to same Committee for a superannuated relation.

Dr. I. G. Johna, Missionary Secretary, was introduced by the Bishop and addressed the Conference at some length on the mission work of the church in foreign lands.

Question 19—"What preachers have died during the year?"

Ans.—William M. McFerrin. Here the Committee on Memoirs made their report. Dr. Boswell read the memoir. Remarks touching the life and character of Brother McFerrin were then made by Brothers A. C. Smith, T. J. Neely, E. E. Hamilton, J. D. Sullivan, W. C. Johnson, A. H. Thomas and J. M. Maxwell. The Bishop then gave out the hymn—

"Servant of God, well done."

Which was sung. After the song, Rev. E. E. Hamilton led in prayer.

The Conference then adopted the report of the committee. [See Appendix.]

Dr. A. B. Jones, of North Alabama Conference, Rev. Eugene Johnson and Rev. E. B. Ramsey, of North Mississippi Conference, were introduced by the Bishops.

Question 10—"What local preachers are elected deacons?"

Luther M. Edwards, on the recommendation of the Quarterly Conference of Denmark Circuit, Brownsville District, was elected deacon.

Question 4—"Who are admitted into full connection?"

torily the disciplinary questions propounded by the Bishop, were admitted into full connection.

Question 20—"Are all the preachers blameless, etc."


Dr. W. C. Johnson moved that when we adjourn we adjourn to meet at 3 P. M. Carried.

FOURTH DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

Saturday, December 11th, the Conference met at 3 P. M., according to adjournment, Bishop Duncan in the Chair.

Rev. B. A. Hayes conducted the opening exercises.

Question 20—"Are all the preachers blameless, etc."


Jeremiah Moss, J. V. Fly and B. B. Risenhoover were passed and referred to committee for the supernumerary relation.

Question 16—"Who are located this year?"

Ans.—F. B. Davis and J. J. Smith passed in examination of character and were located at their own request. Brother Davis being absent sent a written request that he be located.

The Conference then sang the doxology and adjourned, with the benediction by Rev. R. H. Mahon.

FIFTH DAY.

Monday, December 13, the Conference met at 8:30 A. M., according to adjournment, Bishop Duncan in the Chair.

The devotional services were conducted by Rev. W. L. Duckworth. The minutes of Saturday's session were read and approved.

On motion of Dr. Boswell, the name of D. D. Moore was referred to the Committee on Conference Relations for a supernumerary relation.

Question 9—"What traveling preachers are ordained deacons?"

On Sunday in the First Church, after sermon by Bishop Duncan, the
Bishop ordained the following: Wm. W. Adams, Winfield J. Mecoy, Charles C. Bell, John H. Warmoth, Samuel L. Jewell.

Question 11—"What local preachers are ordained deacons?"
Sunday morning, after sermon by the Bishop, the following local preachers were ordained deacons: Andrew Allen, Wm. W. Butler, Charles A. Coleman, Lorenzo A. Derrington, Joseph C. Denton, Joseph J. Lessenberry, Wm. J. House, Luther M. Edwards.

Question 34—"Where shall the next session of the Conference be held?"
Ans.—Brownsville, Tenn.

Question 13—"What traveling preachers are ordained elders?"
On Sunday afternoon in the First Church, after sermon by Dr. T. L. Boswell, the Bishop ordained the following traveling preachers elders: W. C. Waters, W. J. Naylor, W. D. Jenkins, P. H. Fields, R. E. Humphrey.

Question 15—"What local preachers are ordained elders?"
Sunday afternoon, at the same time, the following local preachers were ordained elders: Doyle Pearson, Ausburn E. Scott, Alvis W. Wilford.

The report on the Spiritual Interests of the Church was read and adopted. [See Appendix].

The Report of the Committee on Books and Periodicals was read. A. H. Thomas offered an amendment proposing the establishment of a weekly newspaper in the city of Memphis as the Conference organ. J. W. Knott moved to lay the amendment on the table, and the motion prevailed. The report was then adopted as presented. [See Appendix].

The report of the Special Committee on Colportage was read, and after one or two slight amendments, was adopted. [See Appendix].

R. H. Mahon made a report to the Conference of the receipts and disbursements of the funds collected by the preachers to defray the expenses of delegates to the General Conferences. [See Appendix].

Question 17—"Who are supernumerary?"

Question 18—"Who are superannuated?"
On the recommendation of same committee the following were granted the superannuated relation: M. D. Robinson, James Perry, D. C. Wells, J. M. Major, J. M. Flatt, T. J. Neely, T. P. Holman, John Randle, S. B. Adams, R. S. Swift.

The report of the Committee on District Conference Journals was read and adopted. [See Appendix].

Question 33—"What are the educational statistics?"
We have belonging to the Church in our bounds: Number of
schools, 9; value of school property, $52,500.00. Number of scholars, 108. [See report of Board of Education.]

Question 29—"What has been contributed for Missions?"
Ans.—For Foreign Missions, $7,568.44; for Domestic Missions, $1,374.33. [See Report on Missions].

Question 30—"What has been contributed for Church Extension?"
Ans.—$1,634.98. [See Report of Board].

Question 27—"What amount is necessary for the superannuated preachers and the widows and orphans of deceased preachers?"
Ans.—3,000.00.

Question 28—"What has been contributed on the foregoing account, and how has it been applied?"
Ans.—$3,188.65.

Distributed as follows: [See Report of Joint Board.]

The Committee on the Bible Cause submitted their report. Adopted. [See Appendix.]

The following resolution was read, and after some discussion, was adopted:

Resolved, That we respectfully request our Bishops to hold the session of the Memphis Conference between the 1st and 15th of November.

C. J. MAULDIN,
W. L. DUCKWORTH,
S. H. WILLIAMS.

The Conference, on the nomination of the Presiding Elders, appointed the following Committees to act during the next quadrennium. [See Appendix.]

The Bishop announced the examining committees for the next four years. [See Appendix.]

Report No. 3 of the Joint Board of Finance was read and adopted. Also the report of the Secretary of the Board of Missions.

The Conference then adopted the following resolutions of thanks:

Resolved, That we return our thanks to the good people of the city of Jackson for the generous and elegant hospitality dispensed by them to us.

2. That we return thanks to the brethren of the various sister churches who have tendered us their houses of worship.

3. That we thank the Railroads for favors shown us.

C. J. MAULDEN,
J. H. EVANS.

As there was no further business, the Bishop announced that he was ready to announce the appointments of the preachers for the year.

R. H. Mahon moved that the session be prolonged until the business of the session was completed. Carried.

The Bishop gave out a hymn, which was sung, after which the Rev. W. H. Leigh led in prayer.

The Bishop then called Question 35—"Where are the preachers stationed this year?" [See Appointments.]
SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS.

Question 1—"Who are admitted on trial?"

Question 2—"Who remain on trial?"

Question 3—"Who are discontinued?"
Andrew Allen, that he might go to school.

Question 4—"Who are admitted into full connection?"

Question 5—"Who are readmitted?"
Joseph S. Carl.

Question 6—"Who are received by transfer from other Conferences?"
R. F. Chew, an elder, and H. D. Overton, a deacon, and a probationer in his fourth year from the St. Louis Conference; J. H. Johnston, from Louisville Conference, and H. I. Stephens, a probationer of one year from North Texas Conference.

Question 7—"Who are the deacons of one year?"
James W. Blackard, H. D. Overton.

Question 8—"What traveling preachers are elected deacons?"

The following who had been elected deacons as local preachers belong to this class, viz: S. F. Chambers, J. H. Cole, A. J. Anderson, H. B. Johnston, R. H. Pigue, T. L. Adams.

Question 9—"What traveling preachers are ordained deacons?"

Question 10—"What local preachers are elected deacons?"
Question 11—"What local preachers are ordained deacons?"

Question 12—"What traveling preachers are elected elders?"

Question 13—"What traveling preachers are ordained elders?"

Question 14—"What local preachers are elected elders?"
Frank C. Manley, Doyle Pearson, M. B. Towery, A. E. Scott, and Alvis W. Wilford.

Question 15—"What local preachers are ordained elders?"
Doyle Pearson, A. E. Scott and Alvis W. Wilford.

Question 16—"Who are located this year?"
F. B. Davis and J. J. Smith, at their own request.

Question 17—"Who are supernumerary?"

Question 18—"Who are superannuated?"

Question 19—"What preachers have died during the year?"
William M. McFerrin.

Question 20—"Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration?"
The names of the preachers were called one by one, and the question asked: "Is there any thing against him?" and all were found blameless.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of local preachers</th>
<th>No. of members</th>
<th>240</th>
<th>41,955</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

[See Statistical Table.]

Question 22—"How many infants have been baptized during the year?"
Answer: 1,462

Question 23—"How many adults have been baptized during the year?"
Answer: 3,867

Question 24—"What is the number of Sunday Schools?"—437
Increase: 34

Question 25—"What is the number of Sunday School teachers?"
Answer: 2,832
Increase: 287
Question 26—"What is the number of Sunday School scholars?"
   Answer—24,623.
Question 27—"What amount is necessary for the superannuated preachers and the widows and orphans of preachers?"
   Answer—$3,000.00.
Question 28—"What amount has been collected on the foregoing account, and how has it been applied?"
   Answer—$3,186.65.
   Applied to claimants, as follows: [See Report of Joint Board in Appendix].
Question 29—"What has been contributed for Missions?"
   Answer—Foreign Missions——$7,568.44
   Domestic Missions——1,374.33
Question 30—"What has been contributed for Church Extension?"
   Answer—$1,684.90.
Question 31—"What is the number and what is the estimated value of church edifices?"
   Answer—No.———417——Value———$559,453
Question 32—"What is the number and what is the estimated value of parsonages?"
   Answer—No.———32———Value———$51,005
Question 33—"What are the Educational Statistics?"
   Answer—No. of schools belonging to the Church, 9; No. of scholars, 1,008; value of school property, $52,500.
Question 34—"Where shall the next session of the Conference be held?" Brownsville, Tenn.
Question 35—Where are the preachers stationed this year.
   [See Appointments.]
APPOINTMENTS.

MEMPHIS DISTRICT.
W. T. HARRIS, Presiding Elder.
MEMPHIS—
First Church, R. H. Mahon.
Central Church, R. W. Erwin.
Hernando Street, J. M. Spence.
Georgia and Saffran's Street, W. H. Evans, D. D. Moore, Sup.
Springdale Circuit, J. T. Wiggins.
Bartlett Circuit, A. C. Smith.
Raleigh Circuit, J. P. Walker.
Bethlehem Circuit, A. H. Thomas.
Colliersville and Germantown, J. M. Maxwell.
Lagrange and Moscow, J. E. Treadwell.
Williston Circuit, J. D. Sullivan.
Macon Circuit, T. L. Boswell.
Grand June Circuit, T. F. Cason.
Saulsbury Circuit, J. A. Russell.
Chambers' Chapel, W. F. Hamer.
Memphis District High School, at Arlington, M. F. Leake, Principal.

BROWNSVILLE DISTRICT.
A. R. WILSON, Presiding Elder.
Brownsville Station, W. L. Duckworth.
Brownsville Circuit, W. A. Freeman.
Alamo and Bells, J. W. Knott.
Alamo Circuit, W. A. Dungan.
Denmark Circuit, W. D. Jenkins.
Stanton and Mason, E. H. Stewart.
Braden Circuit, T. P. Ramsey.
Somerville Station, R. B. Swift.
R. V. Taylor, Supernumerary.
Somerville Circuit, G. T. Peeples.
Whiteville Circuit, W. F. Barrier.
Richard Hill, Supernumerary.
Bolivar Station, B. A. Hayes.
Bellemont supplied by J. C. Wilson.
Wesleyan Female College, at Brownsville, Tenn., John Williams President.
Somerville Institute, R. T. Chew, President.

JACKSON DISTRICT.
WARNER MOORE, Presiding Elder.
JACKSON—
First Church, Guilford Jones, A. L. Pritchett, Sup.
East Jackson, B. F. Blackmon.
West Jackson, J. J. Lessenberry.
Jackson Circuit, S. F. Chambers.
Spring Creek Circuit, A. S. Taylor.
Henderson Station, G. W. Wilson.
Pinson Circuit, J. W. Blackard.
Medina Circuit, T. L. Adams.
Humboldt, N. P. Ramsey.
Trenton Station, David Leith.
Trenton Circuit, W. T. C. Young.
O. P. Parker, Sup.
Bradford Circuit, B. F. Peeples.
Milan Station, E. B. Graham.
McLemoresville Circuit, E. B. Plummer.
Memphis Conf. Female Institute,
A. W. Jones, President.
J. A. Fife, Agent.
District High School, at Henderson, Tenn., G. W. Wilson, Principal.

DYERSBURG DISTRICT.
W. C. Johnson, Presiding Elder.
Dyersburg Station, E. T. Hart.
Dyersburg Circuit, S. H. Williams Newbern Station, T. F. Saunders.
Rutherford Circuit, C. J. Mauldin.
Friendship Circuit, B. Medlin.
Woodville Circuit, T. J. Simmons
Ripley and Durhamville, G. K. Brooks.

Hening Circuit, J. S. Renshaw.
Covington Station, E. K. Bransford.
Covington Circuit, E. E. Hamilton.
Mt. Zion Circuit, G. H. Martin.
Hales Point, to be supplied by J. M. Drummond.

Wilsonville Circuit, G. W. Evans
District High School, at Mt. Zion, A. J. Meaders, Principal.

UNION CITY DISTRICT.
J. H. Evans, Presiding Elder.
Union City Station, J. G. Clark.
Union City Circuit, S. L. Jewell.
Hickman Station, R. M. King.
Hickman Circuit, J. W. Waters.
Columbus Station, C. D. Hilliard.
Tiptonville Circuit, W. O. Lanier.
Sharon Circuit, F. Bynum.
Beech Ridge, R. E. Graves.
Martin Circuit, R. W. Newsom.
Edgar Circuit, W. H. Frost, S. Weaver, sup.
Fulton and Water Valley, J. T. C. Collin, Jere Moss, sup.
Fulton Circuit, T. J. McGill.
Dresden Station, A. C. Moore.

Salem Circuit, Job R. Bell.

PADUCAH DISTRICT.
W. C. Sells, Presiding Elder.
Paducah, Broadway, J. C. Hooks.
J. V. Fly, sup.
Third Street, H. B. Owens, W. H. Leigh, sup.
Paducah Circuit, Josephus Edwards.
Hinkleville Circuit, J. R. Hardin.
Wickliffe Circuit, H. I. Stephens.
Milburn Circuit, S. B. Love.
Clinton Station, G. T. Sullivan.
Clinton Circuit, J. H. Witt.
Wingo Circuit, D. M. Evans.
Mayfield Station, J. M. Scott.
Farmington Circuit, P. H. Fields.
Briensburg Circuit, A. N. Sears.
Benton Circuit, C. D. Davis.
Palestine Circuit, C. A. Haskell.
Birmingham Circuit, D. A. Ross.

MCKENZIE DISTRICT.
J. H. Roberts, Presiding Elder.
McKenzie Station, W. C. Waters.
Paris Station, W. G. Heffley.
Paris Circuit, J. H. Johnson.
Conyersville Circuit, R. H. Pigue.
Manleyville Circuit, J. H. Wmoth.

Gleason Circuit, R. L. West.
Huntingdon and Hollow Rock, H. B. Johnston.
Trezevant Circuit, R. E. Humphrey.
Murray Circuit, C. C. Bell.
Big Sandy Circuit, W. J. Naylor.
Cottage Grove, C. N. Goulden.
Huntingdon Circuit, R. L. Norman.

Lynnville Circuit, J. G. Burks.
Murray and Benton, W. J. Mecoy.
Agent of McTyeire Institute, at McKenzie, J. A. Moody.

LEXINGTON DISTRICT.
W. A. Cook, Presiding Elder.
Lexington and Saltillo, N. R. Marr.
Lexington Circuit, J. H. Garrett.
Sardis Circuit, supplied by W. W. Butler.
Decaturville Circuit, H. D. Overton.
Scott’s Hill Circuit, T. N. Wilkes.

Sugar Tree Circuit, J. B. Knight.
Mifflin Circuit, W. B. Matthews.
Adamsville Circuit, W. T. Locke.
T. G. Pettigrew, Junior preacher.
Shiloh Circuit, A. J. Anderson.
Falcon Miss., J. G. Jones.
Bethel Springs, J. S. Carl.
S. A. Steel, transferred to Louisville Conference.
W. M. Patterson and J. W. Grimes to Central Mexico—Mission Conference.
APPENDIX.

Spiritual Interest of the Church.

To the Bishop and Members of the Memphis Annual Conference of the M. E. Church, South—Dear Brethren:

Your Committee, to whom was referred the Spiritual Interest of the Church, regard the trust committed to them as paramount in importance.

We have prayerfully sought and obtained information from almost every pastoral charge in the Conference, and following may be found some of the results:

It is exceedingly gratifying to learn that the revival spirit has gone into almost every charge and congregation, and 8,066 souls have been converted to God, and reports from pastors show a net increase of about 4,532 members.

We note with pleasure the increase of attendance upon the social meetings of the Church.

A number of prayer meetings have been organized during the year, and the attendance upon this means of grace steadily increases.

We also believe that as pastors and people we feel more keenly, perhaps, than ever before, the loss sustained by the Church in the decline of the class meetings amongst us, and that greater effort is being made to revive this powerful agent of spirituality in all of the charges.

We have reason to thank God that the effort is meeting with happy results. We must revive the class-meeting, if we would reach the plane of spirituality, to which as a Church, we so much aspire.

The Pastors report that more attention has been given to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and that the increase of interest manifested upon the part of the Church generally is very noticeable. These things, together with the fact that there has been less necessity for the enforcement of moral discipline, we regard as indications of progress and tokens of better times. And shall we not raise our hearts and
voices in humble thankfulness to our great Head for such blessings bestowed upon such unworthy creatures?

But while there is much for which we, as a Church, should feel devoutly thankful, still we fear there is cause for lamentation. We need but to look about us to see the many bearing the name of Christian, and under the solemn vows of the Church, who seem to be absorbed in the vanities and fashions and pleasures of this world, or bending every energy in hoarding up the riches, which can but perish. The many who seem to be indifferent to the calls, and necessities of their fellow beings. Are not we, the pastors of these various charges, in some measure responsible for these souls thus committed to our care and training?

Let us, dear brethren, go from this Annual Conference, with a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit, giving to the people, who may be assigned to our care a richer experience, and a higher Christian life, and thus, as the representatives of the Lord Jesus, raise them to a higher plane of Christian enjoyment.

W. H. LEIGH, Chair.

GEo. H. MARTIN, Sec'y.

Bible Cause.

Your Committee desire to make the following report:

The Bible coming to us as the pure and revealed word of God, as the rule and only sufficient rule of our faith and practice; as a light sent into the dark world of sin to illuminate our pathway, and to guide us home to God and to heaven; it is worthy of our most faithful efforts to place it in every home that every heart may be blessed. Within its precious lids we find a mine of truth more precious than the shining gold, and more enduring than the mountains of granite. History, more eminent than that of Heroditus, moral philosophy more profound and satisfactory than that of Socrates and Plato, poetry more sublime than that of Milton, and more touching and beautiful than that of Cowper. The word of God has been beautifully illustrated as a mine of truth, a rock of diamonds, a chain of years, the balance in which the good man weighs his actions, the way by which he daily walks, and the chart by which he sails to eternity.

We feel that we, as a Christian Church, should not be content with the work done, or the efforts put forth, until the Bible is placed in every home, every heart baptized with its truth, and every soul illuminated by its divine light.

We acknowledge with pleasure and note with delight the wonderful and successful work that is being done along this line by the American Bible Society. The distribution of this Society for the year 1886 amounts to 1,338,175 copies. Receipts for the same are $523,910.59.
This is great work, but a falling off from last year's report. No doubt if the Christian Church had done its full duty there would have been an increase rather than a decrease.

The total issues of this Society since its organization in 1816 have been 46,877,646 copies. The Society is now engaged in the fourth supply of the whole country. In the prosecution of this work in Tennessee for the last three years, closing March 31st, 1866, the Colporteurs have visited 142,214 families. Of which 26,884 were found destitute of the Scriptures. Of these 22,884 were supplied either by donation or sale, mostly by donation.

Most people and churches will admit in general terms the great importance of a universal distribution of the Scriptures, but it is surprisingly strange that so many will let year after year pass by without bringing this matter directly home to their hearts and minds.

Believing the American Bible Society to be a work of God—a work that he is prospering in a wonderful manner in the hands of his people. Therefore—

Resolved, That each member of this Conference if the circumstances will admit, lay this matter before their congregations, and thereby giving to them an opportunity to contribute to this cause.

Resolved, That we canvass our charges and report the number of destitute families we find, and also the number we supply, to the Committee on Bible Cause at our next Annual Conference.

E. H. Stewart, Chair.
J. T. Wiggins, Sec'y.

Report of Sunday School Board.

Your Sunday School Board has had under careful consideration the Sunday School work within our bounds.

We find that increased attention has been given to this part of our Church work. District Sunday School Conferences have been held in all our Districts except one. A few of these Sunday School Conferences were held in conjunction with the District Conference, but the larger portion of them were held at different times and places. They were largely attended and became the medium of disseminating much valuable knowledge among our people.

Your Board would call the special attention of the Conference to the recent action of the General Conference, by which it was ordered: "That the third Sunday in May be set apart as children's day, to be observed throughout the Church with appropriate services. And on that day a collection be taken up for needy Sunday Schools, and that ten per cent. of the money collected is to be forwarded to the General
Conference Sunday School Board at Nashville, Tenn., to be distributed by said Board in the same manner and under the same regulations as the interest accruing from the Centennial Sunday School Aid Fund.

We would further state for the information of the Conference that the General Conference Board met June 18, 1886, and resolved to confine the money arising from the interest on the Centennial Sunday School Aid Fund and the ten per cent. of the collections on children’s day to destitute schools in the Mission Conferences of our Church at the rate of ten per cent. a scholar.

In pursuance of the action of the General Conference, and the more recent action of the General Conference Board, your Conference Board has resolved that the 90 per cent. coming to it from the collections on children’s day shall be confined to aiding of needy Sunday Schools and destitute communities within the bounds of the Memphis Conference; and hence your Board would respectfully but urgently ask for a liberal contribution on that day from all our schools, to aid in building up and extending our Sunday School work among the destitute.

We learn from our book agent that Sunday School libraries are being prepared and will soon be ready for sale at our publishing house. These books are much needed, and we would urge upon our people to supply our schools as early as possible with these much needed books.

Our Sunday School literature is meeting with favor—is generally circulated among our schools, and is giving great satisfaction to our people.

The Sunday School work has made the present year a decided advance above any previous year of our history. We report Schools, 436; officers and teachers, 2,837; scholars, 24,170. Money for literature, $3,464.43; for mission, $198.58; other objects $1,639.99, making in all $6,313.00.

Increase over last year, schools, 33; officers and teachers, 292; scholars, 2,486. Money expended, $1,582.60.

Your Board would respectfully submit the following resolutions for your adoption:

Resolved. That we will as directed by our General Conference observe the third Sunday in May as Children’s Day.

2. That we will take a collection to be appropriated to needy Schools, forward ten per cent. of the collection to E. W. Cole, Nashville, Tenn., Treasurer of the General Board, and the ninety per cent. to Treasurer of Memphis Annual Conference Sunday School Board.

3. That the pastors be requested to report all schools that have had any life during the year, and that the largest number on the roll during the year be reported and not the average attendance. Also the number of Methodist scholars in union schools.

Respectfully submitted,

J. T. C. Collins, Chair.
L. H. Estes, Sec'y.
The Board of Missions has the gratification of reporting an advance movement in the interest of Missions. The collections this year have exceeded those of last year considerably.

The assessment by the Parent Board on this Conference for next year is $10,300, which we have distributed to the Districts upon a more equitable basis than heretofore, taking into consideration the paying power of the several Districts, on the basis of amounts assessed by the several charges themselves for preachers' salaries. We have distributed the amounts as follows:

**FOREIGN MISSIONS.**

- Memphis District: $1,700
- Brownsville District: $1,330
- Jackson District: $1,360
- Dyersburg District: $1,500
- Union City District: $1,230
- Paducah District: $1,200
- McKenzie District: $1,180
- Lexington District: $800

**Total:** $10,300

**DOMESTIC MISSIONS.**

- Memphis District: $280.00
- Brownsville District: $220.00
- Jackson District: $225.00
- Dyersburg District: $250.00
- Union City District: $202.00
- Paducah District: $200.00
- McKenzie District: $192.00
- Lexington District: $181.00

**Total:** $1,700.00

The Board appropriated last year for Domestic Missions the following sums:

- Georgia Street, Memphis District: $350.00
- Bolivar, Brownsville District: $150.00
- Falcon, Brownsville District: $150.00
- Perryville, Jackson District: $175.00
- Scott's Hill, Jackson District: $50.00
- Hale's Point, Dyersburg District: $100.00
- Center, Union City District: $100.00
- Locust Street, Paducah District: $350.00

Our Domestic Mission work during the year has been as follows:

1. **Georgia Street,** in the Southern suburbs of Memphis, has been
served by Rev. D. D Moore, D. D. His report to the Conference shows some improvement in the work on that Mission, by some valuable accessions to the membership of the Church, and increased financial strength for the future. The Board hopes for good results in maintaining the Georgia Street Mission, and regards it as truly valuable missionary ground.

Bolivar Mission has been served very profitably by Rev. D. L. Hines, whose report shows that every interest of the Church has been looked after, and that the Mission is in a prosperous condition.

Falcon Mission has been served by Rev. J. G. Jones, with evidences of improvement in building up his churches. His report shows that the Church is living and growing.

Perryville Mission has been served by Rev. Andrew Allen. The Jackson District Conference at its session of 1885 suggested the formation and occupation of this Mission, and the Bishop very readily consented to send into that field a young preacher, who has been abundantly blessed in building up several good societies, and forming the nucleus of a Circuit.

Scott's Hill has been served by Rev. R. S. Swift, whose report shows that it is in a healthy and hopeful condition.

Locust Street has been served by Rev. W. H. Leigh. It is located in the Southern part of the city of Paducah, Ky. Has been built up in the last three years chiefly by conversions from the world. It is constantly growing in numbers and solidity. The field is wide and the outlook is hopeful.

Hales Point: A. F. Haynes has served the Mission. We have no separate report from the work.

Center Mission has been served by H. B. Owen. We have no separate report from his work.

The Board hoped to pay its appropriations of last year in full, and has nearly done so. We have a deficiency of about 3½ per cent. An additional collection of about $50.67 would have paid our appropriations in full.

The following Appropriations for the next year are made:

**MEMPHIS DISTRICT.**

Georgia and Saffron Street..........................$ 300.00

**BROWNSVILLE DISTRICT.**

Bolivar Mission..................................... 150.00

**DYERSBURG DISTRICT.**

Hale's Point Mission.................................. 75.00

**PADUCAH DISTRICT.**

Third Street Church (Paducah)..................... 250.00

**LEXINGTON DISTRICT.**

For the District................................. 350.00

Sulphur Springs Mission.......................... 200.00

Falcon Mission.................................... 150.00

**Total.......................... $1475.00**
This Board has received information that Brother Benj. Kinney now deceased, of Benton, Marshall County, Kentucky, devised and bequeathed to the Foreign Board of Missions, for the China Mission, all his property, consisting of personalty probably of the value of $180.00 and realty estimated at the value of about $600.00. Brother Joseph Lyles, of Benton, is the Executor. And the fund is in the hands of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Church, for the purposes mentioned.

The Woman’s Board of Foreign Missions for this Conference has collected this year $1,710.42, and since its organization about $7,000.

Respectfully submitted,

Guilford Jones, President.
Robt. W. Hayes, Secretary.

Report No. 1 of Joint Board of Finance.

JACKSON, TENN., Dec. 10, 1886.

The Joint Board of Finance would report that they have made a contract with Rev. W. H. Leigh to publish and distribute the minutes of the present session of this Conference for the sum of $100.00.

We further report that from the Assessments on the various districts for this purpose there has been paid to the Treasurer of this Board the sum of $22.00, which with the names of the subscribers as far as furnished us, will be turned over to Brother Leigh. This leaves a deficit of $78.00. For the purpose of raising this deficit we recommend that Revs. J. D. Sullivan, T. L. Adams and H. B. Johnston be appointed to raise same and pay same over to Brother W. H. Leigh.

REPORT No. 2 OF JOINT BOARD OF FINANCE.

JACKSON, TENN., Dec. 13, 1886.

The amount assessed by this Board for the widows and orphans of deceased preachers and superannuated preachers was $3,000.00. To secure this amount the several districts were assessed, and have paid as follows:

MEMPHIS DISTRICT.
Assessed, $570.00; paid, $511.95; deficit, $59.05.

BROWNSVILLE DISTRICT.
Assessed, $490.00; paid, $523.55; excess, $43.55.

JACKSON DISTRICT.
Assessed, $390.00; paid, $336.70; deficit, $53.30.
DYERSBURG DISTRICT.
Assessed, $180.00; paid, $46.75; deficit, $112.25.

UNION CITY DISTRICT.
Assessed, $420.00; paid, $381.00; deficit, $39.00.

PADUCAH DISTRICT.
Assessed, $330.00; paid, $314.40; deficit, $15.60.

M'KENZIE DISTRICT.
Assessed, $330.00; paid, $333.55; excess, $3.55.

Making the amount secured from the various charges the sum of $2,869.90, it being an increase over last year of $441.95. We have collected interest on the Colvin bequest of $17.50, of Rev. W. C. Johnson $52.87, of Rev. A. W. Jones $246.45; making the grand total amount for distribution $3,186.65, which after prayerful consideration we have distributed to the several claimants, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sister John Moss</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bro. W. T. Plummer's children, (R. H. Mahon, trustee)</td>
<td>72.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bro. T. P. Holman</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister M. J. Hubbard</td>
<td>85.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister W. B. Seward</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sister Sullivan</td>
<td>120.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bro. Surratt's children, (R. H. Mahon, trustee)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister F. M. Morris</td>
<td>125.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister S. W. Moore</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister J. C. Corbett</td>
<td>135.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bro. J. M. Flatt</td>
<td>110.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister B. H. Bishop</td>
<td>110.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister H. B. Covington</td>
<td>200.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sister Sallie Warren</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sister Glasgow</td>
<td>150.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bro. John Randle</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bro. James Perry</td>
<td>150.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sister W. S. Malone, (with J. M. Maxwell, trustee)</td>
<td>180.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sister L. R. Martin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sister J. G. Pirtle</td>
<td>145.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sister Mary Burns</td>
<td>125.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sister M. A. Gillespie</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sister B. T. Crouch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sister R. A. Unpstead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sister Cole</td>
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<td>Sister R. N. Freeman</td>
<td>125.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserved to pay expenses</td>
<td>420.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

($10 of which is a special donation from a friend.)
(27)

ASSESSMENT.

We have assessed the Conference for this fund $3,000.00, and have apportioned same among the several districts, as follows:

Memphis District.................................$ 570.00
Brownsville District.............................. 390.00
Jackson District................................. 390.00
Dyersburg District............................... 450.00
Union City District.............................. 390.00
Paducah District................................. 320.00
McKenzie District............................... 295.00
Lexington District.............................. 105.00

BISHOP FUND.

There was assessed for support of the Bishops the past year the sum of $1,440.00. The Districts were assessed and have paid, as follows:

MEMPHIS DISTRICT.
Assessed..............$273.60 Paid..............$275.00 Excess..............$1.40

BROWNSVILLE DISTRICT.
Assessed..............$230.40 Paid..............$234.95 Excess..............$4.55

JACKSON DISTRICT.
Assessed..............$187.20 Paid..............$187.50 Excess.............. .30

Dyersburg District.
Assessed..............$230.40 Paid..............$231.00 Excess.............. .60

Union City District.
Assessed..............$201.60 Paid..............$202.60 Excess.............. $1.00

Paducah District.
Assessed..............$158.40 Paid..............$158.40

McKenzie District.
Assessed..............$158.40 Paid..............$158.50 Excess.............. .10

Making a total of $1,446.80. Total excess on Bishop's fund, $6.80.

We have the receipts of Bishop W. W. Duncan given to Presiding Elders, aggregating the sum of $273.20; the balance, $1,173.60, we have paid to Bishop W. W. Duncan, for which we have his receipts; making total paid him, $1,446 80.

ASSESSMENT.

For the support of the Bishops this Conference is assessed the sum of $1,600.00, which we have apportioned among the several districts, as follows:

Memphis District................................. $303.00
Brownsville District............................ 205.00
Jackson District................................. 205.00
Dyersburg District.............................. 240.00
Union City District............................. 205.00
Paducah District................................. 175.00
McKenzie District............................... 167.00
Lexington District.............................. 100.00
FOR THE MINUTES.

For the purpose of paying the expenses of publishing the minutes of the Conference the Conference was assessed $80.00, which was apportioned equally among the several Districts. This assessment has been paid in full by the Districts, and $20.00 has been raised by the members of the Conference at this session, making a total of $100.00 raised for this purpose, which has been paid over to Bro. W. H. Leigh, who agrees to publish the minutes and distribute same among the subscribers for this amount.

We have assessed the Conference the sum of $120.00 to pay expenses of publishing the minutes, and have apportioned same among the several Districts, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Jackson District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brownsville District</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
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<td>Dyersburg District</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union City District</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paducah District</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>McKenzie District</td>
<td>$14.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexington District</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We nominate the Presiding Elder of the several Districts to look specially after this fund and to see that same is raised and paid over to them, and by them paid to Treasurer of Joint Board of Finance.

We report that in regard to the contest over the will of Sister Rebecca Taylor and that the cause is still pending in the Chancery Court at Jackson, Tenn., undetermined. Hon. W. I. McFarland is representing the Church as Solicitor in this cause free of charge.

We report that, in regard to the matter of the amount due from Rev. A. W. Jones or Memphis Conference Female Institute, going to widows and orphans of deceased preachers and superannuated preachers, is now in a satisfactory condition. The deed has been executed and a lien retained on the property to secure payment of same. Brother Jones has paid promptly the interest due on this fund.

In regard to the amount raised for the purpose of paying the expenses of our delegates to the General Conference, Brother R. H. Mahon was designated as custodian of this fund, and will make his report if deemed necessary.

SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY.

There was assessed for the support of the Ministry this year the sum of $67,470.25, an increase of $1,630.25 over last year. Paid $5,941.51, an increase of $3,843.06 over last year.

There is an increase in the amounts received for Foreign Missions, Domestic Missions and Church Extension, as well as an advance on all other collections, showing a steady, healthy growth in our Finances.

It is with grateful hearts that we rejoice to be able to report such a large increase in our collections for the widows and orphans of deceased preachers and superannuated preachers. This collection lies very near our hearts; to us these claimants look for a support. Shall they look in vain? Surely not! The largely increased amount collected for them answers fully that they shall not. God will provide for his own. They are not only our poor, but they are God’s poor. And we thank God that he has given us willing hearts and helping
hands to provide for them. May God continue to bless and provide for them.

Surely the good Lord has blessed us this year both temporally and spiritually. There has been a large increase in our membership, and our financial outlook is better than ever before. Our people are growing each year in the grace of giving. They are according our Ministry each year a more generous support. Consecration and information is all our people need to bring the Memphis Conference to the very front and take the lead as she should do of all other Conferences. But while we have done so well this year let us still press onward; still larger and greater and grander possibilities under the blessings and guidance of God are ours; shall we attain them? God help us to do so. And let us all, both Clerical and Lay, go to work for the Master, and bring up all the collections another year full, aye, running over! The Lord hath need of it. God has been very merciful to all of us, and for all, we should thank and praise Him. Now, brethren, remember these poor widows and orphans and worn out preachers. Their very necessities cry out unto you; let the Treasury of the Lord be full.

Let us go forward in the discharge of our duties as God has given us to see those duties. Respectfully submitted,

A. D. BRIGHT, Chairman.
G. K. BROOKS, Treasurer.
W. L. DUCKWORTH, Sec'y.

Officers of Joint Board of Finance for the ensuing year are:
A. D. BRIGHT, Chairman.
G. K. BROOKS, Treasurer.
W. L. DUCKWORTH, Sec'y.

Report of Board of Education.

Your Board of Education would respectfully report. We have felt deeply the great importance of the interests referred to us for consideration. We regard sanctified education as one peculiar mission of the Church. The charge from her living Head is, Teach all Nations. This can only be done by education, in its lowest significance for a foundation and in its highest meaning as a superstructure. The mind must be educated in the ordinary sense of the word preparatory to the reception of the fullness of Gospel blessing contemplated in the commission, “Teach all Nations.” Hence, regarding the work of Education as an essential part of the work of the Church, it is exceedingly gratifying to your Committee, to be able, after full investigation, to report, that this Conference is now effectually maintaining by her patronage and successfully operating under her supervision nine differ-
ent institutions higher than primary grade. This is more satisfactory when we remember that the whole territory embraced in this Conference is supplied in addition to these schools and similar ones of other denominations, by graded public free schools, which necessarily cuts off our local patronage. In view at once of the obvious importance and difficulties of these, our schools, they demand at our hands the strictest fidelity and energy in their support.

The Henderson Male and Female College, reported last year as the Jackson District High School, is located at Henderson, Tenn., a thrifty, healthy, moral, and religious village, located on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. There is no saloon in the town. This Institution has a large, well finished, two-story, brick building, properly deeded to the M. E. Church, South, or so reported by the Trustees. This school has been under the control of Rev. G. W. Wilson, by appointment of this Conference, for the last twelve months and the results attest the wisdom of the appointment. The report shows an increased number of pupils from about fifty to one hundred and fifteen.

The Wesleyan Female College, located at Brownsville, Tenn., is reported to the Conference to be operating with increased success under the continued Presidency of Rev. John Williams, of this Conference. Brother Williams is extraordinarily successful in educating thoroughly the minds and morals of his pupils. The character of Brownsville for religion is already a matter of history in the records of this Conference, and the culture and intelligence of her people is in keeping with their piety—a healthy town and an institution eminently worthy of patronage. This property is valued at $6,000.

The Dyersburg District High School, located at Mt. Zion, Tenn., enjoys its usual prosperity. The property is valued at $6,000 and is out of debt. Rev. A. J. Meadors, of this Conference, is well reported of in his presidency of this institution. It has about it a Methodist community and a prosperous people, giving it a good local as well as general patronage.

The Memphis District High School, located at Arlington, Tenn., has closed another prosperous year, and is believed to promise more in the future. This school is under the principalship of Rev. M. F. Leake, appointed by this Conference. The building is commodious and attractive. The primary department is well supplied with apparatus. There is a debt, amount not reported, on this property, but it was reported a year ago as provided for.

Brownsville District High School, at Dancyville, Tenn., is very wisely located. Dancyville is justly celebrated in all the surrounding country for its morals, religion, culture and piety. Buildings are now convenient and capacious, and the grounds are ample and beautiful. Its career has been useful and prosperous, and its future is promising. This Institution has now passed into the hands of Prof. W. L. Weber, of S. C., as principal. We commend it as a training school.

The Lauderdale Institute, at Ripley, Tenn., continues to prosper.
It is well situated, the building is complete, has a library of about two hundred volumes, an extensive museum of Geological speciments, and an assortment of apparatus for chemistry, physics, &c. It is well equipped in every particular, and is under the Principalship of Prof. E. H. Randle, with a competent corps of assistants.

Marvin College, at Clinton, Ky., has realized very gratifying prosperity, under the administration of Prof. J. H. Calloway. It has enrolled 157 pupils and has 40 more now than this time last year; reports its campus much improved during the year, and all surroundings of the school favorable for mental, moral and physical culture. We heartily commend Marvin College to our people.

McTyeire Institute, at McKenzie, Tenn., is now under the joint Principalship of Prof. E. R. Williams and Rev. J. H. Harrison. The faculty of this institution is very strong. The addition of Rev. J. H. Harrison has seemed providential. It is at a point famous for its healthfulness and general eligibility. The physical and moral culture of the pupils are here well advanced. It has a fine library. The Trustees report it at present as enjoying the best session of its history.

A quite number of young ministers are being educated free. Everything is operating encouragingly. It is burdened with a debt of §1922.55, which is provided for in part by a subscription in all of about one thousand dollars, to be collectable when enough is subscribed to pay off the whole liability. Rev. T. J. McGill, of this Conference, has been Agent to pay these debts by the appointment of this Conference, for the past year, to collect money to pay this indebtedness, but owing to ill health and other causes has not succeeded. Your Committee recommend that provision for the payment of these debts be left to the Trustees of this institution.

We heartily commend it to public favor both for patronage and aid.

Memphis Conference Female Institute, at Jackson, Tenn., is widely and favorably known. It is under the continued Presidency of Rev. A. W. Jones, D. D., of this Conference. It is the oldest school of the Conference, and is amply provided with convenient and suitable buildings. Happily located in the heart of a delightful city, well known for the culture and piety of its people. We are very much gratified to report that it is now enjoying increased favor and patronage. It deserves large things from our people.

Vanderbilt University, at Nashville, Tenn., is the great Central University of Southern Methodism. It is doing its work well. The present term it reports over six hundred pupils. Its equipments approximate nearer perfection than any other in the Southern Church. All the schools for boys referred to in this report are designed more or less directly as feeders for this Central Institution. We are glad to notice that the literary departments are open to the theological students of the University, giving an opportunity to many of great value. Ministers not only have free tuition, but to a limited extent it can give additional financial aid through her sustentation fund. Vander-
bilt has a great future, and is now a great factor in the future weal or woe of the Church. She not only seems fully cognizant of her position, but fully prepared to measure up to her duty. We earnestly desire to encourage young men called of God to the ministry of the Word to prepare themselves first in the Schools of our own Conference, and then tarry at the Vanderbilt until they are prepared thoroughly by education and the Holy Ghost to "Teach the Nations."

On the whole we look about upon our various institutions for training and then upon this great Central Institution, with its appropriate machinery for finishing the education of our children, with profound gratitude to God, and great hopefulness for our future.

We notice with pleasure that most of these institutions give free tuition to the children of our pastors and all make reductions.

We request the Bishop to reappoint the Rev. A. W. Jones, D. D., President of the Memphis Conference Female Institute; the Rev. John Williams to Wesleyan Female College; the Rev. A. J. Meadors to the Dyersburg District High School; the Rev. G. W. Wilson to the Henderson Male and Female College, and the Rev. M. F. Leake to the Memphis District High School.

S. H. WILLiAMS, Chairman.
E. B. GRAHAM, Secretary.

Report of Committee on Books and Periodicals.

To the Bishop and Members of the Memphis Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South:

DEAR BRETHREN,—Your Committee on Books and Periodicals submit the following as their report:

We are glad to note a steady increase in the business of our Publishing House. During the year ending April 1, 1886, there was a net gain in the cash receipts of more than thirty thousand dollars. There has been a reduction of the indebtedness of forty-eight thousand dollars, the remaining debt being about eighty-eight thousand dollars.

The Christian Advocate still maintains its superiority as a religious periodical, and grows brighter and better as the years go by, distilling into the minds and hearts of the people the abiding principles of Faith, Hope and Love. Urging on to the discharge of sacred duty; commending that which is right, and condemning wrong, thus fulfilling in every way the destinies of its lofty mission. To a Methodist family it is simply indispensable. Wherever this paper is read our people are alive to the interest of the Church, and our pastors have little
difficulty in the performance of their arduous duties. Its circulation ought to be one hundred thousand.

We have had referred to us by its editor, Rev. D. D. Moore, a copy of the Southern Methodist Standard, published at Memphis, and take pleasure in recommending it to our people. Its subscription price is two dollars a year. Ministers half price.

The Arkansas Methodist, The St. Louis Christian Advocate and the Southwestern Methodist, are all good papers and deserve to be read by our people.

We have also noticed The Southern Methodist Review, ably edited by Rev. W. P. Harrison, D. D., and endorse it as being every way worthy the patronage of both preachers and people.

Our Sunday School Literature is first-class in every respect. Its price is so low that it is within the reach of the poorest Sunday School in the Conference, and we see no reason why our people should use any other.

We have had brought to our notice a book entitled, "The Token of the Covenant," by Rev. R. H. Mahon, D. D., and we are glad to have the opportunity of expressing our appreciation of its merits. We bespeak for it a large sale, and think it will be productive of much good.

We have had under consideration the propriety of suggesting to the Conference some system of Colportage, in order that our denominational literature should be more extensively circulated and read, for we are persuaded that the multiplied duties of pastors are such that they do not have time for this important work.

The great masses of our people, especially in the rural districts, do not read our books and papers. Our Sunday Schools, many of them, have no libraries. We think some plan that would carry our books and papers to the very doors of the people would be productive of much permanent good, thus inducing the people to buy and read good religious books, instead of the trashy and sensational stuff that infests the country. We, therefore, after deliberate thought (and having had a conference with your special Committee on Colportage), offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That each Presiding Elder select and appoint some suitable man (either a local preacher or layman) to act as Colporteur for his District. Let it be the duty of such agent to make a thorough canvass of the District with good books and papers, visit the Sunday Schools and insist on the use of our own literature, and encourage the foundation of libraries. Let him report monthly, or at least quarterly, to the Presiding Elder, and submit a final report to the next Annual Conference.

The Presiding Elder may have the right to discontinue an agent in case of a want of capacity or attention to the business, and supply his place by the appointment of another.

We trust that our Publishing House would allow a fair commission or salary, so that such agent would be able to earn a competency for his services.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID LEATH, Chairman.

I. A. McSWAIN, Secretary.
Report of the Board of Church Extension.

Report No. 1.—The Board would respectfully submit report No. 1. At a meeting in Trenton, Tenn., September 8, 1886, the organization of the Woman's Department of Church Extension, Memphis Conference, was perfected, the By-laws and Constitution governing same adopted and a copy sent to each member of the Board. The following are the members:

Mrs. George Dugan, Jackson, Tenn., Conference Secretary; Mrs. Sallie H. Elder, Trenton, Tenn., Conference Treasurer; Mrs. Mittle Spicer, Memphis District Secretary; Mrs. Tempe Livingston, Brownsville District Secretary; Mrs. Myra Harris, Dyersburg District Secretary; Miss Cora Williams, Jackson District Secretary; Miss Molie House, McKenzie District Secretary, Miss Inez Gardner, Union City District Secretary; Miss Lula Moss, Paducah District Secretary.

Since organization, Mrs. Livingstone resigned as Secretary of Brownsville District, and the Board, at a meeting December 9th, filled the vacancy with Miss Mary Robinson, of Whiteville.

W. T. HARRIS, President.
G. T. SULLIVAN, Sec'y.

Report No. 2 of Board of Church Extension, Memphis Annual Conference:

The Parent Board has adopted the following:

WHEREAS, The Louisville, the Kentucky, and the Western Virginia Annual Conferences have by a united effort secured in cash and solvent notes and subscriptions which are being promptly paid, and nearly all of which will be collected during the present fiscal year, the sum of $15,000, being an average of $5,000 to each Conference, and have thus founded the Kavanaugh Loan Fund, and demonstrated the practicality of similar efforts and success in other Conferences; therefore be it

Resolved, That all the other Annual Conferences be and they are hereby invited and urged to make through their Conference Boards the effort to secure within their respective bounds between this time and the 31st of March next at least $5,000 each, to be constituted into a separate Loan Fund, to be named by the Conference, and to be turned over to this Board and held and administered by it. And we are informed that that Board is likely to realize at least as much as $2,500 from the legacy left by Major Mooring, and is willing that this sum shall be counted as a part of any Loan Fund which the Memphis Conference may decide to raise.

Now, therefore, we recommend for the adoption of the Conference the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Memphis Annual Conference hereby accepts the
proposition of the Parent Board of Church Extension, as set forth above, and will make an effort to secure enough in addition to what may be realized from the Mooring bequest to make the sum of $5,000, for a Loan Fund upon the plan set forth above, to be known and designated as the Memphis Conference Loan Fund.

Resolved, That all further details with reference to the raising of said fund be left with our Conference Board of Church Extension.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

Report No. 3 of Board of Church Extension:—Dear Brethren—Your Board would respectfully submit the following report:

During the year ending the Board held two regular meetings. There were fourteen applications for aid. Six churches were duly considered and appropriations made: Locust Street, Paducah Lynnville, Obion, Dublin, Trezevant and Brigance Chapel. The amount appropriated was $655.00. The amount of property secured was $6,300.00. There are eight applications before the Board at this present session. The amount asked for by them is $800.00. The property represented is $4,525.00. There will be no appropriations made during this meeting of the Board. We offer report No. 1 as to the money to date reported by the pastors this year:

Receipts from Dr. Morton.................. $156.95
Receipts from J. W. Elder.................. 105.65
Cash and receipts during session........ 1,522.00

We also report the Woman's Department of Church Extension of the Memphis Annual Conference, M. E. Church, South, organized. (See report No. 1, offered in morning session). It gives us pleasure to present an epitomized statement of the term of service rendered by your Board, beginning November 20, 1882, and ending December 8, 1886:

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<th>Raised</th>
<th>P. B.</th>
<th>L. B.</th>
<th>Ch's Aided</th>
<th>Am'ts</th>
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</table>

15,700.00

Report No. 2.—Since report No. 1 was made $162.90 have been reported, making a total this year of $1,084.90. We are happy to state that the "Loan Fund" of the Memphis Conference has now a nucleus of $3,742.50; $1,242.50 having been secured in cash and subscription at the Anniversary. By vote of the Conference this Fund is to be know as the "G. W. D. Harris Loan Fund." As to the details
of securing balance of the $5,000 desired the Board would offer the following resolution:

WHEREAS, By Divine direction, Maj. Mooring, of Trenton, Tenn., by will has bequeathed to the Methodist E. Church, South, the sum of $2,500, and that the General Conference of said Church, in May last ordered that the Board of Church Extension should control the same; and whereas, the Parent Board has generously proposed to return this amount of $2,500 over to the Local Board of the Memphis Conference to form a basis of a "Loan Fund," and that on Thursday night, December 9th, the sum of $1,242 50 was raised and added thereunto. Therefore, be it—

Resolved, That in order to secure the balance there be an Anniversary in interest of the Board of Church Extension held in each Presiding Elder's District during the session of the District Conference, and that subscriptions be taken to be paid in installments of six months each, to be added to the G. W. D. Harris Loan Fund, and that the same be sent direct to Dr. Morton, Secretary of Parent Board.

The Board has assessed the Conference the sum of $2,500 for Church Extension this year, and apportioned it as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memphis District</td>
<td>$475.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brownsville District</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
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<td>Dyersburg District</td>
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<td>Jackson District</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union City District</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKenzie District</td>
<td>250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paducah District</td>
<td>225.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexington District</td>
<td>150.00</td>
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</table>

W. T. HARRIS, Pres't.
G. T. SULLIVAN, Sec'y.

Report of Committee on Temperance.

Your Committee on Temperance see no good reason for making a lengthy report. Our discipline in answer to the question: "What shall be done for the extirpation of the great evil of intemperance?" is clear and explicit. Let every pastor remember that it is his duty to keep, not to mend nor break the law, and great results will follow. We would recommend that a sermon on Temperance be preached, sometime during the year, in every congregation, and when the general rules are read the pastor should also read Chapter V. of the Discipline, and declare that he will conscientiously enforce the law. We reiterate our former declarations, that we are inflexibly opposed to drunkenness, dram drinking, and the manufacture and sale of alcoholic stimulants to be used as a beverage. We will as a Church, both ministers and laymen, use all legitimate means to make the great temperance movements now agitating the whole country a grand and glorious success.

E. T. HART, Chairman.
Report on District Journals.

We, your Committee, appointed to examine the District Journals, would make the following report:

The records of every District have been promptly handed in and carefully examined. Dyersburg District Journal examined by R. E. Humphrey. In our review of this book we find much to commend, but little to censure. The book is large and well bound. The penmanship is plain and neat. The record of proceedings is full and accurate.

We note some faults: First, a roll was prepared, but not copied into the Journal; second, we think space should be reserved on the left for marginal reference; third, a few errors in syntax and arrangement make the meaning of the record obscure. In many respects this journal will serve as a model.

The journal of Brownsville District was examined by S. B. Love. It is found to be correct and accurate. The spelling, punctuation, and chirography are good. Would that all the Secretaries were as careful as the Secretary of the last session of the Brownsville District Conference.

McKenzie District Journal was examined by G. C. Crumbaugh. Record somewhat inaccurate. In abbreviating it leaves the minutes incomplete and sometimes the sense indefinite. In roll call the record does not distinguish delegates belonging to each charge, page 302. On page 306 the record reads: "The Conference adjourned with the Rev. J. H. Roberts." Should read so as to show how Conference adjourned.

The Union City District Journal, examined by W. T. Locke, is a large leather-bound blank book neatly kept. It is a model District journal.

Jackson District journal, examined by R. E. Humphrey. We regard this journal a model of neatness and accuracy. Would that all were as well kept.

The record of the Memphis District, examined by T. F. Sanders, is in the main well kept. The roll does not show the presence or absence of some of the members of the Conference. The District Conference record-book prepared by the Publishing House is used.

Paducah District journal, examined by S. B. Love. The record has been well kept, and seems to be correct in every particular. The book is the regular record of District Conferences prepared by our Publishing House. We take great pleasure in commending this book.

Respectfully submitted,

FINLEY BYNUM, Chairman.
S. B. LOVE, Secretary.
Your Committee, to whom was referred the subject of Colportage, beg leave to report:

The General Conference at its last session had the question of a more general distribution of books, tracts, and periodicals under most careful consideration. Instead of providing some uniform plan to be observed throughout the connection left it to each Annual Conference to devise "such a system of Colportage as might best suit its own necessities."

This action of the General Conference was not intended by any means to relieve the preachers of the duty of circulating our literature among the people, but rather to strengthen and render more efficient this arm of the service. Every preacher is bound under the law of the Church to be diligent in supporting the claims of our Publishing House and in supplying the people with our own books and periodicals. We trust that the coming quadrennium will be fruitful of far greater results than have appeared in the past.

In addition to what may be done by the preachers, we recommend that each Presiding Elder be empowered to employ, with the consent of the District Conference, an efficient layman or local preacher, where such can be found, to travel throughout the bounds of his District as Colporteur or agent for our own books and periodicals. The Presiding Elder shall give to every one so employed a certificate in writing of his appointment, to serve as a recommendation among the people.

It shall be the duty of every Colporteur thus engaged in this work to keep on hand as he may be able a supply of Bibles, Testaments and such books only as are offered for sale in the catalogue of our own Publishing House. He may also receive subscriptions for the Christian Advocate and the other periodicals of our Church.

Every Colporteur shall report to the Quarterly Conference of the Circuit or Station to which he may belong the number of families visited and the character and amount of books sold, and also the number of subscribers obtained for our church papers; and it shall be the duty of the preacher in charge of that Circuit or Station to embody in his report to the Annual Conference a statement of the work done by the Colporteur.

We recommend also that any Quarterly Conference that may desire to do so be empowered to elect a book steward, whose duty it shall be to canvass for the sale of our books and periodicals under such restrictions as the Quarterly Conference and Presiding Elder may impose.

As to the matter of support this work of book distribution is expected to be self-sustaining. The discount usually allowed by the Book Agent to preachers will doubtless be extended to all who may be employed in the work. Any man of fair business capacity can, we be-
lieve, realize a handsome profit from the sale of books, without any other means of support.

Respectfully submitted,

R. H. Mahon,
W. C. Johnson,
J. A. Wray.

Report on Expense of Delegates.

At the last session, the undersigned was appointed the custodian of the money to be raised to defray the expenses of the delegates elected to the General Conference.

The Joint Board of Finance assessed the several Districts for that object the sum of $350.00.

The total amount collected and reported to me from the several Circuits and Stations is $259.15.

This amount has been distributed equally among the delegates, except a small sum received during the present session, which is still in my hands for one or two of the lay delegates who are absent.

Respectfully submitted,

R. H. Mahon.

MEMOIRS.

REV. WILLIAM MEEK McFERRIN,

One of the oldest members of the Memphis Conference, after a long life of usefulness, has entered into the rest that remaineth for the people of God. He departed in peace and in full confidence in Christ leaving an emphatic assurance to his friends that his way was clear, and that he was anxious to depart and be with Christ. His earthly sufferings ended Wednesday night, September 29, 1886, about 11 o'clock.

Brother McFerrin was the second son of the Rev. James McFerrin, and was born in Rutherford county, Tenn., March 11, 1809. He professed religion when very young, on the 20th of August, 1820, when about eleven years old. He joined the church some four weeks after his profession, refusing to join at the time his father, brother John, and others joining, lest it should he said that he joined because they did, not knowing what he was doing; hence he preferred to wait and
join on his own responsibility; which was very remarkable for one of his years, and a long life devoted to the service of God and the church show that he knew well enough what he was doing.

When about twenty years old our brother felt moved by the Holy Ghost to preach, and like Paul, he was not disobedient to the Divine call. Hence he conferred not with flesh and blood, but offered himself for the work and was received on trial in the Tennessee Conference of the Methodist E. Church, in the year 1829, and was appointed to the Richland Circuit with Gilbert Taylor. His second Circuit was Limestone, with Wilson L. McAllister, of blessed memory. His third appointment was Winchester, in charge; fourth Franklin, fifth, Columbia st., sixth, Franklin, seventh, Galatin and Cairo, eighth, Somerville Circuit, West Tennessee, ninth, Somerville Circuit, second year, tenth, Somerville African Mission. In this work he was continued for a number of years.

In the meantime he had settled in West Tennessee and was here when the Memphis Conference was organized in the year 1840; and here he remained an honored and useful member until he fell asleep in Jesus—his soul, happy in the paradise of God, and his body resting in the grave in hope of the resurrection of the just, when mortality shall be swallowed up of life and our vile body changed and fashioned like unto the glorious body of Christ.

Brother McFerrin filled many appointments besides those above noted—too tedious to be mentioned here—and always with acceptability and usefulness. His work was varied—Circuit work, District work, and Mission work; ready for promotion and content to take his place in the rank and file of the Ministry. He was twice a member to the General Conference, at Petersburg in 1846, and at St. Louis in 1850.

He showed himself friendly, and, in the social relations of life enjoyed the friendship, love and respect of a large circle of friends, brethren and neighbors. He had a kind word for all, and in the last years of his life was generally recognized by the endearing title of Uncle Billy. He was several times happily married, and first and last reared a large family. He was a faithful and loving husband, and a kind and affectionate father, filling every station in the domestic circle with dignity and forbearance, to the joy and happiness of his household. He was diligent in business and managed his temporal interests in a safe and prudent way, so that he enjoyed more than a competency of this world's goods, while, at the same time, he was liberal to the institutions of the Church, and kind to the poor.

Our departed brother did not aspire to be a great and profound preacher, but he was an humble, useful and able Minister of the Gospel of Jesus. His last days were his best days—as the path of the just, shining brighter and brighter unto the perfect day. He preached some of his best sermons only a few days before his death. So that, as his time on earth grew shorter and shorter he ripened more and more for the land of pure delight, where saints immortal reign. Such was his
humbleness of mind, his modest and retiring disposition, that his moral worth was fully known only to his most intimate friends.

"Sacred how high, and vain how low,
He knew not how, but died to know."

T. L. Boswell.


Report of the Anniversary of the Memphis Conference Woman's Missionary Society:

The Eighth Anniversary of the Memphis Conference Woman's Missionary Society was held in the First Methodist Church, Jackson, Tennessee, December 10th, 7 P. M., 1886, the President, Mrs. Samuel Watson, in the chair. The Secretary being absent, Mrs. W. H. Freeman was appointed Secretary pro tem.

After a voluntary by the choir, the exercises were opened by the reading of the Second Psalm by Rev. G. H. Martin.

Hymn, "All hail the power of Jesus' name."

The congregation was then led in prayer by the venerable Dr. J. B. McFerrin.

Music—"Jesus, I my cross have taken."

Mrs. G. M. Dugan then read her address of welcome referring to the sad intelligence of the death of Miss Dora Rankin.

The address of welcome was responded to by Mrs. Samuel Watson, the President.

Music—"To the work!"—Choir and congregation.

Miss Laura Bradford, the Corresponding Secretary, reported the Society in a prosperous and healthy condition, as the statistics show:

Whole number of auxiliaries in the bounds of the Memphis Conference is 65; members in auxiliaries, 1,163. Auxiliaries organized since the annual Conference of 1885, 17; members added since the Annual Conference of 1885, 245; juvenile societies in Conference, 33; members in juvenile societies, 1,009. Number juvenile societies organized since Annual Conference, 1885, 7. Number of members added since Annual Conference, 1885, 162. Total number of members in both auxiliaries and juvenile, 2,172. Total number of members added since Annual Conference, 407. Number life members in auxiliaries, 37; number of life members in juvenile societies, 19; total number of life members, 56; number of honorary life members, 2. Number Scholarships, 3.

Shares taken in Miss Haygood's A. C. S. 25½. Number of subscribers to W. M. A., 296. The Treasurer, Mrs. G. H. Ramsey, then made her report. For report see report marked A.

The Jackson District Secretary, Mrs. M. E. Taylor, was then introduced and reported the District in a healthful condition.

Music—"Great Jehovah"—Choir.
After a very touching reference made by the President to the death of our dear Miss Dora Rankin, Missionary to China, she then introduced the Rev. Sam. W. Small, who addressed the audience and raised a collection of $62.00 for his mission work in Atlanta, Ga.

The exercises then closed by singing the doxology and the benediction by Rev. Sam. W. Small.

MRS. SAMUEL WATSON, President.
MRS. W. A. FREEMAN, R. S., pro. tem.

The following is the Anniversary report of Mrs. G. H. Ramsey, Treasurer, from December 1, 1885, to December 1, 1886:

**Jackson, Tenn., Dec. 1, 1886.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANNIVERSARY REPORT BY DISTRICTS.</th>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Contingent Fund</th>
<th>L. M. Fund</th>
<th>Bible School Fund</th>
<th>Pub. Fund</th>
<th>Scholarship Fund</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mar. 1.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brownsville District</td>
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<td>$18.85</td>
<td>$30.40</td>
<td>$35.70</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$6.15</td>
<td>$590.00</td>
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<td>12.00</td>
<td>18.00</td>
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<td>18.45</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>30.05</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>8.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dyersburg District</td>
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<td>2.30</td>
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<td>23.50</td>
<td>12.30</td>
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<td>Paducah District</td>
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<td>1.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>McKenzie District</td>
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<td>4.30</td>
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<td>60.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union City District</td>
<td>87.50</td>
<td>5.15</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>13.25</td>
<td>298.48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>65.45</td>
<td>180.40</td>
<td>167.85</td>
<td>187.00</td>
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<td>Thank Offering</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>16.65</td>
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</table>

Total ........................................ 1,719.42

Cash received from Memphis Conference Woman's Missionary Society:

- 1878-9—First year.............. $ 191.00
- 1880-81—Third year......... $ 591.04
- 1882-83—Fifth year........ $ 642.75
- 1884-85—Seventh year........ $1,164.35

Total ........................................ 3,638.82

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1879-80—Second year</td>
<td>$ 375.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>1881-82—Fourth year</td>
<td>761.21</td>
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<td>1883-84—Sixth year</td>
<td>802.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>1885-86—Eighth year</td>
<td>1,795.24</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total ........................................ 7,019.78
LIST OF COMMITTEES.

Committees of Examination for the Ensuing Four Years.

FOR ADMISSION ON TRIAL.—G. W. Wilson, Chairman; E. T. Hart, J. P. Walker.


SECOND YEAR.—R. W. Irwin, Chairman; W. L. Duckworth, B. F. Peop'ees.

THIRD YEAR.—J. M. Spence, Chairman; E. K. Bransford, J. C. Hooks.

FOURTH YEAR.—J. H. Witt, Chairman; A. R. Wilson, David Leith.

Joint Board of Finance.


Sunday School Board.


Board of Missions.


Board of Church Extension.

Memoirs.

Visiting Committees.
McTyeire Institute.—W. G. Heffley and J. G. Clark.
Memphis Conference Female Institute.—N. P. Ramsey, David Leith.
Dyersburg District High School.—E. K. Bransford, J. S. Reushaw.
Memphis District High School.—A. H. Thomas, J. T. Wiggins.
Wesleyan Female College.—W. L. Duckworth, W. D. Jenkins.
### MEMPHIS DISTRICT

#### CHURCH PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Local Members</th>
<th>Colored Members</th>
<th>White Members</th>
<th>Missionaries</th>
<th>Total Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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#### FINANCE TABLE

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Treasurer</th>
<th>Field Agent</th>
<th>District Agent</th>
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#### SUNDAY-SCHOOL TABLE

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Teachers</th>
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<tr>
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</table>

### BROWNSVILLE DISTRICT

#### Reader's Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Local Members</th>
<th>Colored Members</th>
<th>White Members</th>
<th>Missionaries</th>
<th>Total Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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#### Bishop's Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Total Members</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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### JONESBORO DISTRICT

#### Reader's Table

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Local Members</th>
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<th>White Members</th>
<th>Missionaries</th>
<th>Total Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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#### Bishop's Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<th>Total Members</th>
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### DYERSBURG DISTRICT

#### Reader's Table

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<th>Location</th>
<th>Local Members</th>
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<th>White Members</th>
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<th>Total Members</th>
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<tr>
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</table>

#### Bishop's Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Total Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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</table>
## UNION CITY DISTRICT

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Preachers</th>
<th>Church Members</th>
<th>Salaries</th>
<th>Church Property</th>
<th>Finances</th>
<th>Sunday-Schools</th>
<th>Missions and Church Extension</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Union City Station</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hickman Circuit</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton Circuit</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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### PADIUCAH DISTRICT

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<tr>
<th>Local Preachers</th>
<th>Church Members</th>
<th>Salaries</th>
<th>Church Property</th>
<th>Finances</th>
<th>Sunday-Schools</th>
<th>Missions and Church Extension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broadway, Paducah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paducah Circuit</td>
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<td>Total Last Year</td>
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### McKENZIE DISTRICT

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Local Preachers</th>
<th>Church Members</th>
<th>Salaries</th>
<th>Church Property</th>
<th>Finances</th>
<th>Sunday-Schools</th>
<th>Missions and Church Extension</th>
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<tr>
<td>Paris Station</td>
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<td>4000</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Last Year</td>
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<td>4000</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>2000</td>
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### RECAPITULATION

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<th>Finances</th>
<th>Sunday-Schools</th>
<th>Missions and Church Extension</th>
</tr>
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**Note:** Missions and Church Extension Statistics not furnished.
MEMPHIS CONFERENCE

Ministers' Mutual Aid Association

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH.

ARTICLE I. This Association shall be known as the Memphis Conference Ministers' Mutual Aid Association of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

II. The object of this Association is to furnish aid to the families of its deceased members, as hereafter provided.

III. There shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, elected by the Association, to hold their office, unless removed by the Association for cause, so long as they are members of the Association; and, in case of death, resignation, or removal from office, the Association shall elect another to fill the vacancy, and the other officers shall perform the duties of the vacant office in interim.

IV. Any member of the Annual Conference in full connection may become a member of this Association by enrolling his name in a book to be kept by the Secretary for that purpose, and obligating himself to pay an assessment of $5 on the death of any member, within thirty days after the date of the death notice; provided, if any member shall fail to pay his assessment, his name shall be stricken from the roll of membership by the Secretary, and his family shall not be allowed to participate in the benefits of the Association. Provided, however; that the Association may at any time restore such member on payment of all back assessments.

V. When a member of this Association shall be removed from the Annual Conference, be placed on the superannuated list, assessments on him shall cease, at his option; but he shall still retain his member-hip as a participant in the benefits of the Association until his death.

VI. Any member of the Conference joining this Association before reaching the age of forty years, may at his option, on attaining the age of seventy years, demand of the Secretary the assessment on the members for his benefit; and such an assessment shall be paid as in case of death, and his membership shall cease from that time.

VII. Any layman, desiring to aid the families of deceased ministers, may become a contributing member of this Association by enrolling his name on the Secretary's book and agreeing to pay an assessment of one dollar on the death of any ministerial member, or for the benefit of one as provided for in Article VI; but such layman shall only be a contributing member, and shall have no case particular in the benefits of the Association.

VIII. It shall be the duty of each pastor, who is a member of this Association, to notify the names of any such lay member, to seek at once to have the place filled by another, so that the lay membership from each charge shall be kept up from year to year, and to report at once such charge to the Secretary.

IX. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep an accurate list of the names of the members in a permanent record book, separating the contributing, or lay members from the participating, or ministerial members; and he shall designate the pastoral charge to which each member belongs, together with the postoffice address. It shall further be the duty of the Secretary to furnish annually, immediately after the Annual Meeting of the Conference, such pastor appointed to a new charge, a list of the lay members of his charge, and said pastor shall ascertain at once if they are all living, and still in his bounds.

It shall also be the duty of the Secretary, upon the death of any ministerial member of this Association, to notify each surviving member, and to call for the assessment of $3 from each ministerial member, and $1 from each lay member, to be paid within thirty days from the date of the assessment; and the whole amount thus arising from the assessment shall be paid by the Secretary to the Treasurer, taking his receipt for the same, and by the Treasurer to the Secretary, if there be one, or to the guardian of the children of the deceased member; provided, that if any participating member be without wife or children, or if there be no such person on the Secretary's book to whom he wishes his benefits to be paid, and the Treasurer shall so pay them at his death.

XI. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive from the Secretary all moneys arising from assessments upon the members, giving his receipt for the same, and to pay them over to the legal claimants, within sixty days from the date of the assessment notice.

XII. The President and Vice-president shall annually, at the session of each Annual Conference, examine the Secretary's books, and audit his accounts, and those of the Treasurer, and make an exact report of the receipts and disbursements to the Association, to be spread upon the Association Journal.

XIII. The officers of this Association shall receive no salary; but the Secretary shall be allowed to deduct from each general assessment the necessary expenses of collecting and disbursing the same, paying over to the Treasurer the balance due after such deduction.

An Association was organized under this constitution in the city of Jackson, Tenn., December 13, 1882, with the following officers: H. H. Evans, President; A. R. Wilson, Vice-President; R. W. Erwin, Secretary; P. H. Mahon, Treasurer. Any person, clerical or lay, may become a member of the Association by sending his name and address to the Secretary, Rev. R. W. Erwin, 216 Union street, Memphis, Tenn.