

MINUTES
OF THE
ANNUAL CONFERENCES

OF THE
Methodist Episcopal Church, South,

FOR THE YEAR

1897.

Methodist Episcopal Church, South.
Conferences.

NASHVILLE, TENN.:
PUBLISHING HOUSE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH.
BARBEE & SMITH, AGENTS.

age, W. F. Brinson.
 1, A. E. Goodwyn.
 1 Walnut, W. D. Gaskins.
 derbilt University, B. W.

HAM DISTRICT.

Solomon, P. E.
 1, E. P. Newsom.
 . M. Haynie.
 Daniel.
 J. P. Skinner.
 L. Farrington.
 V. C. Bracewell.
 Willis.
 C. Moore.
 J. B. Sears.
 T. R. Cain.
 D. M. Crutchfield.
 Russell.
 1, F. L. Allen.
 W. Thompson.
 it, W. T. Melugin.
 Washburn.
 A. Potts.
 etary of Missions, J. B.

ERT DISTRICT.

Le Clere, P. E.
 James Kilgore.
 agan, J. W. Harmon.
 Veems Wootton.
 J. W. Cullen.
 own.
 H. T. Hart.
 E. Simpson.
 rmony, to be supplied by
 Ray.
 J. W. Holt.
 block, G. H. Phair.
 F. O. Favre.
 to be supplied by W. W.
 Lindsey.
 supplied by J. O. Jordan.
 oks.
 C. Keith.
 Thompson.
 oods, C. B. Garrett.
 LLE DISTRICT.
Mickle, P. E.
 Massey.
 J. A. McIver.
 ambers.
 ntersville, C. U. McLar-
 mbler.
 omery, A. J. Anderson.
 n.
 W. Horner.
 M. Myers.
 ed by T. K. True.
 aller, S. H. Morgán.

Bryan Station, J. B. Cochran.
 Millican, G. S. Sandel.
 Willis Station, R. W. Adams.
 Cold Springs, R. T. Woolsey.

Transferred.—G. C. Rector, to the Ten-
 nessee Conference; A. T. Osborne, to the
 St. Louis Conference, and stationed at
 New Madrid.

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.

HELD AT FLORENCE, S. C., DECEMBER 8-13, 1897.

BISHOP DUNCAN, *President*; E. O. WATSON, *Secretary*.

QUESTION 1. Who are admitted on trial?
 ANSWER. Stannie H. Booth, William A.
 Fairey, A. Elwood Holler, James M. Law-
 son, Daniel A. Patrick, John W. Speake,
 Robert E. Turnipseed. 7.

Ques. 2. Who remain on trial? Sidi B.
 Harper, David W. Kellar, William C.
 Kirkland, John C. Roper, F. Hawkins
 Shuler, Foster Speer, Wade H. Throw-
 er. 7.

Ques. 3. Who are discontinued? None.

Ques. 4. Who are admitted into full con-
 nection John G. Beckwith, Connor B.
 Burns, Robert C. Boulware, Henry J. Cau-
 then, Chesley C. Herbert, George C. Leon-
 ard, Benjamin M. Robertson, J. R. So-
 journeyer, Henry Stokes, Julius F. Way. 10.

Ques. 5. Who are readmitted? None.

Ques. 6. Who are received by transfer
 from other Conferences? J. M. Pike,
 from the Florida Conference. 1.

Ques. 7. Who are the deacons of one
 year? Martin L. Banks, Jr., L. L. Beden-
 baugh, James A. Campbell, Waddy T.
 Duncan, W. S. Goodwin, J. Barr Harris,
 Edward S. Jones, W. Aiken Kelly, Jr.,
 Russell E. Mood, W. A. Pitts, Wesley J.
 Snyder, G. Edwin Stokes. 12.

Ques. 8. What traveling preachers are
 elected deacons? John G. Beckwith, Rob-
 ert C. Boulware, Henry J. Caruthers, Chesley
 C. Herbert, Benjamin M. Robertson, Hen-
 ry Stokes. 6.

Ques. 9. What traveling preachers are
 ordained deacons? John G. Beckwith,
 Robert C. Boulware, Henry J. Cauthen,
 Chesley C. Herbert, Benjamin M. Robert-
 son, Henry Stokes. 6.

Ques. 10. What local preachers are elect-
 ed deacons? C. L. Huggins, John T. Mac-
 farlane, John B. Weldon. 3.

Ques. 11. What local preachers are or-
 dained deacons? D. H. Everatt, C. L.
 Huggins, John T. Macfarlane, John B.
 Weldon. 4.

Ques. 12. What traveling preachers are
 elected elders? J. Floyd Clarkson, Rob-
 ert M. Du Bose, T. Grigsby Herbert, John
 N. Isom, William A. Massebeau, William
 H. Miller, Reuben W. Spigner, Jesse J.
 Stevenson, Peter Stokes. 9.

Ques. 13. What traveling preachers are
 ordained elders? G. Floyd Clarkson,
 Robert M. Du Bose, T. Grigsby Herbert,
 John N. Isom, William A. Massebeau, Wil-
 liam H. Miller, Reuben W. Spigner, Jesse
 J. Stevenson, Peter Stokes. 9.

Ques. 14. What local preachers are elect-
 ed elders? Eli Scott Campbell, Isaac N.
 Stone, John C. Welch. 3.

Ques. 15. What local preachers are or-
 dained elders? Eli Scott Campbell, Isaac
 N. Stone, John C. Welch. 3.

Ques. 16. Who are located this year? J.
 M. Pike, at his own request; E. L. Archer,
 A. W. Attaway. 3.

Ques. 17. Who are supernumerary? A.
 M. Attaway, M. M. Ferguson, T. G. Her-
 bert, John Manning, J. M. Rogers, T. E.
 Wannamaker. 6.

Ques. 18. Who are superannuated?
 John Attaway, F. Auld, M. L. Banks, J. C.
 Bissell, M. M. Brabham, Sidi H. Browne,
 J. M. Carlisle, William Carson, W. A.
 Clarke, A. M. Chreitzberg, O. A. Darby, R.
 L. Duffie, L. M. Hamer, A. W. Jackson,
 Simpson Jones, L. A. Johnson, Paul F.
 Kistler, L. C. Loyal, T. W. Munnerlyn, J.
 J. Neville, I. J. Newberry, J. A. Porter, W.
 C. Patterson, T. P. Phillips, J. L. Sify, J.
 F. Smith, A. W. Walker, C. E. Wiggins, J.
 A. Wood, J. J. Workman. 30.

Ques. 19. What preachers have died dur-
 ing the past year? W. W. Mood, L. S.
 Bellinger, A. H. Lester, H. M. Mood, R. A.
 Few. 5.

WILLIAM WYNN MOOD, the fourth son of
 the Rev. John and Catherine Mood, and
 brother of the Revs. Henry M., John A.,
 and F. Asbury Mood, was born September
 28, 1827, at Glenn Springs, S. C. His fa-
 ther was at that time a member of the
 South Carolina Conference, but soon after,
 through feeble health, located. He set-
 tled in Charleston, which thus to man-
 hood became the home of our subject. Of
 this early life of William W. Mood at
 home we may say that it touched the most
 pronounced type of Methodism, and from
 it resulted the lofty ideals of his Chris-
 tian character. His educational advan-

tages were of the best, and he was finally graduated from Charleston College. Brother Mood was converted at Cainhoy camp meeting April 20, 1840, under the preaching of Bishop Andrew. He was licensed to exhort, from Bethel Church, February 1, 1848, and licensed to preach March 20, 1850. He was received on trial into the South Carolina Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at Wadesboro, N. C., December, 1850, and served in all nineteen pastoral charges, some of them twice. He was three times married—first to Miss Lucy J. Rogers, of Bishopville. Mrs. Mood died September 21, 1868, leaving one son, William Reader Mood, M.D., now of Ridgeway. His second wife was Miss Gregory, of Union. She died January 2, 1883, leaving three children—Percy, Emma, and Rosa. His third wife was Mrs. Lou R. Williamson, daughter of Col. and Mrs. J. E. Rembert, of Sumter, who survives him. The evening of his life, after his superannuation at the close of 1884, was spent at Mechanicsville, Ridgeway, and Sumter. He died in Sumter January 11, 1897. Brother Mood literally gave his life to God; was a man of one work, and loved it. His preaching was orthodox to the core. He believed in the Holy Ghost, and consequently many souls were saved through his instrumentality. His tender and sympathetic nature made him a most popular and successful pastor. The gospel had from his lips no uncertain sound. He presented Jesus as a Saviour under every conceivable condition of human need. The sick room, the heart in sorrow, affliction, and bereavement were his thrones of power. He was a most systematic worker, and highly successful. He was never absent from Conference, and never failed to answer the first roll call. He loved his brethren, and had a warm place in their affections. At our last Conference in Abbeville he was feeble, and yet we had not expected him to fall so soon. His last attack was sharp and decisive. He failed to rally. There, in his chamber, the angels of God met him, and he left the scenes of his earthly toil for rest with God.

LUCIUS SKOTTOWE BELLINGER was the son of the noted and honored Rev. Lucius Bellinger, and was born in Barnwell District, South Carolina, March 3, 1833. He was of fine physique, medium height and weight, lithe and vigorous. His features manifested the excellence of spirit which chiseled and illumined them. His quick and vigorous mind took hold of the subject-matter which he had under consideration with efficiency. A quiet, unassuming dignity and kindness of spirit characterized him through life. He was cheerful and affable, without being light and frivolous; he was grave without being dull or somber. We would have taken

him to be a gentleman in any company, though he spoke not a word. He was converted at Zion Church, which was then a part of the old Walterboro Circuit, March 2, 1850. From that time forth he never faltered in the way of life. He was graduated in medicine, and soon thereafter entered upon a good practice. As a physician he was a success. His professional skill, his quiet dignity and sympathetic demeanor, won for him the esteem and confidence of his patrons. He married Miss Annie E. Rumff, who proved a helpmeet to him to the day of his death. Though he had no children, she was more to him than many sons and daughters. His Quarterly Conference, satisfied with his gifts and graces, licensed him to preach the gospel. The judgment of his brethren was fully vindicated in his life of piety, energetic performance of duty, and success in the ministry of the word. In 1835 his presiding elder, the Rev. Thomas Raysor, who knew him well-nigh from his earliest boyhood, put him in charge of Orange Circuit. This year's work drew him away from his moorings in secular life, and he was admitted on trial into the South Carolina Conference December, 1835. His entire ministerial life was spent within the bounds of the Orangeburg District, except his last few days. His appointments were as follows: Boiling Springs Circuit in 1836-38; South Branchville Circuit in 1839-92; Blackville, 1893; Orange, 1894-96. In 1897 he was appointed to Georgetown Circuit. He reported promptly, preached a few times, captured all hearts, sickened and died in five days, January 15, 1897, at Sampit, S. C., amid the prayers and tears of his grief-stricken people. It is seldom the lot of a preacher to get the ear and gain the hearts of his people in so short a time as did Dr. Bellinger. He was a sound, strong, spiritual preacher, and a power in revival meetings; his heart burned with holy fire, and his tongue spoke as if touched by a live coal from off the heavenly altar. Many were turned from darkness unto light, and from the power of Satan unto God, through his ministry. Many homes were cheered and blessed by his presence, counsel, and prayers which never before had enjoyed a pastoral visit. The people were impressed by his quiet dignity and loving grace of deportment. He was but a short time with his last charge, yet long enough to create memories that shall be precious to his people forever. He moved among them as a prince. Neither disease nor death could rob him of his mental and spiritual graces. It is said that in his delirium he imagined that his congregation was before him, and he preached a sermon of remarkable point, pathos, and power. Read what his Israelitish doctor, M. S. Iseman, eloquently said of him: "I saw my patient for the first time as he lay prone

upon his bed, tossing with pain and delirium; neither suffering nor the ravages of a mortal disease could mar the benign expression or striking dignity of a face cast in such kingly mold. At brief intervals a gleam of returning consciousness would enable him to recognize those at his bedside. Even at this moment I can recall the smile, the charming manners, and above all the cheerful play of sunlight illumining his features during those fitting moments of lucidity. He would open those large, bright blue eyes of his—a soft, melting blue—beaming with kindness and boundless love, answer a few questions intelligently, never failing as oft as he recognized me to inquire after his old friend and companion, brother Stokes, whom he knew lay ill at Georgetown. All through his brief illness, he was still the watchman on the heights, the shepherd calling to his flock; as he had lived so would he die, with the name and battle-cry of his Master upon his lips. Alas! the transition was rapid. The day before he passed away I knew the fair-haired Levite had sung his last canticle before his earthly altar, and when next he would swing the golden censer it would be in that temple where the Urim and Thummim dim not upon the breastplate of the faithful and the light burns before the mercy-seat forever." Though in illness he had no relative or early friend with him but his wife, though surrounded only by those who were but recently strangers in the flesh, yet all that skill and money and loving sympathies could do was done. He was promptly removed from the parsonage by brother Benjamin D. Bourne into his own comfortable home, where all the offices of brotherly love were ministered. But he is gone from us—his spirit to the paradise of God; his body rests near by the dark rolling Sampit, soon to be removed to Orangeburg, S. C.

ARCHIBALD H. LESTER was born in Greenville county, S. C., June 12, 1828. He was the son of Philip and Nancy Lester. His early educational advantages were well improved, and he graduated from Erskine College at twenty-one years of age. During the war between the states a distinguished Hebrew scholar became an inmate of his home, and he made most excellent use of this opportunity to increase his already large store of learning. He was widely read in general literature, and his own productions present fine specimens of brilliant thought, expressed in pure, elegant diction. His work as professor in Wofford College is most gratefully remembered by the students then in the institution. He aroused within them a desire to acquire knowledge. Having at that time ample means, he taught without salary, showing his devotion to the Church and to the cause of learning. He

was converted in early life, uniting with the Church when quite young. He was admitted into the South Carolina Conference on trial in 1851. The appointments he received were as follows: 1852, Pendleton Circuit; 1853-54, Union Circuit; 1855, Cokesbury Circuit; 1856-57, Yorkville Station; 1858, Marion Street, Columbia; 1859, Cheraw Station; 1860, Spartanburg Station; 1861-64, Greenville Circuit; 1865-66, supernumerary; 1867-73, professor in Wofford College; 1874-77, Union Station; 1878, Florence Station; 1879-80, Chester Station; 1881-82, Marion Station; 1883, Lancaster Station; 1884, Winnsboro Station; 1885-88, Georgetown Station; 1889, Beaufort Station; 1890, superannuated; 1891, Cartersville Circuit; 1892-97, superannuated. During the period that he was effective he went cheerfully to the work assigned him. As is readily seen, he served many of the most important charges in our Conference. His health was never robust, but he wrought in all his fields of labor faithfully. He was kind and sympathetic in his care for his flock; was genial in his intercourse; was ever a most welcome visitor in the homes of his people, his ministrations being uplifting. His preaching was always instructive, at times accompanied with eloquence and power. His subject-matter was chaste, elegant, and scholarly. Being unusually well versed in Hebrew and Greek, he was able to bring out with beauty and force the meaning of the text. While he preached the gospel in simplicity and force to all classes, his ministry was peculiarly suited to the thoughtful and scholarly. He had made critical research in many of the fields of Bible study, and was deeply learned in its sacred lore. The Holy Spirit also made his studies of the word luminous, so that he was unusually well equipped for his high and holy ministry. He was married at Yorkville, S. C., November 27, 1856, to Miss Margaret C. Miller; in Chester county, S. C., October 26, 1858, to Miss Susan J. McCullough; in Spartanburg, S. C., April 4, 1865, to Mrs. Harriet R. Fleming, *née* Walker. Dr. W. M. Lester, of Columbia, S. C., is his only surviving child. He is a son of the second marriage. The children of his last wife, Mr. James Fleming, now of Union county, S. C., and Mrs. Mary Trimmier, now of Spartanburg, S. C., received from him a father's care and were much devoted to him. The home life of brother Lester was affectionate, beautiful, and refined. The piety of our dear brother was simple, without ostentation, but abiding. In all the misfortunes and sorrows that came to him he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. Cheerfulness never forsook him. He maintained to the end his sweet, happy, contented disposition. As the end came very near, he knew "whom he trusted," and was satisfied. He died