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MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION

OF THE

INDIANA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

HELD AT

LINTON, INDIANA,

SEPTEMBER 20-25, 1905.

(BRING THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED INDIANA AND
SOUTHEAST INDIANA CONFERENCES.)

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active service in the ministry. He then retired to a small farm near the city of Madison, where he continued to reside till his death. On the 15th of December last he had a stroke of paralysis, from which he never recovered. As a preacher he was thoughtful and instructive, and at times rose to unusual heights of eloquence and persuasiveness. He had a taste for studies in philosophy, and was an authority in the theology and history of his Church. As a writer he was forceful and convincing, and his productions were widely published and read. He served the Church through a long life in a variety of prominent and responsible positions, and in all he exhibited abilities and virtues that commanded the confidence and respect of his brethren, and now, that he has gone hence, awaken the chord of sorrow in many hearts. The wife of his youth died at Logoootee in 1874, leaving him the care of several small children. Four years later he was married to Mrs. Susan E. Mathews, of Cincinnati, Ohio, who survives him.

He died in great peace.

REV. ISAAC TURNER.

(Read by W. W. Snyder.)

Rev. Isaac Turner was born August 4, 1830, in Lancashire, England, and entered the heavenly rest February 22, 1905, at North Madison, Indiana. He was converted while yet a lad of fourteen years of age, and united with



REV. ISAAC TURNER.

the Wesleyan Methodist Church. He at once became a zealous worker in the Master's vineyard, and so commended himself to the Church that at the early age of eighteen he was recognized by that conservative body as a licentiate in the rank of Church workers. He was married to Miss Alice Kenyon, August 3, 1853. He with his youthful bride came to the United States in 1854, and reached Lawrenceburg, Indiana, in June of that year. He at once identified himself with the Church, and continued his activity, and was a successful distributor of the publications of the American Bible Society. On April 28, 1855, he was duly licensed as a local preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Church by the Lawrenceburg Quarterly Confer-

ence, and at once appointed by the Presiding Elder, Rev. F. C. Holliday, to fill a vacancy on the Logan Circuit. In September, 1855, he was admitted into the Southeast Indiana Conference, and continued on the Logan Circuit. Henceforward his appointments were: 1856, Wilmington; 1857 he was or-

dained deacon by Bishop T. A. Morris; from this Conference he was sent (1857) to Lexington; 1858-59, Smyrna; 1860-61, Hartford; 1862-63, Dillsboro; 1864-65, Utica; 1866, Belleview; 1867-68, Wilmington; 1869-70, Hartford; 1871-72, Canaan; 1873-74, Delaware; 1875, Mt. Sterling; 1876, Sugar Branch; 1877-78, Moorfield; 1879, Clarksburg; 1880, Abington; 1881, Fairfield; 1882, Wilmington; 1883-84, Henryville; 1885-87, Nineveh; 1888-89, Paris. While on this work the greatest of domestic sorrows came to his home, the decease of the estimable wife of his youth, the mother of his children, the fitting helpmeet in his strenuous work, February 6, 1890. She was taken to Lawrence for interment. In 1890 his appointment was at Crothersville; 1891-93, Taylorsville; 1894-95, Sardinia; 1896, Francisco; 1897-98, Wilmington. This including part of a year as a supply, is forty-five successive years he gave to his high calling as a minister of the gospel. It is a rare occurrence that a Methodist preacher is returned the second time to the same pastoral charge as was Brother Turner more than once. It is more rare, and so far as we know, unprecedented that he should be returned the third and fourth time to same field of labor as was done in the case of Isaac Turner. At the close of his forty-fifth year in the effective rank, his physical strength gave way, and at his own request was granted a superannuated relation. In the later years of his activity he took to himself another wife, in the person of Mrs. Maria Bowman, an intelligent Christian lady, whose filial attentions to him in his declining years and last protracted sickness is highly commendable. Brother Turner was an all-round, genuine type of a genuine plain Methodist preacher. His success makes a record that any Methodist pastor might be happy to duplicate. Under his ministry 4,300 were added to the membership of the Church. He excelled all the members of his Conference in the distribution of the publications of the Methodist Book Concern. He gave due attention to every interest of the Church. "The ruling passion was strong in death." In his delirium his ardent spirit appeared before an audience, and he made an earnest appeal for a good missionary collection. He did not have the advantage of a classical training—was not educated for the ministry, but in the ministry. Learned in the Scriptures and mighty in deeds. The home of Brother Turner was gladdened by two children—a son and a daughter. Next to their God the parents were devoted to their training and education, and by managing their affairs with discretion succeeded in the realization of their fondest hopes. By the failure of a heavy borrower, he met with a reverse that would have crushed the spirit of an average man, but it only gave new vigor to Isaac Turner. The patience and self-denial of the good parents have been happily rewarded. The daughter, now deceased, became the wife of Rev. M. A. Farr; the son, Rev. J. W. Turner, D. D., is Presiding Elder on the Evansville District.

It is a noteworthy historic incident that while Isaac Turner's father was a lad, John Wesley preached in their home residence at 5.30 A. M., as was his custom, and Rev. J. W. Turner has in his possession the candlestick that held the taper that gave the light by which Mr. Wesley read his hymns; and lessons on that memorable occasion. It is cherished as a sacred souvenir. It was a mutual gratification, coveted alike by father and son, that the son, with his wife, were present during the closing days of the earthly sojourn.

Not seeing the son at the moment, his last lucid words were, "Tell Wesley I am safe!" A few minutes later, on Washington's Birthday, at ten o'clock P. M., he

"Dropped off the darkling fillet of clay from his sight,
And opened his eyes upon glory ineffably bright."

REV. JOHN H. BROWN.

(Read by S. W. Shelton.)

Rev. John Henry Brown was born near Scottsville, Kentucky, November 14, 1860, and went to his reward from Lynnville, Indiana, March 3, 1905. He joined the Methodist Episcopal Church at the age of seventeen; was married to Miss Rosetta Alexander in 1881. He was licensed to preach in 1885, and joined the Central Tennessee Conference in 1886.

His life was full of healthy excitement, holy emotion, strenuous effort, and glorious success. He lived not in vain. He was not a great scholar, but his limited education was completely supplemented by the Divine unction. He "tarried at Jerusalem" until he was imbued with power and wisdom from on high. He was a soul-winner; his preaching was always tender, persuasive, and inspirational; his religious nature was so thoroughly developed that doubt and unbelief could find no place in his being.

He filled successfully and with acceptability the following appointments: Bloomington, in the Tennessee Conference, in connection with school work, two years; then in succession as a member of the Kentucky Conference, Scottsville, four years; Beaver Dam, three years; Hardinsburg, one year; Arlington, one year; Onton, two years. In September, 1904, he was transferred to the Indiana Conference and appointed to Lynnville. Here he entered upon his labors with the same zeal that characterized his work in other fields, preaching three times every Sunday. His labors in protracted meetings overtaxed his strength, and he fell a victim to disease that soon ended his earthly existence. He passed from the scenes of his earthly toils to enjoy "the rest that remains for the people of God" in heaven.

REV. JOSEPH COTTON, D. D.

(Read by J. W. Dashiell.)

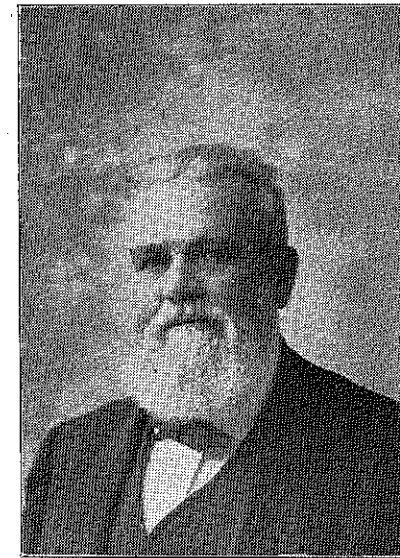
The subject of this sketch was born in Hamilton County, Ohio, January 8, 1821, and died in Moores Hill, Indiana, April 5, 1905. When five years old he moved with his parents to Shelby County, Indiana. His early education, begun in the common schools of the county in which he lived, was supplemented by an academic training under the tutorage of a Mr. Jesse Remington. By systematic and diligent study and lifelong application, he became a man of wide and varied culture. In 1842 he went to Missouri and began teaching in the common schools. Being providentially thrown among the people called Methodists, he was, in one of their great revivals, on March 16, 1843, soundly converted. The fire kindled on the altar of his heart retained its ruddy glow to the last. Even down to old age, when confined to his

home, at the news of a revival his soul would kindle and his face flame with sacred joy. His gifts, grace, and usefulness were quickly recognized by the people with whom he united, and on July 1, 1843, he was licensed to exhort. Four weeks later he was licensed to preach, and in the following October he was admitted into the Missouri Conference. For nine years he filled important appointments in that Conference. His parchments show that in 1845 he was ordained a deacon in the Methodist Episcopal Church of the U. S. A. by Bishop Soule, and an elder in 1847 in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, by Bishop William Capers. Some time between these two ordinations the separation of the Church was fully consummated. Seeing the impending crisis of the nation and being an ardent anti slavery man, he located in 1852, and returned to Indiana. On October 11, 1852, he was admitted on trial and became a charter member in the Southeast Indiana Conference, and gave thirty-six years to the effective ministry, making forty-five years of ministerial service. His appointments in order were: St. John's, Madison; Connersville, Aurora, Asbury, now Fletcher Place, Indianapolis; Greensburg, Franklin, Columbus, Connersville, Rising Sun, agent for Moores Hill College, Delaware, Moores Hill, Rushville, Columbus, Seymour, Moores Hill, Southport, Mapleton, and Charlestown.

In April, 1861, he was in his pulpit in Columbus, ready to preach, when the news from Fort Sumter was brought in, and it was seen that war had actually begun. He immediately delivered a stirring war speech, and announced his purpose to go at the country's call. Indiana's famous war governor, Oliver P. Morton, offered him the chaplaincy of the Thirteenth Indiana, which he promptly accepted, and went with his regiment to the Virginia battlefields. His term of service ended, he at once re-entered the pastorate.

Brother Cotton was pre-eminently an evangelistic preacher, and revival fires were kindled everywhere he went. The warmth and power of those meetings have given a setting and a permanency to Methodism in the charges that were favored with his ministry. Perhaps his greatest revival was in Greensburg, in 1858, where over four hundred were converted.

Brother Cotton was married first to Miss Elizabeth Prichard, in Glasgow, Missouri, in 1846. The young wife and only child, a daughter, died in



REV. JOSEPH COTTON, D. D.