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OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH,

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FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION AT STATESVILLE, N. C.,

November 28th to December 4th, 1883.

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BISHOP JOHN C. KEENER, ..... PRESIDENT.  
DONALD W. BAIN, ..... SECRETARY.

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Edited by DONALD W. BAIN.

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had prepared for it years before. He had remarked to me more than once that he felt no concern about himself, that he was resigned and ready if it should be God's will to take him. His only concern and regret, he said, was at leaving his family, his little children, and that was deep. He was a most affectionate husband and father, and probably no more happy period ever passed in a family than the eight brief years of his married life.

He was a very companionable man. Possessed of many fine traits of character, endowed with a strong and sensible mind, blessed with a clear, religious experience, sweet-spirited and gentle as a child, it was always pleasant and profitable to be with him. He was one of the truest men to his convictions I ever knew, spurning any and all compromise of principle, and fearless and outspoken always in denunciation of evil—this I can truly say after nearly four years of very intimate intercourse with him.

Bro. Brent was an able and interesting preacher, and a faithful herald of the Cross. The Church and Conference have lost in him one of their best men. His loss will be felt. Thorough and simple in his analysis, clear and forcible in his presentation of the truth, he never failed to interest and edify those who waited on his ministry. His ministry was fruitful in the best results of the glorious Gospel. But his work is done. His faithful testimony has been given. He has gone at the Master's call and is, no doubt, now with the white-robed multitude that no man can number.

"Servant of God, well done!  
Rest from thy loved employ;  
The battle fought, the vict'ry won,  
Enter thy Master's joy."

Rev. M. L. WOOD read the memoir of JAMES B. ALFORD.

Remarks in eulogy of the deceased were made by Revs. N. H. D. WILSON, D. D., and R. O. BURTON.

Rev. James B. Alford, M. D., was born in Wayne county, N. C., April 26, 1813, and fell asleep in Jesus, at his home near Trinity College, Nov. 9, 1883. His early educational advantages were very good, and were used to good purpose. The home training of his youth was such as to direct his mind in the way of righteousness. He gave his heart to God while quite young, and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church; and was licensed to preach before he was seventeen years old. He joined the Virginia Conference at its session in Norfolk, Va., February, 1832; but in the fourth year of his itinerancy his voice so failed that he was compelled to retire. He then studied medicine and located in Wake county.

On the 31st day of December, 1835, he was happily married to Miss Eliza S. Leach, daughter of the late William Leach, of Randolph county, who, with three children, still survives him. Two of his children had gone before him to the glory world. After a residence in Wake county of ten years, he moved to Randolph and settled near his wife's people. But he was never so happy as when in the regular ministry. So he was re-admitted into the traveling connection at the session of the North Carolina Conference which met at Goldsboro, December, 1857.

During the thirty-one years of his regular ministerial life he served various Circuits, from Mattamuskeet to the mountains, attending to all the duties of a Methodist preacher. His one aim was to do good. His was a beautiful life, fully consecrated to the cause of Christ.

Dr. Alford's preaching was of a high order. He preached the pure Word. He was always a student, and also read quite extensively. He made himself familiar with the doctrines of his church, and with Theology generally; and he illustrated the principles of the Gospel by a pious walk and a godly conversation. And the Gospel which he for fifty-two years preached to others sustained him all through life; sustained him in all his sufferings; and sustained him in the dying hour.

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

Rev. W. S. CREASY read the memoir of HIRAM P. COLE.

Remarks in eulogy of the deceased were made by Revs. B. B. CULBRETH and W. S. CHAFFIN.

Rev. Hiram Pearson Cole was born in Moore county, N. C., near Carthage, September 1st, 1843, and sweetly fell asleep in Jesus, at the parsonage of Concord Circuit, November 22d, 1883, aged 40 years, 2 months and 21 days.

He was converted in early youth and joined the M. E. Church, South, under the ministry of W. S. Chaffin, of the North Carolina Conference. When he felt called to preach the Gospel of the Master he loved so well, his mother, knowing his physical weakness, prompted by a mother's heart, sought gently to dissuade him. His reply was characteristic of his after life—"Mother, I must go, if I knew I'd die at my first appointment."

He joined the North Carolina Conference in Fayetteville, N. C., in 1866. And, from the Journal, we learn, that he was the only one received