

as tendered to the president and the  
received from the bishop, stating that  
give the Lay Electoral Conference in  
stand adjourned following the joint  
officers of the Conference, then went  
re made by Bishop Hamilton and  
ministerial body then resumed their  
adjourned without further service.  
JOHN M. BULWINKLE, *Secretary*.

# Minutes

of the

## Sixty-fifth Session

of the

# New York East Annual Conference

Of The Methodist Episcopal Church

March 26-April 1, 1913

At New Haven, Connecticut

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## Official Journal

With Proceedings of The Laymen's Association

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Alfred L. Faust  
Editor

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Address, 150 Fifth Avenue New York City

and his policies, an earnest advocate of the abolition of slavery. His hatred of the rum traffic led him into the ranks of prohibition, and he was always ready to speak in the interests of the cause of total abstinence.

In 1892 he retired from the active work, entering the superannuate ranks; though by no means idle. For the past twenty years he made his home in Ocean Grove, N. J. Here in the atmosphere of high spirituality, his knowledge of the deep things of God, with the rich Christian experience growing out of that knowledge, at once made him a sane and helpful leader and teacher of the Scriptural doctrine of holiness. He was thoroughly Wesleyan in his acceptance and propagation of this precious truth of the Word. For the past few years his sight had entirely failed. On July 6, 1905, he married Miss Katharine Armour Dickinson, formerly of New York, now of Ocean Grove. She was one of the earnest Christian workers of the Grove. She acted as his secretary of a large Bible class which he conducted weekly, also assisting in caring for the cottage meetings with which he was charged. She gladly gave him all that thoughtful, loving care which his condition so much needed. The eight years of their union were thus passed in congenial and delightful Christian work, which greatly added to the comfort and joy of his closing days. Two brief weeks of illness speedily passed, and on Monday morning, May 27, Brother William H. Russell went to be forever with Him whose he was and whom he had so long and faithfully served—his gracious Lord and Saviour.

W. P. ESTES.

#### Joseph Baird

IRELAND sent Philip Embury and Robert Strawbridge to America to initiate the preaching of Methodism. The sons of Erin have always occupied positions of trust and influence in New York East Conference. Endowed with some of the best traits of the Irish preacher, Joseph Baird was among us a brother beloved.

Joseph, the son of James and Elizabeth Baird, was born in County Monaghan, May, 1850. At an early age he found his way to Dublin and obtained academic training at Trinity College. He was immediately offered the principalship of a high school. The door was soon after opened to him into the ministry of the Church of England. A deep religious experience, however, led him to become a Methodist preacher. In 1868 he emigrated to America, bearing the license of a local preacher. He was admitted to Northern New York Conference in 1874. After ten years of faithful and efficient service, he was transferred to the New York East Conference, where his life-work was chiefly accomplished. In 1902 he was transferred to Wyoming Conference, where he spent a brief period, and then returned to the New York East Conference, from which he was translated to his heavenly home. In 1909 a shock of paralysis obliged him to take a superannuate relation. When partially recovered he served as a supply preacher under District Superintendent C. S. Wing. Another attack of illness caused his removal to his home in Southampton.



Brother Baird was a workman that needed not to be ashamed. He was a clear, logical thinker. His sermons were characterized by masterly treatment of his subject, strong biblical exposition, forceful illustration, and fine rhetoric. He was a natural orator and made a profound impression. Above all, he aimed to reach the heart with spiritual appeal. At times he seemed to be inspired with prophetic utterance. Revivals attended his ministry at Milford, Conn.; Willis Avenue, New York city; George Street, New Haven; Sag Harbor, and East Hampton, Long Island. The erection of churches at Willis Avenue, and at Grace, New Haven, began during his pastorate. The funds for both these enterprises were well in hand when he turned his work over to his successors.

His success in the pastorate was marked. His bright, cheerful face was welcome to all homes. Good cheer, comradery, and Milesian wit invested his personality with a charm. In the sick-room and the house of mourning he was a veritable son of consolation. The poor and he that had no helper found in him a friend indeed. Many a breadwinner of a family was provided with a

situation through the instrumentality of Joseph Baird. In the heart work of the pastorate he excelled.

His family relations were happy. On his first appointment at Middleville, N. Y., he met Hattie, the daughter of Edwin Coe. She became his life companion and made the young Irish preacher a home in a strange land. Around their fireside there grew four sons to honorable manhood—James W., of Newark Valley, N. Y.; Charles W. and David J., of Southampton; and G. A. Baird, of the New York Conference. His other relatives in this country are George Baird and Mrs. Robert Henderson, of Brooklyn, a brother and sister. Our brother loved life; he never surrendered his hope of reëntering its work until three weeks before he died. Then, in great peace, he quietly awaited the end. This came June 2, 1912.

The funeral service was conducted at Southampton by his pastor, Henry Medd. Mrs. Medd sang one of his favorite hymns, "The Home of the Soul." The Rev. Isaac W. Foster, of Walton, N. Y., delivered the funeral sermon.

His dear wife, who had presided over his home for thirty-eight years, returned to her desolate hearthstone. She was soon stricken with fatal illness, and after a short struggle yielded up her spirit on December 2, 1912. The writer conducted her funeral service and laid her body to rest beside her husband in Southampton cemetery. They were beautiful in their lives and in death were not divided.

W. H. LAWRENCE.

#### Thomas Stephenson

AMID the attractive sceneries of Lincolnshire, England, our departed brother had his birth. His father had been an officer of the Third Light Dragoons, of the British Army; had spent some "eight years campaigning in France, Spain, and Portugal"; had fought under Wellington "in the three great battles of Salamanca, Vittoria, and Toulouse"; and had retired with a high testimonial from the War Office. After his return from strife he united with the Wesleyan Church, was for forty-five years a class leader, and died in the reverence of men at the advanced age of ninety-three. From such a martial yet devout parentage, on the paternal side, Thomas Stephenson was born at Market Rasen, June 9, 1830.

At seventeen our brother was converted, and at nineteen became a local preacher, the theme of his first sermon being Christ's cleansing of the leper. When opportunity was given him of entering the Wesleyan ministry he had already made his arrangements for sailing to the United States; and with "a desire to become an American," which he had cherished from his boyhood, he landed, in 1853, upon the shores of the New World. On his arrival he found a Christian welcome in the fellowship of the old Sands Street Church, Brooklyn, of which the late Henry J. Fox, a fellow Englishman, was then pastor. By the Quarterly Conference of that church, then enrolling such men as Moses F. Odell and J. Wesley Harper in its body, he was recommended to the New York East Conference, and in 1854 took his place in those ranks where for nearly sixty years he was destined to hold an honored membership.

Disciplined by the training of different schools in his native land, our brother was acceptable as pastor in the pulpits of some of the better churches of the Conference. His social qualities were also pronounced, and by those who best knew him he was greatly beloved. His list of appointments is as follows: 1854, Southold; '55, Southampton; '56, Southold; '57-'58, Seymour, Conn.; '59, Bloomfield; '60-'61, Johnson Street, Brooklyn; '62-'66, superannuated; '67-'69, Embury Mission; '70-'72, Greenport; '73-'75, Glen Cove; '76-'78, Washington Park, Bridgeport; '79-'81, Jamaica; '82-'84, Pacific Street, Brooklyn; '85-'87, Bay Shore; '88, supernumerary; '89, Forsyth Street, New York; '90, Corona; '91-'92, Leonard Street, Brooklyn; '93, Maspeth; '94-'99, supernumerary; 1900-'12, superannuated. A penciled memorandum left by him narrates some of his experiences in different pastorates. On his first circuit, in company with his associate, he saw "more than eighty conversions"; at Seymour, during the wonderful revival

