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MINUTES

—OF THE—

146th SESSION

Baltimore Annual Conference

Methodist Episcopal Church, South

—HELD AT—

Washington, D. C.

September 25-29, 1930

Committee on Publication:

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M. L. WALTON, JR., Vice-Chairman.
GEO. R. HARRISON, Secretary.

MEMOIRS.

JEFFERSON W. DUFFEY.

Jefferson Waite Duffey was born in Moorefield, West Virginia, Sep-
tember 23, 1846. He was converted January 1, 1865, in Hebron
Lutheran Church, located upon Capon River, Hampshire County, West
Virginia, Rev. Peter Miller being pastor of the church, and two months
later was received into the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in
Moorefield by Rev. James Beaty. He was licensed to preach by the
Quarterly Conference of Moorefield Circuit September 28, 1867, Rev.
John C. Dice, Presiding Elder, and Rev. Thomas Hildebrand, preacher
in charge. He was admitted on trial in the Baltimore Conference at
the session held in St. Paul's Church, Baltimore, March, 1870, Bishop
Holland McTyeire presiding. He was ordained deacon at the Warren-
ton Conference, 1872, by Bishop Robert Paine, and Elder at the
Staunton Conference, 1874, by Bishop David S. Doggett. He served
the following charges:

West River, two years.
Cumberland, two years.
Salem, four years.
Fredericksburg, four years.
Trinity, four years.
Falls Church, four years.
Martinsburg, one year.
Central, Baltimore, four years.
Winchester District, one year.
Mt. Vernon, Washington, four years.
Washington District, four years.
Harrisonburg, four years.
Winchester, four years.
Alexandria, four years.
Rockville, four years.

At the Roanoke Conference, 1921, he was granted superannuation,
at his own request, after fifty-one years in the active service. He
served at different times on all the Committees and Boards of the
Conference except the "Joint Board of Finance," the last Committee
work being to examine on the Course of Study for admission on trial,
on which Committee he served 12 years, during which time 95 men
were admitted on trial into the Conference.

He was educated at Randolph-Macon College, from which college he
received the honorary degree of D. D. and elected a Trustee of the
College in 1892.

The above simple record of fifty-one years of active service was prepared practically as it is here written by Dr. Duffey himself and in view of his extreme modesty and shrinking from publicity it might stand alone on our records. However, it is our practice and our sacred privilege to record in simple form the activities of one of our departed brethren and place upon our minutes a brief word of appreciation of their services and an expression of our estimate of their life and ministry.

The boy born in the little mountain city of Moorefield, West Virginia, in 1846, was destined to grow to manhood under conditions that knit the fibre of his soul into threads of steel for the conflict of life. Two currents were running strong in the minds of the men of his day, each of them of far-reaching importance and lasting significance on the life of the country. One was the current of religious enthusiasm which was sweeping the country with an almost irresistible tide. The various divisions of Protestant Christianity were making their appeals to the people and winning great victories through their evangelical efforts. The different branches of the Church in their individual propaganda acted upon each other to increase their zeal, to deepen their convictions and awaken a spiritual and intellectual appreciation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The other was mainly in the field of politics. The country was agitated with controversies centered upon the construction of the Constitution of the Nation which were fated to continue with ever increasing force until the country was swept into the maelstrom of the Civil War.

This boy grew to manhood amid these conflicting and awakening influences. He had not reached full manhood when the Civil War began in 1861, and we find him taking his place with his mountain comrades with a command known as "McNeill's Partisan Rangers." His experience of four years of Civil War was such as to forge the fibres of his soul in a furnace of fire. Having staked all during this fiery trial upon his convictions of right he came out of the conflict unsoiled and with a strength of character that could never be swerved from the path which he believed to be the path of duty and of honor. No prize however great or subtle could buy him, and no sacrifice was ever too great to be willingly endured for the cause in which he enlisted. His entrance into the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ was equally as complete in its adventure of faith and service as had been his loyalty to the standard which he followed upon the battle field.

Endued with many qualities of greatness, chief among them gentleness and grace, he gave most distinguished and valued service to the Church.

Dr. Duffey had many qualities of mind and soul that made him one of the outstanding preachers of his day. His list of appointments shows that he was recognized as having the ability to meet the de-

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mands of the Church in the centers of keenest intellectual activities and highest culture. Everywhere he preached the simple gospel with firmness and power, and yet with a winsomeness that drew to him all classes of men. Firm in his convictions, strong in his ability for sustained thinking, capable at times of high emotional inspiration, but always tender in his appeal, he won thousands to the standard of the Cross and to consecrated living.

People everywhere loved him and this was because he loved them. His supreme gift was probably in the sphere of personal contacts. It is to be doubted if he ever made an enemy. He had marvelous grace in the sick room and here all the tenderness and interest and care of the shepherd heart was unstintingly given to those of his flock who were passing through the dark shadows.

Dr. Duffey took little interest in the governmental and adminis- trative policies of the Church. This was not because he did not feel the importance of organized efforts but because the sweep of his interest and the reach of his ministry were little affected by the changing policies of the day. He dealt wholly with spiritual interests and with eternal issues.

The fineness of his character was seen in his native sense of humor —that which was sordid and low amid the incongruities of life made little appeal to him, but running through all his processes of thought the finer and more subtle forms of humor lightened and illumined his preaching and conversation. He was never tiresome in the pulpit and always a charming companion in the social circle.

Dr. Duffey was at the time of his death one of the last two surviving veterans of the Civil War in our Conference. This is not the place to record his war experiences except to show how these laid the foundation of his life and service in the ministry. One incident pronounced by military experts to be one of the most daring feats of the war was when he, with a small detachment of confederate cavalry, entered Cumberland, Maryland, under cover of night where there were eight thousand union troops and kidnapped two Major Generals and carried the distinguished prisoners, Crook and Kelley, within the confederate lines. This with many other feats equally as daring and hazardous, illustrate the heroic mold in which his character was cast.

In the fifty-one years of active service in the Conference he was not less brave and heroic in fighting under the banner of the Cross.

Though the familiar verse of one of our hymns has been so frequently used in connection with the memoirs of other preachers its application to the life and ministry of Bro. Duffey is so evident that we feign would quote it here:

"Servant of God, well done!

Thy glorious warfare's past;

The battle's fought, the race is won,

And thou art crowned at last.

"Redeemed from earth and pain,
 Ah! when shall we ascend;
 And all in Jesus' presence reign
 With our translated friend?"

The funeral services of Dr. Duffey were conducted after the manner of his own planning with the utmost simplicity. They were in charge of Dr. W. A. Lambeth and held in Mt. Vernon Church. Assisting in the services were Revs. J. H. Balthis, H. P. Hamill, J. C. Copenhaver, Frank T. Griffith, E. V. Register and F. J. Prettyman. At his request two prayers during the services were offered by Dr. H. P. Hamill and Rev. Frank T. Griffith. He had expressed the wish that there would be no flowers except a white and a red rose laid upon his coffin— emblems of the Confederacy. His remains, draped with the flag of the Nation and the flag of the Confederacy were interred with military honors in the Confederate section of the National Cemetery at Arlington, Virginia.

His body sleeps with the comrades of his boyhood. We cannot doubt that the company of souls redeemed by the blood of Christ and brought to salvation through his ministry welcomed this hero of the Cross to the land of eternal peace.

Surviving him are his beloved wife, two sons and two daughters. To these we express our deepest sympathy and rejoice with them in their inheritance of his life and character.

F. J. PRETTYMAN.

J. H. WILHITE.

J. H. Wilhite was born March 2nd, 1860, near North River, Virginia. His parents were members of the Lutheran Church, and he grew up in the delightful atmosphere of a Christian home. He was converted at the age of sixteen in an old school house where Fairview Methodist Church now stands. He attended the public school at Mount Crawford, Virginia, where he was associated with H. H. Sherman, B. V. Switzer and W. J. Whitesell, men who have become leaders in our Conference and Church.

He taught school for some years, and while teaching he felt a divine call to the ministry and yielded himself without reservation to the call of God. He entered Randolph-Macon College to better prepare for his life work. He was licensed to preach by the Quarterly Conference of Bridgewater Charge, Rockingham District, under the administration of J. H. Waugh, D.D., Presiding Elder.

He joined the Baltimore Conference in 1890, and served with acceptability the following charges: West River, two years, as junior preacher under G. H. Zimmerman; Rockville, three years as junior

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