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# MINUTES

OF THE

NINETIETH SESSION

OF THE

## Ohio Annual Conference

OF THE

Methodist Episcopal Church,

HELD IN

GALLIPOLIS, OHIO,

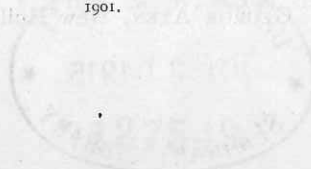
September 25th to 30th, 1901.

EDITED BY THE SECRETARY.

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## REV. A. E. S. DE WESSE.

A. E. S. De Wesse was born March 17, 1825, in Jackson county, Virginia. On May 9, 1844, he was married to Elizabeth Casto. She died in April, 1871. On September 5, 1872, he was married to Sarah De Wesse, who survives. In 1857 he was convicted of sin, and out in the woods alone God wondrously saved him. He went home praising God and telling of his conversion. He enlisted, in 1861, in Company K, Eleventh West Virginia Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war. Soon after his conversion he was appointed Leader in the U. B. Church; which position was held by him for years. He held meetings, conducted funerals and worked for the Lord in many ways. He united with Salem M. E. Church in 1872. Licensed to exhort in 1873. Licensed as a Local Preacher about the year 1884. He was a great help to the preachers of Marshfield Circuit until his death on March 26, 1901. After the funeral, conducted by Rev. R. F. Bishop, his remains were placed in the beautiful cemetery on the hill at Marshfield, there to await the coming of our Lord.

C. E. TURLEY.

## REV. WESLEY A. PRETTYMAN, D. D.

Wesley A. Prettyman was born in Chambersburg, Pa., in 1828, and died at Rowland, Ala., May 17, 1901. His father was an itinerant preacher of the Baltimore Conference. In his boyhood he taught the slaves the truths of religion. He had always a keen sympathy for that unfortunate race. He was educated in Dickinson College, which in after years gave him the honorary degree of D. D. The University of Maryland gave him his degree of M. D.

In 1852 he entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the Ohio Conference, and that year served Deer Creek Circuit; in 1853, Jackson; in 1854, Piketon, and in 1855, Wheelersburg. Then for eight years he was a missionary to Bulgaria. Returning to this country, he served Athens, Ohio, in 1864. Then he went South, and, with the exception of one year at Kingswood, W. Va., he has been entirely with the black people of the South, where he has served the following districts, viz.: In Georgia, Atlanta, Rome and Marietta; and in Alabama the following districts, viz., Huntsville and Birmingham. In 1897 he was transferred to the Ohio Conference and received a superannuated relation.

In 1848 he was united in marriage with Miss Anna M. Brown, daughter of the sainted Joseph S. Brown, of the Ohio Conference. She shared the toils, sacrifices and severe social ostracism of her husband in their varied fields. He was the father of seven children, five of whom are deceased. Two daughters remain, viz., Mrs. Lyda Thomas, of Paris, and Mrs. Helen Waldo, of North Dakota. The faithful wife passed to her reward December 21, 1894. About five years ago he was again married to Miss Adelia Peck, of Rowland, Ala.,

who has been to him, in his declining days, a most excellent companion and helpmeet.

As a preacher Dr. Prettyman was a man of ability, and he was very pure and conscientious in his purpose, but quite erratic in his course. What he lacked in wisdom he made up in self sacrifice and faithful service bestowed on the lowly. The text chosen for his funeral by the Rev. R. A. Thompson, of the M. E. Church South, was exceedingly appropriate to the character in hand. These are the words: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." This he surely did to the impoverishment of himself and family. Our brother, the Rev. John F. Hull, of Rowland, Ala., had part in the funeral services.

The body of this saintly man lies beside his kindred in a cemetery near Baltimore, Md. ISAAC F. KING.

## REV. ROBERT COOK HARPER.

Rev. Robert Cook Harper, son of William and Preciosa Harper, was born September 16, 1824, at Wolf's Plains, near Athens, Ohio. He joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, August 1831, was converted August 24, 1831. He was licensed to exhort September 3, 1849. He was licensed to preach September 16, 1852, ordained deacon September 4, 1859, by Bishop Thomas A. Morris at Columbus; an elder, September 11, 1864, by Bishop E. R. Ames, at Chillicothe. He served as supply: Athens Circuit, 2 years; Nelsonville Circuit, 2 years; New Plymouth Circuit, 2 years; Haydenville Circuit, 1 year; Fairview Circuit, 1 year; Deer Creek Circuit, 1 year; Pleasanton Circuit, 1 year; Furnace Mission, 2 years; Stewart Circuit, 1 year; Utica and Broadwell Mission, 1 year. He has preached in the states of Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri, and has received on probation into the Methodist Episcopal Church 3,483 persons, baptized 2,838, preached 2,217 funeral sermons. Besides funeral sermons he preached 8,839 times, making in all, 11,046 sermons; travelled an average of forty-three miles per week for forty-two years to do this preaching, making 93,932 miles. In 1837 his mother presented him with a very fine small reference Bible as a birthday present, saying, "Robert, read four chapters each day this year." He did so for six years, making 8,760 chapters. He read 171,550 chapters in the Bible, thus reading the Bible through 144 times, making an average of twice each year for his entire life. Brother Harper had been confined to the home of his son-in-law—Mr. Martin—near Athens, Ohio, with whom he had made his home, for more than six months. However, he rallied somewhat about the first of March, and was able to accompany his daughter, Mrs. Young, to Youngstown, Ohio, where he died, March 29, 1901. His remains were brought back to Athens county, and buried beside his wife in Salem cemetery. Rev. E. W. Howe, of Athens, preached his funeral, Sunday, April 1st, in the Salem church. L. B. SPARKS.