



BISHOP E. G. ANDREWS, D. D., LL. D.

MINUTES

OF THE

# North-West Indiana Conference

OF THE

Methodist Episcopal Church,

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION,

HELD IN

First Methodist Episcopal Church,

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA,

SEPTEMBER 9—14, 1896.

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1896.

1893, was changed to superannuated, which relation he held at the time of his death.

He was married a second time, in 1874—this time to Mrs. Mary Heistand, of Clinton, Indiana. Of this marriage one son, Omer A. Newhouse, was born.

As a preacher Brother Newhouse was earnest, plain, practical. He was a close and careful student of the Bible, made himself familiar with the doctrines and usages of the Church, and adhered closely to the old standards. One of the prominent traits of his character was loyalty to the Methodist Episcopal Church and her institutions. Another was firmness, or fixedness of purpose; he had the courage of his convictions, openly avowing and earnestly maintaining what he believed to be right.

He made it a point to be present always at roll call of the Conference, and took an active part in its proceedings. He had a good voice, was fond of music, generally led the singing in his congregations, and especially in revival service.

In what seemed to others to be almost robust health, he was stricken down in a moment. In this condition he remained for a few days, most of the time unconscious, then passed over to the other side.

Of him it may well be said—He rests from his labor, and his works do follow.

At evening time it was light.

J. B. DeMotte.

#### REV. JESSE SPARKS.

Rev. Jesse Sparks was the son of Jesse and Margaret Sparks, and was born in Belmont County, Ohio, January 11, 1807. When he was about sixteen years of age he moved, with his parents, to Indiana, and the family settled in Dearborn County. This was his home for some years and here, in 1827, he was married to Jemima, daughter of Stephen and Esther Thorn. About the year 1839 he moved to Tippecanoe County, Indiana.

The writer of this is not informed as to the date of Father Sparks' conversion or the age at which he united with the church but some time before he left Eastern Indiana he was licensed to preach in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and rendered his first service in this relation in Adams County.

In 1841 he was admitted into the traveling connection in the

Old Indiana Conference and appointed to Decatur Circuit. From this time until 1867 he sustained the effective relation. After this his life, except two years, at different times, was spent in the supernumerary and superannuated relations.

No written data was kept by Father Sparks and towards the close of his life, when his friends became anxious to get some connected account of his history his memory was so unreliable that no satisfactory account of his labors can now be obtained. The following is a partial list of the charges to which he was appointed during the years of his effective service: Decatur, DeKalb, Angola, Lima, Columbia City, Marion, Wabash, Agency Ft. Wayne, College, Rochester Circuit, Fulton and Kewanna.

In his earlier ministry, and up to the time that his health and voice failed, he was a preacher of more than ordinary power. While preaching at Decatur, a remarkable revival attended his ministry. A sister denomination had a church and a scholarly minister in the town. Father Sparks preached in the court house and had but one member, and he lived a mile and a half in the country. During the meeting to which allusion is made, among other results, all the county officers joined the Methodist church.

In common with many others of his class in those days, he had to contend with financial difficulties. At times he would piece out his scanty income by plying the craft of a shoemaker, and on several occasions he bought small farms, improved them and sold at an advanced price. Thus he gained a wide experience as an economist.

The first wife of Father Sparks died October 9th, 1872. Of the eight children born to them (four sons and four daughters) but one remains, Mrs. Jane Mogle, of Kewanna, Indiana. Father Sparks, however, at his death, left also a son, Jere, who survived his father only two weeks.

On the 14th of August, 1873, Father Sparks was married to Mrs. Lydia H. Paling, in Fulton county, Indiana, who shared with him the fortunes of the evening-time of life, faithful in great and small to the very last.

For some years Kewanna was their home and here the widow still survives. Here, though old and very hard of hearing and very feeble, he constantly attended the means of grace in the church and often participated with a fiery zeal that was inspiring.

The above words were written by Father Sparks' beloved pastor,

Rev. E. W. Lawhon. It only remains for the writer to bring this memoir to the death of Father Sparks. Father Sparks failed rapidly in the few months before his death. An illness in the spring of 1895 he never recovered from, and during the fall before his death even the most casual observer could see that he daily grew weaker. His mind, also, was impaired, so that he had few if any lucid moments for some time before his death. On Saturday, December 28th, 1895, he fell into a stupor from which he never awoke, although not until the Saturday following was the sign of death unmistakable. About midnight his brethren observed the swift approach of the death angel and before the family could all be called, the spirit departed and only the old, worn-out house of Father Sparks remained. This was at 12:30 a. m., January 5th, 1896.

For over half a century a great giant had stood in the forest of character. Men looked upon the noble presence of an apostle of righteousness, an evangel of the good tidings of Christ, a man of God. The fire of divine eloquence had burned within that frame and men and women acknowledging its power, fell down before the God he worshipped and served. It is a day of triumph when God calls such into their rest.

In the community where he lived for over twenty-five years he was loved and revered and many are the lives that have been better by coming into touch with this good old man. Many are the discouraged that have been filled with hope by his unfaltering faith in God; many are the hearts who have strangely warmed under the fire of the Holy Ghost, with whom he was filled, and many are they who have been added to the church by his ministry and who will be bright jewels in his crown of rejoicing. Praise God for such a life and such a death. Father Sparks is not dead; he liveth as ever by the power of God, through the resurrecting might of his Christ.

HORACE G. OGDEN.

#### REV. JOHN JULIAN STALLARD.

Rev. John Julian Stallard, son of Joseph W. and Ellen Stallard, was born in Rush County, Indiana, July 1, 1825. He was converted and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church at the age of sixteen. June 6, 1846, he received license to exhort from H. J. Durbin, preacher in charge of Canaan Circuit, Indiana Conference.

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