

TRIBUTES TO BISHOP JOSEPH STAUNTON KEY.

BY DR. THOMAS N. IVEY.

LADEN with years, more than fifty of which had been given to the high duties of a Methodist itinerant preacher, serene in a faith which had learned to take hold of the deepest things of life in two worlds, with a backward look which took in the beautiful landscapes of truly Christian service, and with a forward gaze that had long ago been fixed on the "King in his beauty," Bishop Key passed from among us on April 6, 1920, at his home in Sherman, Tex.

Bishop Key as a Methodist was "to the manner born." He was the son of a Methodist preacher. Up to his election as bishop he had known in his ministerial life nothing but the pastorate. He knew the practical side of our economy. He believed in the fundamental doctrines of Methodism and preached them with great spiritual power. This writer well recalls how strongly and favorably he was impressed when he first saw and heard Bishop Key at the session of the North Carolina Conference in 1887. The Bishop's presence was commanding. There are few whose personal appearance is so majestic as was his. He filled the pulpit at one of the evening hours, and the spiritual power which attended his plain, earnest presentation of truth was something remarkable. As a preacher he was not a scholastic. He was not classed as a great pulpiteer, but in God's "Who's Who" he was entered as an evangel with power to reach the hearts of men and to produce results. After all, is not this the only kind of preacher we need?

Bishop Key in his episcopal duties was practical, conservative, and safe. He was a tower of strength to the Conferences which he held. He made a minimum of mistakes in his appointments, and the preachers who were under his care felt that they would receive a conscientious and tender consideration. He took no prominent part in the great questions which engrossed the attention of the Church at large, but there has been no bishop who attended more faithfully to the interests of the Annual Conferences committed to his care.

We have no particulars of the passing of this faithful servant of Jesus Christ, but we are moved to quote those lines of Dryden in his "Œdipus":

"Of no distemper, of no blast he died,
But fell like autumn fruit that mellowed long—

(294)

Even wondered at, because he dropped
no sooner.

Fate seemed to wind him up for fourscore
years;

Yet freshly ran he on ten winters more:
Till like a clock worn out with eating
time,

The wheels of weary life at last stood
still."

It is possible that in Bishop Key's case the clock of time received some slight shock to hasten the stopping of the wheels. We do not know; but this we do know, that in his last conscious moments he was able to say with the great Cilician: "I have fought the good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness."

Joseph Staunton Key was born at Lagrange, Ga., July 18, 1829. He graduated from Emory College in 1848. The same year he was licensed to preach, and the following year he was received on trial into the Georgia Conference, on the later division of which he became a member of the South Georgia Conference. He was married in 1851 to Miss Susie M. Snyder, who died in 1891. In 1893 he was married to Mrs. Lucy Kidd, a noted educator of Texas and resident at Sherman. He was elected bishop by the General Conference of 1886, which met at Richmond, Va. He was an active bishop for twenty-four years, having gone on the retired list at the General Conference of 1910, held at Asheville, N. C.

The body was laid to rest on Wednesday morning, April 7, in the cemetery at Sherman. The services were conducted by Bishop W. N. Ainsworth, assisted by Revs. T. S. Armstrong, W. D. Bradfield, and A. J. Weeks.

BY BISHOP W. N. AINSWORTH.

BISHOP JOSEPH STAUNTON KEY was born at Lagrange, Ga., July 18, 1829, and finished his earthly career at Sherman, Tex., April 6, 1920. Within the compass of these dates there was lived a life of unusual length, coupled with nearly three-quarters of a century of Christian service. Like so many others who have blessed the world with distinguished service, he was a product of the parsonage, being the son of Rev. and Mrs. Caleb W. Key of blessed

memory in Georgia Methodism. Coming from a Christian home, where the Christian preparation of its sons for life received an emphasis supreme, he found his way to Emory College, where he was graduated in 1848. The holy influences of a Christian home and a Christian college led him to the Christian ministry, and he entered the Georgia Conference at Augusta the year of his graduation. He early took high rank as a minister and faithful shepherd of the flock of God, holding the leading pastorates in the chief cities of his native State. Much of his ministry was spent in Atlanta, Athens, Augusta, Macon, and Columbus, and chiefly in the pastorate, though he served two terms in the presiding eldership. When the Georgia Conference was divided, in 1866, he cast his lot with the South Georgia and continued in this relation until he was elected a bishop at Richmond in 1886. Three years after his election to the episcopacy he answered an appealing call of the West and moved to Texas, where he made his home until the day of his death. He held the superannuate relation during the last ten years of his life.

Bishop Key was a man of the finest brand of Christian character. He believed the Methodist doctrine of holiness and exemplified it with all its beauty and charm. He was a man of the finest force and his counsel was highly esteemed throughout the Church for its sanity and wisdom. He has been credited with a large share of responsibility for the District Conference, which became an official institution of the Church in 1866. In his episcopal administration Bishop Key was practical, conservative, sympathetic, and safe. His work showed a minimum of mistakes.

Blessed with a constitution of the strongest mold, he survived all of his family and far outlived all the friends of his youth. When at last the end came, he died of no disease.

BY REV. WATSON B. DUNCAN.

BISHOP JOSEPH STAUNTON KEY was born July 18, 1829, at Lagrange, Ga. He came of good Methodist stock, his father, Rev. Caleb W. Key, being a faithful and loyal itinerant in the Georgia Conference for fifty years, and his grandfather being a local preacher in the same State. Bishop Key was converted in the year 1847 and his spiritual transformation was so clear and distinct that he never entertained any doubt of the reality of the Divine work. After the usual training in the preparatory schools, young Key matriculated in Emory

College, Oxford, Ga., from which institution he was graduated in 1848. In January, 1849, he was received on trial into the old Georgia Conference. At the division of the Conference he was assigned to work in the South Georgia Conference, where he labored until the time of his election to the episcopacy. His work was principally in Macon and Columbus, having spent eleven years in Macon and on the Macon District. He spent two terms of four years each as pastor of Mulberry Street Church; he spent thirteen years as pastor in Columbus and as presiding elder on the Columbus District. In 1867 he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from the University of Georgia.

Bishop Key was a finespecimen of physical manhood and this manhood was remarkably well preserved. He was erect in stature and to the end of his career he was dignified in carriage. He possessed a calm and tranquil disposition and always impressed strangers as a man of wonderfully symmetrical Christian character. He was twice married. In 1851 he was married to Miss Susie M. Snyder, who died in 1891. In 1893 he was married to Mrs. Lucy Kidd, a noted educator of Texas and a resident of Sherman, Tex., the seat of the famous school for girls, of which she was the founder and president.

At the General Conference which met in Richmond, Va., in 1886, Doctor Key was elected bishop, and rendered active service as such for a period of twenty-four years, being placed on the retired list at the General Conference at Asheville, N. C., in 1910. He died at his home in Sherman, Tex., on April 6, 1920.

A very distinguishing characteristic of Bishop Joseph Staunton Key was his deep and abiding spirituality. Judged by the usual standards of pulpit production, he was not a brilliant preacher, but, judged by results, he was a pulpit power. His great contribution to the Church was through his heart rather than through his head, though he was a clear and safe thinker and administrator. Spirituality may be defined as the consciousness of the Divine presence in the soul. The spiritual man is the man filled with a sense of the presence of God and of the force of spiritual laws, convinced of an immediate and personal conscious relation between the soul and God.

Bishop Key lingered with us until he had passed the ninetieth milestone of life on earth. "Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season."

TRIBUTES TO BISHOP JOSEPH STAUNTON KEY.

BY DR. THOMAS N. IVEY.

LADEN with years, more than fifty of which had been given to the high duties of a Methodist itinerant preacher, serene in a faith which had learned to take hold of the deepest things of life in two worlds, with a backward look which took in the beautiful landscapes of truly Christian service, and with a forward gaze that had long ago been fixed on the "King in his beauty," Bishop Key passed from among us on April 6, 1920, at his home in Sherman, Tex.

Bishop Key as a Methodist was "to the manner born." He was the son of a Methodist preacher. Up to his election as bishop he had known in his ministerial life nothing but the pastorate. He knew the practical side of our economy. He believed in the fundamental doctrines of Methodism and preached them with great spiritual power. This writer well recalls how strongly and favorably he was impressed when he first saw and heard Bishop Key at the session of the North Carolina Conference in 1887. The Bishop's presence was commanding. There are few whose personal appearance is so majestic as was his. He filled the pulpit at one of the evening hours, and the spiritual power which attended his plain, earnest presentation of truth was something remarkable. As a preacher he was not a scholastic. He was not classed as a great pulpiteer, but in God's "Who's Who" he was entered as an evangel with power to reach the hearts of men and to produce results. After all, is not this the only kind of preacher we need?

Bishop Key in his episcopal duties was practical, conservative, and safe. He was a tower of strength to the Conferences which he held. He made a minimum of mistakes in his appointments, and the preachers who were under his care felt that they would receive a conscientious and tender consideration. He took no prominent part in the great questions which engrossed the attention of the Church at large, but there has been no bishop who attended more faithfully to the interests of the Annual Conferences committed to his care.

We have no particulars of the passing of this faithful servant of Jesus Christ, but we are moved to quote those lines of Dryden in his "Œdipus":

"Of no distemper, of no blast he died,
But fell like autumn fruit that mellowed long—
(294)

Even wondered at, because he dropped
no sooner.

Fate seemed to wind him up for fourscore
years;

Yet freshly ran he on ten winters more:
Till like a clock worn out with eating
time,

The wheels of weary life at last stood
still."

It is possible that in Bishop Key's case the clock of time received some slight shock to hasten the stopping of the wheels. We do not know; but this we do know, that in his last conscious moments he was able to say with the great Cilician: "I have fought the good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness."

Joseph Staunton Key was born at Lagrange, Ga., July 18, 1829. He graduated from Emory College in 1848. The same year he was licensed to preach, and the following year he was received on trial into the Georgia Conference, on the later division of which he became a member of the South Georgia Conference. He was married in 1851 to Miss Susie M. Snyder, who died in 1891. In 1893 he was married to Mrs. Lucy Kidd, a noted educator of Texas and resident at Sherman. He was elected bishop by the General Conference of 1886, which met at Richmond, Va. He was an active bishop for twenty-four years, having gone on the retired list at the General Conference of 1910, held at Asheville, N. C.

The body was laid to rest on Wednesday morning, April 7, in the cemetery at Sherman. The services were conducted by Bishop W. N. Ainsworth, assisted by Revs. T. S. Armstrong, W. D. Bradfield, and A. J. Weeks.

BY BISHOP W. N. AINSWORTH.

BISHOP JOSEPH STAUNTON KEY was born at Lagrange, Ga., July 18, 1829, and finished his earthly career at Sherman, Tex., April 6, 1920. Within the compass of these dates there was lived a life of unusual length, coupled with nearly three-quarters of a century of Christian service. Like so many others who have blessed the world with distinguished service, he was a product of the parsonage, being the son of Rev. and Mrs. Caleb W. Key of blessed

memory in Georgia Methodism. Coming from a Christian home, where the Christian preparation of its sons for life received an emphasis supreme, he found his way to Emory College, where he was graduated in 1848. The holy influences of a Christian home and a Christian college led him to the Christian ministry, and he entered the Georgia Conference at Augusta the year of his graduation. He early took high rank as a minister and faithful shepherd of the flock of God, holding the leading pastorates in the chief cities of his native State. Much of his ministry was spent in Atlanta, Athens, Augusta, Macon, and Columbus, and chiefly in the pastorate, though he served two terms in the presiding eldership. When the Georgia Conference was divided, in 1866, he cast his lot with the South Georgia and continued in this relation until he was elected a bishop at Richmond in 1886. Three years after his election to the episcopacy he answered an appealing call of the West and moved to Texas, where he made his home until the day of his death. He held the superannuate relation during the last ten years of his life.

Bishop Key was a man of the finest brand of Christian character. He believed the Methodist doctrine of holiness and exemplified it with all its beauty and charm. He was a man of the finest force and his counsel was highly esteemed throughout the Church for its sanity and wisdom. He has been credited with a large share of responsibility for the District Conference, which became an official institution of the Church in 1866. In his episcopal administration Bishop Key was practical, conservative, sympathetic, and safe. His work showed a minimum of mistakes.

Blessed with a constitution of the strongest mold, he survived all of his family and far outlived all the friends of his youth. When at last the end came, he died of no disease.

BY REV. WATSON B. DUNCAN.

BISHOP JOSEPH STAUNTON KEY was born July 18, 1829, at Lagrange, Ga. He came of good Methodist stock, his father, Rev. Caleb W. Key, being a faithful and loyal itinerant in the Georgia Conference for fifty years, and his grandfather being a local preacher in the same State. Bishop Key was converted in the year 1847 and his spiritual transformation was so clear and distinct that he never entertained any doubt of the reality of the Divine work. After the usual training in the preparatory schools, young Key matriculated in Emory

College, Oxford, Ga., from which institution he was graduated in 1848. In January, 1849, he was received on trial into the old Georgia Conference. At the division of the Conference he was assigned to work in the South Georgia Conference, where he labored until the time of his election to the episcopacy. His work was principally in Macon and Columbus, having spent eleven years in Macon and on the Macon District. He spent two terms of four years each as pastor of Mulberry Street Church; he spent thirteen years as pastor in Columbus and as presiding elder on the Columbus District. In 1867 he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from the University of Georgia.

Bishop Key was a finespecimen of physical manhood and this manhood was remarkably well preserved. He was erect in stature and to the end of his career he was dignified in carriage. He possessed a calm and tranquil disposition and always impressed strangers as a man of wonderfully symmetrical Christian character. He was twice married. In 1851 he was married to Miss Susie M. Snyder, who died in 1891. In 1893 he was married to Mrs. Lucy Kidd, a noted educator of Texas and a resident of Sherman, Tex., the seat of the famous school for girls, of which she was the founder and president.

At the General Conference which met in Richmond, Va., in 1886, Doctor Key was elected bishop, and rendered active service as such for a period of twenty-four years, being placed on the retired list at the General Conference at Asheville, N. C., in 1910. He died at his home in Sherman, Tex., on April 6, 1920.

A very distinguishing characteristic of Bishop Joseph Staunton Key was his deep and abiding spirituality. Judged by the usual standards of pulpit production, he was not a brilliant preacher, but, judged by results, he was a pulpit power. His great contribution to the Church was through his heart rather than through his head, though he was a clear and safe thinker and administrator. Spirituality may be defined as the consciousness of the Divine presence in the soul. The spiritual man is the man filled with a sense of the presence of God and of the force of spiritual laws, convinced of an immediate and personal conscious relation between the soul and God.

Bishop Key lingered with us until he had passed the ninetieth milepost of life on earth. "Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season."