Job XVI 22 According to the chronology of the Bible this antient servant of god lived and suffered and then prospered again about 1520 years before the Christian era, and about 30 years anterior to the exodus of the Israelites from the land of Egypt.

This mysterious book of Job, it is thought, was written by himself in the Arabic language, and translated by Moses into Hebrew for the comfort and support of his suffering and downtrodden brethren under the falling yoke of Egyptian bondage.

Some have supposed that the book of Job was only intended as an allegory to illustrate the troubles and afflictions incident to the people of god in the present life: but there can be no reasonable doubt that Job was a real and not a fictitious character because the whole narrative is based upon historical facts and Job is mentioned by name in the prophecy book of Ezekial in connection with Noah & David as three distinct persons of eminent piety, and Saint James illustrates the value of patience by the example of the distinguished servant of God.

The book itself unconnected with any other has been. This antient book evidently dates back to the patriarchal age, and gives us a most interesting account of the great Supreme Being, the character of Job, these old men, and then a lovely young man by the name of Elisha who seems to have acted as moderator between Job and his three old friends.

When Job utters the language of the text, he has just reviewed the dark and dreadful road which he has travelled, and given to his friend Elophaz a rehearsal of his suffering under the afflictive dispensations of divine providence.

“God says he hath delivered one to the ungodly and turned me over to the lands of the wicked until my face is foul with weeping and on my eyelids is the Shadow of death”

But in renewing the past and contemplating the future he exclaims in the language of the text-When a few years are come & G

The language of Job will be the topic of my discourse on the present occasion.

Having reached the autumn of life, and the fiftieth year of my connection with the old Virginia Conference, I can say with propriety, when a few years are come, then I shall go the way, whence I shall not return.

In the month of February 1883, I was received on trial into the conference, and sent to assist John H. Watson on Prince Edward circuit.

The business of conference was managed very differently at that day from what it is at present. The conference room was kept almost hermetically sealed, and a doorkeeper was appointed to challenge the entrance of any person that did not belong to the body. No money charged (?) us conference
stewards, book agents, or newspaper men were allowed to have tables or transact business inside the conference room.

Old brother George Lane of New York, used to get up and give notice that the preachers having business with the back room, could see him in some outside building.

The Sessions of conference were held in some school room, Masonic Hall, or Court-house while the church was reserved for preaching every day of the week, morning, 3 oclock, and at night, and some of the best preachers were sent out to preach to the people on these occasions. The church was crowded at every hour and the people flocked to hear the word of life, instead of being entertained and amused at the conference room.

The Session of this year ’33 was held in Petersburg in the Masonic Hall on Tabb street and I permitted to go in at the closing session to hear the appointments read out.

I went forward with a cheerful heart to my appointed work, and came very near being drowned on my first round in attempting to cross Little Roanoke in Charlotte County. A heavy rain had fallen the night before, and in attempting to cross my horse rolled over in swimming water, and it was a marvel that I escaped from being drowned.

I rode up to John Randolph’s bushy forest plantation where I found no one but the overseer—he accommodated me with a suit of clothes and comfortable quarters, until next day morning, when I rode to Charlotte court house and washed out and fired up for a new departure.

In 1834, I was sent in charge of Mecklenberg (?) circuit, when with the aid of James E (?) a hd? Where we had (?) revivals of religion and a large increase of the churches.

In 1835, my third year I was appointed to Snow(?) Hill in Richmond & Leroy M. Lee to Trinity(?) these were the only Methodist churches in Richmond at that time__ ____ ___