

MEMOIRS

CHARLES FORD GARRISON

CHARLES FORD GARRISON was born of godly and old-time Methodist parents, in the city of Millville, N. J., on December 5, 1842. His father was a prominent man in South Jersey Methodism, and served the New Jersey Commonwealth in the Senate. His home was a house of prayer and a lodge for Methodist itinerants. Charles was converted in his boyhood, and out of this consecrated home, and by the religious associations



of old First Church in Millville, he came into his manhood religiously bent for the work of the kingdom of God. With a call to the ministry, he found his way to the school of the prophets, Pennington Seminary, and from there to the loyal patron of Methodist theology, Drew Seminary. In these two schools he was splendidly fitted for his sacred calling.

In the spring of 1870 he joined the New Jersey Conference. The ministry of Brother Garrison was not spectacular. He did not greatly attract the curious crowd. His method was ever quiet and successful. He was a careful sermon-maker. His delivery was clear and impressive. The hearers felt they were being addressed by a serious man of God, who played no tricks with the gospel nor the souls of men. Under the forty-four years of such a ministry many were squarely brought into the fold. Our brother

was morally pure and strong. His convictions of right were compulsory. What he believed was right to do, he would do if at all possible, and regardless of consequences to himself. Who ever knew him to do a wrong? He was of the stuff of which martyrs are made. With this setting of determination there was no bluster, and the very quietness of his disposition and action, to many, concealed the real worth of the man. In evidence of this sterling character was his life-long advocacy of and identification with the great temperance movement. He was no bigot. There was an ever-abiding confidence in humanity. If any seemingly objectionable thing was said or done by another, it was not in him to attribute a malicious intent, but commanded by the love that thinketh no evil, he would say, "I guess it was through ignorance that he did so, or he may have thought he was doing God's service." He was indeed a man of God. He knew God, and he lived God.

His foresight, practical wisdom and ardent zeal will be forever celebrated in the home for the feeble-minded in Vineland. Alone, and while engaged in pastoral work, the movement was made in his home town. Joined by his brother Olin, a member of the Philadelphia Conference, the location was changed to Vineland and carried forward with such success and promise as later to receive State patronage. What may have been Brother Garrison's trials and sacrifices is not recorded. Later, while pastor at Cranbury, he brought a similar institution into existence, which is now under the supervision of Dr. Elizabeth Gorden.

The subject of our sketch was twice married. First, in 1870, to Hannah Cline, daughter of Rev. Phillip Cline, of our Conference. She was favorably known throughout the State of New Jersey for her Christian and charitable works. To them were given two children, who survive the departure of parents loved and revered, namely, Dr. Phillip E. Garrison, of

the National Medical Service, and Miss Frances E. Garrison, of Simpson College, Boston. In 1908 the deceased was married to Mrs. Susan M. Smith, of Florence, who shared with him the toils and trials of the last days of his ministry, and now survives him.

Brother Garrison fell on sleep, as he wished, in the harness, on the second day of July, 1914, at Eatontown, N. J. On becoming the pastor of this charge, he was not slow to see the imperative need of a movement for the material and spiritual good of Methodism in that town. Though beyond the three score and ten limit, he applied himself to the needed work with youthful vigor, and now he has another monument in a finely equipped church and parsonage on the main street and in the center of the town.

Brother Garrison's last days were those of peaceful waiting. He said to the writer, "I am ready to go home. There is nothing to be afraid of." The funeral service was held in the Eatontown Methodist Episcopal Church on Monday afternoon, July 6th, conducted by Dr. Marshall, district superintendent, who made the principal address, the writer following in a few remarks. It was no little compliment to the worth of our brother that thirty-one members of the Conference were present. The interment was made on the following morning at Millville, N. J.

J. F. HEILENMAN.

ROBERT M. WAPLES

ROBERT M. WAPLES, son of John and Lavinia Waples, was born July 27, 1841, at Georgetown, Del. Brother Waples received a broad mental training, and at the early age of nineteen became a teacher in the public schools of his native State. For a few years he followed the sea and became a master of seacraft. His strong personality and mighty physical presence made the handling of a vessel's crew an easy matter.

Later in his life he engaged in farming in his native State, and on the eighth day of August, 1867, while working in the field, was converted. Soon after his conversion he left the farm and became superintendent of a Philadelphia manufactory. While residing there he received his call to preach. This was in 1877. His call was clear and distinct and made possible a willing submission to the powers that direct the affairs of a Methodist itinerant. He was a modest man and never self-seeking. He went to his appointments with a cheerfulness that was heroic, when it is remembered that during the thirty-four years of his ministry his salary did not average seven hundred dollars per year. He took his work seriously; he held his call to preach as a sacred trust from God, and the abundant record of souls saved through his instrumentality showed how God honored his ministry.

In March, 1867, he was married to Elizabeth Davidson, of Georgetown, Del., and for thirty-nine years God blessed them with a happy fellowship. His wife having died, Brother Waples was married the second time to Elizabeth James, of Dennisville, who still survives him.

He began his ministry in the Methodist Protestant Conference of New Jersey, serving that Church from 1877 to 1884. In 1884 he was admitted to the New Jersey Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and served the following charges from 1884 to 1911: Winslow, Dudley, Jamesburg, Goshen and Dias Creek, Seaville, Monroeville, Mantua and Barnsboro, Port Republic and Smithville, Dennisville and South Seaville, and Hamilton. In 1911 he asked for a change of relation and became supernumerary, making his home at Marmora, N. J.