

Memoirs

CHARLES H. HUTCHINS.

Charles H. Hutchins was born in Queen Anne county, Md., May 1, 1842. On the first Sunday in May, 1863, in the Roseville M. E. Church, he was happily converted.

When this country was in danger of dismemberment, Charles H. Hutchins was one of the stalwart sons of Ham whose patriotism prompted him to put his life at the country's disposal, for the preservation of the Union. He found his place in the 39th Maryland Regiment, U. S. Colored Troops, and for two years—'64 and '65—served the cause of union and liberty.

In 1866, October 25, he was united in wedlock to Miss Frances A. Winchester. This was a very happy union, and was blest with six boys and three girls. In 1896 Mrs. Frances Hutchins was taken to her reward. September 21, 1897, Bro. Hutchins led Mrs. Mollie Gordon to the altar, who, with two children, survives him.

He began his ministry in the A. M. E. Church, but in 1881 he joined the Delaware Conference, and has filled most acceptably the following charges: Pomona, Millington, Church Hill, Berlin, Greensboro, Still Pond, Smyrna, East New Market, Deal's Island, Crumpton and Trappe.

The circumstances surrounding the demise of this noble workman were very distressing. Mrs. Hutchins lay desperately ill. The doctor, despairing of her life, requested Bro. Hutchins to accompany him to his office for a remedy. The physician found it necessary to leave the office for a moment, and on his return, found the prostrate form of our brother prone upon the floor. Remedies were applied, but of no avail. The messenger had come. He had finished his course, kept the faith, and the time of his departure was at hand. He quickly and easily breathed his last.

Brother Hutchins was an earnest, painstaking and effective preacher; a progressive and faithful worker. He studied, believed and preached the Bible as the Word of God. He was genial and kind in disposition; devoted to the improvement, and thoroughly alive to the interests of his children. He was unassuming and gentle in manner—a thorough gentleman, a devoted Christian. Short was the summons, but we believe it found him ready.

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

JAMES H. MASON.

The son of Thomas and Hester Mason, was born near Fredrica, Kent county, Delaware, in the year of 1842, and worked with his father, who was connected with the "underground railroad," on the farm. Afterward he lived in Philadelphia and held his membership in the A. M. E. Church; the church of his father's choice, and was class leader for many years.

He was married to Miss Hankins, who preceded him about one year. After some years he entered the ministry of the A. M. E. Church, where he worked faithfully for several years. He joined the Delaware Conference at its session held in Cambridge, Maryland, July, 1879. He was ordained Deacon at Snow Hill, by Bishop W. L. Harris, and having finished the course of study, was ordained Elder, at Ezion, Wilmington, in 1883, by Bishop Andrews. He faithfully filled the following charges: 1879-81, Townsend; 1882-83, Odessa; 1884-86, Still Pond; Easton, Md.; 1887-89, Chestertown; 1890-91, Pocomoke City; 1892-98, Smyrna, Del.; 1898-99, he went to Fruitland, where he closed his work on earth, on the roth of January, 1900, leaving two adopted daughters. Just before he died he called his family around him and asked them to pray and sing. He called Elder Waters and said, "Don't you see the angels in this room? They are all around me." And, looking, he said, "Tell the boys to preach the Gospel. Tell them I say not Paul, but Mason, says, 'I have fought a good fight. I am now ready. That is all I have to say,' and in a few minutes passed away.

JOHN W. LANKFORD.

Rev. John W. Lankford, the son of Easter and Smith Lankford, was born in Green Hill, Somerset county, Md., in the year 1863.

He entered the public school at an early age, and soon gave evidence of a strong mind and a desire to obtain an education. He steadily advanced, step by step, and year by year, until he soon found himself at the head of the highest class in the school, and went out to do proficient work as a teacher in the day school. He was converted to God and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was soon licensed as an exhorter by the late H. T. Rich, and a local preacher by the late Abraham Brown, and having a desire to better prepare himself for the work of the church to which he felt divinely called, he entered the Centenary Biblical Institute, now Morgan College.

While in the Institute he bade fair, and gave signs to become a great preacher and often preached in many of the largest churches in Baltimore City. He was received into the Delaware Conference in 1884, and served acceptably the following charges: Chincoteague Island, Seaford, Laurel, Smyrna, Germantown, Frankford, Cambridge, Wilmington, Haven and Dover, where, on the 27th of January, 1900, he fell asleep in the arms of Jesus and went up to answer the roll-call on high.

Bro. Lankford was twice married, and leaves a widow and two children to mourn his loss. He was a devoted husband, a kind and loving father. His church, family and home, were the objects for which he seemed to live. Truly a Prince hath fallen in Israel.

Who are these arrayed in white,
Brighter than the noon-day sun,
Foremost of the sons of light,
Nearest the eternal throne?
These are they that love the cross,
Nobly for their Master stood;
Sufferers in his righteous cause,
Followers of the dying God.

W. E. HILTON.

ASBURY GRINNAGE.

Asbury Grinnage, the son of Jesse and Queen Morocco Grinnage, was born on Kent Island, Queen Anne county, Md., October 15th, 1819.

The old circuit riders passed through this part of the country, preached the gospel, and the boy Asbury heard the glad tidings and was converted. Dark as was the time of his youth, great as were the obstacles in the way of his learning, he rested not until he was able to read the Bible and the