

CONFERENCE SESSIONS.

BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE.

PLACE.	PRESEING BISHOP.	SECRETARY.
W. Arsenal Street	Waugh	Wm. Ward Ninde
	Hedding	Jesse T. Peck
	Morris	Wm. Ward Ninde
	Hedding	Jesse T. Peck
	Roberts	
	Soule	Wm. S. Bowdish
W. Arsenal Street	Hedding	Geo. G. Hapgood
E. First Church	Waugh	Wm. Ward Ninde
1	Hamline	Geo. G. Hapgood
ville	Hedding	Gardner Baker
	Janes	Hiram Mattison
	Morris	
	Janes	Gardner Baker
	Hedding	
	Waugh	Hiram Mattison
First Church	Janes	"
urg	Morris	"
W. State Street	Simpson	"
	Morris	Peter D. Gorrie
rt	Janes	"
E. First Church	Waugh	Isaac S. Bingham
	Baker	"
	Ames	"
First Church	Scott	John B. Foote
	Simpson	"
	Baker	"
East Church	Ames	"
W. Arsenal Street	Janes	"
	Baker	"
	Kingsley	"
	Ames	Isaac S. Bingham
First Church	Janes	"
	Simpson	"
W. State Street	Clark	"
urg	Ames	"
	Janes	"

NEW YORK CONFERENCE.

First Church	Peck	Sidney O. Barnes
	Foster	"
	Scott	"
	Andrews	"
W. Arsenal Street	Bowman	"
First Church	Haven	"
	Harris	"
	Peck	"
First Church	Foster	Samuel Call
	Andrews	"
W. State Street	Wiley	"
First Church	Harris	Melville R. Webster
urg	Warren	"
	Merrill	"
	Foss	"
First Church	Foster	"
	Ninde	"
Trinity	Newman	"
W. Arsenal Street	Hurst	"
st Church	Bowman	James B. Kenyon
Centenary	FitzGerald	Charles C. Townsend
urg	Goodsell	"
	Mallalieu	"
First Church	Joyce	"

SUMMARY.

Oswego—First Church, 1851, 1881, 1896
 Trinity, (East,) 1862, 1890.
 Potsdam—1837, 1844, 1857, 1865, 1876.
 Pulaski—1840, 1861.
 Rome—First Church, 1841, 1850, 1860, 1878,
 1888.
 Syracuse—First Church, 1843, 1856, 1867.
 Turin—1839.
 Utica—First Church, 1873, 1884, 1892.
 Watertown—Arsenal Street, 1836, 1842,
 1863, 1877, 1891, State Street, 1853, 1869,
 1883.
 Weedsport—1855.

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

NORTHERN NEW YORK

CONFERENCE,

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

And Sixty-Second as Legal Successor to the

BLACK RIVER ANNUAL CONFERENCE,

HELD IN

WATERTOWN, N. Y., APRIL 14-19, 1897.

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an autobiographical sketch of his early life, in influences surrounding his childhood, he says: "The parents were not in vain. That God who is faithful blessed their united efforts, and favored me with his spirit very early in life. I grew up to respect and reverence for, or desire to engage in, those sinful pleasures that are so destructive to the young. I thank God for those restraining influences that were present in the home circle."

He was moved on the subject of religion during his nineteenth year, in a revival meeting held in his presence with God through faith in his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ," he says, "I began to feel that I had an impression that the Lord had called me to preach the gospel. My friends and friends to yield to the call, but for thirteen years I was united with the church and endeavored to live a Christian life, yet from the time he refused to preach his gospel, he says, "I began to decline spiritual religion."

He was united in marriage to Miss Mary Style, a young lady converted in the same revival that had led to his conversion. He still survives, after traveling with him in the West for many years, and is cheered with the hope of resuming his life beyond the river. In 1847 he settled in St. Lawrence, after engaging in several business enterprises he returned to the mill-maker's trade, and in 1856 had settled in Rensselaer Falls. At that year Rensselaer Falls was made a part of the village of six members was organized, two of whom were members. The late Rev. S. F. Kenyon was pastor. In 1858 he held at De Kalb. He attended, and under the influence of the Holy Spirit he was deeply convicted by the Holy Spirit because of his call to preach the gospel. He says: "During all my life though I could hear the voice of God at every turn I was unwilling to go." After a severe illness he surrendered, consecrating himself fully to God and was at peace. April, 1856, he was called to Rensselaer Falls to preach. By an arrangement with the Rev. C. L. Dunning, he supplied Rensselaer Falls. At the conference of 1858 he was admitted on the roll to Rensselaer Falls for the two succeeding years. At this place was greatly blessed of God. Taking care of members and no church property, he left it with his wife, two churches and a parsonage. April 20, 1862, he was in full connection in the Black River Conference, at the shop Simpson, and elder, April 27, 1862, by Bishop Simpson. After Rensselaer Falls were: Hammond, Morrisburg, Morrisburg City Mission, Parishville, Lisbon, Russellville, South Canton, Bangor again, Constable. He was in the supernumerary and superannuated list from 1876. At the conference of 1888 he again asked

for a superannuated relation, which relation he retained till his death.

In the spring of 1896 he moved to Bangor, N. Y., where he intended to spend the remainder of his life. About the same time a trouble which appeared in one of his feet rapidly developed into a serious case of blood poisoning. He passed several weeks of extreme suffering, but was wonderfully sustained by divine grace. His physician decided that the only chance of saving his life would be in having his limb amputated. For this purpose he was taken to Victoria Hospital, Montreal, where he was kindly received. The operation was successfully performed, and for a time hope was entertained for his recovery. After a few weeks unfavorable symptoms appeared, and before friends could arrive he was called to his reward. His body was brought to Madrid, N. Y., for burial, and the funeral was conducted from the Methodist church, by the writer, assisted by the Revs. W. H. Nichols, H. W. Bennett, D. D., H. C. Abbott, J. P. Dunham, C. Phelps, J. G. Story and M. V. B. Bristol.

Wyatt C. Lent was a devoted and loyal Methodist minister. The fields assigned to him were usually hard and laborious, but he always accepted his appointments without complaint and gave his best service to God and his church. He was a faithful preacher of the word, and under his ministrations many souls sought and found salvation. His faithfulness continued to the end. During the time of his last sickness, both at home and in the hospital, he was sustained by a triumphant faith, often exhorting and instructing from the word of God those who called to see him. A widow and seven children mourn their loss. One of God's workmen has gone to his reward.

F. B. STANFORD.

REV. LEROY M. VERNON.

Dr. Vernon became a member of the Northern New York Conference by transfer from the Central New York Conference in the spring of 1894. At about that time the plan was adopted of distributing the members of Conferences in the Faculty of Syracuse University among the patronizing Conferences, in order to promote a greater interest among them in higher education. In the carrying out of this plan, Dr. Vernon came to us, and he was most cordially received.

He was born near Crawfordville, Ind., April 23, 1838, and he died in Syracuse, N. Y., Aug. 10, 1896. He was converted at the age of 17, and at the age of 22, he graduated from Iowa Wesleyan University. In 1860 he joined the Iowa Conference; in the spring of 1862 he was transferred to the Missouri and Arkansas Conference, and stationed at Trinity church, St. Louis. In 1863 he was elected to the chair of Greek in McKendree College, which he declined. In 1864 he was appointed Presiding Elder of Springfield District, and pastor at Springfield in Southwestern Missouri. This was a widely extended field, and it being in the time of the Civil War, its trials, exposures, privations and perils, called forth the native heroism of his character. He never shrank from his duties and he succeeded in planting the church in waste places, and in reorganizing scattered societies. In 1866 he was elected President of St. Charles College near St. Louis, which position he resigned in 1868, and entered at once upon a tour of travel in Europe. While abroad, he was chosen to the chair of the Latin Languages and Literature in



REV. LEROY M. VERNON.

the State University of Missouri. This position he declined, preferring the more congenial work of the pastorate. After his return from Europe, he was appointed pastor at Sedalia in Marsh, 1869.

In 1871 he was appointed Missionary and Superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal church in Italy, and he entered upon that work the same year. He laid wisely the foundation of our Italy Mission, and saw it broaden and develop in spite of great obstacles. In March, 1891, the Italy Conference was organized in the City of Rome. In 1888, he resigned the Superintendency of the Italy Mission, and in the autumn of the same year, he became the pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church in Syracuse, N. Y., where he continued the disciplinary term of five years, bating a few months. In January, 1893, he was elected Dean of the College of Fine Arts in Syracuse University. By the dignity and beauty of his character, as well as by the breadth of his mind and artistic taste and culture, he was admirably fitted for the position. He enjoyed and improved the great opportunity connected with a residence

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HEROY M. VERNON.

This position he declined, preferring the more moderate. After his return from Europe, he was elected Moderator, 1869.

He was appointed Missionary and Superintendent of the Methodist Mission in Italy, and saw it broaden and develop. In March, 1891, the Italy Conference was held in Syracuse, N. Y., where he presided. In 1888, he resigned the Superintendency of the Italy Mission, and became the pastor of the First Methodist Church in Syracuse, N. Y., where he continued to minister for several years, during a few months. In January, 1891, he was elected to the College of Fine Arts in Syracuse University. His character, as well as by the breadth of his knowledge, he was admirably fitted for the position. The great opportunity connected with a residence

of 17 years in Italy, and his personal library was rich in works, illustrative of the history and principles of art. His connection with the University was short, but his educational success was highly gratifying to every lover of the University, and its influence will long remain.

Dr. Vernon was the recipient of many honors. He was thrice chosen as a delegate to the General Conference in 1868, 1884 and 1888. He was a member of the Ecumenical Methodist Conference in London, 1881. He was a member of the Book Committee during the quadrennium from 1868 to 1872. He was Chairman of the Committee on Missions in the General Conference of 1884. In 1881 he received a silver medal from the Italian government for services rendered in the taking of the religious census of that country. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the University of the State of Missouri, in 1869.

Dr. Vernon was characterized by many eminent and diverse qualities, which are indeed implied in the facts of his life. He was lofty in intellect, as he was tall in person; he was public spirited, intensely interested in everything connected with the people among whom he dwelt; he was charmingly social from an unaffected courtesy, a loving Christian heart; he was a ripe scholar in many lines, could converse fluently in several foreign languages; he was an eloquent preacher, a ready debater, a strong and elegant writer; he had high executive ability, could govern a church, preside over a district, control a college and superintend a growing and widely extended mission.

Dr. Vernon was twice married. His first wife was the daughter of Rev. Charles Elliott, D. D. His second wife, who survives him, was Miss Emily S. Barker, of New York, to whom he was married just prior to his sailing for his work in Italy. He has left seven children, six of Syracuse, N. Y., and one, Mrs. Adolfo De Bosis, of Rome, Italy.

His death was a sad surprise to all. It arrested him midway in his life's career, leaving what the world calls a large expectancy of life, behind him. It was apparently the result of an accident. He had been engaged, in the summer vacation of 1896, in a lecturing tour in the West. While on the deck of a steamer he became suddenly enveloped in steam from an exploded pipe, and in escaping from the perilous position he leaped several feet to the lower deck. The shock to his system was severe, his right foot was seriously injured, a slight malarial fever, from which he was suffering, was aggravated, and the whole culminated in typhoid fever, from which he died in a few days.

The sorrow for his death was universal throughout the city in which he had resided. Devout men carried his body to its burial; but his pure spirit had returned to God who gave it. His saintly memory will long be cherished by every member of this Conference, and his name will ever adorn that goodly list of representative, sainted men in our history, only a small part of whom can here be mentioned, such as Chase, Ninde, Giles, Dempster, Gary, Baker, Armstrong, Bingham, and last, though not least, VERNON.

E. C. BRUCE.