

P.E	Woodford's.....	4
E	Auburn.....	2
E	South Elliot.....	2
E	East Wilton.....	2
E	Portland.....	3
E	Elliot.....	1
E	Biddeford.....	3
E	Gardiner.....	3
E	West Baldwin.....	St.
E	Ogunquit.....	1
E	Bolster's Mills.....	St.
E	Lewiston.....	1
E	Cape Elizabeth Depot.....	St.
D	Durham.....	2
E	Waterville.....	3
P.F.	Hallowell.....	3
E	Presque Isle.....	Sy.
E	Bowdoinham.....	2
E	Saugus, Mass.....	St.
E	Saco.....	1
E	Denmark.....	Sy.
E	South Auburn.....	St.
E	Brunswick.....	St.
E	Kent's Hill.....	18
E	Kent's Hill.....	3
E	Cape Elizabeth Depot.....	2
E	Alfred.....	1
E	Portland.....	Sy.
D	Richmond.....	2
E	Naples.....	2
E	Keenebnk Depot.....	1
E	Springfield, Mass.....	1
D	Fayette.....	1
E	Bath.....	1
E	Danville Junction.....	2
E	York.....	St.
E	North Pownal.....	St.
E	Gray.....	St.
E	Kent's Hill.....	St.
D	Brunswick.....	Sy.
E	Monmouth.....	1
E	Farmington.....	St.
E	Portland.....	3
E	Boston, Mass.....	St.
E	Brunswick.....	5
E	North Conway, N. H.....	St.
E	Fayette.....	3
E	South Paris.....	Sy.
D	Lisbon.....	St.
E	Augusta.....	2
E	York.....	3
E	North Berwick.....	1
E	Woodford's.....	St.
E	Gorham, N. H.....	Sy.
E	Kent's Hill.....	1
E	East North Yarmouth.....	32
M	Goodwin's Mills.....	1
E	2
E	Chebeagne.....	St.
E	Gorham.....	2
E	2
E	Mt. Vernon.....	Sy.
E	Conway, N. H.....	1
E	Ferry Village.....	1
E	Monmouth.....	3
E	Newfield.....	2
E	Scarboro'.....	1
E	Evanston, Ill.....	1

ROBATIONERS.	YRS. OF APPOINTMENT.
Middletown, Conn.....	1
South Paris.....	1
Japan.....	2
Berwick.....	2
Woodfords.....	1
East Poland.....	1

MINUTES

OF THE
FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION

OF THE
Maine Annual Conference,

OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

HELD AT PORTLAND,

APRIL 27—MAY 2, 1881.

PUBLISHED ANNUALLY BY ORDER OF THE CONFERENCE.

BOSTON:
 JAMES P. MAGEE, NO. 38 BROMFIELD ST.,
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 JAMES S. STAPLES, PRINTER, TRANSCRIPT JOB OFFICE, PORTLAND.
 1881.

ge and Divorce presented the following report which

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE.

Divorce is becoming alarmingly prevalent, and that for both unscriptural and unnatural—and at our ministers and people should heartily discountenance and example—and

presented to our recent State Legislature, praying for more matter failed to receive a passage—and opinion that an effort should be made to give sacred-marriage vow—therefore

even it to be unscriptural and unchristian to solemnize both of the contracting parties have been divorced, except commandment. Presiding elders be requested not to employ as a supply forced except for the cause specified by our Divine Mas-

appoint a committee to take action with our sister churches a reform in our laws as shall bring them into conforming, being positive that such reform is imperatively interests of humanity, pure morals and our holy religion. J. Colby were appointed a committee for that purpose. Conference reported as follows, and the report was adopted :

TEMPERANCE.

formed as we contemplate the ravages of intemperance. murders committed can be laid at rum's door. Fifty of our land comes from strong drink. Seventy-five per cent while crazed by drink, and 96 per cent of all the of the land swarm from drunken homes. It costs for us, 80,000 ministers, all public schools and colleges, all work in the United States, and the support of the national hundred millions a year.

shops, 400,000 liquor sellers, over 300,000 criminals, 800, nearly 70,000 drunkard's funerals, and to maintain the ties, &c., more than one billion a year.

support the drink traffic as it does to pay all the preachers, colleges, and our general government, the former cost five hundred millions a year.

this waste of money and health and life? The church able, for the Master has said to His church, ye are the salt of the earth.

the church shall do her whole duty against all that in world will be filled with the salvation of temperance.

of drunkard's graves who would not have come to this of tobacco—therefore

of tobacco is a crime against ourselves and a sin against

ministers of the gospel of Christ and of the Methodist E. in the Sabbath School, the family and in the pulpit in perance.

Resolved, 4. That we rejoice in the efforts of the National Temperance Society and Publication House to supply a pure literature on all phases of the temperance question, and commend their books, tracts and papers to our people and the public generally.

Mark Trafton, D. D., of the New England Conference was introduced and addressed the Conference.

David W. LeLacheur, Ira G. Sprague and John Collins were elected delegates to the National Temperance Convention at Saratoga.

The Committee on Freedmen's Aid presented the following, report which was adopted :

FREEDMEN'S AID.

As a Conference we rejoice in the success of the Freedmen's Aid Society ; that during the last year the society has received more money than during any other previous year, and more than \$15,000 in excess of last year; also more preachers and teachers have been sent out from the various schools to enlighten the masses which are in ignorance and sin than during any previous year. But more money is needed and more preachers and teachers are needed to carry on this work with the success it merits, that of lifting up into intelligent christianity a race that has been by us so basely downtrodden.

The ballot has been given this people, and if we would have them vote intelligently and for the general good, the church should see to it that they are educated and christianized.

The souls of this race are worth just as much as those of India, China or Japan, and while we ought not to love the heathen less than we do, we ought to love the Freedmen more.

In view of the great importance of this work and the needs of the society in order to prosecute it vigorously—therefore

Resolved, That we as pastors inform our congregations on this subject as we do on that of foreign missions, seek to get them interested in it and urge them to give of their wealth for the support of the work.

The Committee on Church Extension presented a report which was laid on the table, in order to take up the order of the day, which was the memorial service.

Parker Jaques was called to the chair to preside at this service. He announced the death during the past year of Stephen M. Vail and Benjamin Lufkin, members of the Conference, and Mrs. Henry Butler, Mrs. B. Lakin, Mrs. John Allen and Mrs. Farrington, wives of members, present or past.

C. C. Cone, announced the 991st hymn which was sung, and led the Conference in prayer.

Stephen Allen read the memoir of Stephen M. Vail, and B. F. Tefft, D. D., and Mark Trafton, D. D., spoke appreciatively and eloquently of the intellectual ability and exceptional moral worth of Dr. Vail.

STEPHEN MOUNTFORT VAIL was born in Union Vale, Dutchess County, New York, Jan. 15, 1816, and died Nov. 26, in Jersey City, at the residence of his son-in-law, Rev. Richard Harcourt.

At the age of fourteen Bro. Vail commenced his studies at Cazenovia Seminary N. York, where he was converted.

In the fall of 1834, he entered Bowdoin College and graduated with high rank in the class of 1838. He also graduated at the Union Theological Seminary, N. York

City in 1842. He was distinguished during his student life by correct deportment, manly character, close application to study and scholarly ability, excellence in language and especially Hebrew. After completing his studies he immediately joined the N. York Conference and was stationed successively at Fishkill, N. Y., two years, Sharon, Conn., two years, and at Pine Plains, one year.

He was two years Principal of Pennington Seminary, N. Jersey, and from 1849 to 1868, he was Professor of Hebrew in the Biblical Institute at Concord, N. H.

He was transferred to the Maine Conference while connected with the Biblical Institute and remained an honored and beloved member of this body, till transferred to the church above.

The nineteen years of service at Concord, were years of indefatigable labor. He threw his whole soul into the work upon his hands, combatting with persistent zeal and forcible logic the wide spread prejudice, at that time prevailing in our church against *theological schools*, and he lived to witness the triumph of the cause he advocated.

During this nineteen years of hard work he published several volumes and numerous articles for the Quarterly Review and other periodicals, all characterized by scholarly ability and indicating thorough research.

His "Ministerial Education," "Bible against Slavery" and "Hebrew Grammar" are sufficient to establish his reputation as a thorough and able writer.

He was honored by his Alma Mater with the title of D. D.

His naturally vigorous constitution gave way under these exhausting labors, and he was compelled to resign his office as Professor, and retire to his home at Staten Island.

In 1869 he was appointed Consul to Bavaria, where he remained five years, availing himself of the opportunity to extend his travels to Italy, Greece, Egypt and Palestine.

Returning to his home he remained in comparative retirement, though continuing his literary labors and preaching without salary as his strength and opportunity allowed, to the last.

About one year ago he had an attack of pneumonia, which greatly prostrated him and impressed him with an apprehension that the close of his life was near—until on the 16th of November last, he calmly and trustfully fell asleep in Jesus.

Thus closed a noble, faithful and earnest christian life, characterized by strictest integrity, an honor to our Conference and to the church.

Kinsman Atkinson read the memoir of Benj. Lufkin, and Charles Munger, D. B. Randall and Eaton Shaw followed with remarks expressing the love and esteem in which Bro. Lufkin was held by the speakers, the Conference and all who knew him.

REV. BENJAMIN LUFKIN, of the Maine Annual Conference, departed this life in Cape Elizabeth, Sept. 17, 1880.

Bro. Lufkin joined Conference at its session at Kent's Hill, in 1840, was admitted into full connection at Bath in 1843, and ordained Deacon by Bishop Hedding, and in 1848, was ordained Elder, by the same Bishop at Portland. His first appointment was at Pembroke in 1840, and his last at Leeds in 1871.

Thus for thirty-one consecutive years of effective service, he uncomplainingly received his appointments in the Maine Conference. In 1872, when no longer able to

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endure the toil and care of an itinerant Methodist minister, he superannuated, and in that relation, continued a beloved member of this Conference until the Master called him up higher. He was among the most devout and holy men of the Maine Conference; and during the last years of his life, his presence at the sessions of this body was indeed a benison. Our brother passed away in great peace, in the fortieth year of his ministry, and in the seventy-eighth year of his life.

On motion of S. F. Wetherbee the memoirs were adopted.

The Bishop resumed the chair.

The committee on the case of O. M. Cousens reported through Daniel B. Randall, the chairman, that in view of charges against him that are sustained, he Oliver M. Cousens, is expelled from the ministry and membership of the Meth. Epis. Church.

Wilbur F. Berry was continued on trial.

Rev. Mr. Dalton, of the St. Stephen's Episcopal church, Portland, was introduced and addressed the conference in the interest of the Maine Bible Society.

AFTERNOON.

Every part of the house was filled at 2 o'clock to listen to a sermon by C. B. Pitblado, a former pastor of the church in which the Conference was held. Kinsman Atkinson conducted the introductory service. Mr. Pitblado took for his text Psalm 72: 17, and preached an impressive sermon on the fame of Jesus Christ, showing that that fame rests on first, the fullness of his nature; second, the grandeur of his achievements; third, the originality of his purposes; fourth, the boundlessness of his benedictions; fifth, the growth of his influence.

At the conclusion of this service the annual meeting of the Preacher's Aid Society was held. The President, Joseph Colby, called the meeting to order, and A. Hatch led in prayer.

Roscoe Sanderson was appointed Secretary.

The Treasurer, C. J. Clark, reported the amount of invested fund \$2,720 cash on hand for distribution to conference claimants, \$367.20.

SUNDAY.

The church was filled at 9 A. M., when the usual conference love feast was held. Parker Jaques conducted the exercises. The 780th hymn was announced and sung by the congregation under the leadership of Chaplain McCabe. Charles C. Mason offered prayer. Bread and water were passed by the Stewards of the church and the meeting was opened for song and testimony. One hundred and twenty ministers and members gave expression to their love for Christ and their abiding sense of his presence and favor, and those who could not speak for lack of time, joined heartily in the songs which expressed the same experience.

At 10.30 the Bishop appeared. He announced the 248th hymn, and offered prayer. Dr. C. C. McCabe read the 939th hymn. The usual annual collection for the benefit of the superannuated preachers was taken, amounting to about \$60.

Bishop Peck then announced as his text, Hebrews 12: 27—"That those things that cannot be shaken may remain," and preached an eloquent and powerful sermon. The hearty responses that were elicited from the congregation bore testimony to the effectiveness of the discourse and their appreciation of the great truths that were uttered. At the conclusion of the sermon Elwin W. Simons was ordained a deacon.