

H. A. Aldridge.
17-28-23.

MINUTES
OF THE
THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION
Western North Carolina
Conference

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METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
SOUTH

1923

CENTENARY CHURCH
WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.

REV. WILLIAM S. HALES

William Streety Hales was born at Lancaster, S. C., January 15, 1856, son of Alonzo and Catherine Tolar Hales. After an illness of a few days he died February 12, 1923, at Badin, N. C.

On December 9, 1884, at Trinity, N. C., he was married to Miss Julia B. Shell; a daughter of the late Rev. Lemon Shell, of the North Carolina Conference. Rev. Marcus L. Wood, D. D., performed the marriage ceremony.

There survive him the widow and three children.

Brother Hales was converted when seventeen years of age and joined Tyron Street Methodist Church in Charlotte, the family having moved to Charlotte some time before. It was about this time that he felt the call to preach, and in order to prepare himself for this important task, he entered Trinity College, and having finished his course there, he entered the Theological department at Vanderbilt University, and at Wilson in 1879 he was admitted on trial into the North Carolina Conference.

He served the following charges in the North Carolina Conference: Wentworth Circuit, 1880; Franklinville, 1881; Montgomery Circuit, 1882-3; Rockingham Circuit, 1884-5; Cumberland Circuit, 1886-7; Maxton Circuit, 1888-9; Mt. Pleasant Circuit, 1890. The Conference was divided in 1890, and Mt. Pleasant was placed in the Western North Carolina Conference. Brother Hales served thirty-three years in the Western Conference, as follows: Mt. Pleasant, 1891; King's Mountain, 1892; Thomasville, 1893; Greensboro Circuit, 1894-7; Ruffin, 1898-0; Uwharrie Circuit, 1901-3; Kernersville, 1904; Ansonville Circuit, 1905-6; Belmont Park, Charlotte, 1907-8; Pineville, 1909-10; Stanley, 1911-12; Gibsonville, 1913-15; First Street, Albemarle, 1916; China Grove, 1917-20; Kerr Street, Concord, 1921-22; Badin, 1923.

Brother Hales served the church continuously for forty-four years. He began his career in that conscientious spirit that was to characterize his ministry through all the years. He felt that he ought to prepare himself as thoroughly as possible before entering upon the duties of the pastorate. So he spent several years in college getting ready.

It may seem strange that a man, mentally trained and equipped as he was, should not have attained greater prominence in the church. Brother Hales was a modest man, and this modesty made him content in any charge to which he might be sent. His thought

was for the church and his anxiety was for the advancement of the cause of Jesus Christ. That was certainly his attitude in his later years. He asked only one question as to his appointment, "Do you think that is the place where I can do the most good?" He told the writer on a certain occasion, "I have never sought to influence my appointments."

Modest and unassuming as he was, yet he had the courage of his convictions. He was sometimes called upon to face issues of real seriousness to the church and to the community. In such crises he was not afraid to take a stand for the right, even though to assume such a position might seriously jeopardize his own security. On such occasions he would declare himself bravely, and calmly await the outcome. I knew him to meet such an issue at a cost of more than forty per cent of his salary. Yet when the church asked him to return for another year, he was willing to go, and insisted that he be returned, if the church thought he was the best man for the task. He was returned, and the church saw to it that in the end he did not suffer the loss that before seemed inevitable.

Such men are not heard of outside the Conference in which they labor, and oftentimes even brethren in the same Conference do not know their worth. But there is this consolation, God knows. He watches over the sparrow, so that not one falls to the ground without the Father's knowledge, and we may be sure that not one of His children shall fight the battles of His kingdom without the Father's due appreciation and ultimate reward.

JOHN F. KIRK.

REVEREND THOMAS JEFFERSON OGBURN

When Rev. Thomas Jefferson Ogburn fell on sleep in Greensboro, N. C., on February 24, 1923, there went out from among us one of the princieliest champions of the truth that ever matched steel with the enemy in the militant ranks of North Carolina Methodism. More than that, there went out a kindly soul and a great Christian—a redeemed man who had walked circumspectly before God for many years and served well his generation. Affectionately we pronounce his name today as we bow to that eventuality which at once has deprived us of his bodily presence and enriched heaven with the beaten gold of his character.

Son of Edmund W. and Jane Lanier Ogburn of Guilford county, N. C., he was born December 6, 1849, growing up in the delightful