## The Virginia Conference Annual

containing the

Journal of Proceedings of the One Hundred
Sixty-second Session of the Virginia
Annual Conference of the
Methodist Church

together with

REPORTS, MEMOIRS and STATISTICS

Edited and Published for the Conference by C. A. TUCKER

Lynchburg, Virginia October 11-16, 1944 In his work as a minister he displayed an unfailing devotion to duty and unselfishness towards his parishoners. He shared the difficulties and sacrifices of his people as one of them. He was a leader of abundant energy and zeal. Under his leadership the full program of evangelism, education and other key notes of the Christian Church was stressed with all groups. There was always evidence of the well-rounded life and broad vision.

The transfer from civilian ministry to the chaplaincy was essentially a constinuation of his same primary aim of promoting the Christian way of life. In this field he voluntarily faced sacrifices and dangers. Whether on ships at sea, on foreign soil, or in the air he was ready to give to men the comfort and courage they needed. Always there was the inspiration from his own life demonstrating the precepts he taught. When the task was tough he did it. When there was no expressed appreciation and little encouragement he counted his job as

rivilege.

He was held in high esteem by the officers and men with whom he served Major General Chapman, Commanding General of the 13th Airborne Division said of him: "The fact that he volunteered for service indicated that he was willing to endure hardships and make personal sacrifices for his country and his fellowmen. He was an officer of superior attainment who was held in deep affection by the officers and men of this command. He was an outstanding leader in that he sought no duty or standards for others which he himself was not willing to cheerfully practice and carry out. It is in this manner that he accepted the hazards incident to the details which are assigned to individual unit of our Airborne Division and in which he rendered the supreme sacrifice for his country."

The senior chaplain of the division, Chaplain Claude Ingram, said: "I have known Edgar well these latter days; in fact he was my assistant in the Division Chaplain's office. In this capacity, he functioned with great ability and helpful ness. He was ever cheerful, full of song and readily disposed to lend assistance in whatever manner possible. He lived not for himself alone but in the abundant interest of others. He was steadfast and true in his preaching and holding forth the truths of God. As a husband, a son or a friend he was faithful."

His life stands as the accomplishment of his last intended sermon them? "A Faithful Servant." That message although not delivered as planned from the pulpit had already been preached effectively in daily living and with his great spirit will remain with us always.

## REV. CHARLES THOMAS COLLYER

By H. M. Canter

It has been given to comparatively few men to equal the wide extended service of Charles Thomas Collyer in the ministry of the Kingdom. It can be said of him that with apostolic zeal he literally went to the uttermost parts of the earth preaching the gospel. Five times he circled the globe in his journeying. In England, in Czechoslovokia, in Siberia, in China, in Korea and in these United States he was a good minister of Jesus Christ everywhere manifesting the praise and grace of Him who called him out of darkness into His own marvelous light

Brother Collyer was born February 23, 1868, at Twickenham-on-Thames England, the son of Charles Edwards Collyer and his wife, Lydia Ann (Brown) Moving while quite young to Blackheath, a suburb of the city of London, he spent there his early youth and, in the Grade School, began his education. This he continued under private tutors and also in the High School of Halle-an-der Salle, Germany. In addition, on coming to America for the first time, Brother

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Collyer entered Vanderbilt University to pursue a special course in further

preparation for his life work.

Back of him were godly forbears. In his home was the incense of daily and family prayer, his parents being devoted Christians, and his maternal great grandfather was the Bishop of London. It is not surprising, therefore, that at the age of thirteen he should unite with the Church of England, receiving confirmation at the hands of the Bishop of Rochester in the church at Blackheath, pive years later his religious convictions were deepened under the preaching of pwight L. Moody and then it was that he heard and answered the call to definite Christian service. This he began in the slums of London but when twenty-one years of age the British and Foreign Bible Society was so impressed by his ability and his consecration that it employed him for work in China, sending him to the remote interior of that country, and subsequently making him its assistant manager in the city of Shanghai. From this place he sailed for America 11 1895 and became the assistant to Walter R. Lambuth (afterward Bishop) who was at that time Junior Secretary of the Board of Missions in Nashville, Tennessee, traveling with him throughout the South and lecturing on China.

It was during his stay in Shanghai that Brother Collyer joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at Trinity Church in that city. Later he united with the Moore Memorial Church, also in Shanghai, and at the District Conference held there in 1895 he was given license to preach. In 1898 he was ordained peacon by Bishop Alpheus W. Wilson in the Korean Church of Seoul and the afternoon of the same day, assisted by Bishop Cranston of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Bishop Wilson ordained him to Elder's Orders. It was a unique

foreshadowing of the unification of Methodism.

The greater part of the ministry of Dr. Collyer, thirty-five years in all, was spent in foreign missionary service in the countries indicated. But in 1923 Bishop Beauchamp returned him from Czechoslovakia to this country for work in America, transferring him to the Baltimore Conference. In this connection he served Andrew Chapel, Baltimore (1924-28); Edinburg, Virginia, (1928-32), and Ellistton-Shawsville in the Roanoke District (1933-34), where he retired from

the active ministry by order of his physician.

It can be truly said of this man that to know him was to love him. Possessed by a magnetic personality he readily won all those coming under its influence. Like his Lord he was gentle and loving and tender and kind. He went about doing good. To help in any possible way was the very passion of his soul and he counted not the cost if he could give a needed ministry to any man. Under all circumstances he was the perfect gentleman and in every company people gathered about him, charmed by the very music of his voice and eager to catch the words which fell from his lips. As a preacher his wide experience enabled him to interpret the Word with power. He was a wise administrator. His pastoral ministrations were a benediction in the homes and hearts of his people. In every gathering his appearance on the program never failed to center the interest of his audience and he was in constant demand for addresses upon his travels and on his missionary observations. "His last year in life," writes his pastor, Rev. J. W. Turner, "was equally as effective as his many years in active service. The courageous faith and youthful spirit which characterized him to the end will long be an inspiration to those who came in touch with him."

Brother Collyer was twice married. The first time on May 15, 1895, to Miss Mary Littleton Smithey who lived near Amelia, Virginia. She was the sister of the illustrious Dr. R. B. Smithey, so long head of the department of mathematics in Randolph-Macon College. Miss Smithey was a missionary in China and it was there they first met although the marriage took place in Duncan Memorial Chapel, Ashland, Virginia. To them was born one son, C. B. D. Collyer, who became an aviator and now sleeps in Arlington Cemetery. Mrs. Collyer died in 1909 and was buried in Pyent-yang, Korea. His second marriage on May 31, 1911 was to Miss Arrena Carroll of Mt. Crawford, Virginia. She was a missionary in Korea where the wedding took place in the chapel of Holston Institute, Songdo. She survives him as does also his sister, Mrs. Charlotte E. Belle who lives near Hastings, England, and a brother, E. A. Collyer, of Toronto, Canada.

After retiring, Dr. Collyer finally settled in Bridgewater, Virginia, purchasing there a home which he and Mrs. Collyer turned over to the Virginia Conference to be a place of residence for some retired minister who might comfafter them. There he spent his declining days surrounded by those who loved him. Slowly the sun began to sink and the shadows grow long. His devoted wife never failed in the tenderest ministries which love could devise. They brought boundless comfort but could not sustain his failing strength. On June 25, 1944, just as the sun was beginning to sink on the western horizon, his tired spirit slipped its earthly moorings and set sail upon the tideless set

The funeral was attended by a large company who thus bore mute testimony to the affectionate esteem in which he was held. It was conducted by his pastor, Rev. J. W. Turner, assisted by Rev. H. M. Canter and Rev. Mr. Hesse of the Church of the Brethren. His body sleeps in the Methodist Cemetery, Bridgewater but his triumphant spirit lives on in the Father's House. There we shall find him.

## BISHOP JAMES CANNON, JR.

By J. W. Moore

On the sixteenth day of September, 1944, in the city of Chicago, Bishop James Cannon, Jr., departed this life to enter on his heavenly reward. His going marked the end of a busy, forceful and unique character. Perhaps no Methodist minister has had a wider influence on the public life of his state and nation It was a career of fervent and effective activity. A quotation from "Who's Who will furnish a partial list of his activities. He was President of Blackstone Col lege for Girls from 1894 to 1918; Superintendent of Anti-Saloon League of Vic ginia 1910 to 1919; was elected a Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, in May, 1918. From 1911 to 1919 he filled the office of Superintended of "Southern Assembly;" he was elected five times to membership in the Gell eral Conference of the M. E. C. S. From 1914 he was chairman of the Legis. lative Committee of the Anti-Saloon League and was largely responsible for the passing of the prohibition laws both by Virginia and the national govern ment. Bishop Cannon was a delegate to the World's Missionary Conference Edinburgh in 1910; was Chairman of the Board of Temperance and Social Service from 1918 to 1934. In 1919 he was made chairman of the Executive Committee of the "World's League Against Alcoholism." he visited Europe ten time from 1918 to 1922 on various committees studying war problems; was a mem ber of the Geneva and Stockholm Conventions on "Faith and Order" and served on their "Continuation Committees;" was a member of the Methodist Ecumen ical Conferences that met in London in 1921 and Atlanta in 1931; was chair man of the "Educational Committee" from 1919 to 1922; was chairman of the "Southern Committee for Unification of Methodism" from 1918 to 1926; was a member of "Executive and Administrative Committee of the Federal Council from 1916 until the meeting of the last General Conference; was on the Com mission of "Relation with Religious Bodies in Europe" of which he was chair man; chairman of the committee of "Southern Anti-Smith Democrats" in 1928 was trustee of the "Church Peace Union;" was chairman of the "Near East Relief Commission;" was delegate to "World Conference on Life and World

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