

S CONFERENCE.

FTH SESSION.

EX., NOVEMBER 15-19, 1911.

ent; R. G. Mood, Secretary.

? dained deacons? R. J. Kiker, C. L. She-
ley, T. W. Pitt. 3.

l. Ques. 14. What traveling preachers are
7. elected elders? Samuel Thatcher Francis,
I. Thomas Arthur Lisenby, Charles Bruce
Golson, Julian Wister Slagle. 4.

J. Ques. 15. What traveling preachers are
3. ordained elders? J. W. Slagle, T. A. Lis-
g. enby, C. B. Golson, S. T. Francis. 4.

F. Ques. 16. What local preachers are elect-
E. ed elders? Jesse Wright O'Bryant. 1.

k. Ques. 17. What local preachers are or-
F. dained elders? Jesse W. O'Bryant, S. J.
Habern (elected at previous session), H.
E. Carter, ordained in interim by Bishop
Atkins. 3.

n. Ques. 18. Who are located this year? S.
B. H. Smith. 1.

er J. Ques. 19. Who are supernumerary? J.
y. W. Clark, H. M. Cosby, G. F. Boyd, J. A.
I. Kerr, I. T. Stafford, W. H. Hughes, O. P.
Thomas, H. A. Bourland, J. M. Nichols, S.
L. Ball, W. B. Martin, J. W. Tincher, A.
W. Gibson, W. E. Kirby. 14.

I. Ques. 20. Who are superannuated?
n. John Moore, S. Crutchfield, B. A. Thomas,
n. son, G. H. Adams, J. P. Rodgers, M. H.
r. Neely, B. T. Hayes, J. R. Randle, James
McDougal, L. W. Harrison, W. A. Cop-
pedge, B. H. Webster, M. B. Johnston, W.
A. Edwards, J. W. Hunter, T. B. Norwood,
S. W. Miller, J. W. Murphy, W. F. Clark,
E. S. Williams, R. N. Brown, H. E. Smith,
C. C. Williams, R. S. Gorsline, J. C. Wear-
er, J. H. Reynolds, J. H. Hunter, J. E.
Vinson, J. B. Minnis, J. R. Wages, F. M.
Sherwood, L. F. Palmer, C. E. Lamb, A.
P. Saffold. 34.

L. Ques. 21. What preachers have died dur-
ld. ing the past year? M. C. Blackburn, F. B.
er. Corral, W. L. Clifton, C. W. Jacobs, B. H.
Bounds. 5.

M. C. BLACKBURN, son of Robert F. and
Sarah J. Blackburn, was born in the year
of our Lord 1849, in Bradley County,
Tenn. His parents moved to Texas in
1857, and settled at Plano, in Collin Coun-
ty. That same year "Mell," though only
eight years old, was converted under the
ministry of Rev. J. W. Chalk, and joined
the Methodist Church at Spring Creek.
He was licensed to preach and was re-

ceived on trial in the fall of 1870. He was
ordained a deacon at Sulphur Springs by
Bishop Keener in 1872, and an elder at
Denton by Bishop McTyeire in 1874.
Brother Blackburn served the following
charges: Denton Circuit, 1870-2; Sher-
man Station, 1873; Pilot Point, 1874-5;
Paris, 1876; Jefferson, 1877; Sulphur
Springs, 1878-9, and Greenville, 1880-1.
During his second year at Greenville his
health failed and he moved to his farm
near Gainesville, where he recuperated
sufficiently to take work the next fall,
when he was sent as presiding elder to
the Montague District. He served the
district very acceptably and successfully
for four years. He then served the
Gainesville District for four years. In
1890 he was assigned to Broadway, Gaines-
ville. Here his health failed again, and
at the Conference of 1891 he took the su-
pernumerary relation, which relation he
retained in the North Texas Conference
until he was transferred to the Confer-
ence and Church triumphant. This great
event took place on November 28, 1910,
at his home in Junction City, in South-
west Texas. Brother Blackburn was a
member of the General Conference of
1886. While a supernumerary he sup-
plied First Church at Pueblo, Colorado,
for one year, and Junction City Station
in the West Texas Conference two years.
He was happily married to Miss Mary E.
Lyles, of Plano, Collin County, Texas, in
1873. To them were born three sons, who,
with their devoted mother, still live to
mourn their loss. The eldest son, Mar-
vin, is a lawyer of prominence, and a
steward in his home church. Ray, the
second, resides with his mother, who
leans upon him since his father went
away. William L., the youngest, has
taken his father's place in the Methodist
itinerancy and is a member of the East
Oklahoma Conference. May his father's
mantle fall upon him! The call to go did
not come to Brother Blackburn unexpect-
edly. He took Thanksgiving dinner with
his pastor just four days before the end,
and said on that occasion that he would
not live to see his house finished, though
it was almost completed; and also said
that he had a home completed in the Fa-
ther's house on the other shore. He was
cheerful to the last, and tried to promote
cheerfulness in the family and among his
friends. Brother Blackburn was one of
God's noblemen. He had a high regard
for truth, honor, and uprightness. He
was a man of decided convictions and
good judgment, and could always be

counted on the right side of all moral
questions. He was a great preacher. His
sermons were carefully prepared, and God
honored his preaching. His own brother,
Rev. J. W. Blackburn, was led to Christ
and into the ministry through his person-
al influence. J. W. is now a faithful mem-
ber of the North Texas Conference; and
says that wherever he goes he finds per-
sons who were converted under "Mell's"
ministry. While Brother Blackburn was
on the Montague District, and I was
pastor of the church at Montague, he
preached a sermon, using as a text "What
I have written, I have written." This
sermon I have ever since regarded as one
among the greatest sermons to which I
have listened. Never before or since have
I seen a whole community as profoundly
moved by a single sermon as that com-
munity was by that one. Dr. McLean
writes as follows of Brother Blackburn:
"He was a strong man, mentally, moral-
ly, and physically, until affected with
heart trouble. He was a man true to
his convictions of duty. He was a deep
preacher, thoughtful, studious, forceful,
and instructive. While he was evangel-
ical, and his ministry fruitful, he was also
one of our strongest doctrinal preachers.
He was clear, logical, and deliberate in
his statements, and, rising with the theme
and occasion, he became masterful. He
was not demonstrative, but cordial and
true in his attachments; was rather reti-
cent and reserved, but true as steel. He
could be relied upon in church matters
and business matters. A sound, conserva-
tive, safe man. But having been made
perfect through service and suffering, he
now rests in the paradise of God." In the
death of Brother Blackburn I have been
bereft of one of my truest, best, and most
loved friends. He was my presiding elder
for some years. He married me to my
wife, and we regarded him something as
we did our father. In his death the North
Texas Conference has lost one of its truest
and best members, and our beloved Meth-
odism one of her most loyal sons. "Bless-
ed are the dead which die in the Lord."—
L. P. Smith.

F. B. CARROLL peacefully passed to his
reward at the Methodist Dormitory, in
Denton, Texas, July 13, 1911. He was
surrounded by his devoted wife and three
children, this writer, and one other lov-
ing friend, at the time of his departure.
His going was so quiet and gentle that
we could not tell just when he went. He
had often prayed to go that way. "Know