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WILMINGTON
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

HELD IN

EBENEZER METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EASTON, MARYLAND,

MARCH 18-23, 1903.

PRICE 25 CENTS.

between the privations and sacrifices of the Methodist itinerant and the fruitful field of jurisprudence. The voice of duty was the stronger, and he chose rather to suffer afflictions with the people of God than to enjoy the remuneration and honors of the legal profession for a season.

According to the form prescribed by the discipline, he was admitted as a probationer of the Wilmington Annual Conference, in the spring of 1872. His appointments thence forward were as follows: '72-3 Charlestown; '74-6 Rising Sun; '77-9 Chesapeake City; '80-2 Rising Sun; 83-4 Lewes; '85-7 Chestertown; '88-0 Georgetown; '91-4 Still Pond; '95-sy. serving Crapo charge; '96-7 Hopewell; '98-9 Magnolia; 1900-1 Felton; 1902 Millington.

As a preacher Bro. Kemp was thoughtful, incisive, analytic, and severely logical. He approached his texts as he would have approached a problem in mathematics. His endeavor was to get the real Scriptural answer. To do this he consulted prophet and evangelist, the Old Testament and the New. According to his mind Jesus was the answer to every text, the Savior from every sin, the moral salvation of every individual life, and the only hope of a suffering and dying world. To save men, he spoke with the forcefulness of didactic reason and plead with the earnestness of tears. The Lord blessed his preaching to the salvation of many. As a pastor, Bro. Kemp was pathetic, tender, and earnest. He visited poor and rich alike. The sick and dying always had for him a royal welcome; the needy recognized in him a friend and benefactor. The widow and orphan sought refuge in his counsel. He built his monument in the hearts of his parishioners.

In 1862 he married Miss Maria V. Nicholson, who gladly shared with him his privation and suffering, and rejoiced with him in his success. With loving devotion she walked with him to the end of his earthly journey; with the sure and certain hope that she would meet him again in the House of many mansions. Two devoted Christian daughters, also, mourn his loss and cherish his many virtues. In his domestic life Bro. Kemp was husband, father, and friend according to the scriptural model. After months of painful suffering he died Sunday, Sept. 21st, 1902. If he had had it according to his own choosing, he could not have selected a more appropriate hour in which to die. On the distant hills the darkness was folding its tents, shot through by the beams of a Sunday morning's sun, God was sowing the earth with orient pearl, the faithful worshiper on the family altar was soon to offer to his Maker the gratitude of his heart, the bell from the steeple was soon to invite to the house of prayer. It was morning on earth, but with Bro. Kemp it was morning in heaven.

"How blest the righteous when he dies
When sinks the weary soul to rest,
How mildly beam the closing eyes,
How gently heaves the expiring breast!

"So fades the summer cloud away;
So sinks the gale when storms are o'er;
So gently shuts the eye of day;
So dies a wave along the shore.

"Life's labor done, as sinks the clay,
Light from its load the spirit flies,
While Heaven and earth combine to say,
'How blest the righteous when he dies!'"

E. P. ROBERTS.

Mrs. Rachel D. England.

Mrs. Rachel D. England, relict of the Rev. W. E. England, died Feb. 6, 1903, at her residence, 2322 N, 17th St., Philadelphia, in her 80th year. The funeral services were held at the above named place, on Monday evening, Feb. 8, Rev. Everett D. Decker, pastor, of West York St., conducted the service. Rev. S. McBurney led in prayer. A well selected choir sang appropriate hymns. Rev. J. F. Crouch, Rev. E. F. Hann, former pastor, Rev. S. W. Thomas, Rev. E. D. Decker made addresses. Rev. L. D. McClintock made the closing prayer and pronounced the benediction. The large company attending the funeral looked upon the face of the aged pilgrim for the last time, and quietly repaired to their respective homes with a glow of holy gladness upon their tear bathed cheeks; and on the morrow, a loving niece and her devoted husband and their loving boy, whose unremitting care prolonged Sister England's life, conveyed the remains to their last resting place in the cemetery connected with Barratt's Chapel, where at high noon they and many friends of the family living in the neighborhood, interred her remains along side those of Rev. Wm. E. England, her fond and loving husband, who joined the company of the blood washed three years ago.

We cannot refrain from repeating the caption of this minute. "A remarkable character and her funeral service." It is but seldom one fully realizes the truth of the saying found in the holy Scriptures. "It is better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting." There, was such a sense of the divine presence; all hearts felt a sacred nearness to God, as they contemplated the beautiful character of the dear departed and the tender ministries of loving and loyal relatives. For many years, Sister England, was a shut-in, utterly unable to help herself; her body racked with pain, almost continuously, but her mind was as clear and bright as the mid-day sun; the placidity of her spirit was never broken by the torture she so meekly bore. She was, until her eye sight failed her, a constant reader of the Word of God and other religious literature, which she grasped with a keenness and a comprehensiveness we have seldom known excelled. She was well versed upon scriptural and theological lines, and commented upon these subjects with ever increasing ability. She made her bed chamber a Bethel, and she lived ever day in "Beulah land". She was widely known for her piety and proficiency in things divine, and those who gathered to pay their last respects fully appreciated the privilege and blessing of her acquaintance. The prayer, the singing and the addresses were filled with accents of praise to God for His abounding grace as exemplified in her daily (we dare not say) her lonely life. The addresses were not adulations. The key-note for each seemed to be "My soul doth magnify the Lord" for the exhibitions of his matchless grace so wondrously manifested by this suffering saint. Truly she endured "as seeing the invisible."

T. E. MARTINDALE.

Mrs. J. H. Caldwell.

Mrs. Elizabeth Thurston Caldwell, widow of Rev. John H. Caldwell, D.D., died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Vaughan S. Collins at Asbury M. E. Parsonage, Smyrna, Del., Monday, December 22 at 11.40 a. m., 1902, after a lingering illness from general debility in the 77th year of her age. Mrs. Cald-

well was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Tigner Hodnett, an old Georgia family, and was born August 6, 1826. At twenty years of age she was married to Rev. J. H. Caldwell, who at that time was a youthful, but promising Methodist preacher. The union was a singularly happy one, as both were mentally and religiously well suited to each other. A devoted Christian from early childhood training, fitted her to be the wife of an itinerant; and her husband's work, she made her own. Nine children blessed the marriage, seven of whom still survive: Frank H. Caldwell, president of the Cahill Iron Works, at Chattanooga, Tenn.; J. Hope Caldwell, a lawyer of extensive practice in New York; John H. Caldwell, a cotton broker in Boston; William H. Caldwell, a civil engineer in California; Mrs. Julia A. Sherret, of Berkley, California; Mrs. Vaughan S. Collins, wife of the present pastor of Asbury M. E. Church Smyrna; and Mrs. Mary R. Caldwell librarian of the Jacob Tome Institute, at Port Deposit.

During the dark days of reconstruction, when her husband's life was in constant danger because of his union sentiments from the "Ku klux" and kindred associations, Mrs. Caldwell showed her courage by persistently accompanying him upon his dangerous missions; and once while he was preaching to the colored people, sitting behind him as she was in the temporary pulpit, she saw a ruffian aim a gun to shoot him. Quick as a flash she rushed in front of her husband to shield him with her body. Such was her devotion in those troublous days.

During the later years of her life she has been a confirmed and helpless invalid. While stationed at St. Paul's Church, Wilmington, she was stricken with a severe attack of paralysis, which rendered her helpless, and from which she never recovered. Although unable to go out among the people of the charges to which she was sent as had been her custom, yet her interest in her husband's success, and in the work of the Church never flagged, while her own religious life seemed to soar higher than ever. As her hold on this life weakened, her grip on the things beyond increased, until during these last months she seemed more of heaven than of earth, and longed to be away and to be at rest. After gradually growing weaker for twenty three years, in September last it was noticed that a decided change had come, and she was now obliged to remain in bed. The last three months have been one continued struggle with death. Nurse, physician and friends have been amazed at the vitality exhibited. The last eleven days have been days of extreme darkness,—the darkness of unconsciousness, with only occasional gleams of light for a few minutes at a time. The last three days were those of total eclipse with out a ray of light. Yet the end came peacefully, quietly, without a struggle. The saint slipped out from the afflicted body to awake in the land of endless light. She had proved "at evening time it shall be light." The funeral services were held at the parsonage in Smyrna, Rev. W. L. S. Murray in charge. Asbury choir sang two favorite hymns of the deceased, "Nearer My God to Thee" and "Jesus Lover of my Soul." Interment at Silverlake Cemetery, Dover, by the side of Dr. Caldwell who passed on before her three years ago.

W. L. S. MURRAY.

Mrs. F. J. Cochran.

Dora Hoffecker Cochran, wife of Rev. F. J. Cochran, was born in Dover, Del., March 14, 1858 and died at the Mt. Pleasant Parsonage, Laurel, Del., March 18, 1903. Sister Cochran was educated in private schools and at the Wilmington Conference Academy, in which institution she always had a lively interest. Sister Cochran was converted when in her tenth year and from that hour enjoyed a clear, positive, religious experience. She lived in the light and died in the light. Sister Cochran's realm was her home in which she was a real queen. Her time and her powers were devoted to the training of the children with which God entrusted her. Although absorbed in the work of home she was always interested in the work of her husband and assisted him as time and strength would allow. It was while laboring by his side in a revival meeting that the first break in her health became manifest. A faithful wife, a devoted mother, a triumphant Christian, a crowned saint.

H. CLAY TURNER.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Missionary Society.	Cash	Vouchers	Total	Freedman's Aid.		
Dover District.....	\$5298	\$ 65		Dover District.....	230	10
Easton "	4783	330		Easton "	311	10
Salisbury "	6045	326		Salisbury "	262	5
Wilmington "	7952	290		Wilmington "	233	
Totals.....	24078	1011	25089	Totals.....	1036	25 1061
Church Extension.				Children's Fund.		
Dover District.....	288	15		Dover District.....	96	23
Easton "	365	22		Easton "	208	55
Salisbury "	431	10		Salisbury "	157	21
Wilmington "	493	7		Wilmington "	131	45
Totals.....	1577	54	1631	Totals.....	592	144 736
Sunday School Union.				Am. Bible Society.		
Dover District.....	87	6		Dover District.....	84	77
Easton "	82	14		Easton "	88	44
Salisbury "	91	3		Salisbury "	109	20
Wilmington "	90	2		Wilmington "	97	18
Totals.....	350	25	375	Totals.....	378	159 537
Tract Society.				W. F. N. Society.		
Dover District.....	92			Dover District.....	5	380
Easton "	82	7		Easton "	2	445
Salisbury "	97	4		Salisbury "	2	29
Wilmington "	98	2		Wilmington "	3	1552
Totals	369	13	382	Totals.....	12	2406 2418