

OFFICIAL JOURNAL—1923

Year Book and Minutes of the
Eighty-Seventh Session

of the

New Jersey Annual Conference
of the Methodist Episcopal Church

HELD AT FIRST CHURCH
ASBURY PARK, NEW JERSEY
MARCH 14 to 19, 1923

Published by *EDWARD A. WELLS, Secretary*
117 Perry Street, Trenton, N. J.
Bell 'Phone 4077-W

Order all Minutes from the Secretary

NEW YORK
THE METHODIST BOOK CONCERN, PRINTERS, 150 FIFTH AVENUE
1923

224824

as well as trained hands. In early life a thing new. He was the best scholar in the one of the best in the Discipline, which he knew the Scriptures as few men know and something to preach about and how to try.

balanced temperament, and this showed in well-balanced and sane. In disposition he was character he was never an extremist. As a pastor and careful in his preparation and in his people felt it, too. So they wanted him as their pastor. What a pleasant line of appointments he had. He said 'twas a great sermon, but all said, he was everybody's pastor. The people knew him as their children's pastor supreme. Think of his work of his Christmas trees in the parsonage town. Men may be broadly divided into those who are pleasant, and those who are not. He was our brother; in the other crowd are the old days when he came into the Conference every year. What a privilege it was to be in his company for a week in the homes of the gentleman, so careful not to give trouble, so careful to fit into his proper place. Every day an improper or selfish thought.

He was married on the second day of June, 1861, housekeeping in Camden, where he united with his activities in all kinds of church work. He was licensed as a local preacher by Rev. J. D. Lawrence he was induced to leave his home in Camden, N. J.

On Wednesday, December 27, and came a short time before he was stricken with a stroke to his bed and receive medical attention. He had the care of his family in constant attendance. He is survived by his wife, who is married and resides in Palmyra. His children had planned and built, and where the family of her son.

Funeral services were held in Woodstown Methodist Church, Woodstown, N. J., district superintendent, conducted the services. Scripture lessons were read by Rev. Harry S. Corson, address was made by G. T. Harris, class leader of the Woodstown Baptist Church also bore witness of Brother Jewett in their city. The funeral services of the Conference, of whom he was a member, and led by John Handley, sang the hymns. Rev. T. S. Brock led in prayer. Interment was at Woodstown. The committal service was by W. J. Sayre and G. T. Harris.

JAMES D. BILLS.

STEPHENS

born in Tuckahoe, N. J., October 23, 1870, and died at Manahawkin, N. J., he quietly and peacefully received from his Lord and His early training was such as equipped him for the profession, which profession he followed for many years.

Converted at an early age, and being ever obedient to God's bidding resulted in his answering the call of duty. In the year 1899 he left the profession of teaching and was sent to Eatontown as a resident elder, and was sent to Eatontown three years with such marked ability as to be elected to the Conference in 1903 and thus served in an important position. The pastorates receiving the inspiration of his ministry were in Eatontown and Tinton Falls, West Collingswood, New Jersey, Belford, Bargaintown, Southard, Westfield, and Run.

By his exceptional ability, a pulpiteer of marked ability, and full of instruction for the

church to which he ministered. Believing that God's word yielded up its messages only to those who with prayer and study set themselves to its declarations, he consequently spent much time in his study. No church he ever served needed to apologize for its minister, for he was jealous for the privilege of preaching, and never allowed himself to occupy the important place of the pulpit without very careful preparation. He was natively endowed as a writer of poetry and a careful student of harmony, and as a result, his fine Christian spirit found beautiful expression in a number of hymns which he wrote, several of them being sung at his funeral service. The highest point he reached in life was his character as a man of God. What he spoke fluently in his every message, and his close association with his Lord made his ministry an irresistible force for righteousness. His religion was not a Sunday garb or a pulpit piety, but a devoted, living, shining light, showing forth in every deed the life of Him who had called him to be an apostle. As the embalmed body of Joseph in Egypt was an inspiration to hope and faith that some day God would visit Israel and emancipate them from bondage and bring them into the promised land, so the heritage of a godly life, an optimistic spirit, and a triumphant death, left us by our brother beloved, rekindles anew in our hearts the hope of victory over death and a glorious immortality.

The funeral services were held at Manahawkin, N. J., on Sunday, November 5, 1922, at 2 P. M. A great crowd of people thronged the home to pay their tribute of praise to the life of so great a minister. The services were in charge of district superintendent J. D. Bills. A number of hymns, composed by our brother during his ministry, were sung by the combined choirs of the two churches on the charge. Scripture lessons were read by Pennington Corson and Harry S. Henck, prayer was offered by Daniel Johnson, addresses were made by J. D. Bills and the writer. Interment was made on Monday, November 6, 1922, in the Sea Side Cemetery at Palermo, New Jersey.



HENRY L. BRADWAY.

JOSEPH EDWARD WILLEY

JOSEPH EDWARD WILLEY, a loved veteran in the Gospel ministry, passed from the earthly to the heavenly life, April 21, 1922. Born December 15, 1859, near Dover, Kent County, Delaware, he was reborn at Canterbury, Delaware, when a mere lad, and his long life was a living testimony from a regenerated heart, and he went to his windowless palace of peace in full age, as a shock of corn that cometh in its season, and is garnered. His parents, Sylvester H. Willey and Mary B. Fowler, so carefully trained him in the pursuit and achievements of high life ideals, as that he attained a character of the sweetest and most beautiful purity. He was married to Mary Shaw Conner in 1861, and there were born of this happy union Eugene S. B. and J. Edgar Willey; and their house became a veritable church in the home, in which the father was a priest and the mother a priestess of God. It was an ideal Christian home, and its religious influence made an indelible impression upon the lives of the children.



The life picture of Joseph Edward Willey presents some greatly influencing bright spots. A study of his life will inspire to higher and holier living. With a definite and clear experience of Christ as a personal Saviour, he became, in the unfolding of his life, an orthodox and evangelistic preacher of a most pronounced kind. He imbibed in a full measure the Master's passion for souls. His geniality and devotion in pastoral work made him a popular and most helpful personality. He was a true shepherd in looking lovingly after his church flock. He was naturally executive in his mental makeup, and this administrative faculty, developed by prayerful training, led him in crisis hours to be successful in the solution of vexing church problems. In this respect he became a healer instead of a creator of church wounds. In a marked degree he was a cohesive force uniting diverse congregational elements. He was quiet and dignified

New Jersey Conference, 1923

in his manner, and systematic and versatile in his methods of religious work; and in a true sense he became a lifter to the congregations to which he so faithfully ministered. He was a devout man of a very high type, and his intensely spiritual ministry made him a prolific exemplar of more than human virtues, and his influence a benediction to the people whom he served. In the growing twilight of the evening of a long life day, quietly he stepped out of the deepening shadows into the golden splendor of eternity's endless day.

Funeral services were held on April 25th at the Broad Street Park Church, with which organization Brother Willey for many years had been officially and efficiently connected. The solemn exercises were in charge of District Superintendent M. E. Snyder. He was assisted by O. A. Lee, J. J. Messler, J. S. Garrison, W. S. Ludlow, J. W. Lee, and J. E. Shaw. In the presence of many clergymen and a large gathering of relatives and friends, all that was mortal of this translated man of God was interred at Colonial Cemetery to await the coming call of the glorious resurrection day.

CHARLES H. ELDER.

GERTRUDE SARAH BOWEN

GERTRUDE SARAH GOODELL was born in Middletown, Connecticut, April 26, 1837. She became acquainted with William Case Bowen, a member of the class of 1854 of Wesleyan University, during his college course. That acquaintance influenced her life most profoundly. To that acquaintance was due, at least in large measure, her decision to enter upon a Christian life, and to become a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The mutual affection of the young people resulted in their marriage, August 17, 1856. Before the time of her marriage, Miss Goodell had taken a course of study at Cazenovia, N. Y., in the institution then called Oneida Conference Seminary, and had spent some time in teaching school.

In 1857 Mr. Bowen joined the Oneida Conference, whose territory was substantially that of the present Central New York Conference, and between 1857 and 1865, he served pastorates in South Onondaga, Elbridge, Montezuma, Camillus, and Oxford. The remainder of his life was spent in teaching. He taught in Oneida Conference Seminary, 1866-69, was principal of Skaneateles Academy, 1869-73, and taught in Hudson River Institute, in 1874. In the following year he became president and proprietor of Bordentown Female College, New Jersey, and held that position until his death in 1891. Mrs. Bowen had worked with him in the school as a capable and trusted assistant; and, for a few years after his death, she carried on the work of the school herself. During all the years of her married life, whether in the parish or in the school, she was a faithful and efficient fellow-worker with her husband.

In 1895 she gave up teaching, and returned to the home of her childhood, where she spent the remainder of her life. Eight children had been born into the family, but most of them died in childhood. One daughter, Katherine Isabel, is the sole survivor of the family. After Mrs. Bowen's retirement from the work of teaching, she spent the remainder of her life in the congenial company of her daughter in the very house in which she was born. It was certainly an unusual experience, in view of the migratory habit of American society, for Mrs. Bowen to spend the last decades of her life in the same house in which she had lived in the days of her girlhood.

The years of Mrs. Bowen's life in Middletown were uneventful. She cherished a loyal devotion to the Methodist Episcopal Church; but her broken health made it impossible for her to engage to any considerable extent in church activities. Her life was a life of faithful and unobtrusive service. She died January 3, 1923.

A simple funeral service was held in Middletown, conducted by William North Rice, professor emeritus in Wesleyan University. A service was held also in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Bordentown, N. J., conducted by H. S. Hammond and J. S. Garrison. The burial was in Bordentown.

WILLIAM NORTH RICE.

MRS. ELIZABETH VAN SANT CHAMBERLAIN

ELIZABETH VAN SANT, daughter of Edward and Rebecca Van Sant, and wife of Rev. Leon Chamberlain, after a most beautiful life of song and service joined "The Choir Invisible" July 28, 1922. She was a great grand-daughter of Rev. Nicholas and Mercy Van Sant of Port Republic, who gave to the church and to the Gospel ministry in their children and children's children so many strong and gifted workers. Her rare gifts as a singer were early consecrated to the church. For a number of years she was a favorite soloist in First Church, Atlantic City. April 26, 1904, she gave her hand in marriage to Leon Chamberlain, then pastor of Pensauken Methodist Episcopal Church, where the ceremony was performed by W. P. Davis, district superintendent. Sweet spirited, gracious, gifted, and consecrated to the Master's work; popular wherever they were called to serve, she was a most sympathetic and efficient helpmeet to her pastor-husband, until slow, insidious disease put its blight upon her devoted life. Even then, under painful limitations she continued her ministry of blessing in and out of the home. Her long, brave struggle to recover her health in which her husband shared with

unfallin
compelle
ful fort
and my

The f
Trenton,
and frie
Address
Stephens
view Cen
the husb
is the ch
sun neve
ing are u

MAR
A
I
a
as she re
of the be
dren mad
She wa
home a fi
son, Wm.
After a
Services w
charge of
J. M. Hur
to await

MAR
in
fro
she
she bravel
corps of d
skill, at ti
ministries
exhausted
busty parso
to an hono
the years o
sons. Alth
Suntees, wa
She kept th
of comfort,
tained by t
Her life had
light and gl
She had
ancestors ha
tain the first
has followed
home she en
in every ch
position. TH
dren rise up
high regard
church she v
betterment,
the Woman's
for good. M
God's cause
She was a
commission.
church, fami
the divine va
the same sp
nation. Her
family spirit,
The funeral
she had serve
Neal, the pas
Eugene Nixon
Lucas, minist