

MINUTES

OF THE

East Ohio Conference

OF THE

Methodist Episcopal Church,

HELD AT

CAMBRIDGE, OHIO,

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upon the street and in the church, his friends knew that his departure was near. He has gone to receive "a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give him at that day; and not to him only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

REV. ELISHA T. WHEELER.

Elisha T. Wheeler was born in Athens, Pa., June 25, 1820. His parents were devoted Christians, and members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In his thirteenth year he was awakened to see his need of salvation, and soon found pardon and peace through faith in God. For some time he lived in the constant enjoyment of acceptance in Christ, then partially lost the power though retaining the forms of godliness, until in 1839 he was aroused, renewed his covenant with God, and his peace and religious joy were restored. From this time he felt it his duty to preach the gospel. This impression deepened, until he promised the Lord that if the way opened he would go. He was granted license to exhort in 1845, and to preach in 1847. In 1849 he was admitted on trial in the Erie Conference, of which he was a member till the formation of the East Ohio Conference, in whose bounds he then lived, and of which he was a member the rest of his life. During his effective years his work was blessed with some remarkable revivals. But lung trouble, threatening consumption, compelled him to give up the active ministry, though he was still eager to do all the work his health would permit. He was married in 1851 to Miss Mary Cole, who died August 18, 1879. To them were born nine children, only the oldest and youngest of whom are living. He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. John Shidler, near Anthony, Kansas, March 5, 1902, after a short illness of pneumonia. His pastor there writes of him: "His cheerful spirit, exemplary life and Christian labors were an inspiration to all who knew him. His last moments, though filled with intense suffering, were peaceful. He longed for the end. 'He rests from his labors, and his works do follow him!'"

REV. D. C. KNOWLES.

D. C. Knowles departed this life on the afternoon of August 11, 1902. He literally "ceased at once to work and live." Having preached twice on Sabbath, and being, as he thought, in his usual health on Monday, he was about the duties of his parish with his usual interest and faithfulness, when, stricken by heart disease, he fell dead almost at the door of the parsonage home which he loved so well. He stepped suddenly from the responsibilities and duties of the charge he served into the presence of the Master. Brother Knowles began his ministry in the Pittsburg Conference in 1864. He served one year under the direction of the presiding elder, and in 1865 was admitted to membership in the Conference. At the organization of the East Ohio Conference in 1876, he became a member of that body, and with the exception of one year, when serious illness in the home of his parents seemed to demand his attention and assistance, continued in effective service to the day of his death.

He was thoroughly converted in early life, and feeling called to the work of the ministry, began preparation for this work with the energy and faithfulness which was characteristic of his nature. He was educated at Allegheny College. He was a man of rare attractiveness of character; to know him was to admire the high type of Christian character he represented. His personality was of that mild but firm and positive type which

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