

JOURNAL  
OF THE  
FORTY-FOURTH SESSION  
OF THE  
NORTH CAROLINA  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH,  
HELD AT  
WINSTON, N. C.

DECEMBER 1ST TO 6TH, 1880.



EDITED BY REV. B. CRAVEN, D. D., LL.D.



MONROE, N. C.:  
ENQUIRER STEAM POWER PRESSER.  
1881.

to glory when his earthly pilgrimage ended, and so he did. Only two weeks before his death, he preached his last sermon at Kings Mountain, and while proclaiming the Truth of the Gospel, from his favorite text, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain," he became very happy, and appeared to stand just between two worlds, with his face lit up with a Heavenly smile, as if to say, like St. Paul, "I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ." No doubt then he realized more than a mere foretaste of Heavenly joys, as he was standing so near the Pearly Gate of the Eternal City, and almost in hearing of the rippling of the crystal stream, and the melody of Angel harp-strings, softly touched with Heavenly fingers. Hearing him shout God's praises then, was akin to hearing Angels whisper, and seeing his face while in such ecstatic joy, was like catching a glimpse inside the veil and beholding the scenes that enrapture immortal vision.

But, Dr. Wm. D. Lee is gone—

"The voice at midnight came; he started up to hear;  
A mortal arrow pierced his frame: he fell; but felt no fear."

#### REV. IRA T. WYCHE.

Rev. Ira T. Wyche, the subject of this sketch, was born in Brunswick County, Va., in the year 1816, and died at LaGrange, N. C., in the month of October, 1880, and was sixty-four years old.

His parents, James and Amelia Wyche, were both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and trained up their children in the fear of God. They removed to North Carolina and settled in Granville County, where they raised up a numerous family of children.

The religious training of Ira T. Wyche, led him, in early life, to embrace religion and join the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was blessed with the advantages of a liberal education, and while young his mind was deeply, impressed that it was his duty to preach the Gospel.

At the age of twenty-one years, he entered the traveling connection of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was received into the North Carolina Conference on probation at its first session, which was held in the town of Greensboro, N. C., in the year 1838. He stood his annual examination four years, with credit to himself, and became a full member of the Conference. Bro. Wyche was acceptable and useful in his various fields of labor as a pastor, and also as a minister of the Gospel; he had many seals to his ministry. He traveled circuits, filled stations, was Presiding Elder for several years, and was, at one time,

Agent for the American Bible Society; he was also Secretary of the Conference for several years, and in all these relations he was acceptable and useful; he was literally a man of one work, and that work was to do good, and to save souls.

At a suitable age he was happily married to Miss Martha Pierce, of Halifax County, N. C., an amiable Christian lady. After the year 1850, he filled the following appointments, viz: New Berne Station, 1 year; Person Circuit, 2 years; Rockingham Circuit, 1 year; Presiding Elder on the New Berne District, 4 years; on the Washington District, 4 years; on the Salisbury District, 4 years; Henderson Circuit, 2 years; Forsythe Circuit, 1 year; Bible Agent, 2 years; Roanoke Circuit, 2 years; Robeson Circuit, 2 years; and Albemarle Circuit, 2 years.

At the N. C. Conference, held last year, in the town of Wilson, N. C., he was appointed to LaGrange Circuit. On this charge he labored in feeble health, until the month of October, when his trials on earth were suddenly ended by death.

He retired to bed in usual health, and on retiring, remarked to his wife, "that he would have a comfortable night's rest;" but he was found dead the next morning! having slept the sleep of death.

Thus passed away from the toils of earth, to the joys of Heaven, a good, and holy man. He was a faithful pastor, a good preacher, and an able expounder of the Holy Scriptures. He went in and out before his brethren of the N. C. Conference in the space of forty-three years—his character was unblemished. He leaves a bereaved widow and children, and his brethren of the Conference to mourn their loss; but they have one tie less to bind their affections to earth, and one cord more to draw their souls to Heaven.

"Servant of God well done! rest from thy loved employ;  
The battle fought, the victory won; enter thy Master's joy."

JNO. W. LEWIS.  
J. C. HARTSELL.  
J. H. CORDON.

WINSTON, N. C., Dec. 6, 1880.

