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1893.

MINUTES

OF THE

25th Annual Session

OF THE

Wilmington Conference

OF THE

Methodist Episcopal Church.

HELD AT

MIDDLETOWN, DEL.,

MARCH 15th-21st, 1893.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE CONFERENCE.

PUBLISHING COMMITTEE—THE SECRETARIES.



WILMINGTON, DEL.
PRESS OF MERCANTILE PRINTING COMPANY.
1893.

ning and Summit, 1874-75; and Bangor

he last charge, he was transferred to the
 fully and efficiently served the following
 79-82, Camden; 1882-83, Galestown;
 888-90, Kent Island; 1890-92, Farming-

ess in these several fields of labor. At
 ct., he reports 154 probationers; 302, at
 und 286 the second.

ed 111 probationers, more than half as
 d of his second year at Rising Sun, he
 ivers.

t., Brother Robinson was bereaved of his
 Sabbath evening, November 11th, 1877;
 life, proved herself a "helpmeet" indeed,

ference held in Wilmington last March,
 on account of impaired health, after a

Robinson was united in marriage with
 ily respected family in Harford County,
 oted wife, aiding him in his work and
 d severe illness.

i exhibited the graces of patient submis-
 ie human soul through living faith in an

ing in a well-grounded hope of endless
 atest utterances was this message to his
 "Tell them to go on preaching the grand
 ut risen Christ, which have been to me
 ough life and are so precious to me now,
 shadow of Death."

vout and faithful preacher of the Word;
 ruth and pressing it home upon the con-

le Christian gentleman, and his personal
 he preached.

residence at 1 p. m., Tuesday, the 21st

ce, by appointment of the Wilmington
 y on this mournful occasion; and beside
 iberdeen charge and another member of
 of the Protestant Episcopal parish, the
 e M. E. Church, South.

Brother Robinson had expressed a desire to have no funeral service except
 what was provided for in the Church Ritual, unless there should be present some
 of his brethren of the Wilmington Conference. This preference was respected,
 and the only addresses delivered, except a few words by Rev. Frank E. Porter,
 pastor of our church in Aberdeen, were those of the committee as named above.

His body was interred in the family lot, in the cemetery of the Protestant
 Episcopal parish of that neighborhood.

"But man dieth and wasteth away, man giveth up the ghost, and where is
 he?" We rejoice in the confident belief that Brother Robinson is with the glorified
 company of God's saints in heaven.

REV. ALFRED A. FISHER.

The Rev. Alfred A. Fisher was born in Carlisle, Pa., May 22d, 1830, and died
 at Bridgeville, Del., December 12th, 1893, of paralysis. He was converted when
 seventeen years of age under the ministry of Dr. Nadal at Carlisle, and early en-
 tered actively into church work. The jail, poorhouse and school house soon found
 in him a frequent visitor.

His soul longed for opportunity to minister of the grace which he had re-
 ceived.

His mother, a widow in straightened circumstances could not give him the
 school advantages which he desired. He longed to enter Dickenson College, but
 it was deemed best for him to learn a trade, and he was bound for five years to a
 mechanic.

Dr. Peck, then President of Dickinson College, learning of his thirst for know-
 ledge, directed his private reading and study.

Soon after finishing his trade he married Charlotte Rudisill, daughter of Rev.
 Abram Rudisill and sister of the Rev. A. W. Rudisill of the Baltimore Conference.
 He then went to Harrisburg, Pa., and entered business.

He united with the old Locust Street Church and was made a class leader.
 Under the pastorate of the Rev. Alfred Cookman he was made an exhorter, and
 soon after licensed to preach. He became active in mission work in the neglected
 part of Harrisburg, and with a few others laid the foundation of two of Harris-
 burg's strongest churches, old Vine Street and Ridge Avenue. Dr. David Bar-
 tine, then his pastor, urged him to give up business and enter the regular work.

In 1859 he was admitted into Philadelphia Conference and with James Mau-
 ger appointed to Safe Harbor and Manor Circuit. The following year he was
 placed in charge of Wiconisco, after which he served the following charges: Fre-
 mont, Hamburg, Cherry Valley, Marshallton, Guthrieville and Berlin. The divi-
 sion of the Philadelphia Conference placed him in the Wilmington Conference, in
 which he served Worcester Circuit, Newtown, Sharptown, Lewisville and Ellen-
 dale.

In 1876 his health completely failed through overwork, and he was forced to
 take a supernumerary relation and soon afterwards was placed on the superan-
 nuated list. But during these years of extreme suffering he was most active in
 the Master's service.

He attended as long as able the regular services of the charges with which he was connected. The first stroke of paralysis overtook him in the sanctuary, the last one upon his knees in his closet devotions.

The writer first met him when he became his pastor in the spring of the last year of his life.

Though weak and failing in body, he was strong in faith and earnest in prayer for the work which he had so reluctantly abandoned.

The last message to the writer was, that he had been praying all day for him, and the revival services soon to commence for which the prayers of the congregation had been requested. The next day the last of his many prayers was uttered.

It had been his custom to spend a portion of each day in reading the Bible upon his knees and in prayer, immediately after he had arisen for the day. His old well-worn and well-marked Bible had been read through many times in this way. Such expressions as "Very true," "God help us," "Amen," were found after passages that suggested them, all through the old book.

A note at the end of the old testament stated that he had completed one reading of it in this way on a certain date in 1891.

On the day the fatal stroke overtook him his son had assisted him in dressing and left him to his usual devotion. Hearing the sound of his falling he entered the room and found him upon the floor in what proved to be the unconsciousness of death.

The old bible was opened upon the chair at the third chapter of the first epistle by John, and the marks of saliva upon the page indicated that his face had fallen forward upon these words which were probably the last his eyes ever saw and his soul ever contemplated in this world: "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God, therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved now are we the sons of God and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as he is." In the contemplation of these gracious assurances the film of death spread over the natural eye and the spiritual eye saw face to face.

The funeral services were held in the M. E. Church, of Bridgeville, Del., and were conducted by the pastor W. P. Compton, assisted by the Rev. Ralph T. Coursey, Rev. Leon Garton, of Newark Conf. and Rev. William Harris.

His second wife, formerly Ruth B. Noble, of Carlisle, Pa., survives him, together with two sons and one daughter. The elder son, the Rev. Curven Bartine Fisher, now a member of the New Jersey Conference.

REV. ALFRED THOMAS MELVIN

was born October 17th, 1840, in Kent County, Md., the son of Anderson W. and Susan Melvin, died October 17th, 1892. He was converted when seventeen years old, and joined the Methodist Protestant Church, which had been the church of his ancestors from its organization.

He was licensed an exhorter in 1864. In the same year was licensed to

preach, and in March, 1868, he joined the Methodist Protestant Church.

His education was a common school one. He did not complete the college course.

He continued his religious education by serving the following churches: the Methodist Union, Somerset, All Saints, and Newington. A preference for the latter was considered a change of church.

He came to the Wyoming Conference in 1868, served Wyoming Circuit in 1869, and the following year was admitted to this Conference. His appointments were: 1868-69, Roxana. In 1870 he was afflicted with disease which so impaired his ordinary relation. In 1871 he died. A few weeks before his death he closed his life in the midst of his illness.

Brother Melvin was a successful pastor. He was a pastor of the Methodist Church in which he was a pastor for many years.

The details of his life are not known. He was an unassuming man, but a man of blind faith, thought for himself, and a man of bases of action. He was a man of neutrality, in a moment of crisis he would be true. He was permitted, the occasional opening of doors he gladly opened. He was in God, therefore the things of this world were from his labors, he was a man of his Heavenly Father. He was united with Miss Susan Fisher on October 31, 1876, to Miss Susan Fisher. The joys and the sorrows of life were cast her lot, as a Methodist. They survive him. His remains rest, awaiting the resurrection.

MRS. E.

The venerable widow of Rev. Alfred Thomas Melvin died April 4, 1892, in the eighty-second year of her age. She was born January 22, 1805. She was a member of the "Methodist Defenders" of Fort Mc. She owned a farm near St. Michael's.