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OFFICIAL JOURNAL AND REPORTS

OF THE

FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION

OF THE

IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

HELD AT

MONTEZUMA, IOWA, SEPTEMBER 28 TO OCTOBER 2, 1898.

C. L. STAFFORD, SECRETARY OF CONFERENCE,
MT. PLEASANT, IOWA.

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1898.

and enabled him to carry sunshine into the evening of his eventful life. We have known few men in whom we had such implicit confidence, and for whom we had a higher esteem. By his godly life he has profoundly impressed this whole community. A number of the ministers who are now prominent in the Iowa Conference were brought to Christ through his ministry. His death, which occurred April 19, 1898, was sudden, and his suffering exceeding brief. His funeral service was conducted in the Methodist Episcopal Church in this city, and was, as might have been expected, largely attended. Brief addresses were made by J. T. Simmons, Charles S. Cooper, W. G. Thorn, and the writer. He was laid to rest in the Oddfellows' Cemetery by the side of his beloved wife, who preceded him to the heavenly land fifteen years.

T. B. HUGHES.

REV. JAMES T. COLEMAN.

REV. JAMES T. COLEMAN was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, September 8, 1817, and died at Burlington, Iowa, January 29, 1898, aged eighty years, four months, and twenty-one days.

When about eight years of age he removed with his parents to Fulton County, Illinois. At this time that part of Illinois was the extreme frontier, and they were obliged to endure the privations and hardships incident to frontier life of that day. When sixteen years of age he was converted at a camp-meeting held near his home, and united with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. When he was twenty years of age he came to Iowa with an older brother, and settled in Jefferson County, near the present town of Fairfield. Shortly afterwards they moved farther West, and settled in Wapello County. Here he found a small Methodist class consisting of six members, two of whom were probationers. Here he united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, was soon appointed leader of this class, and given license to exhort. He made use of his license in holding revival-meetings, in which many were converted. In the fall of 1846 he was licensed to preach, and in the fall of 1847 was admitted on trial in the Iowa Conference. At this early date the territory of the Iowa Conference embraced all of the present State of Iowa and portions of Kansas and Nebraska. He was married to Ann C. Power, April 12, 1849, who still survives him. He was ordained deacon by Bishop E. S. Janes at the Conference held at Fort Madison, August, 1849, and elder by Bishop Beverly Waugh at the Conference held in Davenport, in August, 1851. For thirty-three years he was in the active itinerancy.

The following is the list of his appointments: 1847, Farmington; 1848, Yellow Springs; 1849-50, Cascade; 1851, Colesburg; 1852, Grandview; 1853-54, Tipton; 1855-56, Marion; 1857-58, Presiding Elder of Cedar Falls District; 1859, Mount Vernon; 1860, Tipton; 1861, Comanche; 1862, Pleasant Valley; 1863, Le Claire; 1864, Blue Grass; 1865, Wilton; 1866, West Liberty; 1867, Webster; 1868, Montrose; 1869-70, Birmingham; 1871, Batavia; 1872, Richland; 1873, Salem; 1874, Martinsburg; 1875-76, Brighton; 1877, Salina; 1878, Brighton; 1879-80, Hillsboro. Since his retirement from the ranks of the active itinerancy seventeen years before his death, he did considerable supply work in the ministry, assisting his

brethren and preaching for Churches of other denominations. The revival spirit was always manifest in the charges that he served, in several of which remarkable and sweeping revivals occurred, with hundreds of conversions. At Cascade, in 1850, a great revival occurred, in which 125 were converted; at Grandview, in 1852, over 100 were converted; at Asbury Chapel, on the Blue Grass Circuit, in 1864, 75 united with the Church as the result of another protracted effort. Large revivals, that resulted in many conversions, also occurred under his ministry while pastor at Mount Vernon, Marion, and Birmingham. As already noted, he was for two years Presiding Elder of the Cedar Falls District. This was a work which he loved, but so great were the exposure and hardship of traveling so large a district in that early day, with no railroads and with poor wagon-roads and few bridges, that he was obliged to ask the Bishop to relieve him from the work of the eldership after he had served the two years. These two years of district work, however, were blessed years in spiritual results. Revival fires seemed to be burning almost constantly, and over 1,200 were converted within the boundaries of the district during these two years of service as Presiding Elder. Our deceased brother had made a careful study of the New Testament upon the subject of Christian baptism. In that day attacks were frequently made by the ministers of other denominations upon the doctrines and polity of our Church, and in him was found a clear and forcible defender of the doctrines of Methodism. He had several carefully-studied sermons upon the subject of Christian baptism, which he gave at different places at which the doctrines of our Church had been assailed, and always to the enlightenment and edification of those who heard him. He had two public debates with ministers of the Disciples' denomination—at Richland in 1872, and at Brighton in 1875—in which the polity and doctrines of our Church were clearly set forth and defended.

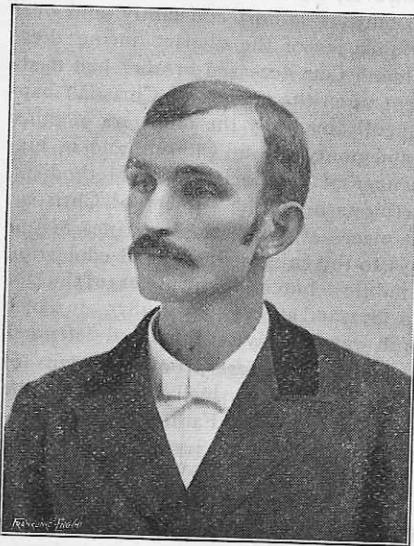
In seeking to set forth the strongest and most prominent traits of character in this beloved brother minister of the gospel; there should be mentioned his implicit faith in God. The Heavenly Father was his nearest and best Friend. In his prayers he talked to God just as if he were a Being right close at hand. This implicit faith made him strong at all times, prepared always to take life's burdens and trials, its disappointments and bereavements, as belonging to the all things that "work together for good to them that love God."

He was thoroughly familiar with the Bible, not only with its general trend throughout, but with the special chapters and passages that could be used not only in defending the "faith once delivered to the saints," but also with those portions most effective in destroying the works of the devil. He was an enthusiastic believer in the distinctive doctrines of Methodism, justification by faith, regeneration, and the witness of the Spirit. When he himself sought and found the "pearl of great price," he knew that he had followed no cunningly-devised fable. He had had such a clear experience in these precious truths of the gospel that he was able to make the way very clear to others, as he did in the case of hundreds whom he brought to Christ during his ministry. His last illness was brief. January 9th, three weeks before his death, he attended quarterly-meeting services in First Church, Burlington, and assisted in the admin-

istration of the Lord's Supper. The following Sabbath, January 16th, he was again in his accustomed place in the Lord's house at the morning service. A severe fall, resulting in concussion of the brain, followed by hours of pain, restlessness, and partial loss of memory and recognition, and "the weary wheels of life stood still." The funeral services were held at Fort Madison, Iowa, January 31, 1898, at the residence of George Smith, son-in-law to the deceased. They were conducted by Rev. R. F. Hurlburt, pastor First Church, Burlington, who was assisted by Rev. J. M. Coates, pastor Santa Fe Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, Fort Madison, Iowa.

REV. J. W. LEWIS.

REV. J. W. LEWIS died at his home in Ottumwa, Iowa, of typhoid fever, September 4, 1898, aged forty-three years, seven months, and



REV. J. W. LEWIS.

Born, 1855.

Died, Sept. 4, 1898.

twenty-four days. He was born in Mercer County, Pa., from which his parents removed while he was an infant, to Washington, Iowa. At this place his father died when the son was about thirteen years old, and John then undertook the care of his mother and one sister. During the years of struggle that followed he found time to attend public schools at Washington, Iowa, and four years at Iowa Wesleyan University. He was converted at the age of twenty, and became an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church from the day of his conversion. Feeling called to the ministry, he sought a place in the Iowa Annual Conference, and was admitted in 1882. He was ordained deacon in 1884, and elder in 1886. Before his admission to the Conference, he supplied for two years Columbus Junction and Coneville. After admission to the Conference, he was pastor at Sperry Charge, two years; Morning Sun, three years; What Cheer, four years; Newton, two years; Marengo, three years; and Main Street, Ottumwa, three years.

In 1880 he married Miss Julia Carpenter, of Columbus Junction, Iowa. To this union, which lasted seven years, there were given three children, Grace, Mary, and Prudence. Two years after his bereavement he married Mrs. Lillian A. Crane, of Montrose, Iowa, who survives him, with her son and the three daughters. Brother Lewis was an earnest, conscientious, and gifted man and brother. His ministry was fruitful, and he was hoping and planning for larger things to come; but in midsummer his health