



*H. Hughes.*

YEAR-BOOK  
OF THE  
NEW ENGLAND SOUTHERN  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE  
Methodist Episcopal Church  
EIGHTY-FIRST SESSION  
HELD AT  
PROVIDENCE, R. I.

APRIL 6-13, 1921

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of men, and the one way to purity and  
ne a sermon, a doxology, a benediction.  
n, and while employed in a cotton mill  
another young man to hold prayer meet-  
nization of a Sunday School, and, in due  
Church in Berkeley, R. I.  
n December, 1886, and supply pastor at  
ember of Conference in April, 1888. He  
nd one-half years—serving faithfully and  
he five pastorates most fruitful in visible  
ing: Hanover, three years; Quarry St.,  
, each five years, and Pleasant St., six  
onversions in his Sunday Schools. He  
y pastorate, and in every case paid them  
d a monumental work with a crushing

ar ago, he found himself too much worn  
through the year, then rest a while, and  
had something better for this conse-  
s in the evening of Oct. 5—the meeting  
s work for the winter. He offered the  
ought and language) and spoke briefly  
in his half year at Manchester had so  
g (Oct. 6) Bro. Ridgway and his wife  
ome of a nearby neighbor. Returning  
ew minutes, but, feeling cold, he soon  
ites or less, "he was not for God took

l wife of our brother's young manhood,  
e years, lacking only one day, survives  
lives in Pawtucket; Charles died three  
n), now in her fifteenth year; Thomas,  
better home when only two years and

orker is at rest. Another pastor, very  
ther minister who honored the pulpit,  
is transferred to "the tearless city,"  
eternal in the heavens."

E. C. BASS.

### ARDON BABCOCK.

f the Conference for fifty years. He  
s gone to answer the roll call on high.  
iriam (Moulton) Babcock, was born  
August 10, 1838. He was direct heir  
ous Methodist faith. In early life  
aking full advantage of the schools of  
r of the Methodist Episcopal Church  
d made a beginning in business life  
isted in the Union army and served  
When hostilities ceased and he had  
om attractive business offers to obey  
: years were spent in the School of  
n the year of his graduation he was

licensed to preach and appointed to supply the church at Westport Point.  
The next year he became a probationer in the Annual Conference and  
was regularly advanced, in succeeding years, to full membership and to  
deacon's and elder's orders. He spent thirty four years in the pastorate  
going in and out among his people as a true man of God, a faithful preacher  
of the gospel of Christ and a diligent shepherd of the flock. In 1905 he  
requested and was granted the supernumerary relation. Four years later  
he was honorably retired. And last autumn, in the full glory of the har-  
vest time, he went to lay his ripened sheaves at the Master's feet.

In the summer of 1872 Mr. Babcock was united in marriage with Miss  
Carrie E. Gifford, whom he had met while in his first pastorate. After  
she had gone with him, during a third of a century, to his several charges,  
they went together, upon his retirement from active service, back to her  
native town, Westport, there to spend their declining days. He died  
October 20, 1920, less than a year after the decease of Mrs. Babcock,  
leaving to the surviving son and daughter the heritage of a noble name and  
a precious memory. With funeral services conducted by the district  
superintendent, Dr. John H. Newland, and several other members of the  
Conference, his body was laid to rest in the Maple Grove Cemetery in  
Westport.

WILLIAM I. WARD.

### REV. GEORGE W. ELMER.

George Washington Elmer, son of Andrew W. and Mary F. Elmer, was  
born in Newbern, N. C., October 19, 1850, and died at his home in See-  
konk, Mass., January 22, 1921.

Mr. Elmer's family came north prior to the Civil War and while yet a  
lad he was left an orphan. Then began a period of drifting that seems  
not to have been undirected by "the Father of the fatherless." After  
brief tarryings in several Southern cities, he decided to visit the Orient  
and sailed from New York on a vessel bound for China. It was not long,  
however, before the spirit of unrest urged him on to Japan, where, as a  
youth of sixteen, he took fast root and spent the longer portion of his active  
life. Having mastered the Japanese language, he served for a number of  
years as interpreter in the American Consular Court. In 1879, at a watch-  
meeting conducted by Rev. I. H. Correll and his wife, of the Methodist  
Episcopal Mission, Mr. Elmer was converted. Almost immediately he  
joined the Mission and began to preach in Japanese, which he continued to  
do until his return to America, serving several mission stations. For two  
years he worked in the interior of Japan. From 1880 to 1885 he was  
employed by the American Bible Society with headquarters at Yokohama.

Mr. Elmer's first wife was Miss Emily Gray of Philadelphia, who died  
in 1883, leaving a newborn daughter, now Mrs. Emily E. Downs of New  
Bedford, Mass. On his thirty-fifth birthday in 1885, he wedded Miss  
Emma J. Benton, a daughter of the late Rev. J. T. Benton of the New  
England Southern Conference, at that time working in Japan under the  
auspices of the W. F. M. S.

In 1889 Mr. Elmer returned to America, after an absence of twenty-  
three years, and began ministerial work in the New England Southern  
Conference at Staffordville and Willington, Conn. His later appoint-  
ments were Cottage City, Chatham, Sandwich, Wellfleet, Moodus and  
Haddam Neck, Voluntown and Griswold, Wareham and East Wareham,  
Wapping and Windsorville, Hope and Washington. Broken health forced  
him to retire at the Conference of 1907.

The early years of his retirement were spent in Providence, where he attended Trinity-Union Church and taught a large class of men and women a duty for which he was exceptionally fitted by wide observation, Biblical knowledge and incisive speech. This weekly contact with church work greatly comforted him and helped to tide him over that critical hour in the experience of a pastor when he no longer has a people and hungers for a pulpit. During the last years of his life he resided in Seekonk, Mass., apart from the fellowship of Methodist folk; but the little Congregational Church in the village where he dwelt will not soon forget the brotherly sympathy and helpfulness of one in whose nature was not a trace of bigotry. And, it should be said, the people whom he had adopted, returned, in heaping measure, his kindly feeling and service.

After fourteen years of invalidism, in which he was never free from pain, Mr. Elmer succumbed to heart trouble.

He was a good minister of Jesus Christ, who wrought with intelligence and faithfulness, both in the mission field and in the homeland. He faced difficulties with a song and a shout. He accepted infirmity with heroic fortitude. He turned defeat into victory with rare ingenuity. He impressed all who knew him with his manliness and godliness.

The funeral services, held in the Congregational Church, Seekonk, were in charge of his District Superintendent, Rev. I. W. LeBaron, who was assisted by Drs. G. B. Thomas, J. I. Bartholomew, L. G. Horton, and Rev. Mr. Handanian of the local church. Dr. E. C. Bass read the committal service. The burial was in Pocasset Cemetery, Providence. Besides his wife, Mr. Elmer is survived by three sons and three daughters; also by a brother, who resides in New York City.

L. G. HORTON.

### REV. CHARLES HARLEY SMITH.

Rev. C. Harley Smith, son of Francis B. and Olive F. Smith, was born in a Christian home in Spring Valley, Wis., Jan. 3, 1858. His death was in Brookline, Mass., Feb. 25, 1921. He decided for Christ at sixteen years of age—in that decade of life the most fruitful in conversions. The discerning soon saw tokens of his coming call to the Christian ministry, but, like many another, young Smith could not see his own fitness. He was minded to become a teacher and spent the most of four years in school—in High School, Normal School, and a business college. For one year he was Principal of public schools in Rockton, Ill., and then for two years he was in business with his father in South Dakota. On a business trip over the prairies to Lincoln, Neb., his call to the ministry became so definite and imperative that, at Lincoln, he went to a Presiding Elder and made known his conviction and decision, and immediately was sent further west on a trial trip in preaching, and souls were converted, and our brother no longer "conferred with flesh and blood," or business.

A church member in '75, an Exhorter in May, '80, a Local Preacher in Dec., '85, and sent at once as "supply" pastor, to organize "a circuit" round about Plankinton, Dakota Territory, admitted to Dakota Conference Oct., '86, secretary of that Conference for several years, meantime ordained by Bishops Walden and Fitzgerald, stationed at Tyndall and Kimball one year each, followed by a term at Plankinton, two years at Garrett Biblical Institute and "supplying" churches in Chicago, three and one-half years at Yankton, Dak., in the summer of '96 transferred to New England Southern Conference, and for twenty-five years serving as follows: Phenix (and Washington), four years; Thames St., Newport, two years;

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