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OF THE

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OF THE

Methodist Episcopal Church

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## MEMOIR—COMFORT.

George Comfort was born at Comfort's Pond, Pa., April 28, 1831, and died at Lanesboro, Pa., May 12, 1908. He was the eldest of thirteen children. He was received into Wyoming Conference in 1862. He was an evangelist and saw several sweeping revivals.

In 1867 Bishop Kingsley appointed him missionary to Montana. Rev. A. M. Hough, first Superintendent of this new Mission, organized 1864, was soon after obliged to leave on account of his wife's health. Brother Comfort was thus left the only traveling preacher in the Territory of our Church, and he believed, the only Protestant Minister. He lived in Helena. W. W. Alderson of Bozeman and Hugh Duncan at Virginia City gave efficient service as local preachers and life long friends. The next year Rev. S. G. Lathrop came to Helena as Superintendent and pastor, and Brother Comfort became missionary at large.

With great physical strength, a good singer, a pleasing speaker, a genial, social nature, he was well fitted for the work. He preached the first sermons in Beaverhead and Bitter Root valleys, and visited all the settlements and encouraged our scattered membership.

After three years' pioneer work, Brother Comfort made a trip East, and was detained to work in his own Conference. Again in 1878, he returned to Montana and became pastor at Bozeman, spending in all nearly twenty-five years in Montana. He served a full term as Presiding Elder of Bozeman District.

He was chaplain of both branches of Montana Legislature for one year, and was Superintendent of the Orphans' Home at Twin Bridges from 1894 to 1898. In 1899 he returned to Pennsylvania and spent the last years of his life at Lanesboro.

In 1903 he visited our Conference, then in session in Livingston, in a church which he had built in 1883. After visiting friends at Bozeman, Twin Bridges, Missoula, etc., he went on to Portland and San Francisco. Returning, he was almost killed in a railway wreck in Nevada, and lay for twelve weeks in the railway hospital at Ogden. From this injury he never fully recovered.

Brother Comfort was twice married. In 1851 to Miss Helen Wickes, who died in 1887. In 1889 he was married to Miss

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Maria Ackley, a faithful Christian whom he leaves to our love  
and care. A foster-son still resides in Montana.

Each year he wrote a cheerful, fervid letter to his brethren,  
to assure us that his faith was strong and that his Savior's  
presence caused him to rejoice with joy unspeakable.

Thus has passed one of the best known and best loved of  
the heroic founders of Methodism in Montana.

"A frame of adamant, a soul of fire,  
No dangers daunted and no labors tire."

"And he was not for God took him." Transferred to the  
Church triumphant.

"Servant of God, well done;  
Thy glorious warfare past.  
Thy battle is fought, thy victory won,  
And thou art crowned at last!"

GEORGE D. KING.

#### ALONZO DEMOTTE RALEIGH.

Alonzo Demotte Raleigh was born in Hamilton, Ohio, August  
2, 1842, and died in Helena, Montana, January 23, 1908. His  
father was principal of the Public Schools of Hamilton, Ohio,  
for twenty years. It was here his son, Demotte, as he was  
known, received his early training. Brother Raleigh's mother  
at an early age became a member of the Methodist Episcopal  
Church and through her influence he became a Christian and  
a member of his mother's church at the age of seventeen.

While still young he began teaching in the public schools  
and passed from that to a newspaper office. All the time he  
was planning to become a lawyer. For some time he fought a  
call to preach, but finally submitted to the Master's will and  
passed from the ranks of the laity to the ranks of the ministry  
through the gateway of the Cincinnati Conference, being ad-  
mitted in 1866. He was ordained deacon in 1868 by Bishop  
Clark and elder by Bishop Janes in 1870. The same year he  
was united in marriage to Miss Nettie Barnes at Springfield,  
Ohio.

He passed rapidly from circuit work to some of the most  
influential charges of the Cincinnati Conference, serving among  
others the churches at Avondale, and Loveland, suburbs of Cin-  
cinnati, and at Ripley, Ohio. While pastor at the latter charge his