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VII. Memoirs

WILL S. EMORY

The news of the death of Will S. Emory came as a shock to his brethren in the ministry. While we are saddened at his passing, we are challenged by the virile type of Christianity which he represented.

Will S. Emory was born in New Castle, New Hampshire, on March 25, 1876. He attended the Portsmouth High School, and after graduation attended the Tilton Seminary for five years, preparing himself for the work of the ministry. He served as pastor of the Methodist Church at Piermont, New Hampshire. On April 30, 1902, he was married to Miss Maude Robie, and in October of that year they came to Minnesota. Mr. Emory served in the Minnesota Conference for thirteen years, ministering in the following charges: Garden City, Springfield, Mankato, Amboy and Lake Field. In the year 1915 he was transferred to the Northern Minnesota Conference. In this Conference he served Olivia, Deer River, Two Harbors, Chisholm, and was appointed in October, 1930, as pastor of the church at Thief River Falls. After ten weeks of service in his last appointment, he was suddenly called from the service of the church militant to the service of the church triumphant. He passed away Christmas morning, 1930. Mr. Emory had unique success in his ministry among men. The kind of life he lived, and the type of ministry he rendered had a special appeal to the men of the churches and communities he served.

The funeral services were held at the church in Thief River Falls, J. S. Kettlewell, Superintendent of the Fergus Falls District, in charge. He was assisted by Blaine Lambert, Superintendent of the Duluth District, and the following ministers: J. B. Smith, C. G. Hohn, James Stranding, J. G. Lewis and E. L. Tungseth, who represented the pastors of Thief River Falls.

The interment took place at Chisholm. The services were under the auspices of the Masonic Lodge, Crawford Grays, pastor of the church, and Blaine Lambert of Duluth, having a part in the services. John Schenck, L. S. Sloan and Arthur Dinsdale were present at the services at Chisholm. Mrs. Emory and the two daughters, Dorothy and Marian, who survive, reside at Chisholm.

Arthur Dinsdale.

AUGUST BIEBIGHAEUSER

August Biebighaeuser was born in Germany, August 10, 1849. He came with his parents to America in the spring of 1861. They settled on a farm in Woodbury Township, seven miles from St. Paul, Minnesota.

He said himself in a brief account of his young manhood. "In the little old frame church I was soundly converted to God and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. Feeling a clear call to the ministry as my life work, I attended German Wallace College and Baldwin University at Berea, Ohio, from 1869 to 1871." He received a local preacher's license and was recommended to the Northwestern German Conference which was held in St. Paul, September, 1871, Bishop Matthew Simpson presiding. He was ordained Deacon by Bishop Edward G. Andrews in the year 1873, and Elder by Bishop Isaac Wiley in the year 1875.

Brother Biebighaeuser spent his active life in the German work of the Methodist Episcopal Church. When his Conference was merged

with the English Conferences of Minnesota, he becoming a member of the Northern Minnesota Conference.

Being one of the pioneer preachers, he was acquainted with the privations of an unsettled country, but he counted not his life dear unto himself, for he lived to serve as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

He loved humanity and was a tireless pastor and a beloved minister. We who knew him intimately in his home life can say, "To know Brother Biebighaeuser was to love him."

During his long ministerial career he served the following churches: Albert Lea, Minn.; Concord, Iowa, New Ulm, Minn., Le Mars, Iowa. In the year 1881 he took the supernumary relation, on account of poor health. The following year he was appointed to Mankato, Minn.; then to Arlington, Minn.; Menomonie, Wis.; Red Wing, Minn.; Second Church, St. Paul, Minn.; Arlington, Minn., (second term); Montrose, Minn.; Chippewa Falls, Wis.; Brownton, Minn.; Springfield, Minn.; Sleepy Eye, Minn.; Montrose, Minn., (second term).

The above covers the years from 1871 to 1923, when he was granted the retired relation. That year, November third, he celebrated with his good wife and family, their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Bishop and Mrs. Charles Bayard Mitchell were among the invited guests.

Brother Biebighaeuser left the radiance of his smile and the fragrance of his Christian character all along the long, long trail of his beautiful life. He said to the writer, the day before his coronation, February 22, 1931, "I have nothing to fear; I am going home." He lived and died with faith in his Risen Lord, who is the Resurrection and the Life.

He is survived by one son, Alfred, of Waite Park, Minn.; three daughters, Mrs. Emma Kohlhase, Moline, Ill.; Mrs. Lydia Peik, Brownton, Minn., and Mrs. Bertha Kuehl, Minneapolis, Minn., with whom he made his home since the death of Mrs. Biebighaeuser seven years ago.

The funeral services were conducted on Tuesday morning, February 24, 1931, at Minneapolis, Richard C. Raines of Hennepin Avenue Church bringing a very appropriate message of comfort to the sorrowing relatives and many friends. A goodly number of his ministerial brethren from the Minnesota and Northern Minnesota Conferences were present. Another service was held from our church at Brownton, Minn., the same afternoon. The pastor, A. L. Gausman, was assisted by H. J. Hoffert of New Ulm, Minnesota. The body was deposited by the side of his wife in Oak Grove cemetery, Brownton, Minn.

"He being translated, is yet spoken of."

W. C. Lee.

ELBERT E. THOMPSON

Elbert Thompson, God's gentleman, had a divine passion to preach the gospel of Jesus. He believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness. He was faithful and true to his wife, his church and his God. He served his generation and has passed on to receive the full reward of his sacrificial service on earth. His doctor warned him that if he wanted to stay on earth he must cease from the work of the ministry, but to Elbert it was "woe is me if I preach not the gospel."

During our Conference at Eveleth he tried to get the District Superintendent to give him work. He said to me, "I must preach; that is my business; God called me to do it."

Elbert was born at Greenfield, Indiana, December 20, 1885. At that place he finished his high school work. He was united in marriage to Miss Rosetta Curtis of Long Prairie, Minnesota, September 1, 1908.