

MINUTES

—OF THE—

THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION

—OF THE—

Southern Illinois Conference,

—OF THE—

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

—HELD AT—

East St. Louis, Ill., Sept. 26 to Oct. 1,

1888.

ST. LOUIS:
PERRIN & SMITH, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS,
210 Olive Street.



I. Reports.

MEMOIRS.

REV. JOSIAH GIBSON, D.D.

Gibson, of the Southern Illinois Conference, was born in 1797, near Manchester, Frederick County, Va. He moved in 1819 to Barnesville, Belmont County, O. Brother Gibson was converted at a camp-meeting on the Fairview, Guernsey County, O. The evidence was so clear that he never had any doubt as to his calling. He began to prepare himself for the ministry of the Gospel. After his educational advantages then secured, he spent three years of theology with the famous Dr. Thomas Chalmers in Andover, Mass. In 1842 he was licensed to preach, and in 1843 he was ordained in the Pittsburgh Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church by Bishop Janes. In the Pittsburgh Conference he held the following appointments: Florence, Brownsville, Flushing, Lehigh, Johnstown, McKeesport and Beaver. In 1845 he was transferred to the Rock River Conference, when he was placed as presiding elder on the Rock River. In 1860 to 1864 he was in charge of Mount Morris, Ill. He became pastor at Elgin, and the next year, on account of ill health, took the superannuated relation. In 1870, with ill health, he resumed his place in the active ranks, being then transferred to the Southern Illinois Conference. He served the Upper Mississippi Conference, 1872-74; Bunker Hill, 1875-77; Edwardsville, 1872-74; Effingham, 1879. At the age of 63 he retired from the active work of the ministry, but until the death of his wife he was the most devoted laborer in the Master's work. Brother Gibson was married to Elvera A. Ebbert, of Brownsville, Penn., December 18, 1843. They lived in happy fellowship in their truly Christian home for the past eight years they have lived in Creston, Iowa. Brother Gibson, their only son. After a week's illness,

from typhoid fever, Dr. Gibson, on June 14, 1888, ceased at once to work and live. His wife, son and two daughters are still living. He was a great student of God's word, having read the New Testament 117 times, and the Old Testament 49 times in the original languages. Simpson College, Iowa, honored itself by conferring on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. He was a tender, loving husband and father, a minister of great faithfulness and power, both as preacher and pastor, a true friend, a noble Christian man. All who knew him loved and honored him.

MORRIS.

Rev. Charles W. Morris was born near Columbus, Miss., June 6, 1819, and died in Murphysborough, Ills., July 12, 1888. Brother Morris was converted in 1841, and was licensed to preach in 1842. Because of his loyalty to his country he was compelled to leave his home in Tennessee near Corinth, with the loss of all his property, and came to Illinois early in 1862. Soon after this he was employed by the presiding elder of the Mt. Vernon district, Dr. J. A. Robinson, to supply the De Soto charge. This he supplied from the fall of 1863 to 1864. He also supplied the following charges, all in the Southern Illinois Conference: Rockwood, one year; Carbondale Ct., three years; Mt. Leansborough, nine months, filling out the unexpired year of Rev. W. S. C. Walker, who died that year; Middleton, one year; Belle City, two years; Omaha, two years; Equality, two years; Norris City, one year; Omaha again, two years; Elizabethtown, two years; and Belknap, two and one-half years, when in age and feebleness extreme he resigned his charge, moving to a comfortable home provided for him by his children, at Murphysborough, Ills. He very soon was called "his body with his charge to lay down and cease at once to work and live." Brother Morris was a good man, a good preacher, a man of strong convictions, intensely loyal to all that is true, and pure, and good. Perfectly fearless for the right, faithful in all the work of a Methodist preacher. It can be truthfully said that no regular member of the Conference did more faithful or successful work in the same class of charges. Every detail of the work, and all the benevolent enterprises of the Church were faithfully looked after. This was especially true of the Conference Claimants' Fund, of which himself or family were never to receive any benefit, although working as long and as faithfully as many of its beneficiaries. While the writer was in charge of the Mt. Carmel district, Brother Morris supplied charges in its bounds during the entire term. We expected the same results from his work that we did from any member of the conference, and were never disappointed. He died as he lived, full of Christian faith and courage. His aged companion still lingers on the shore waiting for the Master's summons.