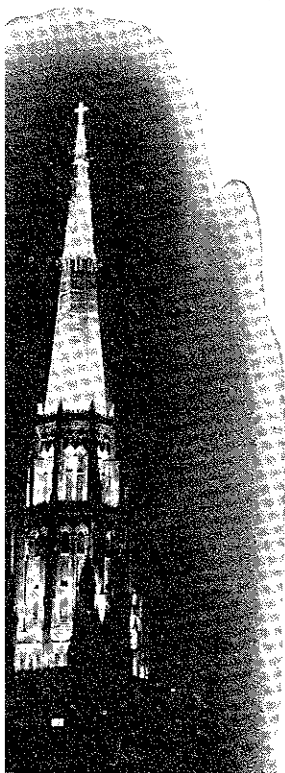


Church Sunday



CHICAGO TEMPLE

First Methodist Episcopal Church

OF CHICAGO

North Clark Street



WALTER THOMPSON, D.D.

Minister

ARTHUR DUNHAM

Director of Music

President

JOURNAL AND YEAR BOOK



Ninety-fifth Session

of the

Rock River Annual Conference

of the

Methodist Episcopal Church



First Methodist Episcopal Church
SYCAMORE, ILLINOIS

October 2-7, 1934



BISHOP FREDERICK D. LEETE, *Presiding*

JAMES O'MAY, *Secretary*

WESTERN SPRINGS, ILL.



Made by the Conference its Official Record

April 12, 1885, Newton Asbury Porter and Mariett Hall, daughter of a minister of the United Brethren Church, were united in marriage. Two daughters came to bless this parsonage home, both of whom survive; namely, Mrs. J. Fred Harley, Akron, O., and Mrs. P. M. Coxon, Rockford, Ill.

Funeral services were in charge of District Superintendent Will L. Collin, the following brethren, all in the retired relationship, participating: the Revs. C. W. Jaycox, R. N. Joscelyn, and A. D. Foster. Burial was in Willwood Cemetery, Rockford, Ill.

JOSHUA AND HARRIET THORNTON STANSFIELD

Wednesday, November 8, 1933, was a day of tragedy, bringing to a close the brilliant careers of Joshua and Harriet Thornton Stansfield. Skidding on the icy pavement of U. S. 12, near Chelsea, Mich., while en route to Chicago, their car collided with an eastbound motor bus. Mrs. Stansfield died instantly and, in a few days, Dr. Stansfield succumbed to his injuries without regaining consciousness.

The background of these remarkable personalities is that of two English homes, traditionally Methodist in spirit and practice. Their birthplace was Idle, near Bradford, Yorkshire. Participants in the activities of the circuit which included their home town, as young people Joshua Stansfield and Harriet Thornton were attracted to each other by the very dissimilarities of their pronounced individualities. They were married in Bingley Parish Church, Yorkshire, November 7, 1880.

While bred to industrial life, Joshua Stansfield early found himself included in the ranks of the local ministry of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. Endowed by nature with a fine mind, by self-discipline and severe study he became masterly in his thinking and control of assemblies. While engaged in partnership with a brother in the coal business in Bradford, he discerned through correspondence of the Rev. Charles Dawe, a member of "The Legal Hundred" with his brother, the Rev. William Dawe of the Detroit Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, a providential call to the effective ministry. The summer of 1887 found him afloat for America. He presented himself in September, was received as a probationer in the Detroit Conference and appointed to Wyandotte. Mrs. Stansfield and their two children, Mary, now Mrs. James L. Gardiner of Chicago, and Arthur, soon joined him.

From Wyandotte the course of their ministry leads through First Church, Port Huron, Mary Palmer Church, Detroit, to Madison Avenue Church, Bay City. From this pastorate, in succession to the late Bishop William A. Quayle, they were transferred to Meridian Street Church, Indianapolis, for a service of fifteen glorious years. The pulpit, which was his throne in each field of his ministry, with expanding power, drawing the multitudes to, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world," took on imperial splendor in Indianapolis. American colleges acknowledged the scholarship and masterly service of this English-trained minister of the Gospel with their honorary degrees. Meridian Street Church included in its membership men who were strongly influential in the religious life of the community, even as they were foremost in civic and business affairs of state and nation. With them he was always an inspiring leader, a personality to be heard in all their councils. They were proud of his distinction as one of the ten greatest preachers of the time in America. His appointment to represent the Methodist Episcopal Church before the British Wesleyan Conference was equally gratifying.

The long pastorate in Indianapolis was followed by five years of fruitful ministry in First Church, Portland, Ore. Returning east, Hyde Park and Oak Park claimed Dr. and Mrs. Stansfield for a further five years, a fitting climax to a great ministry.

Rock River Conference granted him the retired relation in 1926. The Stansfields came to their charming little estate, "Idlethorpe," on the Saint Clair River, one mile north of the city of Saint Clair, Mich. Here the summers of seven beautiful years were spent, their home being the mecca for

numerous friends of their active ministry. The winters found them happily sojourning with long-time friends in California or Florida. For a brief time Dr. Stansfield was interim pastor at Nardin Park Church, Detroit.

In announcing his tragic death, speaking editorially, a great "daily" of Indianapolis said: "Dr. Stansfield was a fine character in every sense of the word. Broadminded in his views, forceful in pulpit utterances, affable in personal contacts, and having the executive ability that was becoming more essential in leadership of the larger congregations, he approached the ideal minister."

Of striking appearance, of fine pulpit presence, his dark, penetrating, yet kindly eyes flashed the fire of his envisioned soul as he warmed into action. He was never commonplace. In the church of his retirement in St. Clair and on his occasional visits to First Church, Port Huron, he loved to come forward and close the service. It was one of the outstanding elements in his own true greatness that, brilliant preacher as he was, other men could preach to him and kindle his spirit with a holy enthusiasm that proclaimed itself in his exhortations and concluding prayers.

One senses that, great as his service was, it was a shared ministry. It could not have been all it was without the radiant personality of Harriet Thornton Stansfield. Her eager interest in all phases of churchly service; her "at-homeness" at his side in the drawing-rooms of the socially distinguished and cultured and, equally so in the homes of the humble and lowly; her droll humor which kept her guests in a constant outburst of mirth; her tender sympathy; her motherly interest in children and young people never failed.

Dr. and Mrs. Stansfield were altogether lovely in their home life. No impatient word ever escaped them either to other. Among "their last things" was a confession of their devotion to one another. They were lovers for more than fifty years. Life sensed no loss of charm. They were not moving toward the sunset. It was always full-orbed day. Their pilgrimage had known the chastening and, therefore, the refining of sorrow. The far removedness of their children was felt, yet not mourned. Evangelical always in their thinking, confessing assurance of the indwelling of the Spirit of Christ, loved by a host of friends, while their sudden release from "the life that now is" is sincerely mourned, it was fitting that they went out together, not upon a great adventure, but in the assurance of the eternal and abiding.

Funeral services for Mrs. Stansfield were held in First Church, Port Huron, November 11. Dr. John Martin presided, assisted by minister friends of the family. The writer gave the address. Friday, November 17, found the great company reassembled for the funeral of Dr. Stansfield. Dr. Martin again presided; District Superintendent Frank M. Field read the Scriptures; George B. Marsh offered prayer; Hartley Cansfield, life-long friend, and A. B. Woodward of Meridian Street Church, offered tribute; John Thompson hurried from his great work at Chicago Temple, to speak in tender eulogy of his first and dearest friend in America. Side by side Dr. and Mrs. Stansfield rest in Lakeside Cemetery. There is no shadow here. They are forever with their Lord.

GEORGE B. MARSH

ELIZA BRIGGS

On Wednesday morning, September 26, 1934, Mrs. Eliza Briggs, wife of the late Charles A. Briggs, Sr., passed to her final resting place from her residence in Elgin, Ill. Mrs. Briggs had attained the advanced age of almost eighty-four years.

With her husband, Mrs. Briggs came to this country from England in the early years of young womanhood. Although always active in the work of the church it was several years before Mr. Briggs entered the ministry, his first regular work being that of the establishment of the Epworth Methodist Church at Elgin. Mrs. Briggs was a constant companion to her husband during the long years of their service in the ministry. Although to her the home was ever

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and dishonor.
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ere I am, alive.
it not killed.
always glad.
but the means of wealth to many.
enny, but possessed of all. II Cor. 13:10
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SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION

Saginaw, Michigan



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her home with her daughter in Romeo. In early life she was converted and united with the Methodist Church at Pinckney, Livingston County, this membership being transferred to the Romeo Church in 1920. She was the last surviving member of a family of 10 children.

Mrs. Crane was the mother of five children, two of whom survive to mourn her loss, George A. Crane of Detroit; and Mrs. Ella Cuffman, of Romeo; also a grandson, Willard Bernarr Cuffman, of Romeo.

Funeral services were held Saturday from the Swarthout funeral home in Pinckney, Rev. A. T. F. Butt, of Romeo, officiating, assisted by Rev. C. L. Adams and Rev. G. H. Curts of Howell, and Rev. A. T. Camburn of Webberville. Interment was made in Sprout Cemetery at Anderson.

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ALICE B. SHIREY

Alice B. Shirey was born in Odessa, Pa., November 28, 1868, died at Detroit, February 5, 1934. Miss Shirey joined the staff of Central Church in 1901, remaining there for 10 months. In 1906 she returned to her duties there, and since that time has been a worker among the needy and the foreign-born, especially the Chinese.

In 1915 she started a Sunday School Class for the Chinese population. Seven men and women attended the first meeting. The Class grew until 1929, when it became a Mission. It was due mostly to her activities that a Chinese Clergyman is now a member of the staff of Central Church.

Hospitals were another field of her activities and it is largely due to her efforts that the Detroit Tuberculosis Sanatorium was instituted. The funeral was held in Central Church and the body lay in state from 4 to 7, the hour of the service. District Supt. Walter Fruit assisted by Guy Smith and Associate Pastor Ira Black, conducted the services. The pallbearers were former associate pastors of Central. Burial was at Clearfield, Pa.

A. B. JONES

Brother A. B. Jones was a most acceptable supply preacher. Bishop Henderson "discovered" him in one of Detroit's clanging machine shops. Jones was not hard to find, however, for he quickly showed talents in leadership no matter where he might be. He soon became a very acceptable preacher and pastor. His ability to exhort and encourage his listeners was very marked. It was an inspiration to hear him. His enthusiasm and zeal easily became contagious. In his contacts with the youth he soon won them to the way of life. Inspirational efforts were