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OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

HELD IN

SALEM METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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MEMOIRS.

Rev. James Edward Graham.

James Edward Graham was born in Dorchester County, Maryland, 1853, and died at his home in Seaford, Delaware, July 15th, 1906. In his childhood he was surrounded by religious influences and quite early professed conversion and united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, Maryland. January 30th, 1879, he was married to Miss Mary Ann, who, with one son and one daughter, both grown, are his survivors. For some years he was engaged in the drug business, but he lived, at the same time taking great interest in the local church as an exhorter and occupying other official positions with great fidelity.

That it was his duty to preach the gospel, he responded cheerfully to the call of the Church, and in September, 1888, he closed out his labors at Church Creek and accepted an appointment under the Presiding Elder's charge of the work at New Church, Virginia. Here he labored to build up the Church, and in the Spring of 1889 was admitted to the Wilmington Conference and returned for another year to New Church. He was appointed to Pocomoke Circuit. In 1891 to Pocomoke Circuit, 1892-93 Burrsville Circuit, 1894-95 Galestown Circuit, 1896-97 to 1898-99 to 1901-2-3 Roxana Circuit. In the spring 1904 Roxana Circuit and Ocean View Circuit was formed, and Brother Graham was appointed to it. Here he entered upon his work with his accustomed energy, but early fall his health began to fail, and upon the advice of his physician he went to the Hospital at Cambridge, Maryland, for treatment. On the 23rd of November he underwent a very delicate operation, and remained in the Hospital until after the close of the last session of Conference. He was removed with his family to Seaford. At the Conference in 1905, in view of his condition, and with the hope that after a year's rest he might resume his loved work, he asked for and was granted a suspension, although suffering greatly at times, and too weak to be much of a pastor, he was always cheerful and spoke in a hopeful way about his future, and his desire to take it up again.

He died greatly in the abiding presence of his Saviour, and never forgot to obscure his vision of the Christ whom he had so long loved. With the apostle he could say "for me to live is Christ." He had a desire to live for his family's sake, and that he might be able to declare the unsearchable riches of the gospel to his brethren, and to be fully ready to depart when the summons came. He was a good man, and "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed." His appeals to the Saviour of men, and the charges he served felt the touch of the Holy Spirit, and earnest appeals, and were lifted into a higher and holier sphere.

Nothing a devoted wife could do for him was left undone. Night after night he called from his sick bed was quickly answered but nothing could be done to save him from the summons. On Saturday morning July 15th, funeral services were held at his home in Seaford, in charge of Rev. W. A. Wise, assisted by Rev. J. L. Johnson and the writer; after which his remains were taken to Church Creek, Md., and interred in the family burial lot.

"Servant of God, well done!
Rest from thy loved employ;
The battle fought, the victory won,
Enter thy Master's joy:
The voice at midnight came;
He started up to hear;
A mortal arrow pierced his frame;
He fell; but yet no fear.

The pains of death are past,
Labor and sorrow cease;
And, life's long warfare closed at last,
His soul is found in peace,
Soldier of Christ, well Done!
Praise be thy new employ!
And while eternal ages run,
Rest in thy Saviour's' joy."

P. H. RAWLINS.

Rev. Robert Washington Todd.

Robert Washington Todd was born near Vernon, Delaware, July 31st, 1831, and died in Baltimore City January 28th, 1906. He was descended from rugged and sturdy and carried through his long life many of the sterling qualities of the conscientious and robust people. Concerning his parents, Nathan and Sarah Todd, he has left this most reverent and touching tribute, in the dedication of his volume on the "Methodism of the Peninsula."

"To the memory of a father, whose life was the embodiment of industry, integrity, temperance, honor and devotion to truth and God; who hated sin; who loved mercy, and whose highest wish for his son was that he might be good and useful. To a mother, refined, modest, beautiful, whose life was a benediction, who made home sweet and attractive, who walked the shining way, and who rebuked the wayward feet of her child; whose memory still blooms fresh and fragrant from a grave, where almost two score years ago fell the tears of a loved boy in his first great sorrow; who now enrobed and crowned, are waiting on the farther shore." Out of the haloing of such a home influence, it is no wonder that there came forth an ardent, high-souled, transparent and noble man.

The school advantages of his native county were, at that early day, very limited, but he quickly mastered what they afforded, and in 1850 entered

Dickinson College; where his natural ability and great hunger for knowledge enabled him to crowd the work of two years into one. Returning home was, for a brief period engaged in teaching in Queen Anne's County.

When about fifteen years of age he was converted at Chilton's Woods meeting, and gave his bright young life at once to the Church, and to preparation for the ministry.

In 1853 he joined the Philadelphia Conference, and was sent as Preacher to Dover Circuit. He records the experience of great fear and trembling with which he entered upon his ministry in that place. He commenced a long and eventful career, which is but poorly and inadequately lined in the following dates and references. In 1854 he was stationed at 1855, Denton; 1856, Kent Island; 1857-8, Camden; 1859, St. George's; 1860, Cambridge. In 1861 severe bronchial trouble obliged him to a supernumerary relation. During those years of residence at Denton, however, busy about his Master's work, superintending Sunday Schools, classes and frequently preaching. In 1864 he was elected a delegate to the memorable Maryland Constitutional Convention; and subsequently was Register of Wills for the county. In 1870 he returned to the effective work and was stationed at Laurel; 1871-2 St. Paul's, Wilmington; 1873, Red Bank; 1874, Felton; 1875-6, Easton, 1877-8, Millington, 1879-82, Pespiding, Dover District; 1883-4, North East; 1885-7, Snow Hill; 1888-9, Chesapeake; 1890-1, Greensboro; 1892, Editor of Conference Herald; 1894, Princess Anne; 1895-98, Agent of the Maryland Bible Society, in which office he accomplished valuable results. Returning once more to the Pastorate in 1899-1900 he was Mt. Pleasant charge. In 1901 he was sent to Hopewell, Cecil County, which proved to be his last appointment. In December 1903, however, he was debility obliged him to resign his work. Very tenderly he speaks of the people among whom he ended his itinerant toils.

"My several flocks have been pleasant and kindly; none more so than that of last. Dear old Hopewell, "So near to the hovering skies above our rocky hills." He removed to Elkton where his presence was a benediction. He finally to Baltimore, where the messenger from Heaven found him ready for flight, on that tranquil Sabbath eve. Lingered behind him in great love are his devoted widow, Mrs. Alice Crawford Todd with four daughters, William Davis, Mrs. William McCune, Mrs. George W. McCormick and Mrs. Mary C. Todd; and three sons, Robert M., Prof. John W. and Dr. George Todd who were devoted to him in life, and who now reverence and honor his memory. Brother Todd was a man of marked and impressive personality. He had had endowed him with that gracious combination of qualities which give an honored place and a warm welcome among men. He had the genuine friendship, and moved among his associates with a wealth of affection and frankness of conduct, and a courtliness of bearing which won all hearts. He was a rare conversationalist, sunny, affable and informing; a counselor of wise ability to advise, and a strong, true soul, that dwelled "above the clouds" in clear integrity of purpose. He had also remarkable capacity for work.

physical disabilities which attended him throughout his entire life, says, sadly, "I have been handicapped by feebleness, and compelled through my itinerant course against high head winds and sweeping seas." Spite of it all, he was a busy man, who took into his heart the duties of the hour wrought at them with a large conscience and a hero's and yet, like many another stalwart character, he also carried about with him a perennial humor, which played on the surface of his life, to his restfulness and relieve its tension. His genius was versatile. He knew how to do many things well. He was poet, historian, logician and emotional yet practical; idealist, yet able to plod, and do the little duties with diligence. Indeed "The elements were so mixed that Nature might stand up and say to all the world, "This was a man." In many years he was active and prominent in the business of the Conference. He loved our Methodism, had radical convictions as to her true character and was not afraid to avow them in the arena of Conference debate. He was a leader of the faith, naturally came to positions of responsibility. His appointments he proved himself zealous, progressive and successful. As a Presiding Elder he was genial, judicial and unselfish. As a member of the Board of Stewards, as a leading spirit in our Historical Society and in his official relations, he was a wise burden-bearer, and an inspiration to his brethren.

He was twice elected Reserve Delegate to the General Conference, and was elected with Degree of Doctor of Divinity from Dickinson College.

At the Wilmington Conference Academy had its real birth in a resolution passed by him in the Peninsula Methodist Convention held in Smyrna in 1870; and in 1871 he had the honor of being elected to a Committee to consider ways and means, and to propose propositions for the location of a first class Academy. After the session of the Institution, he served for years as one of its Trustees, and rendered essential aid in its many struggles.

Brother Todd was a member of the Constitutional Convention of Maryland, in the dark days of 1864, he threw himself with splendid courage into the proposal to reorganize our educational system, and also to give emancipation to the slaves of the State. The history of that epoch-making session, will show that his name was marked in the securing of those results. Truly, with all his faults, he may be said, that "He served his generation."

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hidden significance of his texts; with pen in hand, carefully constructing his discourse, and writing and rewriting with tireless industry, that each sentence and climax might win men for his Lord. In the pulpit he was fluent, fervent, succinct and magnetic. He had his raptures, when his soul took fire and expressed itself in remarkable strains of pathos and rhetoric. Extensive revivals attended his ministry. Especially in sermon power at Camp meetings his message swept over men like a trumpet blast from the skies. Many yet remain, who never forget the authority and urgency of his pleading. And there are members of this Conference, who will cherish him in grateful memory as having led them to the Sinners' Friend.

A most effective adjunct to his ministerial efficiency was his power of song. God had given him a voice of mellow and persuasive tone. And he sang the Gospel through all the years of his life; sung it over penitents; sung it in the bosom of his family; sung it in his strength, and in his brokenness. No strange land of captivity ever found him with his harp unstrung. It was his weapon against trials and tears. He fought his tribulations with a Doxology. He sung on into the night and stirred "the valley and the shadow" with his melodies unto the Lord. He is singing yet, in "the Choir Invisible."

The old life long sparkle and sprightliness followed him into the months of his increasing weakness. No complaint or word of bitterness fell from his lips. He was more than patient. He was heroic, and superior, through grace, to all his ills. Although "halting like Jacob upon his staff," he smiled to see the breaking of the bough; "Knowing he had wings."

During those shut in days, he clung more fondly than ever to his Bible. Visitors found him almost constantly pouring over its treasures and reveling in its promises and prospects. He seemed to walk in intimate companionship with its great writers. It will be remembered that the last prose contribution he made to the "Peninsula Methodist" was an article entitled "On Pauline Heights," in which he dwelled on such lofty themes as "the fellowship of the mystery" and "the unsearchable riches of Christ," and said "I do not expect or desire to understand all the problems of God's religion in this present state of existence. I shall die in my alphabet. But I want to spend eternity in the investigation of the glorious mysteries of Atoning love." In such high fellowship he came to his "evening and sunset star." There was no agony, no violence of departure. In the hush of that Sabbath night, he fell asleep with the peace of God upon him. Impressive funeral services were held at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Wm. J. Davis, at Federalsburg, Md., in charge of Rev. Theodore F. Beauchamp. Addresses were made by Dr. Watt and the writer, after which, with the smile still on his face we laid him to rest on the brow of the hill nearby.

So drop the soldiers from the ranks of the King's army. But there is reunion beyond.

"On the earth the broken arcs,
"In the heaven the perfect round."

T. E. MARTINDALE

Pauline Lank P
Pauline Lank was born in
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T. E. MARTINDALE.

Mrs. Fannie Lank Prettyman.

Fannie Lank Prettyman, daughter of Captain Levin Lank, Jr., and Jennie Lank, was born at Seaford, Delaware, January 15, 1838, and died at Lincoln, Delaware, April 17, 1905.

She was married January 17, 1858, by the Reverend Jacob Nicholson, of the Methodist Protestant Church, to the Reverend John W. Prettyman, who was then engaged in business in Laurel, Delaware.

Though a model young woman in every other respect she was not content until after she was married; but it would seem that the taking upon herself the responsibilities incumbent upon the founding of a home, impressed her that she needed help from above, for in just one month after her marriage she was sweetly converted at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Laurel, during a revival under the pastorate of the Rev. J. O. Sypberd.

After some years, business relations made it necessary for them to move to Georgetown, Delaware, and it was while living there, that the divine call to the ministry came to her husband. Though they now had three children, although she knew this meant several years of preparation for her husband, during which time the major part of the career of the home and the children would fall on her; yet she was never the one to enter a word of protest, but was perfectly willing to sacrifice business and home and all thought of self, if it would be for the good of the cause of Him whose she now was, and whom she served.

Her religious life was not as demonstrative as that of some others, but it was not the less true. She had a deep, abiding faith in God, and a personal experience in the love of Christ. She loved her bible and believed its teachings, as is evidenced by a much marked copy, which was distinctly her own, and which she has left as a treasure to her husband and children.

She loved her children; they were the first of all her earthly cares. She had high ideals for them and sought in every way to entwine into their lives the blessed truths and precepts which she found in the precious word.

She was naturally of a sunny, cheerful disposition. No cloud could hover around her pathway; and so truly did she let her light shine that not only was she helpful to her own immediate family, but any parishioner who came to her in time of trouble, went away feeling that he had been in the presence of one who had been to Christ and had learned of Him.

But two weeks had she been in her new home at Lincoln when the summons came from above, but even this was long enough to cause the hearts of all those whom she had met to turn, as instinctively to her as the flowers turn to the sun.

She had been troubled for more than a year with her eyes and on Saturday, April 15th suffered a paralytic stroke which was the immediate cause of her death two days later. The end was peaceful though she never spoke after she was stricken.

She left a husband and five children, Katharine, Vance, Lank, Marguerite