

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MISSION BIOGRAPHICAL SERIES

BISHOPS – MISSIONARIES

ID#

152

MERRILL, BISHOP STEPHEN M.

June 26:12

PACIFIC CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE

A MONUMENT TO BISHOP MERRILL.

ON June 7 a massive block of granite was placed at the grave of Bishop Merrill in Rosehill Cemetery, Chicago. The Bishop died, it will be remembered, in the fall of 1905, and was buried in the plot at Rosehill Cemetery belonging to the Rock River Conference. A few weeks after his death Mrs. Merrill passed away and was laid to rest by his side. Some months ago Dr. Stephen J. Herben, of Rock River Conference, conceived the idea of providing a suitable monument to the Bishop's grave. He solicited contributions exclusively from men who had been ordained to the ministry by Bishop Merrill, and it was understood that in no case would any contribution larger than \$1 be accepted. The fund when completed was not very large, but was of sufficient size to secure a monument that typifies admirably the outstanding qualities of Bishop Merrill's character. It may be of interest to note that four Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church are interred in Rosehill Cemetery—Bishop Hamline, Bishop Harris, Bishop McCabe, and Bishop Merrill.

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Pacific Christian
Advocate Aug 7:12

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PACIFIC CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE

CHURCH.

* * * * * "Christ loved the Church" * * * * *

CLINTON KELLY MEMORIAL CHURCH.

AFTER nearly five years of persistency which has been fraught with discouragements and sacrifice, the little group of faithful Christians who have designated themselves as the Clinton Kelly Memorial Methodist Episcopalians, saw their heroic labors crowned with triumphant victory on last Sunday when their beautiful little church was dedicated free of all incumbrances.

This church was first conceived in the mind of Mr. J. B. Kelly, who is a grandson of the man in whose memory the church is built. On July 23, 1907, a Sunday School was organized under the trees on the lot where the church now stands. There the school was conducted through the summer and until the fall rains drove the little band into a tent. Later, when the weather became too severe a small frame building was erected and in this (commonly known as "the garage") services were held while the basement was completed far enough to accommodate the congregation till the church was fin-

Church Extension.
AUGUST 15.
Special service—Buccoock.



REV. CHARLES M. DONALDSON

9:00 A. M.—Business session.
2:00 P. M.—Sabbath Observance.
Geo. Mecklenberg and J. C. Walker.
2:00 P. M.—Anniversary Board of
Freedmen's Aid Society.
4:00 P. M.—Evangelistic service—

BISHOP MERRILL DIES SUDDENLY

Famous Leader in Methodist
Church Stricken in House of
a Friend.

HAD PREACHED IN THIS CITY
ONLY YESTERDAY.

Bishop Stephen M. Merrill, one of the great leaders of the Methodist-Episcopal Church, died early to-day at the home of Miss Josephine A. Brown at Keyport, N. J., where he had been visiting.

Bishop Merrill's home was in Chicago. He came east a few days ago to attend the semi-annual meeting of bishops. He reached yesterday morning in the Fleet street Methodist Episcopal Church in Brooklyn and in the afternoon left to visit Miss Brown, whose father was an old friend. His death was sudden, being due to paralysis of the heart.

Bishop Merrill was born in Mount Pleasant, Ohio, September 16, 1825, and joined the Church in Greenfield, Ohio, October 31, 1842. Licensed to preach three years later, he united with the Ohio conference in 1846, and rose gradually to hold a conspicuous place among his clerical brethren.

He was to a great extent a self-made man, and became one of the clearest thinkers and best writers of the Church.

He educated himself with the pen, and early became accustomed to careful and accurate statement of his thought on paper, while at the same time able to think clearly and consecutively on his feet. On obtruse questions relating to church government or doctrine, he was always at home, and he was an expert parliamentarian.

In the lay delegation debate in the sixties he was the Western champion on the conservative side. In the General Conference in 1868 he made one of the leading speeches. This effort elected him editor of the "Western Christian Advocate," and the editorship led to his being chosen bishop in 1872.

In early life Bishop Merrill learned the trade of shoemaker, and while pegging away studied and earned enough money to pay his way through preparatory school.

Bishop Merrill was opposed to having his life written. To a newspaper man some years ago he said:

"There is no reason for writing the story of a man's life until after he is dead. It sounds too much like an obituary. I want to tell you that, despite the fact that I am seventy-two years old, it will be a long time before you will have use for my obituary."

Bishop Merrill is survived by a widow and two sons.

and generation; any more than he wants to be a "Miss Nancy."

That's why our sort of clothes appeal to boys; they're handsome, of fine quality, cut on generous smart patterns, but never fussy or "fancy."

The higher priced suits up to \$15.50 are the sort a few tailors will condescend to make for two or three times our price; while all the other suits down to \$6.50 are a quality rarely found in boys' clothing.

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LACE CHEMISETTES, W
COLLAR AND CUFF SETS
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BINED, WITH GAUNTLET
LACE COLLAR AND CU
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FIGURED SILK, EACH, -

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Look for the

on every bottle of

London
LITHIA

and avoid substitutes.

AMERICA'S FIRST

MERRILL, Stephen Mason, Methodist Episcopal Bishop since 1872.

Born in Jefferson County, Ohio, Sept. 16, 1825; son of Joshua M.;
married July 18, 1848, Anna Bellmire, Greenfield, Ohio; (D.D., Ohio
Wesleyan, 1868; H.D., Northwestern, 1886); entered Methodist Episcopal
ministry in Ohio Conference in 1846; editor Western Christian Advocate,
1868-72. Author: Christian Baptism; New Testament Idea of Hell; The
Second Coming of Christ; Aspects of Christian Experience; Digest of
Methodist Law; Outline Thoughts on Prohibition; Mary of Nazareth and
Her Family; Union of American Methodism; Crisis of this World; Sancti-
fication, 1901 M25; Atonement 1901 M25; Miracles, 1902 M25. Address:
57 Washington St., Chicago.

--- WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA

Within the years 1878 to 1883 inclusive, Bishop Merrill visited all
the great Anglo-Saxon States of the Church except Africa and South
America. In 1880, he visited the Conference in Germany, Switzerland,
and Norway, and the Missions in Denmark and Bulgaria. He then went to
India where he held the India and South India Conferences. ^{westward} _^
Early in 1881, he organized, under the authority of the General Confer-
ence of 1880, the Mission in Italy into an Annual Conference. In 1882
he made an Episcopal visitation of Japan and China, and presided at the
Conference sessions and Mission meetings at his home country.

An appreciation of the life of Goodwin

To say that Stephen L. Merrill is dead is to say that one of the greatest minds our church ever won to Christ has passed beyond earthly manifestation and activity.

Born in poverty, cradled in pioneer conditions, he belonged to the time and type of Abraham Lincoln in physique, keen perceptions, quiet humor, sharp definition and distinction, masterful logic and therefore judicial quality and poise. How much the schools did for him I do not know; evidently less than the stimulus of the world around him, but enough to make him a writer of clear and vigorous English, an unswerving debater, and a preacher of spiritual insight, clear statement and cogent explanation. To go far afield for an illustration, his mind to me was in some things like that of Henry James, and his spoken style in preaching occasionally as eloquent, invective, epigrammatic, but never trivial nor flimsy.

To me as great a theologian as he was in ecclesiastical circles. He might well be lingered over and too long by the willing sources of venerable theological authority and that he did not sufficiently concern the modern church as a help to faith or a guarantee of truth, but he was not always, as we would have the modern church and most of our people to see of his work. He was a man of many talents and a theologian of the first rank.

No doubt his ability as displayed in the great address on the occasion of the General Conference of 1872 had much to do with placing him in the Bishop's chair. He would have justified his elevation if he had never held a conference or preached a sermon; by the wisdom of his counsel on all the legal and practical matters

of the Church. Everyone, from the youngest preacher to his wisest colleague, sought his judgment. His, on one or two points, he held views as individual as his own personality, his opinion by its clearness and weight was almost that of a Supreme Court.

His personality was charming. Gentle in manner, sweet in smile, humorous in greeting when intimacy permitted: with a mental alertness and nimbleness belied by his slow step. He never entered the bishops' conference without applause, or left it without a deep sense of loss.

Now that God has taken him from us, we thank God more than ever for his eighty years. Disciplined by peculiar sorrows, and pressed beyond the limit of endurance if he had been less than he was, he finds rest in the Eternal City and in the bosom of God.

MEMORIAL NOTICE OF BISHOP S. M. MERRILL

On Saturday morning, Nov. 11, 1905, the session of this General Missionary Committee was closed with the Apostolic Benediction pronounced by the President for the day, Bishop Stephen M. Merrill. On Sunday morning he preached a missionary sermon in the Fleet Street Methodist Church of this city. On Sunday night, at eleven o'clock, at the home of a friend, Miss Brown, in Keyport, N. J., he closed a long and distinguished career of usefulness in the Christian ministry. He was not, for God took him. As the tidings of his demise shall pass through the land, the Church will unite with this Committee in the exclamation, "How are the mighty fallen and the weapons of war perished!"

The outline of his life is as follows:- Born in Jefferson County, Ohio, on Sept. 10, 1825; united with the Church in 1842; licensed to preach in 1845; admitted into the Ohio Conference in 1846; married in 1847; served several pastoral charges and subsequently, as Presiding Elder in Kentucky and Ohio; was a delegate to the General Conference of 1868 by which he was elected editor of "The Western Christian Advocate;" in 1872, being a delegate to the General Conference was with seven others elected to the office of Bishop; for thirty-two years exercised himself in this work, at home and abroad, in the latter field visiting our Missions in Mexico, Europe, India, China, Japan, and Corea; in 1904, at his own request, was granted by the General Conference the relation of a superannuate Bishop.

His only formal training was in the Elementary School. But such

was the native vigor and clearness of his intellect, such his carefulness, constancy and breadth of study, such his retentiveness and readiness of memory, and such his incessant activity in pulpit ministrations, in controversial discussions, and in the use of the pen that he steadily grew in knowledge and power, attained recognition among his brethren, and at length rose to a commanding influence in the Church.

Until 1868 he was little known beyond the bounds of his own Conference and State. But in that year, the first of his membership in the General Conference, he so discussed, and from a new point of view, great constitutional questions connected with the subject of lay delegation in the General Conference, that the veteran and eloquent leaders of the movement, at first no little astonished that this plain and unknown man should enter the lists against them, were at length compelled to accept his opinions and guidance. It was a memorable event in his history. It introduced him to the wider fields he was thereafter to occupy: it increased the strength of his previous inclination to ecclesiastical statesmanship; it commanded for his subsequent deliverances general and profound respect. The most notable of these was perhaps the Episcopal Address to the General Conference of 1888, which treated at large the Organic Law of the Church, the final outcome of which discussion is to be found in those sections of the present Constitution of the Church which fix the composition

