



Wilson

MINUTES

FIFTIETH SESSION OF UPPER IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HAMPTON, IOWA
SEPT. 27 TO OCT. 2, 1905

W. H. SLINGERLAND, SECRETARY
Des Moines, Iowa

E. W. JEFFRIES, PUBLISHER
DIXON, ILLINOIS

DIXON ILLINOIS
THE STAR JOB ROOMS
1905

220177

DREW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

ampton in '02. In '94 he was ordained an elder in Charles City, his native place. He served as pastor on Plymouth, Brandon, Marble, Rock, New Hartford, Janesville, Clarksville, Shellburg, Garrison, and Monona charges and was in the first year of his services on Waucoma charge at the time of his demise. He was a plain, straightforward, direct and prompt preacher of the word. He cordially accepted the Methodist type of theology as the teaching of the Scriptures. He was loyal to our episcopal form of government, cheerfully accepting the supervisory system of admiration. As pastor and administrator of affairs he was acceptable and efficient, giving commendable attention to details. was the friend of the people inside and outside of his pastored and most kindly disposed toward his and ever spoke in brotherly terms of all. He died near Nora Springs, Iowa, December 10, 1905, his children, Virgil, Miriam, Ruby, Joyce, and his death. His domestic affections were strong and he devoted his very best energies and as he had become a sufferer from deep seated illness though he traveled to his appointments in earnestly pursued his way. Under medical attention was successful and subsequent conditions pneumonia set in and speedily caused his death. On the last Sabbath on earth, while he lay in the hospital, standing in the corridor of the building, "O Lord, My Soul," to which he listened intently, "thy bosom fly," would be literally realized to when the people were assembled in their sanctuary his disembodied spirit took its flight to be brought to the parsonage home at Waucoma, Iowa, his wife, accompanied by the family physicians were attended by a large concourse of the people and the community generally. The executor of the writer of this memoir, and he was assisted by the members of the Conference, and the pastor of the

Congregational church of Waucoma to whom, and his people, we were indebted for many kindnesses. The brethren spoke appreciative words of Bro. Brown's character and career. His remains were interred in Greenwood cemetery, near Nashua, Pastor Walker Piper of that place rendering service.

Sister Brown has located her home in that of her girlhood, Nora Springs. In the death of Brother W. N. Brown this conference has lost a valuable worker and a good man has gone from labor to reward. Well may we say with Montgomery—

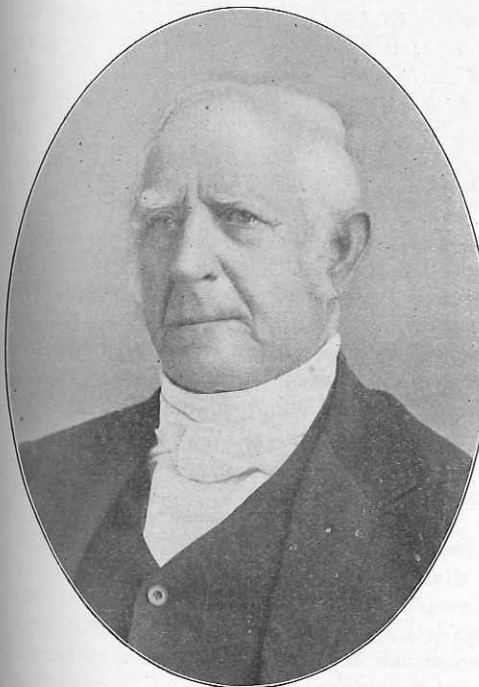
"Servant of God well done!
Rest from thy loved employ;
The battle fought, the victory won,
Enter thy Master's joy.

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

J. C. MAGEE.

ASAHEL BRONSON.

Rev. Asahel Bronson was born November 3rd, 1807, in Danbury Conn., and died in Winona, Minn., August 8th, 1905, aged 97 years, 9 months and 5 days. When about one and one-half years of age his parents moved to Southeast, Putnam county, New York, and subsequently to Camel, N. Y. He had but limited opportunities for acquiring an education. He was converted to God in early boyhood days, and received a license to exhort at the age of nineteen. In 1832 he was licensed to preach, and started out under Presiding Elder Marvin Richardson in 1833 in company with D. C. Starks and John Bangs on Jefferson Circuit. In 1836 he joined the Wyoming Conference. His first appointment was Delaware Circuit comprising an area of 300 miles. From thence he went to Jefferson and Courtland, N. Y., then to New Milford and



to New Milford and

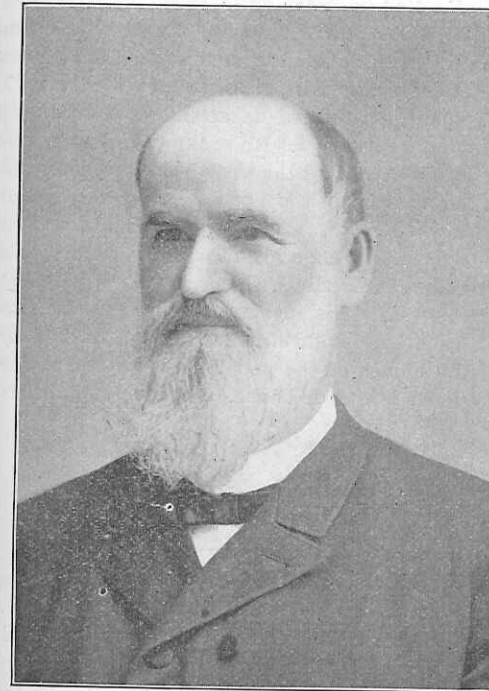
Stratford, Conn., and from Stratford to points in Pennsylvania. He was ordained deacon July 14, 1852, by Bishop Levi Scott at Carbondale, Pa. In 1856 he was transferred by Bishop Ames to Iowa and became one of the original members of the Upper Iowa Conference. He was ordained elder by Bishop Thos. A. Morris, August 29, 1858, at Lyons, Iowa. The six years that intervened between his ordinations were due to impaired health and for about four years of the six, he sustained a supernumerary relation. Upon coming to Iowa he made Wyoming his place of residence where he continued to live until July, 1904, when, upon the death of his wife he went to live with his son Frederick A. Bronson, of Winona, Minn. On February 22, 1838, in the town of South Salem, Westchester county, N. Y., he was united in marriage to Miss Philema Horton White who for 66 years was the comfort and inspiration of his life. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. Bradley Lillick. Mrs. Bronson came from sturdy New England ancestry and was a lineal descendant of Peiegrue White, whose cradle may still be seen in Pilgrim Hall at Plymouth, Mass. Father Bronson's grandfather was the Rev. Amos Bronson, a Baptist minister in Tallond, Conn. He was the father of several sons, one of whom was Ezra, who at the age of sixteen became a soldier in the Revolutionary War. Ezra was joined in marriage to Miss Anna Knapp in Danbury, Conn., and to them were born twelve children, the youngest of whom was Asahel. For 73 years "Uncle Asahel" as he was more familiarly called, was a faithful ambassador of Christ. In prayer he was especially gifted; he had such a beautiful, orotund voice, that one having once heard it could never forget; it was indeed music to the ear. Of him it may be said as it is of Barnabus, "He was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith;" was exceedingly popular with all classes. He was the youngest old gentleman the writer has ever known.

To Father and Mother Bronson were born two sons, James A. Broson of Winona, and Dr. Wm. W. Bronson of Wyoming, Iowa, son of James W., who departed this life October 19, 1898. The funeral services were held at the Methodist Episcopal church, Wyoming, Iowa, August 11, and were conducted by his pastor, the Rev. A. D. Stevens, who was assisted by Rev. E. G. Waite and Rev. L. L. Lockard. Among the mourners present was the Rev. Dillon J. Bronson, D. D., of Brookline, Mass., a grand-nephew of the deceased. Interment was in Wyoming cemetery beside the remains of his wife and son.

A. D. STEVENS.

DANIEL SHEFFER.

Rev. Daniel Sheffer was born in Liberty, Tioga county, Pa., December 7, 1835. He was converted November 14, 1852, at the age of sixteen years. Exhorter's license was given him in 1856. The day he was twenty-one years old he was licensed as a local preacher and recom-



mended to the Baltimore Conference for admission on trial. He did faithful circuit work for three years. In 1860 he was appointed by Bishop Morris to the Hartford-avenue Church, Baltimore. Here on May 4, 1861, he preached the first sermon to the Union soldiers of the Civil war. Living on the border during the war he passed through some very thrilling experiences. On one occasion Confederate cavalry passed through Shippensburg, Pa., where he was stationed and raided

nearly all the homes, including the parsonage, and went through every part of the house. Mrs. Sheffer carried her young babe up to the attic. Bro. Sheffer prevailed upon them not to enter the house next to them where a lady was dying with heart disease. November 14, 1862, he was married to Mary E. Snyder, who proved to be an efficient help during all his active ministry. Four children were born to them, Charles of Red Oak, Ia., Mrs. A. N. Burr, Mrs. H. W. Swayer, and Fannie, a beautiful, accomplished Christian girl, who died in 1890. In 1869 he was transferred from the Baltimore Conference to the Upper Iowa and stationed at Waterloo First Church remaining two years. He was pastor in Cedar Falls in 1871-72; Vinton, 1873-74; Independence, 1875; Manchester, 1876; West Union, 1877-78; Osage, 1879; Waukegon, 1880; Marion, 1881; presiding elder of Cedar Falls District 1882-86; appointed the second time to Marion, 1886-87; Tipton, 1888-90; took superannuated relation 1891; 1892 was made effective and appointed to Field's Chapel; superannuated, 1893-94; 1895 was made effective, and received his appointment to Clarksville, remaining two years; Shell Rock, 1897-99.