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MINUTES

OF THE

ANNUAL CONFERENCES

OF THE

Methodist Episcopal Church, South,

FOR THE YEAR

1917.

*Methodist Episcopal Church, South.
Conferences.*

EDITED AND TABULATED BY JOHN L. KIRBY.

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life, after a lingering illness of about six months, on Saturday, March 10, 1917, at Fayette, Mo. Brother Marvin was educated in the public schools and at Pritchett College, Glasgow, and later attended Washington University Law School. He was converted and joined the Church, under the ministry of Rev. R. P. Holt, about 1864, near Mount Zion Church, St. Charles County, Mo. He was licensed to preach in March, 1889, at Palmyra, and joined the Conference that fall, thereby casting his lot with the itinerant Methodist preachers until his labors were done. He filled the following appointments during the twenty-eight years of his ministry: Monroe City, Kirksville, Edina Circuit, New Franklin Circuit, Mexico, Macon, Fayette, Palmyra, Carrollton, Canton, Savannah, and Fayette Circuit. He was married to Miss Georgia Casey, October 31, 1895. Two boys were born to bless the union, Mather Casey Marvin and Edwin Lakenan Marvin. The widow and two sons remain. Brother Marvin was one of the best-loved men of the Missouri Conference. He was modest, unaffected, sincere—always underrating himself—taking no glory to himself, but always full of testimony of the goodness of his brethren and of his devotion to his Master. He possessed an analytical mind that wanted the answer to the deeper things of life which caused shadows to obstruct his view at times. They were only passing clouds, however, that made the sun shine the brighter as he found the light. It was the writer's privilege to sit by Dr. Marvin's bedside during his last illness and take this message which he sent to you: "Tell the brethren that I love them with all the ardor of a brother. If I have wronged any brother, I want to be forgiven; for I love them all. I resent men saying that I am perfect, for I am not. I realize that it is through no merit of my own that I am saved; it is only by the blood of Christ." As we started to leave, he said: "My faith is confirmed, my hope is bright, it is Christ's merit that pleads for me." Thus there has fallen from our ranks a gallant Christian gentleman and minister.

"Servant of God, well done!

Rest from thy loved employ.

The battle fought, the victory won,
Enter thy Master's joy."

—H. E. Stout.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN LEAKE, son of Benjamin Franklin and Martha Leake, was

born in Schuyler County, Ill., January 22, 1867; died at his home in Downing, Mo., March 17, 1917. He came with his parents to Missouri when a boy of twelve years and settled at Brunswick, where he grew to manhood. He was early converted to Christianity and became a member of the Methodist Church, but like many another young man he drifted. During the pastorate of Rev. E. E. Bostwick, of Brunswick, Brother Leake was reconsecrated to the work of the Church, and under careful guidance of his pastor soon felt the call to the ministry, to which he yielded himself without reservation. Perhaps no man among us, from that hour, has given himself more completely to the cause of his Lord than Brother Leake. He was licensed to preach April 17, 1902, and immediately entered the pastorate. He was admitted on trial into the Missouri Conference in September, 1903. He was ordained deacon by Bishop Hendrix at Palmyra, Mo., in September, 1905; and ordained elder by Bishop Key at Moberly, Mo., in September, 1907. During the fourteen years of Brother Leake's ministry he served the following charges: Cairo Circuit, two years; Saverton, two years; Wayland, one year; Monroe City Circuit, one year; Humphrey's, two years; Shelbyville Circuit, four years; Madison, two years; and Downing, six months. Though a great sufferer for many years, he was known among his brethren as an unusually sweet-spirited man. If he ever gave offense to any one, it is without my knowledge. In private as in public he was an agreeable and companionable gentleman, kind-hearted, and considerate of all; devoted to his family, loyal and helpful to his friends. Brother Leake continued in faithful labor till within a few days of the end. He expressed a great desire to live and work for his Lord, yet he was ready when the summons came. His wife and two daughters, who reside at Brunswick, are left to mourn their loss. The funeral services were conducted in the Methodist church at Brunswick, where he was licensed to preach. His brethren in the ministry, E. E. Bostwick, C. A. Bowles, W. J. Parvin, H. D. Marlin, W. S. Rooker, W. M. Baker, and M. C. Davis, paid tender tributes to his memory. The body was laid to rest in Zion Cemetery, northeast of Brunswick, beside his father and mother.—C. A. Bowles.

C. W. COLLETT.—In the passing of Rev. C. W. Collett on Tuesday morning, May

8, 1917, there were years of health. The health of his God. Metho gospel and he no qu Brothe Woods came 1850. fifty-ei on has charge conver ground ber of was lic Confere 1858, a to pre ference con's o elder's owing t ent at not ord Mo., wh offices a He fille ments d had as places; appointr to give order to and har he had God's m went. I was sup active w upon the mained faith un ly towar wife, wh to whom step with of his ea fort in E sons and him bless in the M Wednesd conducted assisted