

MINUTES

OF THE

PHILADELPHIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Convened at Reading, Pa., March 22d, 1854.

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PHILADELPHIA:
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1854.

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them in efforts to raise said amount, equal conference.

may go into immediate operation, the next session, appoint one lay steward requested to meet with the present he close of the conference.

are,—J. Cunningham, Wm. Cooper, Hazard and V. Smith.

appointed from the several districts,

Wilmington. S. Philada. Dist.—Thos. T. James. Wilmington Dist.—William Semmons. Snow Hill Dist.—Dr. R.

Philadelphia Annual Conference.

Following from the Troy Conference, viz: Conference of the M. E. Church, held May 11th, 1853, the following resolutions

Superintendents be requested to present to their approval preparatory to the action the following rule on Slavery, viz: "The Conference except with a view to their emancipation holding them in bondage." Resolved to concur, by a rising and count vote

RESOLUTIONS.

That collections be handed to the Stewards and that the preachers be and are hereby requested to contribute large sums as possible, neatly put up under the name of the appointment and of the district to be appropriated.

That the Conference who may be in charge of circuits be requested to bring to the next Conference, for consideration, the number and circumstances of the preachers, who may reside in their respective circuits, and attention be paid to the number and age of our collections.

That the education of our youth in our seminaries be the object of first importance; and *Whereas*, the education of colleges and some of the churches, the day is usually observed as a day of prayer for colleges, will, as far as practicable, observe and the concert of prayer for colleges.

That by this Conference be taken at the following times, viz: 1. Tract cause in June—2. Bible cause in September—4. Education in October—5. Temperance in February or March—7. Ten minutes of each pastor.

MEMOIR OF REV. LEVI STORKS.

The Rev. Levi Storks was born in Milford, Del., Dec. 11th, 1796. When quite young, his father moved to Salisbury, Md., where he was brought up. He afterwards went to reside in Baltimore, and was there convinced of sin. To use his own words, he was "through the abundant mercy of God, converted Feb. 28th, 1819; sanctified July 23d, 1821, commenced preaching, April, 1824;" and was received on trial in the Philadelphia Conference the same year, and sent to Milford Circuit. He subsequently filled the following appointments:—in 1825-6 he was on Dorchester circuit; 1827-8, Cambridge; 1829, Annapolis; 1830-1, at St. George's Philadelphia; and 1832-3, on Talbot circuit. On Feb. 4th, 1834, he was married to Miss Ann G. Nicholson, a most amiable and pious lady, who lived but a few years after their marriage. He was sent to Port Deposit, circuit, in 1834, where he remained but six months, when, bro. J. Rusling's health failing, he was removed to Wilmington, Del., to assist him.

In 1835, he travelled Queen Anne's circuit; and on its being divided, he was returned to Centreville, a part of his former charge. In 1837-8, he was appointed to Denton circuit; in 1839, to Dover; 1840-1 to Kent; in 1842, at Sanctuary, Philadelphia; 1843, to Cohocksink; in 1844-5, to Easton, Md; 1846, to Elkton; and 1847, to Chester, Pa., where, on the 12th October, he was married to Miss Eliza McKeever, who survives him.

In 1848-9, he was stationed at Mariner's Bethel, Phila. For want of health he became supernumerary in 1850; but in 1851 resumed his labors, and was appointed to Cecil circuit. Thence he was sent in 1852, to North East Circuit, to which he was returned in 1853; and here, after an illness of five days,

"His body with his charge laid down,
And ceased at once to work and live."

On the first of October 1853, he calmly resigned his spirit to his God, and sweetly fell asleep on the bosom of Jesus, in the fifty-seventh year of his age, and thirtieth of his ministry. He was buried at North East, Md.

We know not "what a day may bring forth." On the Sabbath previous to our brother's death, his health appeared to be as good as usual. He preached three times during the day, with undiminished interest.

God, who allows to his servants various forms of trial, that their patience may be perfected, that their graces may be matured, that their example may be rendered more illustrious, had a short time before taken away a dear son; and, on closing his last Sabbath upon earth, the father very pathetically referred to his late bereavement; but while his heart felt so keenly the stroke, in a spirit of profound submission, he exclaimed "it will be but a little while before I shall follow him." These were the last words of public ministration that fell from the lips of this servant of God, whose eventful life was rapidly drawing to a close;—the last expression of a faithful pastor to his beloved flock.

When his system began to fail, and the pains of his body premonished him of the near approach of his dissolution, he said "this sickness is unto death." He remarked to a brother, who visited him "perhaps after a little, I shall not be able to speak, but, tell all who inquire, that

it is well with me." Such was the blessed assurance he left to his companion and his charge, such is the reflection that should animate the hearts of his brethren in the ministry, who for a long series of years, have been accustomed to see him go in and out before them.

Death, to such a man as Levi Storks must necessarily be gain. All the powers of his intellect and heart were consecrated to God. His private life, his social intercourse, his public ministry—were all calculated to impress the conviction, that he had exalted conceptions of Christian dignity and of ministerial responsibility. He was a man of good intellect, a plain, practical, pungent, and occasionally powerful preacher. His manner and matter were both adapted to rouse the conscience and fire the heart. His single care, in every position which he occupied, either in the vigor of health, or when enfeebled by disease, appeared to be the conversion of souls to the Redeemer; and great was his mental anguish, when this object was not attained.

His devotion to his work was honored by the Divine blessing. In nearly every appointment, many were converted through his instrumentality, and wherever he was known, his name was "as ointment poured forth."

"Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord, when he cometh, shall find so doing." To the faithful minister of Christ, there is reserved no ordinary inheritance. His is the brightest crown; his cares, his toils, his sufferings shall not be forgotten.

The privations to which he has submitted, the griefs which he has patiently borne, as well as the services which he has been enabled to render in his generation, shall come into grateful remembrance amid the highest manifestations of the Divine glory in the heavens. "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever."

Bro. Storks has left a devoted wife who, while she sorrows for his death, may be cheered by the hope, and sustained by the power of that religion, which he so efficiently preached to others.