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1893.

# MINUTES

OF THE

## 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

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Richard Gregg, was a class-leader and Sunday-School superintendent, and his mother from the age of seven years was a devout christian. Their house was one of the preaching places and a home for the itinerant.

From his infancy Brother Gregg was thus placed under religious influences and carefully taught the doctrines of the Bible, and his feet directed to the church and Sunday-school. At the age of twelve a deep, religious impression was made upon his mind and he presented himself at the altar, but was not at that time converted. When about eighteen years of age, under the ministry of the Rev. Joseph Lybrand, then stationed in Harrisburg, after a struggle of three weeks, he found peace with God, and at once united with the Methodist Episcopal Church. He says in his journal, "One evidence of my conversion was my great desire for the house of God. I could not wait till evening came for class and prayer meeting." A year after on account of poor health he went into the country to live, taking with him his certificate of membership, but finding no Methodist Episcopal Church convenient, he united with the Evangelical Association. When twenty-one years of age, he felt a call to preach, but he says "I was unwilling to obey the call and resisted it with all my might, but had no rest day nor night until I did obey."

August 17th, 1846, he was licensed to preach, and accepted an appointment under the Presiding Elder, and in the spring of 1847 was admitted into the Annual Conference of the Evangelical Association, and continued as a member of that Conference, travelling large circuits until the spring of 1855, when he withdrew from the Evangelical Association and removed to Harrisburg, and reunited with the Methodist Episcopal Church, joining the same society of which he was first a member. His father being in poor health and dying shortly after, it devolved upon Brother Gregg to take charge of his business and settle his estate, in the meantime teaching school and supplying vacant pulpits in the neighborhood. In the spring of 1857 he was admitted into the Philadelphia Conference and appointed to Hummelstown Mission by Bishop Waugh, and has since served the following appointments: Halifax, Middletown Station, Safe Harbor, Pitman Chapel, Philadelphia. In the spring of 1864 he was appointed chaplain in the army but was mustered out in a few months, and appointed to Kent Island, Md., where he labored the balance of that year and the next. In 1866 Smyrna Circuit. The following appointments in the Wilmington Conference were served by him: Greensboro, Seaford, Felton, Smyrna Circuit, Still Pond, Sudlersville, Chester, Mount Pleasant, Epworth, Wilmington; Berlin, Bethel, Parsonsburg, and Wyoming, where he was prostrated in the midst of his first year and called by death to change worlds.

He travelled eight years and four months as a member of the Evangelical Association, and nearly thirty-six years as a Methodist itinerant in connection with the Philadelphia and Wilmington Conferences. He kept a record of the number of conversions on each charge he served, and they aggregate over 2300. The Master said "There is joy in the presence of the angels over one sinner that repenteth." What joy the conversion of 2300 has occasioned!

Brother Gregg was a sincere man of God, a faithful pastor and an earnest

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He was licensed to preach, and accepted an appointment, and in the spring of 1847 was admitted into the Evangelical Association, and continued as a member filling large circuits until the spring of 1855, when he left the Association and removed to Harrisburg, and re-joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, joining the same society of which his father being in poor health and dying shortly after, it was Gregg to take charge of his business and settle his estate, and to supply vacant pulpits in the neighborhood. In 1857 he was admitted into the Philadelphia Conference by Bishop Waugh, and has since served circuits: Halifax, Middletown Station, Safe Harbor, Pitman in the spring of 1864 he was appointed chaplain in the circuit in a few months, and appointed to Kent Island, Md., in the conference of that year and the next. In 1866 Smyrna Circuit. His circuits in the Wilmington Conference were served by him: Smyrna, Smyrna Circuit, Still Pond, Sudlersville, Chester, Wilmington; Berlin, Bethel, Parsonsburg, and Wyoming. He died in the midst of his first year and called by death

for six years and four months as a member of the Evangelical Association for thirty-six years as a Methodist itinerant in connection with the Wilmington Conferences. He kept a record of the number of converts he served, and they aggregate over 2300. The number of sinners in the presence of the angels over one sinner that re-converted of 2300 has occasioned!

A sincere man of God, a faithful pastor and an earnest

preacher. The number of conversions which occurred on the charges he served, the churches built and improved, the debts paid, all testify to his fidelity to the work assigned him.

He was stricken with what proved to be his last illness September 19th, 1892, and was confined to his bed for several weeks when through the blessing of God upon the faithful attention of his physician and devoted wife, he was for a time able to be up and walk around town, and on one or two occasions to take a short ride. He expressed himself as hopeful that he would again be able to do some little work.

To his wife on one occasion he said, "I have never missed roll call at Conference, and I feel I would like to answer at the coming session."

His heart was in the work, and throughout his sickness, up to within a week or two of his death, he wanted to know of his son what arrangements he had made for the pulpit.

He expressed a desire to live for his wife and Willie's sake, and yet said, "I want to go to Heaven where there is no suffering, there is much here," and asked his wife to sing for him "My Suffering Time Will Soon Be O'er." Like the Apostle he was in "a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ."

To the writer he expressed himself as fully sustained by the grace of God.

His work is done, he has answered the last roll call, and in Conference to-day his seat is vacant. He has been promoted to the Church on High. The record of his life and work is written where it will stand, and many will rise up and call him blessed.

Brother Gregg was twice married. His first wife was Miss Harriet A. Giesey of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. She died May 12th, 1865, leaving him with two children, both of whom died in early manhood and womanhood. He was married the second time March 4th, 1868, to Miss G. Anna Hutchison of Kent County, Delaware, Bishop Scott performing the ceremony. She with one son are left to mourn his departure. His funeral was held in the church at Wyoming of which he was pastor, and was largely attended by his ministerial brethren on surrounding charges and members of his congregation. Remarks were made by the Presiding Elder, R. H. Adams, Dr. Murray, of Dover, and others, after which his remains were deposited in the beautiful cemetery at Camden, Delaware, to await the morning of the Resurrection.

#### REV. JOSEPH ROBINSON.

Rev. Joseph Robinson died in the Lord at his home in Perryman, Maryland, Saturday evening the 18th of February after a painful illness of eleven months. He was born in England in 1825, united with the Methodists at the age of fourteen and was licensed to preach when only eighteen. After preaching twenty years in his native country, he emigrated to the United States in April, 1867, and entered the ministry of the Primitive Methodist connection.

Four years afterwards, upon credentials from that church, he was received into the Philadelphia Annual Conference, serving the following charges: Mt.