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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.

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where he made his home with Mr. R. F. Hastings, his aged in business in that town. His school advantaged in the personal get, so that in his 23d year he was considered qualified the year 1845 he was received on trial by the Phila conference met that year at Milford, Del. Ten other the same time—five of whom still remain, T. A. William Rink of the Philadelphia, and Henry San of the Wilmington Conference. In 1847 he was 849 an Elder. In March, 1850, he was married to Miss Hezekiah P. and Susan Westcott, who were residents inia. God gave them seven children. Two of whom emaining five, Rev. Charles A. Hill, is a member of

ens were as follows; 1845, he was junior preacher on Accomac Circuit; 1848, Northampton Circuit; 1849, Snow Hill Circuit; 1852, Cambridge Circuit, for a on Accomac Circuit; 1855-56, Centerville; 1857-58, 1861-62, Asbury, Wilmington; 1863-65, Nazareth, riner's Bethel, Philadelphia; 1866, Port Deposition, a second term; 1872-73, Union, Wilmington econd term; 1876-79, Presiding Elder of Easton Asbury, Wilmington, for third term; 1883-86, Presidentict, 1887, pastor of St. Paul's, Wilmington, 1888-91, failing health, much to the regret of his brethern, supernumerary relation that he might enjoy a much a years of ceaseless toil.

rong desire to round out his half century in the effect dearer than he loved his life, but God ordered it others to the residence of his son Rev. Charles A. Hill, in etly fell asleep in Christ. Just before his death his a remember the promise of the Word," "For so an unto you abundantly into the everlasting Kingdom ous Christ." He answered, "Yes, that is it." "You "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the I do." The son also quoted, "He is also faithful," he that promised who also will do it." He answered. To the question, "Is the dear Lord with you now?" by surprised if He were not." And thus, after a few on with his family,

inks the sun behind the west ank his weary soul to rest,"

ppointments indicate, a preacher of much more than ss, and history will assign him a place among the nsula. He was regarded by all as a model Methodist preacher, and one whom his younger brethren might safely follow. He was amighty in the occiptures," and would so weave their inspired truths into both his prayers and sermons, as that all who heard them were profoundly impressed with his intimate acquaintance with God's gracious will and word,

His sermons were always prepared with great care, and delivered with an unction that moved the hearts of his hearers. Like a faithful Ambassador of Christ he preached for the purpose of effecting immediate results. And gracious revivals of religion attended his ministry.

His texts were never novel or sensational, but of a serious and solid character and whatever was in the text he sought to bring out, supporting every proposition stated with a number of apt scriptual quotations.

Blessed with a fine physique and an excellent voice, he was at times wonderfully eloquent, and in his younger days he was much sought after and called upon o occupy our pulpits at camp meeting on the Sabbath and at church dedications, and many of us can recall how that his stirring appeals on the subject of personal salvation would move the great congregation who listened spell-bound his enthusiastic presentation of gospel truth. Brother Hill was naturally timid and retiring in his disposition, and for this reason his voice was not often heard in our Conference session, except when imperative duty demanded it. But it was the pleasure of the conference to honor him as but few of our number have been. He was for years a member of the board of Stewards of the Conference, also of the Church Extension Board, Missionary Society and Chairman of the Chartered Fund. Three times he was sent as a delegate to the General Conference, viz., in 1872, 1880 and 1884, and proved to be an honor to those whom he so ably and worthily represented. Three times he served as pastor of Asbury, the old and prosperous mother church of our Wilmington Methodism, and the memory of no preacher is more highly honored in that city than that of Charles Hill.

Twice he served as Presiding Elder and in this responsible field he distinguished himself as in others by an administration that has seldom been equaled.

But our brother has gone to his eternal reward. No more shall we see his manly form, no more shall we hear his eloquent voice, but the tragrance of his fervent devotion and holy life will long linger as a blessing upon the church he loved so well. And of him we may say in the language of Charles Wesley:

"Servant of God well done! Thy glorious warfare's past; The battle fought, the race is won, And thou art crowned at last."

"Redeemed from earth and pain, Oh! when shall we ascend, And all in Jesus presence reign With our translated friends."

REV. WILLIAM BENSON GREGG.

Rev. William Benson Gregg was born in Halifax, Dauphin Co., Pa., August 7th, 1825, and died at Wyoming, Kent Co., Del., January 24th, 1893. His father,

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

preacher. The the churches leading work assigned

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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 occassions 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 occassion 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 painfull 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 chnrch, he was received into the Philadelphia Annual Conference, serving the following charges: Mt.