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ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

MINUTES

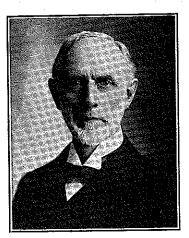
OF THE

BALTIMORE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OFFICIAL JOURNAL 1930

JOEL BROWN



The seventy-ninth session of the Balti-more Annual Conference of the Methodist Epsicopal Church opened on March 4, 1863, in Georgetown, D. C. Bishop Matthew Simpson presided.

It was a time of grievous trouble in Church and State. The Country had been in the throes of a bloody civil war for nearly two years and was destined to continue the fearful strife for two years longer. The war was preceded by a long period of anti-slavery agitation. One cannot read the journal of our first Bishop, Francis Asbury, without noting how that great soul was stirred to its very depths by the condition of the "poor Afrias he called them; how eager he was to carry the message of salvation to them and, not only to ameliorate their condition, but to free them from slavery.

This spirit seemed to pervade the Methodist Episcopal Church throughout the entire

seventy-six years, from 1784, had asked the question, "What shall be done for the extirpation of the evil of Slavery?" Many rules and regulations had been made from time to time to keep the traveling ministry free from this evil and to secure the manumission of all slaves owned by members of our Church.

Gradually the anti-slavery sentiment grew more and more pronounced in the northern Conferences, while in the South, where Methodism was doing a marvelously great work among both masters and slaves, an antagonistic and defensive spirit was engendered.

In 1844 came the great division, peacefully agreed upon by a plan adopted by the General Conference of that year. From this time onward, however, slavery little by little became a political question and at length a dominating issue in national politics. It divided the old Whig and Democratic parties, forced new alignments and brought into being the Republican party.

In all those controversial times the Conferences in Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee, the border slaveholding states, were greatly agitated and divided; but in the main the Methodists of those Conferences held fast their allegiance to the original branch of our Church. In 1860, however, our General Conference at Buffalo enacted a new chapter on slavery, which, had it been carried out, would have expelled every member of the Church who held slaves and did not manumit them. This produced intense excitement and consternation throughout the border When therefore the Baltimore Conference met in Staunton, Virginia, on March 4, 1861, its members during an arduous twelve-day session, passed reports, preambles, resolutions and protests which in effect committed the Conference to a course of action almost sure to lead to a separate and independent organization. This was agreed to by a large majority. A minority of thirty members were permitted to put on record a protest, which while entirely agreeing with the majority as to the to put on record a protest, which while entirely agreeing with the majority as to the grievances, objected strenuously to the mode by which it was proposed to remedy those grievances. A few appear not to have voted at all.

The Conference adjourned on March 25. The ink of its Journal was hardly dry, when on the 12th day of April, 1861, the Confederates fired on the flag, Fort.

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Pursuant to adjournment the Conference met in Light Street Church, Baltimore, March 9, 1862. Two opposing Armies lay between Baltimore and the preachers stationed in Virginia, so that out of 165 members only 59 were present. Bishop Janes presided. Among those present were the golden-mouthed Janes presided. Among those present were the golden-mouthed Thomas Sewal; the sweet spirited William Hamilton; the statesmanlike N. J. B. Morgan; Lyttleton F. Morgan, a great preacher and Tillotson A. Morgan, the revivalist; also John Bear, James A. McCauley, William B. Edwards, John Lanahan, William Krebs, S. V. Blake and B. Newton Brown. These were the leading men who in those disastrous times saved Baltimore Methodism, reorganized its broken columns and leading the property of the Methodist Friescool Church

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'This certifies that Mr. Joel Brown has been a regular member of the Methodist General Institute in Concord, N. H.: that he has been a diligent and eminently, successful scholar: that his mind is of a high order fitting him for the highest intellectual acquisitions: that he has ever demeaned himself as a true gentleman, as far as our knowledge extends: that he has endeared himself to all in the institution, and especially to the teachers: that we can and do commend him in all regards to any who may inquire concerning him,

He has passed through two years of his professional course and leaves us in good and regular standing, with our best wishes, and our sincere friendship. June 14, 1860.

JOHN W. MERSILL, Chairman of the Faculty"

While at Concord, February 4, 1860, the Quarterly Conference of the Centerville Church granted him Local Preacher's license. His return from Concord was followed by a brief sojourn in Baltimore, where he joined the Charles Street (now Mt. Vernon Place) Sunday School. Later he entered the University of Virginia, but the Civil War broke out and his hopes of an educational career at this famous school of learning were blasted. What further effort he made in scholarly pursuits we do not

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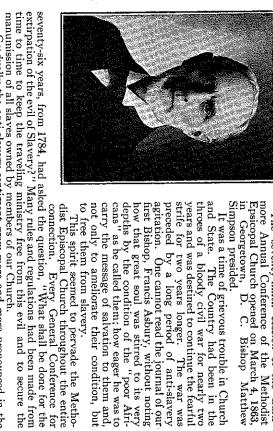
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In 1868 and 1869 he was stationed at Laurel and in 1870 and 1871 at Catonsville. In 1872 his appointment was at Cross Street Mission (now Bennett Memorial). At the same Conference, N. J. B. Morgan was assigned to First Church (now Calvary), Annapolis. Dr. Morgan was stricken with his death sickness in his pulpit on his first Sunday at Annapolis and died in a few days of pneumonia at the residence of his father-in-law, Judge William H. Baldwin. Joel Brown was taken from Cross Street Mission and appointed to the vacant pulpit for the rest of the year. The years 1873 and 1874 found him at Lutherville. On February 16, 1875, he was united in marriage to Miss J. Anna Adams, a member of Fayette Street Church and daughter of Mr. William Adams. This estimable lady made him a faithful and affectionate wife and helpmeet for 55 years and survives him with their three daughters, Misses Leulah K., Anna Lee, and Charlotte Madison.

The first Church served after his marriage was Woodberry, 1875-78. In 1878 he was Pastor of Centre Street Church, Cumberland, and in 1879 he took the supernumerary relation. From 1880-82 he was at Govans; 1883-85 on Hereford Circuit; 1886 at Exter Street; 1887-90, Columbia Avenue. From 1890 to 95 he served Union Chapel, Washington; from 1895-1900 Westminster; in 1900 Frederick; in 1901 he was again supernumerary. In 1902 and 1903 at Lutherville; 1904-08 Mt. Washington. His last Charge was Boundary Avenue, 1908-12. Here he found an almost hopeless shack, but left a beautiful stone Church with a manageable debt upon an enlarged lot.

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For 18 years he faithfully attended public worship. He was not only a hearer of the Word, but a doer also. He chose not to "rest from his loved employ," of teaching men the way of life, but until the outbreak of the World War he taught the young Men's Bible Class. After the war some of these young men came back and giving him the glad hand of rejoicing declared that his teaching had done more toward making them good men and helping them through the trials and horrors of the war than any other aid they had received. Thus this quiet unostentatious service, noted by few, but known by him in whose name it was given received a reward in this life. All like services shall in the life to come shine as the brightness of the firmament and as stars forever. One who may have observed the life of Dr. Brown may well believe that this episode is but a sample of his work throughout life, and that when the history of redeemed souls shall be made known, uncounted numbers from half a hundred communities of the Baltimore Conference will add luster to his crown of rejoicing.

Another beautiful incident in connection with Dr. Brown's relation to Mt. Vernon Place Church shall be told by Dr. Burgan, his District Superintendent:

"On the 90th Anniversary of Dr. Joel Brown's birthday, September 1, 1929, which happened to be Sunday, Mt. Vernon Place Church very beautifully recognized the occasion. In the absence of Dr. Olsen, who was in Europe, I occupied the pulpit as District Superintendent. At the close of the service the congregation was invited to the Blue and Grey Room, where Mr. Harry L. Price on behalf of the Church presented to Dr. Brown in a very fitting way a basket of flowers. Addresses of felicitation were made by several members of the Official Board and by myself to which Dr. Brown responded. Dr. Brown spoke of this event as one of the beautiful experiences of his life."

Dr. Brown would disclaim being classed as a great preacher. But if an intelligent comprehension of the Sacred Scriptures, if a heart warmed, and a life fashioned, by the truth as it is in Jesus, if a clear and understandable presentation and an earnest enforcement of the glad tidings of salvation, if a faithful followup of his preaching by that tender, loving and persevering pastorial visiting for which he was everywhere known, if these make great preachers our beloved brother should be counted a great preacher.

From the pen of Dr. Frank G. Porter come these felicitous sentences:

"Slow moves the hand that writes the final word concerning Dr. Joel Brown, the oldest member of the Baltimore Conference, who crossed the white line of his ninetieth birthday, September I, 1929, the light shining more and more unto the perfect day when weary-eyed he fell on sleep, April 17, 1930. Sixty and seven years he was a faithful minister of the glorious Gospel, serving in 18 Charges, in all five Districts, manifesting perfect fidelity and kind feeling in order to bring honor to the teaching of our Savior God in all things.

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He believed the Gospel that he preached and found it sufficient for him and for every man. From the day that he stepped forth into the ministry he kept his engagements and as his brethren knew always wished to do his work on time. He took his share in all the duties and activities of the Conference. He's rare judgment keeping him in high office to the end. He was President of the Board of Trustees of the Education Fund of the Baltimore Conference. Member of the Board of Directors and of the Investment Committee of the Preachers Fund Society, while only last year he resigned as treasurer of the Trustees of the Baltimore Conference, having served sixteen years. But above all this he sweetly kept intact the securities of the Faith with Jesus the lover of his soul.

He stood for all that was clean and noble and was ever a light toward which his brethren looked. They saw in him the gentleness and consideration of Jesus Christ. They knew him as a man hightoned, attractive and beloved with peace supreme, kept without break or blame till the arrival of our Lord."

The Western Maryland College honored itself by conferring upon Dr. Brown the degree of Doctor of Divinity. His brethren honored the Baltimore Conference by electing him a delegate to the General Conference of 1900 which met at Chicago.

His funeral was held at his late residence in Baltimore, on April 19. The services were conducted by his Pastor, Oscar T. Olsen, assisted by H. W. Burgan, F. R. Bayley, R. W. H. Weech and C. W. Baldwin. The writer of this altogether inadequate memoir, at the request of Dr. Brown's family read all the lines of Charles Wesley's greatest hymn:

"Jesus Lover of My Soul Let Me to Thy Bosom Fly." orship. He was not only a hearer of from his loved employ, "of teaching the World War he taught the young young men came back and giving s teaching had done more toward gh the trials and horrors of the war this quiet unostentatious service, e it was given received a reward in ome shine as the brightness of the lave observed the life of Dr. Brown ole of his work throughout life, and : made known, uncounted numbers re Conference will add luster to his

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"There with all souls who die in the Lord we leave our brother and we turn with the assurance of faith to our daily tasks and to pursue the upward path that leads to the heavenly reunion."

"They say he died. It seemed to me, That after hours of pain and strife, He slept one evening peacefully And woke to everlasting life.

CHARLES W. BALDWIN

CHARLES EDWARD SMITH



Charles Edward Smith was born in Indiana, August 6, 1883, but moved in 1884 to Western His parents at his birth dedicated him to the Christian ministry. When twelve years of age, he joined the Church and under-took, early, the task of preparation for the ministry. He earned the money by which his education was obtained.

The three men, besides the godly homefolks, who influenced his beginnings, were Bishop Hughes, Bishop Birney and the Rev. E. E. Gunckel, who was his boyhood Pastor. These factors were his, and early aided him to make the decision for his life work: a godly home, good friends in the Church, and a rural environment. He was a son of the farm, sunrise and sunset, springtime and harvest, bird lore, and all the wonder which comes to life in first hand contact with nature were his. Only they who are steeped in its lore, are aware how much of divinity is theirs in these rural settings.

The Kansas Wesleyan Alumni Association Magazine says of his school days: Active in student activities, he held an honored place on the Wesleyan campus, for it is here that we remember him and those of us who worked with him cherish this memory. In debate and in various campus organizations he held a high place.

In the Young People's work of the Church he was ever active.
"The characteristics which marked Charles Edward Smith in college were carried with him throughout his after years. He was refined and perfectly controlled at all times. Never sparing himself, he put all his energy into whatever he undertook. His charming personality and sweet spirit, caused him to be admired by people, and friends he made wherever he went. His was a natural dignity, a dignity which made him an example among his fellow students and associates. He was literary in taste; his command of good English was noted and admired by his collections and his masterly preaching ability was a source of help to those to whom he administered.

In 1915 he graduated from Boston University at the head of his class, and the

same year came to the Baltimore Annual Conference.

His first pastorate was at Leonardtown, where the Maryland Pilgrims of the Ark and Dove set up their colony, but where Methodism has never greatly flourished. His appointments in order thereafter were: Elderslie, Homewood, Hunts Memorial, Woodberry Avenue and Glyndon. For eight months during war time, he was senior chaplain at Camp Devans, Massachusetts.

On September 13, 1918, he was married to Miss Edna Griffin, of Milton, Massachusetts, by Professor Norman E. Richardson, of Boston University. It was a happy marriage-he a loyal husband, and she a true and helpful wife, making every parsonage a real home. During these eleven years they made for themselves many friends and proved faithful servants of Christ and his Church.

At all his appointments he had good success. At Hunts and Woodberry, his work among men was notable and the adult bible classes were large and efficient. He was a student and kept himself abrest of the thought of the day. He ranked

high among the thinking younger prophets whom God has raised up to meet this difficult age. His sermons manifested wide reading without pedantry and the hearer felt his mind as well as his heart satisfied by the preacher's word.