



W. Hamill
BISHOP

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FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION
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she closed her earthly life at the home of her son, Dean H. H. Freer. This residence of twenty years was but a continuation of the faithfulness which characterized her married life. So long as strength of body allowed, she was faithful to all the services of her church. "Her last end was peace." A strong, faithful, well educated, useful, godly, woman had gone to her reward.

Funeral services were conducted by her pastor, Rev. W. L. Alexander, assisted by District Superintendent, Dr. E. T. Gruwell. The body was taken to Vinton, and laid to rest beside her husband. Rev. Dr. E. F. Hurlburt and President James E. Harlan, accompanied her friends to Vinton and Rev. W. F. Spry had charge of the burial service.

J. B. ALBROOK.

ALMA LORAIN SELDEN BROWN

Alma Loraine Selden Brown was born in Belle Plaine, Iowa, April 4th, 1873 and departed this life from the Epworth parsonage February 3, 1910.

She was a religious child and often said she could not remember when she was not a christian. She united with the church at twelve years of age and at once became an earnest worker and continued increasingly useful to the close of her life. She was a precocious child, learning readily, and at the age of seventeen was employed as a kindergarten teacher in the schools of Des Moines. She continued her work as a teacher until 1902, when she entered the Chicago Deaconess Training School from which she graduated in the spring of 1904. On the 20th day of October of that same year she was united in marriage with the Rev. F. Q. Brown, then pastor of the East Dubuque charge of the Upper Iowa conference, and did faithful service as an itinerant preacher's wife for a little more than five years.

Heredity is a large factor in the development of character and in the shaping of a career. Mrs. Brown's mother was the daughter of a German Evangelical minister, who, with his wife, wrought nobly in the cause of Christ. This grandmother was a worthy successor of Susanna Wesley. She was the mother of twelve children all of whom grew to manhood and womanhood. Tho' of necessity cumbered with many cares because of this large household, she nevertheless found time at the twilight hour to go to her secret place of prayer taking one of her numerous family with her. When grandchildren came they also learned to know the blessedness of that twilight hour spent with this saintly grandmother in humble trustful prayer before the throne of grace. When this godly woman reached her 85th birthday, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to the number of sixty-five sent her letters of loving greeting which were bound into a book and presented to her on that occasion. In connection with this happy event it was discovered that every one in this large family group was a professing Christian, and no one of them all used tobacco or liquor in any form. Thus was proved the truth of that scripture, "The promise is unto you and your children."

With such strong and noble Christian ancestry and with an equally strong home atmosphere and environment it was but natural that Mrs. Brown should be deeply imbued with religious zeal, and with religious training beginning so early, that she should attain unusual efficiency in Christian service.

It was freely said by the people that there was nothing about

the home of her son, Dean H. H. Freer. This was but a continuation of the faithful married life. So long as strength was left to all the services of her church, strong, faithful, well educated, useful, and a reward.

Directed by her pastor, Rev. W. L. Alexander, superintendent, Dr. E. T. Gruwell. The body was laid to rest beside her husband. Rev. James E. Harlan, accompanied the body. F. Spry had charge of the burial service.

J. B. ALBROOK.

E SELDEN BROWN

She was born in Belle Plaine, Iowa, April 10, 1865, from the Epworth parsonage February 10, 1865.

She often said she could not remember when she was united with the church at twelve years of age. She was an earnest worker and continued in her life. She was a precocious child, and at the age of seventeen was employed as a teacher in the schools of Des Moines. She continued her education until she entered the Chicago Deaconess Hospital in the spring of 1904. One year after she was united in marriage with Rev. J. E. Selden, pastor of the East Dubuque charge, and did faithful service as an itinerant for more than five years.

In the development of character and in the life of her mother was the daughter who, with his wife, wrought nobly. Her mother was a worthy successor of her father of twelve children all of whom she loved dearly.

Tho' of necessity cumbered with the duties of her household, she nevertheless found time for her secret place of prayer taking her. When grandchildren came she was glad of that twilight hour spent in prayer. Her humble trustful prayer before the Lord when she reached her 85th birthday, she said to her grandchildren to the number of twelve, "I am glad to greet you on this occasion. In connection with this occasion, I am glad to see every one in this large family group. I am glad to see one of them all used tobacco. I am glad to see you have proved the truth of that scripture, 'I will be a father to the fatherless and a friend to the orphan children.'"

Her Christian ancestry and with an environment it was but natural that she should be imbued with religious zeal, and that she should attain to a high degree of piety.

It is sad to say that there was nothing about

the work of the church she did not know, and nothing that she was not capable of doing.

One of her most marked characteristics was the grace of quiet, kindly helpfulness. Even when herself but a young girl she was constantly mothering some other girl less fortunate than herself. Her sympathetic heart was quick to respond to the case of the girl who had "lost out" in life's battle and to many such she brought a new hope and purpose to try once more. In a certain community in this conference there is a happy home where love reigns and children prattle, the wife and mother of which a few years ago ran over the hill to the home of Mrs. Brown for help and protection from an unnatural father who wanted to sell her into a life of shame. Constantly, wherever she lived, such pitiful cases as this made powerful appeal to her heart and called forth a ministry of helpfulness Christ-like and beautiful.

Even in the closing weeks of her life when her mind and heart must have been filled with brooding thoughts too deep for words this same desire to help others went out to certain ones who were in the storm and stress of life's hard battle. Her interest in all the work of the church was constant, intelligent, and very helpful. Her fidelity to her high obligations as wife, mother, and home-maker admitted of no question. It belongs not to me or to anyone to invade the sanctities of the conjugal relation, but this was not necessary to discover that in the heart of this good woman there burned steady and true an immeasurable and holy affection for that good man and minister of Jesus Christ with whom, in the providence of God, her life had become linked.

The occupations and responsibilities of home life were her constant joy and in her home she dispensed a gracious hospitality which it was a blessing to enjoy. Motherhood meant to her the holiest duty and supremest privilege of life, which duty and privilege she accepted in a sacramental spirit. 'Twas this that brought her down into the valley of the shadows from which she came not back but passed through and on to the land of immortality. The snow lay deep in all the fields and filled and drifted the highways. The sky was cloudless and the sun shone with great brilliancy when we gathered in the beautiful church at Epworth for the funeral service. Unusual radiance filled the sky and a garment of spotless white lay on the face of the earth. How appropriate, we all felt, for the passing of one whose life was radiant with faith and hope and beautiful with love and goodness. A multitude of sorrowing friends, including many from East Dubuque where first she assumed the duties of a minister's wife, together with ministers of the district, filled every part of the church and engaged reverently in the solemn funeral services conducted by the writer, assisted by the ministers present.

The body was taken to Roswell, N. M., the present home of her parents, for burial. There it was met by the body of her gifted brother, Prof. Dudley E. Selden, supervisor of music in the schools of Brooklyn, who had died but a few days before. The two rest side by side with another gifted brother who died three years before all awaiting the resurrection of the just.

Our brother, Frank Q. Brown, with his two children, Harold Franklin and Inez Louise, Mr. and Mrs. N. P. Selden, parents of Mrs. Brown, the Rev. Earle I. Selden, pastor in Sioux City, Ia., and Misses Bertha and Florence Selden, brother and sisters, with a wide circle of loving friends, to which circle every member of this Conference belongs, sorrow inexpressably over what seems to our narrow vision

the untimely passing of this rare spirit. God who sustained her and enabled her to speak calmly of her going and to send loving messages to friends and members of the Epworth church, who showed great kindness in this sad crisis in their pastor's home, will sustain those most sorely smitten and all of us who share in this great sorrow and loss.

A. M. BILLINGSLEY.

HARRIETT O. SKINNER

Harriett O. Skinner, born in Ohio, July 6, 1827, died in Waterloo, Iowa, February 20, 1910. In the early life joined the Baptist church. Later united with the Methodist Episcopal church, and remained in that communion to the close of life. She was the second wife of Rev. E. Skinner, with whom she lived a little more than twelve years.

PHILIP NAGEL McBRIDE

Philip Nagel McBride, son of H.P. McBride, died in May, at the age of 4 years, 1 month and 10 days.

CHARLES VERNON HALL

Charles Vernon Hall was run over by a team on March 25th, and died on April 2nd, at the age of one and one-half years.

REV. SIDNEY HEALD

The Rev. Sidney Heald, son of the late Rev. Samuel J. Heald, departed this life at Mt. Vernon, Iowa, January 23, 1910. He was a young man of ability and promise.