



N. F. HURST, D. D., LL. D.

MINUTES  
OF THE  
FORTY-FIFTH SESSION  
OF THE  
UPPER IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,  
HELD AT  
OSAGE, IOWA, OCTOBER 3-8, 1900.

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SAMUEL W. HEALD, SECRETARY,  
CRESCO, IOWA.

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E. W. JEFFRIES,  
PUBLISHER, MT. VERNON, IOWA.

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CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA:  
LAURANCE PRESS CO., PRINTERS,  
1900.

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He served the following charges in that Conference, viz: Westford, Cherry Valley, Oneonta and Otego. In 1871 he took a location and removed to Iowa, and in the autumn of that year was received into the Upper Iowa Annual Conference, and served the following charges: Ackley, Vinton, Mt. Vernon, Fayette, Mason City, Dubuque District, and Marion. At the close of his year at Marion, his health having become impaired, he took a supernumerary relation, which was continued until seven years ago, when he decided to remove to Vancouver, Wash., hoping that a change of climate would improve his health. In this he was disappointed, and continuing to grow more feeble, he requested a change in his Conference relation to that of superannuation, which was granted.

Some ten days before he died, he contracted a severe cold which terminated in LaGrippe, and lung trouble, from which he died suddenly and unexpectedly. He leaves a wife, formerly Miss Araminta Johnston, of Epworth, Iowa, to whom he was married in 1881. Three children by a former wife survive, viz: Mr. Will Peebles of West Union, Mrs. May Ensign of Mason City, and Dr. George Peebles of Cedar Falls. The mother of these children died during the pastorate of Brother Peebles at Mason City and her remains were buried in Fayette, where his body was brought for burial. The services were conducted by Rev. J. T. Crippen D. D., assisted by Rev. Brothers Gammons, Bronson, and Payne.

Brother Peebles was a Christian gentleman, a student, an able minister, a kind husband and father, and an honest and upright citizen.

His pastor at Vancouver writes me that his occasional sermons preached in his church and to his people, were earnest, thoughtful, and spiritual, and two weeks before he died, while he was leading the congregation in the morning prayers, a most gracious and wonderful baptism of Divine power descended upon the people.

Brother Peebles was endowed with large social qualities, which made him a coveted guest in the social circle. His genial, gentle Christian spirit made him a great favorite among his people, and upon his charges, while his pulpit utterances "fed the flock of God."

"He was a good man, full of the Holy Ghost and of faith, and, having finished his course with joy, he rests from his labors."

J. T. CRIPPEN.

#### REV. WM. CUMMINGS.

The memoir which I am about to read, was prepared by the Rev. F. P. Cassidy, a long and near friend of our translated brother, and who, at the request of the family, conducted the funeral services.

"Rev. Wm. Cummings was born April 6, 1844, in County Armagh, Ireland. In 1847 he came to America with his parents, who settled in Philadelphia, where they remained till the year 1854, when they went to DeKalb County, Ill. He was of a family of five sons and three

daughters. Two brothers, A. S. Cummings of Dunkerton, Iowa, and Joseph Cummings of Maryland, and one sister, Mrs. Frances Stiles of Rochelle, Ill., survive. He was a great-grandson of George Fox, the originator of the Quaker doctrine. Two of his brothers were ministers of the Gospel. On Jan. 29, 1863, at DeKalb, Ill., he married Miss Emma M. Foster, who survives. Nine children were the result of this union, five of whom, Frank A., of Rockwell City, Iowa, Ira A., of Charter Oak, Iowa, and George, Lulu and Harry R., of Burr Oak, Iowa, are living. Brother Cummings was entirely a self-made man, having been unavoidably deprived of school advantages in his youth, yet he managed by hard study to acquire a good education. He was converted in his early youth and at the age of twenty-one entered the ministry, and since that time has been actively engaged in that work. He entered the Wesleyan Conference in 1865 and continued with that body until 1877 when he joined the Upper Iowa Conference and has served the following charges: National, Masonville, Fairfax, Rockwell, Lehigh, Dayton, Paris and Bonair, Mitchell, St. Ansgar and Burr Oak, where he was serving his second year when he died June 19, 1900. The end came, as I have often heard him express the wish that he might go from labor to reward. His end was triumphant. He said to those standing by: "Tell the boys there is no one like Jesus. I am going home." The funeral services were conducted by Rev. F. P. Cassidy, assisted by Dr. F. M. Robertson, presiding elder; Rev. T. H. Hendricks of the Upper Iowa Conference, and Rev. Mr. Harkness of Minnesota Conference, and Rev. Mr. Ridley of the Advent church, Burr Oak. We laid him to rest by the side of his son Clarence, who preceded him a few months, in the cemetery at Burr Oak."

I have but little to add to this modest representation of the life and services of our departed friend and brother. I knew him quite intimately during his later years among us, having been his Presiding Elder while he was preacher in charge at Paris and Bonair and at Mitchell and St. Ansgar. Brother Cummings was a faithful, successful preacher of the Gospel, he was devoted to his work and was loved by his people. He was a quiet, modest, unassuming minister of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us cherish his memory.

H. H. GREEN.

#### BOURLAND D. SMITH.

The Rev. Bourland Davis Smith was the son of a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. He was born at High Hill, Missouri, May 24th, 1860. He died at Wyoming, Iowa, August 20th, 1900. When 17 years of age, Bourland came to Iowa, making his home with the family of his uncle, Mr. James Godfrey, of Janesville. During the pastorate of the writer at that place he was baptized and received into the Methodist Episcopal Church. After graduating from the public schools he entered Cornell College in 1882, and after completing the