

MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

OF THE

Florida Annual Conference

OF THE

Methodist Episcopal Church, South,

HELD AT

MONTICELLO, FLA.,

January 7th--12th, 1891.

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BANNER STEAM PRINTING HOUSE, OCALA, FLA.

MEMOIRS.

S. E. PELOT.

born in Columbia County, Fla., March 1841, died at Key West, Fla., March 1890. The son of a farmer, he was converted to God in childhood, and spent the first years of his life in the service of army life—for he was a soldier—maintained his Christian principles before joining the Conference in 1861, and labored faithfully and acceptably and laboring faithfully.

After a hard struggle, he presented himself to the Conference in 1861, giving himself fully to the itinerancy, with complete commitment and a hearty assent to the plans, requirements and doctrines. In January, 1877, he with several others of the class, including his wife, was ordained deacon by Bishop Doxey, 1878; and elder, by Bishop Doxey, at Ft. Mason Mission in 1877, Ft. Myers, was sent to Alafia Circuit in 1878, and to Key West in 1882 and Ft. Meade Circuit in 1883. He was pastor at Orlando, at Tampa, 1889, and received his last earthly blessing at Key West, in 1890. At most successful in reviving the Church, and laying good foundations at Orlando, he was blessed with a large family, and was instrumental in the erection of churches at Bartow and Orlando, and served as faithful administrator of discipline, kind to the erring, with unswerving fidelity to the laws of the Church. He "knew" the discharge of this delicate duty. His illness. He recognized the enmity and hostility of the world to Christ, and was fearless both in discharge of duty. Brother Pelot had a strong faith, realizing the power of the atonement, and was true to the uttermost. He was a man of the doctrines, polity and interests deep. In great feebleness just ended the annual meeting of the Conference, of which Board he was a member, and he gave and worked for its

at Key West, that it would be his last. In the face of feebleness and pain, with an unwavering faith he met the last

enemy. When reason itself seemed dethroned, he said: "Whatever else I may not now know, of this I am sure—my religion." "Tell the brethren," said he, "not to be anxious about where they may be sent; I would rather go on God's choice to the poorest Mission in the Florida Conference than select for myself its best work." It was well with him; he died in the faith.

H. E. PARTRIDGE.

Chairman Committee.

R. M. TYDINGS.

Richard McKendree Tydings was born in Pittsburg, Pa., July 1st, 1823. When he was but a child his father moved to Kentucky, where for years he was Methodist itinerant. In young manhood Brother Tydings was converted to God and joined the Church. In 1844 he was licensed to preach, and soon thereafter joined the Louisville Conference. In 1850 he was transferred to the Florida Conference, where for twenty-one years he labored faithfully and well in circuit, station and district work in almost every section of the State. In 1872 he transferred west, and for several years served the Church in Arkansas; but in 1880 returned to Florida, the scene of his earlier labors and successes, and among the brethren whom he so dearly loved. At the close of 1866, he took a superannuated relation, but even then, though feeble in body, did much work for the Master. Brother Tydings was a man of gentle disposition and sweet spirit. Love was the characterizing feature of his religious experience—love which enabled him to take hard appointments, bear privations, suffer hardship; love which was unsuspecting, unselfish, gentle. He was as gentle as a woman, yet brave and patient as a martyr. Brother Tydings was well acquainted with our theology, and heartily embraced and faithfully preached its teachings, exemplifying them in his life. In his declining years, his devotion to Christ and the Church suffered its crucial test when called upon to give his lovely daughter Ellie, his oldest born, to the foreign mission work in Mexico. But freely he sent her forth to her Divinely appointed work, as he himself had gone in young manhood, since for him to live was Christ, to die was gain. To the true wife who had faithfully and patiently borne with him the burdens of life, he sweetly spoke of the rest Heaven would give him. He fell asleep December 27th, 1890. Such characters and lives may not be satisfactorily portrayed with pen: they shine best in the lives where they have stamped their impress. And God has them written in His Book; there they will never die. The face and presence of our saintly Tydings are no more among us, but beam in the light of Heaven's eternal day, where may we see them, when we behold the King in his beauty!

H. E. PARTRIDGE.