





# JOURNALS

OF THE

## GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

VOLUME III.

1848—1856.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE CONFERENCE.

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## LIST OF DELEGATES BY CONFERENCES.

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BALTIMORE CONFERENCE—John Davis, S. Brison, A. Griffith, J. A. Collins, N. J. B. Morgan, William Hamilton, N. Wilson, John Bear, John Bowen, John Miller, S. A. Roszel.

PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE—J. P. Durbin, Levi Scott, D. Dailey, J. T. Hazzard, J. Kennaday, Robert Gerry, J. A. Massey.

PROVIDENCE CONFERENCE—A. Stevens, D. Patten, R. W. Allen, A. Binney, W. Emerson.

NEW-JERSEY CONFERENCE—C. Pitman, G. F. Brown, J. K. Shaw, M. Force, I. Winner, I. N. Felch, D. W. Bartine.

NEW-ENGLAND CONFERENCE—J. D. Bridge, P. Crandall, James Porter, M. Trafton, M. Raymond, A. D. Sargeant.

NEW-YORK CONFERENCE—B. Creagh, George Peck, E. E. Griswold, J. Floy, B. Griffen, P. P. Sandford, M. Richardson, D. Curry, J. Holdich, Daniel Smith, Fitch Reed, P. Rice, William Jewett.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE—O. C. Baker, Elisha Adams, L. D. Barrows, J. G. Smith.

TROY CONFERENCE—T. Spicer, John Clark, B. M. Hall, T. Benedict, J. T. Peck, A. Witherspoon, J. M. Wever, John Frazer.

VERMONT CONFERENCE—John Currier, Charles R. Harding, S. P. Williams.

BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE—George Gary, John Dempster, H. Mat-tison, Isaac Stone, C. W. Lect.

PITTSBURGH CONFERENCE—R. Hopkins, S. Elliott, W. Kenney, J. J. Swayze, C. Cooke, J. Drummond, J. Spencer, J. Monroe.

ONEIDA CONFERENCE—D. Holmes, E. Bowen, J. M. Snyder, S. Comfort, William Reddy, I. Parks, H. Colburn, L. A. Eddy.

MAINE CONFERENCE—Joseph H. Jenne, George Webber, Heman Nickerson, Eaton Shaw, Wm. Marsh, E. B. Fletcher, William F. Far-  
rington, Moses Hill.

ERIE CONFERENCE—J. C. Ayers, J. J. Steadman, J. Bain, G. W. Clarke, B. O. Plimpton, H. Kinsley.

ROCK RIVER CONFERENCE—R. Haney, A. E. Phelps, H. Summers, P. Judson, J. Chandler.

NORTH OHIO CONFERENCE—John H. Power, L. B. Gurley, Adam Poe, E. Thompson, John Quigley, J. M'Mahan.

GENESEE CONFERENCE—William Hosmer, Glezen Filmore, Thomas Carlton, John Dennis, Schuyler Seager, John B. Alverson, John W. Nevins, Philo Woodworth, Jonas Dodge.

OHIO CONFERENCE—J. B. Finley, Charles Elliott, Jacob Young, G. W. Walker, J. S. Tomlinson, William Nast, William Herr, J. M. Trimble, J. F. Wright, J. Stewart.

IOWA CONFERENCE—Henry W. Reed, George B. Bowman.

NORTH INDIANA CONFERENCE—R. Hargrave, S. Cooper, S. Brenton, W. H. Goode, J. C. Smith.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE—E. H. Pilcher, James Shaw, J. Brakeman, W. Sprague, S. Chatfield.

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE—P. Akers, P. Cartwright, G. W. Robbins, J. S. Barger, L. S. Jacoby.

INDIANA CONFERENCE—E. G. Wood, M. Simpson, J. Kerns, L. W. Berry, H. S. Talbott.



# GENERAL CONFERENCE, 1848.

MONDAY, MAY 1.

THE tenth delegated General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church assembled in Liberty-street Church, in the city of Pittsburgh, at nine o'clock A. M., Bishops Hedding, Waugh, Morris, Hamline, and Janes being present.

May 1.  
Conference assembles.

Bishop Hedding opened the proceedings by reading the Scriptures and singing the 380th hymn. Prayer by Bishops Waugh and Morris.

Opening of Conference.

S. A. Roszel and Joseph M. Trimble were requested to act as secretaries in organizing the General Conference.

Secretaries to act in organizing.

Bishop Hedding called the Annual Conferences in order, and the following delegates presented to the Secretaries their certificates of election, and were recognized as members:—

*Baltimore Conference.*—John Davis, John Bowen, Norval Wilson, Samuel Brison, N. J. B. Morgan, John Miller, William Hamilton, John A. Collins, Alfred Griffith, S. A. Roszel, John Bear.

Delegations called.

*Philadelphia.*—David Dailey, John T. Hazzard, John Kennaday, James A. Massey, Levi Scott, John P. Durbin, Robert Gerry.

*Providence.*—Abel Stevens, Isaac Bonney, David Pat-ten, Ralph W. Allen, Warren Emerson.

*New-Jersey.*—Charles Pitman, George F. Brown, John K. Shaw, Manning Force, Isaac N. Felch, David W. Bartine.

*New-England.*—Jonathan D. Bridge, Miner Raymond, M. Trafton, Aaron D. Sargeant, Phineas Crandall.

*New-York.*—Peter P. Sandford, Bartholomew Creagh, George Peck, Daniel Curry, Daniel Smith, Fitch Reed, James Floy, Edwin E. Griswold, Joseph Holdich, Marvin Richardson, Benjamin Griffen, William Jewett, John J. Matthias.

*New-Hampshire.*—Osman C. Baker, Lorenzo D. Barrow, Elisha Adams, Eleazar Smith.

*Troy.*—Tobias Spicer, John Clark, Timothy Benedict, Barnes M. Hall, Jesse T. Peck, John Frazer, Andrew Witherspoon, John M. Wever.

May 1.  
Delegations  
called.

- Vermont.*—J. Currier, C. R. Harding, S. P. Williams.  
*Black River.*—George Gary, Hiram Mattison, Isaac Stone, Charles W. Leet, John Dempster.  
*Pittsburgh.*—Robert Hopkins, Simon Elliott, Wesley Kenney, John J. Swayze, Charles Cooke, James Drummond, John Spencer, Joshua Monroe.  
*Oneida.*—Silas Comfort, William Reddy, Isaac Parks, Hanford Colburn, L. A. Eddy, Nelson Rounds, David Holmes, John M. Snyder.  
*Maine.*—Joseph H. Jenne, Moses Hill, George Webber, Elliott B. Fletcher, William F. Farrington, Heman Nickerson, William Marsh.  
*Erie.*—Hiram Kinsley, John Bain, George W. Clarke, John C. Ayers, John J. Steadman.  
*Rock River.*—Henry Summers, Richard Haney, Asahel Phelps, Philo Judson, John Chandler, Hooper Crews.  
*North Ohio.*—John H. Power, L. B. Gurley, Adam Poe, Edward Thompson, John Quigley, James M'Mahan.  
*Genesee.*—Glezen Filmore, John B. Alverson, William Hosmer, Thomas Carlton, John Dennis, Schuyler Seager, John W. Nevins, Philo Woodworth, Jonas Dodge.  
*Ohio.*—James B. Finley, Jacob Young, George W. Walker, Charles Elliott, Joseph S. Tomlinson, William Nast, William Herr, Joseph M. Trimble, John F. Wright.  
*Iowa.*—Henry W. Reed, George B. Bowman.  
*North Indiana.*—John C. Smith, Samuel Brenton, William H. Goode, Samuel C. Cooper.  
*Michigan.*—Elijah H. Pilcher, James Shaw, Josiah Brakeman, William Sprague, Lamon Chatfield.  
*Illinois.*—Peter Akers, Peter Cartwright, George W. Robbins, John S. Barger, Ludwig J. Jacoby.  
*Indiana.*—Enoch G. Wood, Matthew Simpson, John Kerns, Lucian W. Berry, Henry S. Talbot.

On counting, it was ascertained that there were one hundred and thirty-four members present.

Secretaries ap-  
pointed.

On motion, the Conference resolved to choose a Secretary by ballot. Joseph M. Trimble was elected. Conference resolved to have two Assistant Secretaries, and Jesse T. Peck and John Frazer were chosen.

The Conference determined to open their sessions at eight o'clock A. M., and adjourn at twelve o'clock, noon.

Rules of Confer-  
ence.

On motion of brother Griffith, the rules and regulations for conducting the business of the General Conference of 1844 were proposed as the rules, &c., for the present session. They were read. A motion to take up and adopt the rules, one by one, failed.

A motion to transpose some of the terms in the seventh rule, failed.

On motion of brother Durbin, the seventh rule was

amended by this addition to the word substitute, "which may also be amended."

May 1.

A motion to amend the eleventh rule failed, when the rules, orders, &c., with the above amendments, were adopted, for the government of the present session of the General Conference.

Motion to amend rule.

On motion, the conference resolved that when it adjourn, it adjourn to meet again at three o'clock P. M.

A motion to prolong the session fifteen minutes prevailed, and on motion the conference adjourned.

### MONDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 1.

Conference met at three o'clock, and was opened with appropriate religious exercises by brother Jacob Young. Bishop Waugh in the chair.

The list was called, and the journals were read and approved.

Brothers Nickerson and Marsh, of the Maine Conference, George W. Bowman and Henry W. Reed, of the Iowa Conference, and B. O. Plimpton, of the Erie Conference, presented their certificates of election, and were recognized as members.

Additional delegates received.

Brother Davis offered the following resolutions, which were adopted, namely:—

"1. That a committee, consisting of one member from each delegation, selected by the delegations, be appointed, to be called the Committee on Episcopacy, to whom shall be referred all matters that relate to the administration of the General Superintendents, or that have reference to the Episcopacy.

Committee on Episcopacy.

"2. That a committee, consisting of one member of each delegation, selected by the delegations, be appointed, to be called the Committee on Itinerancy, to whom shall be referred the acts and doings of the several annual conferences, and all other matters connected with that subject.

Committee on Itinerancy.

"3. That a committee be appointed, consisting of one member from each delegation, to be selected by the delegations, to be called the Committee on Boundaries, to whom shall be referred all matters that relate to the boundaries of the several annual conferences.

Committee on Boundaries.

"4. That a committee, to consist of one from each delegation, to be selected by the delegations, be appointed, to be called the Committee on the Book Concern, to whom shall be referred the reports of the Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati, and all other matters relating to the interests of the Book Concern.

Committee on Book Concern.

"5. That a committee be appointed, to consist of one from each delegation, to be selected by the delegations, to be called the Committee on Missions, to whom shall

Committee on Missions.

May 1. be referred all matters that relate to the missionary department.

Committee on Revisal and Unfinished Business.

“6. That a committee be appointed, to consist of seven members, to be called the Committee on Revisal and Unfinished Business, to whom shall be referred all propositions for changes in the Discipline of the Church.

Resolution laid on the table.

[The above resolution was laid on the table, namely, the 6th.]

Committee on Education.

“7. That a committee, consisting of nine members, be appointed, to be called the Committee on Education, to whom shall be referred all matters relating to our seminaries of learning.

Committee on Temperance.

“8. That a committee, consisting of seven members, be appointed, to be called the Committee on Temperance, to whom shall be referred all petitions and propositions on that subject.

Committee on Expenses of Delegates.

“9. That a committee of three be appointed, to be called the Committee on the Expenses of the Delegates, whose duty it shall be to ascertain the whole amount of the expenses of the delegates; of the collections taken up to pay them; and if there be a deficiency, report as to the best method of paying it.

Committee on S. Schools, &c.

“10. That a committee of seven be appointed, to be called the Committee on Sabbath Schools and Tract Societies, to whom shall be referred all communications on those subjects.

Committee on Bible Cause.

“11. That a committee of seven be appointed, to be called the Committee on the Bible Cause, to whom shall be referred all communications on that subject.”

The following resolution was read:—

“Resolved, That a Special Committee be appointed upon the State of the Church, to consist of two members from each conference.

“MATTHEW SIMPSON,

“JOHN P. DURBIN, and others.”

Voted, to amend the resolution by adding, “to be chosen by the delegations.”

A motion to amend further, by striking out *two* and inserting *one*, was lost.

Com. of two from each Conf. on the State of the Church.

The resolution as amended was adopted; the committee, therefore, is to consist of two from each conference.

Com. on Chartered Fund.

“Resolved, That there be a Committee on the Chartered Fund, to consist of seven.”

Bar of Conference.

Voted, that a line passing by the third pillar from the pulpit be the bar of the conference.

Committee of three to print rules, &c.

“Resolved, That there be a committee of three to have the rules of the conference, together with the standing committees, and boarding places of the delegates, printed in pamphlet form, for the use of the conference.”

Moved, that the preacher in charge of this church be permitted to sit within the bar.

A motion was made to amend, so as to include all the travelling preachers present. Brother Spencer moved to amend the amendment, so as to include the stationed preachers of Pittsburgh, Alleghany city, and Birmingham, and no others.

On motion of brother Clarke, the motion and amendments were laid on the table.

Voted that the Presiding Elder of the Pittsburgh District, and the preachers in charge in Pittsburgh, Alleghany city, and Birmingham, be a committee to superintend the religious services during our session.

On motion, W. Kenney was added to the committee, and made chairman of the same.

On motion, the conference adjourned. Prayer by brother Woodworth.

May 1.

Motion for traveling preachers to sit within the bar.

Laid on the table.

Committee on Religious Services.

## TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 2.

May 2.

The conference was opened at eight o'clock with the usual religious exercises, by brother Cooper. Bishop Morris in the chair.

Brother Dempster moved to dispense with the calling of the list. Carried.

The journals were read, and the following committees were announced, namely:—

ON EDUCATION.—John P. Durbin, Joseph Holdich, David Patten, Osman C. Baker, Jesse T. Peck, Schuyler Seager, G. W. Clarke, Joseph S. Tomlinson, Matthew Simpson.

ON TEMPERANCE.—Joshua Monroe, John F. Wright, John Bowen, George Webber, Jonas Dodge, Bartholomew Creagh, L. A. Eddy.

ON THE EXPENSES OF DELEGATES.—William Jewett, James Drummond, P. Judson.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.—C. Cooke, John J. Matthias, William H. Goode, John Clarke, Abel Stevens, N. J. B. Morgan, William Herr.

ON THE BIBLE CAUSE.—John Bear, L. W. Berry, Miner Raymond, E. H. Pilcher, J. K. Shaw, Daniel Curry, J. S. Barger.

ON THE CHARTERED FUND.—A. Griffith, J. F. Wright, Peter Cartwright, John Kennaday, George Gary, Hiram Kinsley, Daniel Smith.

TO PUBLISH RULES, &c.—Wesley Kenney, Moses Hill, S. A. Roszel.

ON EPISCOPACY.—A Griffith, David Dailey, Isaac Bonney, Manning Force, Phineas Crandall, P. P. Sandford, Elisha Adams, Tobias Spicer, J. Currier, John Dempster, Joshua Monroe, David Holmes, Joseph H. Jenne, John

Committee on Education.

Committee on Temperance.

Committee on Expenses of Delegates.

Committee on S. Schools.

Committee on Bible Cause.

Committee on Chartered Fund.

Committee to publish Rules, &c.

Committee on Episcopacy.

May 2. C. Ayers, Hooper Crews, John H. Power, Glezen Filmore, Jacob Young, George B. Bowman, Richard Hazzard, J. Brakeman, Peter Cartwright, L. W. Berry.

Committee on Boundaries.

ON BOUNDARIES.—S. Brison, L. Scott, W. Emerson, I. N. Felch, J. D. Bridge, E. E. Griswold, Eleazer Smith, B. M. Hall, C. R. Harding, H. Mattison, Robert Hopkins, L. A. Eddy, E. B. Fletcher, B. O. Plimpton, Richard Haney, Adam Poe, J. W. Nevins, William Herr, G. B. Bowman, Samuel C. Cooper, James Shaw, G. W. Robbins, E. G. Wood.

Committee on Itinerancy.

ON ITINERANCY.—N. Wilson, J. A. Massey, David Patten, I. Winner, M. Trafton, M. Richardson, L. D. Barrows, J. M. Wever, S. P. Williams, George Gary, J. Spencer, Silas Comfort, W. F. Harrington, H. Kinsley, J. Chandler, James M'Mahan, J. B. Alverson, J. Stewart, H. W. Reed, J. C. Smith, E. H. Pilcher, P. Akers, John Kerns.

Committee on Book Concern.

ON THE BOOK CONCERN.—J. A. Collins, R. Gerry, A. Stevens, D. W. Bartine, J. Porter, J. Floy, E. Adams, Tobias Spicer, J. Currier, J. Dempster, Wesley Kenney, H. Colburn, M. Hill, J. Bain, A. E. Phelps, J. Quigley, Thomas Carlton, Joseph S. Tomlinson, H. W. Reed, Samuel Brenton, L. Chatfield, J. S. Barger, H. S. Talbot.

Committee on Missions.

ON MISSIONS.—N. J. B. Morgan, J. T. Hazzard, R. W. Allen, Charles Pitman, A. D. Sargeant, B. Griffen, E. Smith, T. Benedict, S. P. Williams, George Gary, James Drummond, J. M. Snyder, William Marsh, G. W. Clarke, P. Judson, L. B. Gurley, J. Dennis, Wm. Nast, George B. Bowman, William H. Goode, L. Chatfield, L. S. Jacoby, L. W. Berry.

Committee on the State of the Church.

ON THE STATE OF THE CHURCH.—John Davis, W. Hamilton, J. P. Durbin, J. Kennaday, Isaac Bonney, Abel Stevens, J. K. Shaw, G. F. Brown, Miner Raymond, J. D. Bridge, George Peck, Fitch Reed, Osman C. Baker, L. D. Barrows, John Clark, A. Witherspoon, Charles W. Leet, Hiram Mattison, S. Elliott, J. J. Swayze, N. Rounds, Wm. Reddy, George Webber, Heman Nickerson, J. J. Steadman, G. W. Clarke, H. Summers, Richard Haney, J. H. Power, E. Thompson, W. Hosmer, P. Woodworth, G. W. Walker, C. Elliott, George B. Bowman, H. W. Reed, S. C. Cooper.

Memorials, petitions, &c., were called for.

Memorial from Dr. Durbin.

A memorial, presented by Dr. Durbin, was read, as follows:—

“Resolved, That we recommend to the General Conference an alteration in Discipline, as follows: That the words ‘or travelling or local preachers,’ be inserted in sixth paragraph, tenth item, question 2, section 10, of chapter 1, between the words members and fail, so that the paragraph shall read, ‘To prevent scandal, when any of our members,

or traveling or local preachers, fail in business.'” A motion was made to refer it to a select committee of three. This motion was laid on the table.

May 2.

Voted to take up the resolution appointing a committee of seven on revision and unfinished business.

Conference ordered such a committee, and the Philadelphia memorial was referred to said committee.

Committee on Revisal ordered.

Brother Durbin presented the following from the same conference :—

*Resolved*, That we recommend to the next General Conference, to graduate the claims on their conference funds according to the time of service, and the necessities of the claimants.

Resolution from Phila. Conf. on claims.

“A true copy from the journal of the Philadelphia Annual Conference, held at Easton, Md., dated March 29th, 1848.” Referred to the Committee on Revisal.

A communication in reference to Carlisle Station, presented by Dr. Durbin, from the Philadelphia Conference, was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Communication from Carlisle.

A resolution of the preachers' meeting, Philadelphia, was presented by Dr. Durbin, asking the General Conference to take some method to secure uniformity in the mode of pronouncing the benediction. Referred to the Committee on Revisal.

Communication from preachers' meeting, Philadelphia.

A communication by the same, from Rev. I. T. Cooper and others, in regard to local preachers. First question referred to the bishops, viz.: “Where, and how, is a local preacher amenable after receiving a location, and before he fixes his membership in some Quarterly Conference.”

Second question referred to the Committee on Revisal, viz.: “Has a local preacher or minister of the M. E. Church a right to enter into contract with another Church, or with an association out of the M. E. Church, for his ministerial services, without or with the consent of the pastor of the charge where he belongs? Is such a right inherent in the local ministry of the M. E. Church?”

A memorial was presented from the Oneida Conference, on the subject of a depository of books at Wilkesbarre. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

Memorials presented.

A memorial on boundaries, from the Rock River Conference, was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Voted, that so much of the journals of the Genesee Conference as refers to boundaries be referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

A memorial against the division of the Ohio Conference, from the preachers on Marietta District, presented by J. Young, was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

A petition from the N. Indiana Conference, asking deductions from the claim against A. Wood, was referred to the Book Committee.

May 2.  
Memorials presented.

A memorial from the Ebenezer Station of the M. E. Church, in St. Louis, was presented by brother Akers. The reading was called for and ordered.

Moved to refer said memorial to the Committee on the State of the Church.

J. A. Collins moved to amend by referring so much of said memorial as refers to the Episcopacy to the Committee on Episcopacy. Amendment adopted. Voted to refer the balance of the memorial to the Committee on the State of the Church.

A memorial from the African M. E. Church in St. Louis read, and referred to the Committee on the State of the Church.

A memorial from the Cape Girardeau Circuit Quarterly Conference, presented by brother Akers, was read and referred to the Committee on the State of the Church.

A petition in reference to a claim against B. C. Wood. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

Rev. Messrs.  
Richey, Ryerson and Green,  
of Canada.

Credentials of Rev. M. Richey, J. Ryerson, and Anson Green, as representatives of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada, were presented by the bishop, and read, whereupon Rev. Anson Green was introduced to the conference, and invited to a seat.

P. P. Sandford moved to call up the resolution laid on the table yesterday, in reference to inviting visiting brethren within the bar. Carried.

Moved, as a substitute to the previous motions, that all General Conference officers, and all travelling ministers, be invited to take their seats within the bar; and that the officers be invited to speak upon any matters which concern their offices. Carried.

Committee to  
arrange Discipline ordered.

J. A. Collins moved that a committee of five, to arrange the Discipline, be appointed.

Committee on  
Hymn-Book.

Moved, by J. Floy, that a committee of seven be appointed, to take into consideration the revisal of the Hymn-Book of the M. E. Church, and report whether they deem any improvement necessary.

Memorial from  
Philadelphia.

On motion of J. Holdich, the conference reconsidered the motion referring the memorial from Philadelphia, on the subject of graduating claims, to the Committee on Revisal. It was moved to refer said subject to a select committee of seven. Brother Wright moved to substitute a committee of seven, to be called the Committee on Finance, which was carried.

Referred to a  
committee of  
seven.

Bishops Hedding and Janes  
in the case of  
John N. Maffitt.

Bishop Hedding referred a portion of the administration of himself and Bishop Janes, which had been called in question, through a public print, by the Rev. E. Bowen, to the General Conference, expressing the wish of himself and Bishop Janes that it might be referred to the Committee on Episcopacy. Bishop Janes concurred in



this request. On motion of J. T. Peck, such reference was made.

May 2.  
Referred to  
Committee on  
Episcopacy.

A resolution offered by N. Wilson, in relation to the Southern boundary, was, on motion, laid on the table.

On motion of G. Filmore, conference adjourned. Prayer by brother Bonney.

### WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 3.

May 3.

Conference met at eight o'clock, Bishop Hamline in the chair.

After the usual religious services by brother Crews, the Journals were read.

The certificate of James Porter, of the New-England Conference, was presented. He was duly recognized, and took his seat.

Certificate of J.  
Porter present-  
ed.

Bishop Hamline announced the following committees, namely:—

COMMITTEE ON REVISAL.—George Peck, George Gary, James M'Mahan, Peter Akers, Levi Scott, Hiram Kinsley, Timothy Benedict.

Committee on  
Revisal.

COMMITTEE ON THE ARRANGEMENT OF DISCIPLINE.—Tobias Spicer, J. A. Collins, Edward Thompson, H. S. Talbot, James Porter.

Committee on  
Arrangement  
of Discipline.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.—Charles Cooke, John Bear, Glezen Filmore, J. H. Power, Hooper Crews, J. H. Jenne, Isaac Parks.

Committee on  
Finance.

COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER AND REPORT ON THE REVISAL OF THE HYMN-BOOK.—C. Elliott, M. Simpson, W. Hosmer, J. Floy, David Patten, G. F. Brown, Nelson Rounds.

Committee on  
Revisal of the  
Hymn-Book.

The bishops presented several questions of Discipline, for the decision of the General Conference. N. Wilson moved to publish said questions in the Daily Christian Advocate.

Questions of  
Discipline pre-  
sented.

P. P. Sandford moved to amend by striking out the Daily Christian Advocate, and to insert two hundred copies for the exclusive use of the General Conference.

Hiram Mattison moved as a substitute: "*Resolved*, That the documents be published in the Daily Christian Advocate, subject to the revision of the bishops."

J. Clark moved to lay the motion, amendments, and substitute, on the table, which prevailed.

On motion of P. Cartwright, voted to suspend the rules, to allow the bishops to submit certain questions of order to the conference for decision.

Rules suspend-  
ed.

Are the following motions debateable?—To lay on the table, previous question, to read a paper pending a question, to reconsider, to take up items of business.

Brother Collins moved, that a motion to adjourn and to

May 8.  
Rules suspended.

lay on the table be not debateable. Brother Collins' motion was withdrawn.

J. Holdich moved that those questions be referred to a committee of three to consider and report thereon.

Brother Murray offered as a substitute, that all questions of order, not embraced in our rules, shall be decided by the chair according to congressional usages. Carried.

J. A. Collins moved to reconsider the substitute.

It was moved to lay brother Collins' motion on the table. Not carried. The motion to reconsider prevailed.

Brother Massey withdrew the substitute.

Brother Collins moved, that a motion to lay on the table be not considered debateable.

The superintendents requested leave to withdraw their paper for the present. Voted that leave be granted.

John Bear's certificate presented.

John Bear's certificate of election as a delegate from Baltimore Conference was presented, whereupon he was duly recognized, and took his seat.

Memorials presented.

J. Kennaday presented a memorial from the Philadelphia German Church. Referred to Committee on Missions.

P. P. Sandford presented a memorial on the same subject from New-York. Referred to Committee on Missions.

J. Floy presented a memorial from the New-York Conference, asking for a division of the conference. Referred to Committee on Boundaries.

P. P. Sandford presented a *counter* memorial on the same subject.

Brother Holdich presented sundry memorials from the city of New-York on the same subject.

Also, a memorial from the Allen-street Church, New-York, on the division of the conference. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Dr. Peck presented a memorial from William J. Brisley, and others, on the subject of restoring our itinerancy in stations. Referred to Committee on Itinerancy.

Dr. Dixon introduced to the conference.

Rev. Dr. Dixon, representative of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Great Britain, was introduced to the conference, and invited to a seat.

Memorials presented.

Osman C. Baker presented a memorial from New-Hampshire Conference, praying for a rule requiring superannuated preachers to give an account of their receipts. Referred to Committee on Finance.

D. Holmes presented a memorial from Oneida Conference, praying for the division of said conference. Referred to Committee on Boundaries.

Communication from J. Hamm and J. Rich.

W. Marsh presented a communication from John Hamm and J. Rich, in relation to moneys contributed for the rebuilding of the Book Concern. Referred to Committee on the State of the Church.

M. Hill presented a memorial from H. W. Pilsbury, and others, in relation to conference name, &c. Referred to Committee on Boundaries. May 3.  
Memorial presented.

A communication by brother Poe, from J. M. Armstrong, in relation to the Wyandott Mission. Referred to the Committee on the State of the Church. Communication in relation to Wyandott mission.

By J. Dodge, in relation to claims on the Book Concern. Referred to Committee on Book Concern. Claims on Book Concern.

Another communication of the same character, in relation to Chandler Wheeler, was presented by brother Holmes.

Resolutions by trustees of Genesee Wesleyan Seminary, in relation to the division of Genesee Conference, presented by J. B. Alverson. Division of Genesee Conference.

J. B. Finley presented communications in relation to an alteration of Discipline. Referred to Committee on Revisal. Alteration of Discipline.

Brother Elliott presented two memorials from Kentucky, asking redress for the grievances growing out of division line. Memorials presented.

Another by the same, from Batesville, Ark., on the same subject. Read. P. P. Sandford moved that the further reading of a communication from Strawberry Plains, Ark., be dispensed with, and that it be referred to the Committee on the State of the Church. Lost, and the reading proceeded. Voted to refer to Committee on the State of the Church.

By general consent, the rules of the conference were suspended, and the credentials of Dr. Dixon, representative from England, were presented and read. Dr. Dixon then addressed the conference. Credentials of Dr. Dixon.

On motion of J. T. Peck:—

“Resolved, by the delegates of the annual conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, in General Conference assembled: 1st. That the cordial thanks of this body be presented to the Rev. Dr. Dixon, and through him to the conference he represents, for the honor conferred on us in his presence and address, and that he be affectionately invited to take such part in our deliberations as may be agreeable to him. 2d. That the communication from the British Conference, presented by him, be referred to a select committee of three, with instructions to report the reply of the conference.” Thanks of conference to Dr. Dixon.

Resumed the call for memorials, &c.

A memorial from Mount Sion society by brother Tomlinson. Referred to Committee on the State of the Church. Petitions and memorials.

Also a communication from an interior society by the same. Read, and referred as above.

May 8. Petitions presented. Brother Herr—petition for the division of the Ohio Conference. Referred to Committee on Boundaries.

Brother Brenton presented a petition relative to a line of division. Referred to Committee on Boundaries.

Resolutions referred to Committee on Missions, and to Committee on Book Concern. Brother Jacoby presented resolutions of the Illinois Conference, which were referred to the Committee on Missions. Also, resolutions of the German brethren in Ohio, which were referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

“Resolved, That so much of the Journals of the Illinois Conference as relate to boundaries be referred to the Committee on Boundaries.” Carried.

By motion the call for memorials was suspended to begin with Illinois to-morrow.

Communion from Arkansas. A communication was read from members of the Church in Arkansas, and referred to Committee on the State of the Church.

The following communication from Dr. L. Pierce was read, and referred to Committee on the State of the Church:

Communication from Dr. L. Pierce. “To the Bishops and Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in General Conference assembled:

“REVEREND AND DEAR BRETHREN,—The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, appointed me as their delegate to bear to you the Christian salutations of the Church, South, and to assure you that they sincerely desire that the two great bodies of Wesleyan Methodists, North and South, should maintain at all times a warm, confiding, and brotherly fraternal relation to each other. And that through me they make this offer to you, and very ardently desire that you, on your part, will accept the offer in the same spirit of brotherly love and kindness.

“The acceptance or rejection of this proposition, made by your southern brethren, is entirely at your disposal; and, as my situation is one of painful solicitude until this question is decided, you will allow me to beg your earliest attention to it.

“And I would further say, that your reply to this communication will most gratify me if it is made officially, in the form of resolutions.

“I have the honor to be, very respectfully, yours in the unity of Wesleyan Methodism,

“L. PIERCE,

“Delegate from the Methodist E. Church, South.

“PITTSBURGH, May 3, 1848.”

By vote, the further reading of memorials was dispensed with.

The following are the chairmen of the Standing Committees :

May 3.

Episcopacy,	P. P. Sandford.	Chairmen of committees.
Itinerancy,	P. Akers.	
Boundaries,	A. Poe.	
Book Concern,	J. A. Collins.	
Missions,	C. Pitman.	
State of the Church,	Geo. Peck.	

Petition of John Monroe referred to Committee on the Book Concern.

Petition of J. Monroe.

By motion, the conference determined to raise a committee to publish its proceedings.

Committee to publish proceedings of conference.

Brother Hunter was, on motion of brother Wilson, appointed chairman of said committee.

Brother Finley moved to amend, by appointing all our editors said committee, adding the editor of Zion's Herald.

On motion, conference adjourned. Prayer by brother Kinsley.

#### THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 4.

May 4.

Conference was opened with the usual religious exercises, by brother James B. Finley. Bishop Janes in the chair.

The journals were read and approved.

The chair announced the committee to respond to the communication from the Wesleyan Conference, England, by Dr. Dixon: J. P. Durbin, C. Elliott, C. Pitman.

Committee to respond to Wesleyan Conference.

The superintendents reply to questions of law submitted to them by the conference, "That there is no rule of Discipline on the point; and in another paper we have suggested one meeting the case." Several questions were submitted by the bishops to the consideration of the General Conference.

Bishops' reply to questions on law.

*"To the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.*

PITTSBURGH, May 4th, 1848.

"The superintendents respectfully submit to your consideration the propriety of the following alterations of, and additions to, the Discipline, to relieve the administration of existing embarrassments:—

Amendments of the Discipline proposed by the bishops.

"1. In chap. 1, sec. 21, answer to question 4, immediately after the first period, insert the words, 'If the accused refuse or neglect to appear before said committee, he may be tried in his absence.'

"2. In chap. 1, sec. 19, answer to question 4, imme-

May 4.  
Amendments of  
the Discipline  
proposed by  
the bishops.

diately after the words 'travelling preacher,' insert the words, 'or with having neglected his work.'

"3. In chap. 1, sec. 19, answer to question 1, so alter the sentence after the word 'suspend,' as to make it read, 'from all ministerial services and church privileges, until the ensuing annual conference.'

"4. In chap. 1, sec. 9, answer to question 4, immediately after the words 'proposed for trial,' insert the words, 'If a preacher on trial be discontinued, he shall be a local preacher on the circuit or station where he had his last appointment.'

"5. In chap. 1, sec. 21, answer to question 1, so alter the fifth paragraph in the answer as to make it read, 'Every local elder, deacon, and preacher, shall be amenable to the quarterly conference of the circuit or station where he resides. He shall have his name recorded on the journal of said quarterly conference, and also enrolled on a class paper, and meet in class, if the distance of his place of residence be not too great: or in the neglect of either, he shall not be permitted to exercise his ministerial office.'

Questions of law  
by the bishops.

"The bishops also request the General Conference to consider and decide the following questions of law:—

"1. Has a presiding elder the right to employ a local preacher, without his having been recommended by a quarterly conference?

"2. When an annual conference decides that a preacher, having charge, has received or expelled a member contrary to the rules of Discipline, what effect (if any) has such decision upon the Church relations of said member?

"3. When a member receives a certificate of membership from a preacher having charge of a circuit or station, where is he responsible for his moral conduct until he joins again?

"4. When a disciplinary certificate is given, how long is it valid?

"5. Is testimony taken before a committee sitting in the case of an accused member of an annual conference, in the interim of the conference, to be received as evidence in the trial of said minister before the annual conference? If so, ought not some rule to be provided for taking such testimony?

"6. Are questions relating to the admissibility of testimony questions of law?

"7. When a preacher differs in judgment from the majority of the society, or the select number, concerning the innocence or guilt of an accused person, and carries up the trial to the quarterly conference, is it an appeal or a new trial?

"8. In an appeal, when the Discipline does not limit the

evidence by special provision to the testimony taken below, may new evidence be admitted?"

May 4.

Brother Wilson moved that these questions be published in the Pittsburgh Daily Christian Advocate.

Brother Finley moved as a substitute, that three hundred copies be printed for the exclusive use of the conference.

On motion, the above motion and substitute were laid on the table.

On motion, the first paper was referred to Committee on Revisal.

Questions referred: the first, to Committee on Revisal; the second, to a select committee of five.

The second was referred to a select committee of five, to examine and report thereon.

The call for petitions, memorials, and appeals.

Petition of J. Laws.

A communication from J. Laws, in reference to his indebtedness to the Book Concern. Referred to Committee on the Book Concern.

Communication from N. Henry.

A communication from Nelson Henry, Cape Girardeau circuit, Missouri, was read, and on motion, referred to Committee on the State of the Church.

Communication from J. C. Green.

A communication was received from J. C. Green.

Brother Dempster, to test the law question, moved that it be the sense of this conference, that J. C. Green has a right to an appeal to this conference. Lost.

On motion, it was voted to lay the letter of J. C. Green on the table till the law question be determined. Carried.

On motion, voted that the question of law stated by Bishop Hedding be referred to the select committee previously ordered on law questions.

Question of law.

The question of law is *this*: Is a member of an annual conference withdrawn from the Church when he says to a bishop or presiding elder, "I withdraw;" or is it the province of the conference of which he is a member to decide whether he is withdrawn or not?

A memorial in behalf of L. Waugh, of Missouri, was read, and referred to the Committee on finance.

Memorials presented.

P. Cartwright presented a memorial from Wesley Chapel charge in St. Louis. P. P. Sandford moved to dispense with the reading, which failed.

The memorial was read, and referred to the Committee on the State of the Church.

Memorial from Hannibal, Missouri, was received and referred as above.

Appeal of C. Atkinson.

Brother Cartwright presented the appeal of C. Atkinson, of the Illinois Conference. The paper was, on motion, received, and made the order of the day for Monday next.

Brother Akers presented a communication from H. Hubbard, which was referred to Committee on the State of the Church. Also, a communication from J. Anderson, referred to the same committee.

Communications from H. Hubbard and J. Anderson.

May 4.

On motion, the vote referring the communication of L. Waugh to Committee on Finance was reconsidered, and referred to the Committee on the State of the Church.

Report of Book Agents at New-York.

The report of the Book Agents at New-York was read, and their exhibit was presented and read. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

Report of Book Committee.

The report of the Book Committee was presented, read, and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

Voted to suspend the order of the day to receive a resolution from brother Holdich, which is as follows:—

On uniformity in public worship.

“Resolved, That the committee on the Philadelphia memorial on uniformity in pronouncing the benediction, be directed to consider also the subject of uniformity in the manner of conducting public worship generally.”

Address from N. York Temperance Society.

Brother G. Peck presented an address from the New-York Temperance Society. Referred to the Committee on Temperance.

Memorial from Kinderhook.

Memorial from Kinderhook, New-York Conference, on the subject of boundaries, presented by brother Clark, and referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Resolutions of Oneida Conference.

Resolutions of Oneida Conference, on the subject of publishing the sermons of living ministers, presented by S. Comfort. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

Petition of D. Holmes.

By D. Holmes, an extract from the journals of the Oneida Conference, requesting to be exonerated from debt to Book Concern. Referred to Committee on the Book Concern.

W. Reddy presented a petition relative to book depository. Referred as above.

Division of Maine Conference.

J. H. Jenne, petition on the subject of the division of the Maine Conference. Referred to Committee on Boundaries.

A communication from Casper Joist, praying for help. Read and referred to Committee on Missions.

Extracts from the journals of Genesee Conference.

Extracts from the journals of the Genesee Conference, presented by brother Filmore. Referred to Committee on Book Concern. Also, one relative to the revision of the Hymn-Book. Referred to Committee on that subject.

Petitions and Memorials.

Petitions presented by J. Dodge and J. Dennis, on the subject of dividing the Genesee Conference. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Brother Elliott presented a petition from Putnam, Ohio, relative to admitting members of other Churches to the Lord's supper. Referred to Committee on Revisal.

Brother Nast presented a communication from brethren in Cincinnati, relative to a central German Church. Read and referred to Committee on Missions.

The further call for memorials, &c., was by vote suspended, to begin with Ohio.



The bishops announced P. P. Sandford, J. Davis, G. Filmore, G. Gary, and R. Hopkins, the committee on questions of *law*.

May 4  
Committee on  
Law Questions.

Conference adjourned. Prayer by A. Griffith.

FRIDAY, MAY 5.

May 5.

Conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened with the usual religious exercises by brother Reed. Bishop Hedding in the chair.

The journals were read.

The presiding bishop presented the following paper:—

“PITTSBURGH, *May 5th*, 1848.

“To the General Conference of the M. E. Church.—  
The bishops recommend to the General Conference, that it take the proper steps toward the organization of a delegated annual conference, to consist of one delegate from each annual conference, to receive and try appeals from the members of the annual conferences, and to review the acts of the General Conference, and suspend the operations of such of its enactments as are decided to be unconstitutional, until the next succeeding General Conference, or such other constitutional tribunal, with appellate jurisdiction, as they may judge proper.”

Delegated annual conference.

Moved to refer said recommendation to a select committee.

Moved to amend, so as to refer it to the Committee on Law Questions. Motion as amended carried.

Voted, to add seven to the Law Committee.

Reports of standing committees called for.

Committee on the State of the Church reported in part, as follows:—

“That they have had under consideration the letter from the Rev. Dr. Pierce, and that they recommend to the General Conference the adoption of the following preamble and resolution:—

Report of Committee on the State of the Church on Dr. Pierce's letter.

“Whereas, a letter from Rev. L. Pierce, D. D., delegate of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, proposing fraternal relations between the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, *South*, has been presented to this conference, and whereas, there are serious questions and difficulties existing between the two bodies, therefore,

“*Resolved*, That while we tender to the Rev. Dr. Pierce all personal courtesies, and invite him to attend our sessions, this General Conference does not consider it proper, at present, to enter into fraternal relations with the Methodist Episcopal Church, *South*.

(Signed)

“GEORGE PECK, *Chairman*.”

May 5.  
Brother Collins'  
amendment.

Moved to adopt the report.

John A. Collins moved to amend, so that the consideration of the report be delayed until the questions of division of Church property and of the division line are settled.

Voted to lay brother Collins' motion to amend on the table.

J. Holdich's substitute.

J. Holdich moved the following substitute to the original resolution in the report:—

"1. *Resolved*, That this General Conference invite Dr. Pierce, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to take a seat in the house and address us on the subject of his mission.

"2. *Resolved*, That as to fraternization, we are not prepared at present to give any decision, but shall leave that point open to further consideration, under whatever light or information we may receive bearing upon that question."

Laid on the table.

J. D. Bridge moved to lay brother Holdich's substitute on the table. Carried.

Dr. Tomlinson's amendment.

Dr. Tomlinson moved to amend the report by adding the following, namely: "Provided, however, that nothing in this resolution shall be so construed as to operate as a bar to any propositions from Dr. Pierce, or any other representative of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, toward the settlement of existing difficulties between that body and this."

Dr. Durbin's substitute.

Dr. Durbin moved as a substitute to Dr. Tomlinson's amendment as follows, namely:—

"*Resolved*, That in so far as Dr. Pierce may come with authority to adjust the difficulties between the two bodies, we will cordially confer with him."

Substitute failed.

Dr. Durbin's substitute failed, and the question recurred on Dr. Tomlinson's amendment.

Brother Walker moved to lay the amendment on the table. Not carried.

Moved by brother Holmes, that the vote be taken by yeas and nays. Carried.

Moved by brother Collins to amend, by inserting instead of "to attend our sessions," to take a seat within the bar. On motion laid on the table.

Dr. Tomlinson's amendment adopted.

The yeas and nays were called, and the vote stood yeas 147—no nays: three absent. So the report, as amended, was unanimously adopted.

Dr. Pierce to be furnished with a copy of the action of the conference in his case.

H. Mattison moved that the secretaries be instructed to forward to Dr. Pierce an official copy of the action of this conference in relation to his communication. Carried.

John A. Collins reported, in part, from the Committee on the Book Concern, as follows:—

"The Committee on the Book Concern recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:—

May 5.

"1st. That the agents at New-York be directed to release C. Wheeler from so much of his indebtedness to the Book Concern, as is due to him from Ambrose Abbott, with the understanding that he (Wheeler) use his best efforts to collect the amount from Abbott, and pay it to the Concern.

Report of Book Committee.

"2d. *Resolved*, &c., That the accounts of Aaron Wood be referred to the Agents at New-York, to be settled at their discretion.

"3d. *Resolved*, &c., That the Agents at New-York be directed to remit the claims of the Concern against the several preachers of the Genesee, Oneida, and Black River Conferences, growing out of their connexion with the indebtedness of the Auburn Banner."

Report considered, item by item, and the items were severally adopted.

Adopted.

Voted to adopt the report.

The New-Jersey delegation announced brother Shaw on the Committee on Itinerancy, in the place of brother Winner.

J. J. Matthias offered the following resolution:—

"That the clause in Discipline, on page 161, in answer to question 2d, in the words following: 'Provided that no district shall contain more than fifteen appointments,' be stricken out." Referred to Committee on Revisal.

J. J. Matthias's resolution on alteration of Discipline.

The bishop reported the addition ordered to the Committee on Law Questions, namely: James B. Finley, P. Cartwright, P. Crandall, S. Comfort, M. Simpson, W. H. Goode, E. Thompson.

Additional members added to Law Committee.

D. Dailey offered the following:—

"*Resolved*, That the Committee on Finance be instructed to take into consideration the propriety of so amending the Discipline as to allow an annual conference, if they think proper, to withhold the allowance of a claimant upon the funds thereof, when such claimant, in the judgment of the conference, is wealthy, or is engaged in a business which affords him or her an ample support." Referred to Committee on Finance.

D. Dailey's resolution on finance.

Brother Drummond offered the following:—

"*Resolved*, That the following paragraph, in chap. i, sec. 21, pages 8 and 9, of the Discipline, namely, 'No elder, deacon, or preacher, among us, shall distil or vend spirituous liquors, without forfeiting his official standing,' be stricken out." Laid on the table.

Resolutions to alter the Discipline.

Brother Dailey offered the following:—

"*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisal be directed to consider the propriety of amending the answer to the 4th question of sec. 9, of chap. i, pp. 40 and 41 of Disci-

May 5.  
Resolutions to  
alter the Dis-  
cipline, contin-  
ued.

pline, so as to conform the rule of discipline to the universal usage of the bishops and conferences in the reception of preachers on trial, and into full connexion.

“Resolved, That the Committee on Revisal be also instructed further to amend the above answer, so as to require those received on trial to stand a probation of four years.”

Moved to refer the first resolution to the Committee on Revisal.

Moved to amend, so as to refer it to the Committee to Arrange the Discipline.

Time having arrived, conference adjourned.

Prayer by brother Allen.

May 6.

### SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 6.

Conference met as usual at eight o'clock, and was opened with the customary religious exercises by brother J. P. Durbin. Bishop Waugh in the chair.

The journals were read, and on motion the rules were suspended to receive the following resolution:—

Resolution in  
relation to Dr.  
Pierce sitting  
within the bar  
of conference.

“Resolved, That on the vote of yesterday, laying the motion of J. A. Collins, inviting Rev. Dr. Pierce within the bar, on the table, we did not intend to exclude Dr. Pierce, but believed the object of the amendment to be fully included in the original report.”

The secretary ordered to furnish Dr. Pierce, forthwith, a copy of the above resolution.

Report of Com-  
mittee on Book  
Concern.

The Committee on the Book Concern reported, in part, and the following resolutions were adopted:—

“1. That the claim of the Book Concern against John Monroe be referred to the agents at Cincinnati, to be settled at their discretion.

“2. That the request of B. C. Wood be not granted.

“3. That the claims of the Book Concern against James Laws be referred to the Ohio Conference and the agents at Cincinnati, for settlement at their discretion.

Ordered that the secretary be requested to furnish the Ohio Conference with a copy of the last resolution.

Report of Com-  
mittee on the  
State of the  
Church.

The Committee on the State of the Church reported further, in part, as follows:—

“The Committee on the State of the Church respectfully beg leave to present a further report, in part, and to recommend to the General Conference the adoption of the following resolution:

“Resolved, That the bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church be, and they are hereby respectfully requested to furnish to this General Conference a statement, in writing, of the instances in which they consider that the Plan, contingently provided by the last General Confer-

ence, has been violated by the authorities of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, by sending ministers and organizing societies within the bounds of the territory of this conference.

"Respectfully submitted,  
"GEORGE PECK, *Chairman.*"

Moved by brother Porter, to strike out the term "bishops" in the resolution of the report, and insert "a special committee of five."

Brother Jesse T. Peck offered a substitute for the resolution of the committee, which is as follows:—

"Resolved, That the bishops be requested to furnish the Committee on the State of the Church with any facts which may be in their possession in relation to alleged infractions of the division line." Adopted.

The Committee on the Revision of our Hymn-Book reported as follows:—

"The committee, to whom was referred the subject of revising the Hymn-Book, respectfully report that in their opinion such revision ought to be made; and from the best information before them they believe it to be the general impression among our people that this General Conference will provide for such revision. The Book Committee at New-York, consisting of representatives from the New-York, the Philadelphia, and the New-Jersey Conferences, associated with our official editors, unite in requesting such revision; and we have before us a resolution, adopted with great unanimity by the Genesee Conference, requesting this conference to take immediate measures for this object. At the same time, your committee are deeply impressed with the absolute necessity of intrusting such revision to those who will make it with good taste and sound judgment. We present, therefore, for the consideration of this body, the following resolutions:—

"1. Resolved, That this conference appoint a committee of \_\_\_\_\_, to whom shall be intrusted the duty of preparing a revised edition of our standard Hymn-Book.

"2. Resolved, That when said committee shall have finished their labours, the result shall be submitted to the Editors and Book Committee at New-York, and the bishops; and when approved by them, the new Hymn-Book shall be published at our Book Concerns, simultaneously, at New-York and Cincinnati.

"3. Resolved, That all expenses necessarily incurred by the committee in making this revision be defrayed by the Book Agents.

"C. ELLIOTT, *Chairman.*

"PITTSBURGH, May 6, 1848."

May 6.  
Report of Committee on the State of the Church, No. 1, continued.

Report of Committee on the revision of the Hymn-Book.

May 6.  
Amendments.

A motion that it lie on the table failed.

The report was read. Brother Goode offered the following amendment to the first resolution: "the majority of whom shall be travelling preachers in the regular pastoral work." Amendment laid on the table.

The blank in the first resolution was filled with the number seven. The resolution is as follows:—

"1. *Resolved*, That this conference appoint a committee of seven, to whom shall be intrusted the duty of preparing a revised edition of our standard Hymn-Book.

"2. *Resolved*, That when said committee shall have finished their labours, the result shall be submitted to the Editors and Book Committee at New-York, and the bishops; and when approved by them, the new Hymn-Book shall be published simultaneously at our Book Concerns at New-York and Cincinnati.

"3. *Resolved*, That all expenses necessarily incurred by the committee in making this revision be defrayed by the Book Agents."

4. By J. T. Peck. "*Resolved*, That a nominating committee of seven, to nominate the committee to revise the Hymn-Book, be appointed." Preamble and report adopted.

Communication from the Book Committee of Canada Conference.  
Exhibit of Western Book Concern at Cincinnati.

A communication from the Book Committee of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada was read, and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

The exhibit of the Western Book Concern at Cincinnati was read. The report of the Agents was read, and also the report of the Cincinnati Book Committee, all of which was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

The rules were suspended, to hear the appointments for preaching read.

After some remarks by the chairman referring to the action of yesterday in the case of Dr. Pierce, brother Davis moved to recommit the report, with the understanding that the committee are at full liberty to appoint any of our southern brethren to preach that they shall judge proper; which, on motion of brother Hall, was laid on the table.

The chairman of the Committee on Appointments said that he stood corrected by the vote of the morning relative to Dr. Pierce.

Leave of absence was granted to B. Griffen.

Memorial of S. S. Union of the M. E. Church.

The memorial of the Sunday-School Union of the M. E. Church was read. On motion, referred to the Committee on Sabbath Schools, to report as soon as practicable.

Petition for division of Ohio Conference.

Brother Wright presented a petition for the division of the Ohio Conference. It was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

A memorial from Augusta circuit was read, and referred to the Committee on the State of the Church. Also, a memorial from members of the same circuit. Referred to the same committee.

May 6.  
Memorials from  
Augusta circuit.

Conference adjourned. Prayer by J. D. Bridge.

MONDAY MORNING, MAY 8.

May 8.

Conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened with appropriate religious exercises by brother M'Mahan. Bishop Morris in the chair.

The journals were read. T. Spicer moved to suspend the order of the day to make room for certain resolutions, when he offered the following, viz. :—

Resolution on  
revising Discipline  
on pastoral visiting.

“*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisal be instructed to inquire into the expediency of introducing into the Discipline the following question and answer immediately following the first paragraph on page 60 :—‘ Question. What can be done to promote pastoral visiting among our people? Answer. In the annual examination of preachers’ characters, they shall be required to report to the conference the number of pastoral visits they have made during the year.’ ”

P. P. Sandford moved to lay the resolution on the table. Lost.

Voted to refer the resolution to the Committee on Revisal.

Referred to  
Committee on  
Revisal.

T. Spicer also offered the following :—

“*Resolved*, That the rule of discipline excluding disorderly members from society and Church privileges, chapter 2, section 7, second answer to the question, ‘ How shall an accused member be brought to trial?’ page 95, be so amended that this answer shall read as follows :— ‘ 2. But in cases of neglect of duties of any kind, of imprudent conduct, indulging sinful tempers or words, the *buying, selling, or using intoxicating liquors as a beverage*, or disobedience to the order and discipline of the Church,’ &c.”

T. Spicer's resolution on the sale and use of intoxicating liquors.

Voted to refer the resolution to the Committee on Temperance.

Brother Wilson moved that the order of the day be further suspended to make way for resolutions. Carried.

Resolution on  
revisal of Discipline.

Brother Wilson offered the following, viz. :—

“*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisal be instructed to consider and report on the propriety of so altering the Discipline as to make the election of stewards to occur annually.” Laid on the table.

Brother Wilson also moved the following :—

“*Resolved*, That the Rev. Dr. Dixon be respectfully requested to preach a sermon to the conference from the

Invitation for  
Dr. Dixon to  
preach before  
the conference.

May 8.

pulpit of this church on Wednesday next ensuing, at half-past 10 o'clock, A. M."

H. Mattison moved to amend, by striking out half-past 10 A. M., and inserting 2 P. M. Lost.

The resolution was then adopted unanimously by a rising vote.

Course of study  
for local  
preachers.

S. Comfort moved as follows:—

"Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to draw up and report a course of study for local preachers." Adopted.

J. Clark moved the following:—

Resolution for  
alteration of  
Discipline a-  
bout trustees.

"Resolved, That the Committee on Revisal be requested to take into consideration, and report thereon, the propriety of altering the Discipline, part 2, section 2, so as to provide for the appointment of trustees for all our houses of worship and parsonages, by an election of the Church or parish, as the case may be, and for dividing said trustees into three classes, one of which to be chosen annually; and further to provide for dividing all boards of trustees into classes, as above, now acting under the provisions of the deed of settlement, as now set forth in our book of Discipline."

Substitute in  
relation to  
trustees.

M. Simpson offered the following substitute for brother Clark's resolution, which was accepted by the mover:—

"Resolved, That the several annual conferences be requested to take such measures as shall enable them to ascertain what alterations should be made in our deed of settlement and mode of appointment of trustees, so as to accommodate said deed to the laws of the several states; and when said conferences shall have prepared said deeds so as to correspond as far as possible with our present deed, then the Agents shall be directed to publish a sufficient number of said deed, to be distributed gratis to the presiding elders, who shall be charged with the duty of seeing that all property is deeded in said form."

Laid on table.

On motion, laid on the table.

J. Porter moved as follows:—

Resolution con-  
stituting super-  
intendents of  
S. S. members  
of Quarterly  
Conferences.

"Resolved, That the Committee on Sunday Schools be instructed to consider the subject of constituting superintendents of Sunday schools who are members of our Church, and are appointed according to our rule, members of the quarterly conferences with which their schools are connected, and report thereon." Referred to the Committee on Sunday Schools.

Subject of Home  
Missions.

Brother Porter presented a resolution calling for the organization of a home department in our missionary work. Referred to Committee on Missions.

On motion of the same, voted that so much of the journals of the New-England Conference as relates to the subject of home missions be referred to the Committee on Missions.



B. Creagh moved the following :—

“Resolved, That the Committee on Revisal be instructed to inquire into the expediency of extending the term of probation for full membership in the annual conference to four years.”

May 8.  
Resolution on  
term of proba-  
tion in annual  
conferences.

T. Spicer moved as follows :—

“Resolved, That the following passage be stricken out of the Discipline on page 41, commencing with the words ‘as a probationer,’ in the fourth line from the top of the page, and that there be inserted in the place thereof, the words ‘on trial.’ And also to strike out the passage on the same page, in the fourth line from the bottom of the page, beginning with the words, ‘by giving him,’ and ending with the words ‘fellow-labourer,’ on page 42, first line on the top of the page.” Laid on the table, under the rule.

Revisal of Dis-  
cipline.

E. H. Pilcher offered the following :—

“Resolved, That chapter 1, section 3, of Discipline, be amended by striking out question 8, and what follows, to question 9, and the foot note.” Laid on the table, under the rule.

P. Cartwright moved to refer the following to the Committee on Sunday Schools, from the Sunday-school convention of the southern end of the Springfield district, Illinois Conference, Carlinville, on the 24th of February, 1848, viz. :—

Communication  
from S. School  
Convention of  
Springfield  
Dis., Illinois  
Conference.

“Resolved, That this convention request the General Conference so to amend the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church as to make Sunday-school superintendents members of the quarterly meeting conferences.”

Dr. Simpson offered the following :—

“Resolved, That the Committee on Boundaries be, and they are hereby instructed, to inquire into the propriety of arranging the boundaries of the annual conferences, so as to embrace the territories of Oregon, California, and New-Mexico.” Moved to refer said subject to the Committee on Missions. Carried.

Resolution on  
boundaries to  
include Oregon,  
California, and  
New-Mexico.

Brother Drummond offered an extract from the journals of Pittsburgh Conference, praying for a reduction on the price of books, &c. Voted to refer said extract to Committee on Book Concern.

Resolution on  
reducing price  
of books.

On motion of brother Cooper, voted that so much of the journals of North Indiana Conference as relate to the same subject be referred to the same committee.

J. P. Durbin moved as follows :—

“Resolved, That the Committee on Missions be instructed to inquire into the expediency of altering the basis of contributions to the mission treasury, from that of voluntary and conference missionary societies; and make the basis Church membership for regular contributions, and donations from friends of missions not members

Resolution on  
Missions.

May 8.

of the Church, and report a section for the Discipline in accordance with the same, should they judge expedient." Laid on the table.

Resolution respecting the action of the annual conferences on the sixth restrictive article.

H. Mattison moved the following resolution:—

"That the Committee on Itinerancy be instructed to ascertain, and report, with the least possible delay, the action of the several annual conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in reference to the alteration of the sixth restrictive limitation of the Discipline, as recommended by the General Conference of 1844." Adopted.

Resolution to allow German preachers to stay more than two years in one place.

Dr. Holdich offered the following:—

"That the clause of our Discipline, requiring the bishops not to appoint preachers more than two years to a circuit or station, be so modified as to allow the appointment of our German preachers, missionaries, for a longer period if need be." Laid on the table one day, according to the rules.

Certain items from the journals of conferences referred to Committee on Book Concern.

D. Holmes offered the following:—

"Resolved, That so much of the journals of the Oneida Conference as relates to the Book Concern, be referred to the Committee on the Book Concern."

Also, so much of the journals of the Erie Conference as relates to the Book Concern, was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

D. Holmes presented a memorial from A. Dana, and others, of Ithaca, in relation to the Book Concern. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

J. Floy's motion to do away the ordination of local preachers.

J. Floy moved as follows:—

"Resolved, That the Committee on Revisal be directed to take into consideration the propriety of so altering the Discipline as to do away with the ordination of local preachers." Laid on the table.

Laid on table.

Bro. Dailey's resolution respecting District conferences for coloured local preachers.

Brother Dailey offered the following resolution, to wit: That all that refers to a district conference, or privileges in a district conference, for coloured local preachers, in answer 4 of section 10, chapter 2, page 203 be stricken from the Discipline. Laid on the table, under the rule.

Michigan Conference on sermons of living preachers.

Extract from the journal of the Michigan Conference, in relation to a periodical for sermons of living preachers, read and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

E. Thompson added to Com. on Education.

On motion, E. Thompson was added to the Committee on Education.

Report of Committee on Law Questions.

The Committee on Law Questions reported in part the following resolution:—

"Resolved, That when a person, whether a preacher or private member, declares to the proper authority of the Church that he withdraws from the Methodist Episcopal Church, he thereby forfeits all privileges in said Church, and places himself beyond her jurisdiction."

J. Holdich offered the following substitute :—

“When a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, or a member of an annual conference informs the preacher in charge, the presiding elder or bishop, that he withdraws from the Church, he thereby forfeits all his ministerial or Church privileges in the Methodist Episcopal Church; nevertheless, inasmuch as in a voluntary uniting with the Church or ministry he agreed to abide by the Discipline, and inasmuch as the trial or punishment of disorderly ministers or members is provided for in the Discipline, therefore, if he at the time be under the imputation of unchristian or unministerial conduct, it is optional with the administrator of Discipline to proceed to try him or not, as shall be deemed most conducive to the honour of the Church.” By motion laid on the table.

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J. Holdich's  
substitute.

Laid on table.

N. Wilson moved the following amendment to the original resolution, namely, “that he have leave to do so, provided, that at the time he be free from official censure.”

N. Wilson's  
amendment.

J. Porter moved to refer the report and amendment to the Committee on Revisal, with instructions to report (if they think it expedient) a rule of Discipline to express that a person certifying to the proper authorities his withdrawal be considered beyond the jurisdiction of the Church. Laid on the table.

J. Porter moved  
to refer to Com-  
mittee on Re-  
visal.

Moved that the report of the Committee be laid on the table. Lost.

Laid on table.

J. Massey moved that Bishop Hedding be requested to give his views on the subject. Laid on the table.

Motion to lay  
report on table  
lost.

J. A. Collins moved to lay brother Wilson's amendment on the table. Carried.

Ep. Hedding re-  
quested to give  
his views.

T. Spicer moved to amend the report so as to make it read, “except there be a charge against the person for immorality.” Lost.

Laid on table.  
Bro. Wilson's  
amendment  
laid on table.

J. S. Tomlinson moved to amend, so that if a minister or member withdraw from the Church under charges, the fact shall be reported to the conference or society, and recorded on the journals of the conference or the records of the Church.

T. Spicer's a-  
mendment lost.

Moved by J. H. Power, that the further consideration of this subject be postponed until Thursday at ten o'clock, A. M. Lost.

J.S. Tomlinson's  
further amend-  
ment.

Brother Chatfield offered an amendment to the amendment, as follows: “and that the rule prohibiting the re-admission of expelled members apply to such persons.” Laid on the table.

Resolution for  
postponement  
lost.

Moved to lay the amendment on the table. Not carried.

Amendment to  
the amend-  
ment laid on  
table.

Brother Berry offered an amendment to the amendment, “who shall not be permitted again to unite with the Church until they submit to be tried upon the charges lying against them when they withdrew, and are acquitted, or

Motion to lay  
amendment on  
table lost.  
Amendment to  
the amend-  
ment.

May 8.

being found guilty, shall comply with the requirements of our Discipline, in the case of expelled members."

Laid on table.

On motion, laid on the table.

Rules suspended to hear memorial from Oregon.

Voted that the rules be suspended to make room for the presentation of a memorial from Oregon, on the subject of an Oregon Annual Conference. Referred to the Committee on Missions.

The time having expired, conference adjourned. Prayer by brother Barger.

May 9.

## TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 9.

Conference was opened at eight o'clock with the usual religious services by brother J. K. Shaw. Bishop Hamline in the chair.

After the journals were read, brother Spicer moved to suspend the rules of order, and the conference took up the resolution of brother Spicer:—

Bro. Spicer's resolution on alteration of Discipline.

"*Resolved*, That the following passage be stricken out of the Discipline on page 41, commencing with the words, 'as a probationer,' in the fourth line from the top of the page, and ending with the word 'removed' in the eleventh line, and inserting in the place thereof, the words 'on trial;' and also to strike out the passage commencing on the same page, in the fourth line from the bottom of the page, with the words, 'by giving him,' and ending with the words 'fellow-labourer,' on page 42, first line on the page." Conference ordered so to strike out.

Com. on Revisal report in part.

By motion, resumed the order of the day. The Committee on Revisal presented a report in part, suggesting several alterations in the Discipline. Laid on the table for one day, by the rule.

Laid on table for one day.

Report of Com. on Law Questions taken.

By motion, took up the report of the Committee on Questions of Law that was before the conference when we adjourned yesterday.

Motion to lay brother Tomlinson's amendment on the table lost.

Moved to lay brother Tomlinson's amendment on the table. Failed.

Bro. Smith's substitute.

Brother Smith offered as a substitute to the resolution the following amendment:—

"When any member or preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church shall signify to the proper authorities that he withdraws from the Church, it shall be understood that he hereby forfeits all his rights and privileges in the Church, and consequently can no longer demand a trial as his right. Nevertheless, inasmuch as in uniting with the Church or ministry, he agrees to abide by the Discipline; and inasmuch as the Discipline makes provision for the trial of unworthy members and ministers, if there are charges against him when he signifies his withdrawal; it shall be optional with the administrator of Discipline to try him

or not, as shall be deemed most for the honor of the Church."

Moved, by brother Kennaday, to lay the whole subject on the table. Carried.

Brother Sandford presented to the conference a communication from Dr. L. Pierce, accompanied by his credentials as a delegate from the M. E. Church, *South*, and requesting a copy of his first letter to the conference.

May 9.

Whole subject laid on the table.  
Communion and credentials of Dr. Pierce.

*"To the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh.*

"BELOVED BRETHREN,—There are, in my mind, many reasons why I send in the inclosed paper. You ought to see it. And I had promised it. It has been alluded to, by at least one member, on the adoption of the report of the committee on my letter.

"Very respectfully yours,

"L. PIERCE, *Delegate, &c.*

"PITTSBURGH, *May 9th*, 1848.

"Special request.—Will the conference oblige me so far as to let me have a copy of my letter of inquiry, and excuse my being so far troublesome.

"Yours truly,

"L. PIERCE, *Delegate, &c.*"

*Resolutions passed by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at its session held in Petersburg, Va., on May 23, 1846.*

"On motion of F. E. Pitts, *Resolved*, by a rising and unanimous vote, That Dr. Lovick Pierce be, and is hereby delegated to visit the General Conference of the M. E. Church, to be held in Pittsburgh, May 1, 1848, to tender to that body the Christian regards and fraternal salutations of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

"In case of the inability of Dr. Pierce to attend the session of the aforesaid conference, the bishops are respectfully requested to appoint a substitute."

I certify that the above is a true transcript from the journal of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. In behalf of the Board of Bishops,

JOSHUA SOULE, *Chairman.*

PITTSBURGH, *May 4*, 1848.

Voted Dr. Pierce a copy of his letter to the General Conference, at his request.

The Committee on Missions reported, in part, and the following resolutions were adopted:—

"1. *Resolved*, That it shall be the duty of our Book

Dr. Pierce to have a copy of his first letter.

May 9.

Report of Com.  
on Missions in  
part, adopted.

Agents in Cincinnati to publish in the German language the following books, viz., a Commentary on the New Testament, such a one as may be recommended by a committee of five German travelling preachers, (to be appointed by the bishops,) and shall be approved by the Book Committee in Cincinnati, a library of Sabbath-school books, of at least fifty volumes, and also such translations of our standard works, with other books and tracts as may from time to time be recommended by our German travelling preachers, and approved by the Book Committee aforesaid.

"2. *Resolved*, That we earnestly recommend to the fostering care of our Sunday-School Union the German Sunday schools, believing that the Board of Managers cannot better secure the great and benevolent objects of that institution, than by extending to these schools the most liberal aid."

Memorials, &c.,  
called for.  
One from Maysville, Ky., referred to Com. on State of the Church.

Memorials, &c., called for.

J. F. Wright presented a memorial from J. Armstrong, of Maysville, Ky. It was read, and referred to the Committee on the State of the Church.

One from Indiana German dis., referred, with amendment, to Com. on Episcopacy.

A communication from Indiana German District presented by brother Wood. Moved to refer it to the Committee on Boundaries. It was moved to amend by striking out boundaries, and inserting Missionary Committee.

Moved to amend the amendment by striking out the Missionary Committee, and inserting the Episcopacy. Carried.

Extract from journals of North Indiana Conf. referred to Committee on Itinerancy.

An extract of the journals of the North Indiana Conference was presented by brother Cooper, and referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

Brother Brenton presented a resolution from the same conference. On motion it was read, and, with the accompanying paper, was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Communication from Michigan Conf. referred to Com. on Missions.

J. Shaw presented a communication from the Michigan Conference, on the subject of missions. Referred to the Committee on Missions.

Papers from Wesley, St. Louis.

Several papers from Wesley, St. Louis, presented by brother Akers, were referred to Committee on the State of the Church.

Communication from Mary Piper referred to Com. on Book Concern.  
Paper from Indiana Conf. referred to Com. on Boundaries.  
Address of Canada Conf. referred to Com. on Correspondence.

A communication from Mary Piper was referred to Committee on the Book Concern.

A paper from the Indiana Conference, by brother Talbot, on the subject of boundaries, was read, and referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

The address of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada was read, and, on motion, referred to the Committee of Correspondence, heretofore appointed to reply to the address presented by Dr. Dixon, with instructions to report a reply.

On motion, the delegates were invited to address the conference. Messrs. Richey, Ryerson, and Green addressed the conference.

Brother Davis presented the request of D. Ball, relative to relinquishment of book debt. Referred to Committee on the Book Concern.

A letter from C. B. Tippet was read, and, on motion, referred to the same committee.

Voted to refer so much of the journals of the Baltimore Conference as relates to boundaries to the Committee on Boundaries.

The appeal of J. W. Osborn was presented. Brother Osborn presented his reasons for appealing to the General Conference. By vote, ordered that this case be made the order of the day for Friday next, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

By vote, reconsidered the above motion.

Bishop Waugh presented a donation from Mrs. N. Reed, of \$10, to defray expenses of delegates.

On motion, voted that brother Osborn have leave to employ brother Holdich as his counsel. Ordered that brother Holdich and the appellant have access to the journals and papers of the Baltimore Conference in this case. By vote, this case was made the order of the day for Friday next, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Brother Hamilton presented a memorial from Warrenton circuit, which was referred to the Committee on the State of the Church.

Brother Kennaday presented the report of the trustees of the Chartered Fund, and other papers, which were referred to the Committee on the Chartered Fund.

Brother Durbin presented a memorial from the colored preachers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland. Read, and on motion referred to a special committee of five to examine and report thereon.

Agreed to extend the session ten minutes. By vote, the order of the day was suspended, and the following resolution was adopted:—

“Resolved, That the thanks of this General Conference be, and are hereby tendered, to Mrs. Nelson Reed, (widow of one of the oldest travelling preachers in the Methodist Episcopal Church,) for the donation of \$10, made by her through Bishop Waugh, to defray the expenses of delegates.”

The secretary was ordered to send Mrs. Reed a copy of the above resolution.

Conference adjourned. Prayer by brother Jacoby.

May 9.

Messrs. Richey, Ryerson, and Green address the conference. Request of D. Ball referred to Com. on Book Concern.

J. W. Osborn's appeal.

Mrs. Reed's donation of \$10 to defray expenses of delegates. Bro. Holdich to be counsel for bro. Osborn.

Memorial from Warrenton cir. referred to Com. on State of the Church. Report of trustees of Chartered Fund referred to that committee. Memorial from coloured preachers of Penn., Del., and Md., referred to special com. of five.

Vote of thanks to Mrs. Reed.

May 10

## WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 10.

Conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened with the customary religious services by brother James Shaw. Bishop Janes in the chair.

The journals were read.

Book Agents to purchase record book.

Brother Trimble proposed to have the Book Agents purchase a record for reports. Brother Finley moved to agree to the suggestion of the secretary.

Brother Creagh was appointed assistant secretary.

The bishops announced the following committees:—

Nominating Committee on Hymn-Book.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR COMMITTEE TO REVISE THE HYMN-BOOK: M. Richardson, J. B. Alverson, J. B. Finley, D. Patten, W. H. Goode, S. Brison, R. Gerry.

Com. to prepare Course of Study for Local Preachers.

COMMITTEE TO PREPARE A COURSE OF STUDY FOR LOCAL PREACHERS: Joseph Holdich, Jonas Dodge, John Stewart, G. W. Robbins, Ed. Thompson.

Com. on Memorial of Coloured Persons.

COMMITTEE ON THE MEMORIAL OF COLOURED PERSONS, ASKING FOR A SEPARATE CONFERENCE: J. Davis, Manning Force, P. Akers, Fitch Reed, J. A. Massey.

Moved to suspend the order of the day for a special purpose. Lost.

Report of Com. to publish rules, adopted.

Committee to publish rules, &c., reported, and the report was adopted.

Memorials presented.

J. K. Shaw presented a memorial from coloured persons. Referred to committee on that subject.

Bro. Floy presented a memorial from Middletown, on slavery. Referred to Committee on the State of the Church.

J. Clark presented a memorial from West Troy, in favor of congregational singing. Referred to Committee on Revisal.

Brother Spencer presented a memorial from Pittsburgh Conference, on the trial of preachers. Referred to Committee on Itinerancy.

Brother Haney presented a memorial from Quincy District, Illinois Conference, on boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Also one on the same subject from Bloomington, Rock River Conference. Referred to same committee.

Voted, that so much of the journals of the North Ohio Conference, of 1844-5, as relates to the division of the Church, be referred to the Committee on the State of the Church.

E. J. Selleck's appeal.

Letter from E. J. Selleck, appealing from the decision of the Genesee Conference in his case.

G. Filmore stated, that this is the first intimation he or his delegation had had of his intention to appeal, and asked if this would not be a bar to the appeal. The chair said the conference must decide.



Voted that we now proceed to investigate the case. Carried.

May 10.

Voted that his request to have a person appointed to represent him be granted, and E. H. Pilcher appointed to represent him.

E. H. Pilcher to assist E. J. Sellick.

Brother Finley moved that the further consideration of this case be postponed till Tuesday at 9 o'clock. Carried.

Brother Filmore presented the memorial of Jarvis M. Skinner and one hundred and forty-three others, from Ridgway, Medina, and Albion, on secret societies. Referred to Committee on Revisal.

Memorials and petitions presented.

Brother Hosmer presented a memorial on the division of the Genesee Conference. Referred to Committee on Boundaries.

J. Dodge presented a petition on the same subject, of Rev. N. Fellows, and eight others. Referred to the same committee.

Brother Nast presented a paper in reference to the German work, which was read, and, on motion of brother Wright, referred to Committee on Missions.

Paper from bro. Nast on German work, referred to Com. on Missions. Communication from Jas. Savage referred to Com. on State of the Church.

Brother Tomlinson presented a paper from James Savage, asking redress of grievances growing out of the acts of the General Conference in 1844. Reading commenced. Bro. Reed moved to dispense with the further reading of the document. Not seconded, and the reading proceeded. Referred to the Committee on the State of the Church.

P. Cartwright moved that so much of the journals of the Illinois Conference as relates to the subject of boundaries, be referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

P. Akers presented the memorial of Philip Boulware and twenty-two others, praying that they may not be transferred to the South. Referred to the Committee on the State of the Church.

Memorials referred to Com. on State of the Church.

The memorial of J. J. Buren and three hundred and sixty-five others, of Western Missouri, was presented by brother Bowen. Voted to refer the document with the accompanying papers to the Committee on the State of the Church.

Brother Creagh asked to be excused from serving as assistant secretary. Agreed to, and L. A. Eddy was appointed in his place.

Bro. Creagh excused serving as ass't sec., and L. A. Eddy appointed.

Brother Trimble offered the following:—

“Resolved, That the Committee on Revisal be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so altering the Discipline, paragraph 5, sec. 5, page 181, as to provide also for the board of single preachers.” Adopted.

B. M. Hall presented resolutions from Troy Conference. Voted that they be received and read.

Resolutions from Troy Con. read.

“1. Resolved, That this conference do hereby memorialize the ensuing General Conference, to be held at Pittsburgh, Pa., so as to amend the Discipline as to make

May 10.  
Resolutions  
from Troy Con.  
continued.

an explicit provision for a new trial in all cases of appeal, when the appellant makes the existence of new testimony in the case the ground of his appeal; and also, so to amend the rule of Discipline respecting local preachers, as that they be tried by a quarterly conference in their absence. Referred to Committee on Revisal.

"2. *Resolved*, That this conference memorialize the General Conference on the subscription price of the Christian Advocate and Journal, asking that it be reduced to one dollar per annum, always in advance. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

"3. *Resolved*, That this conference memorialize the General Conference at its next session, to fix the relation of private members after having taken certificates of membership. Referred to Committee on Law Questions.

"4. *Resolved*, That the next General Conference be requested to graduate the claims of the supernumerary and superannuated men among us according to the number of years they have travelled in the regular work, and according to their circumstances. Referred to the Committee on Finance."

F. Reed on alteration of Discipline.

Fitch Reed offered the following:—

"*Resolved*, That ans. 1 to quest. 2, of the 3d section, 1st chap. of the Discipline, page 20, be so amended as to read, 'The Gen. Conference shall be composed of one member for every thirty members of each annual conference.'" Laid on the table by our rule one day.

Journals of Me. Conf. referred to Com. on Finance.

Brother Webber moved that so much of the journals of Maine Conference as refer to the graduation of the claims of superannuated preachers be referred to the Committee on Finance. Carried.

Brother Pilcher called up his resolution laid on the table, asking for an alteration of the Discipline. Lost.

Voted to take up the case of J. C. Green. J. Kennaday offered the following, namely:—

J. C. Green's case not entertained.

"*Resolved*, That in the case of Rev. J. C. Green, who has appealed from the decision of the New-York Conference, such appeal cannot be entertained, he having declared himself *withdrawn* from the Church subsequent to the adjudication of his case, and the avowal of his intention to appeal." Adopted.

Sec. to inform J. C. Green of decision.

On motion of J. Kennaday, voted that the secretary be instructed to communicate to J. C. Green the decision of the conference in his case.

Brother Reddy presented the following, namely:—

"*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisal be instructed to inquire into the expediency of striking out of the Discipline the fourth answer to quest. 1, of sec. 2, of part 2, in these words: 'As it is contrary to our economy to build houses with pews to sell or rent, it shall be the

Resolution of bro. Reddy on pewed churches.

duty of the several annual conferences to use their influence to prevent houses from being so built in future, and so far as possible to make those houses free which have already been built with pews." On motion laid on the table.

May 10.

Laid on table.

Brother Porter moved that we now suspend business for the purpose of hearing the sermon from the Rev. Dr. Dixon, and that the members of the conference be requested to sit within the bar during service. Carried.

Business suspended to hear sermon from Dr. Dixon.

## THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 11.

May 11.

Conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened with the usual religious services by brother P. P. Sandford. Bishop Hedding in the chair.

The journals were read.

Brother Fitch Reed was appointed to fill the place of M. Richardson on the Committee of Nomination,

F. Reed in place of M. Richardson on Committee of Nomination.

Agreed to suspend the order of the day for the following:—

"Resolved, That the cordial thanks of this General Conference be presented to the Rev. Dr. Dixon, for his excellent and evangelical sermon, and that we respectfully and earnestly request Rev. Dr. Dixon to furnish the substance of the sermon he delivered before the General Conference yesterday for publication, and that he expand his remarks in any part of it as he may judge proper, and write out his last proposition, of which he only presented us with the outline."

Thanks of Conf. to Dr. Dixon for his sermon, and requesting a copy for publication.

The secretary was ordered to furnish Dr. Dixon a copy of the above, and also to say to Dr. Dixon, that the sermon will not be less acceptable, coming from him after his return home.

The Committee on Missions reported in part:—

"PITTSBURGH, May 13, 1848.

"The Committee on Missions, to whom was referred the memorial from Oregon, praying for the establishment of an annual conference in that country, have had the subject under serious consideration; they have also had before them the resolution of brothers Simpson and Collins on the propriety and importance of embracing the territories of California and New-Mexico within the bounds of an annual conference; and have agreed, after a careful examination of both documents, to recommend to the General Conference the adoption of the following resolutions:—

Report of Missionary Committee on Oregon and California Mission Conference.

"1. Resolved, by the delegates of the several annual conferences, in General Conference assembled, That provision be, and is hereby made for the establishment of an annual conference on the Pacific coast, to embrace Ore-

May 11.  
Report of Mis-  
sionary Com-  
mittee on Ore-  
gon and Cali-  
fornia Mission  
Conference,  
continued.

gon, California, and New-Mexico, to be called the Oregon and California Mission Conference; and that it be organized as soon as practicable under the authority and direction of our episcopacy.

"2. *Resolved*, That the bishops shall have authority to appoint a superintendent for said conference, and assign him his duties; and that the managers of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church shall fix his allowance.

"3. *Resolved*, That we hereby recommend that one of our bishops visit Oregon during the ensuing four years, if practicable; and that his expenses be met in the usual way.

"4. *Resolved*, That the Oregon and California Mission Annual Conference shall have all the rights and privileges of other annual conferences, excepting those of sending delegates to the General Conference, and of drawing its annual dividend from the avails of the Book Concern and of the Chartered Fund.

"All of which is respectfully submitted,

"C. PITMAN, *Chairman*."

Adopted.

German Mission  
Conference.

The report and resolutions were adopted.

Also, relative to the German Church in Milwaukie; also a report relative to an annual conference, which was read. A motion to lay on the table failed.

P. P. Sandford moved to postpone the further action of the conference on this subject till Thursday next.

Moved to refer the report to the Committee on Boundaries.

Brother Simpson moved to amend the motion of reference, by adding, "and that they be instructed to report as soon as practicable." Motion and amendment by vote laid on the table.

Brother Sandford's motion to postpone failed.

By motion and vote the resolution was amended, so as to read Mission Conference. Moved to commit the report to the Committee on Missions. Carried.

The rules were suspended for the introduction of the following resolution:—

Resolution re-  
specting re-  
strictions of  
General Con-  
ference.

"*Resolved*, two-thirds of the General Conference, and three-fourths of the members of the several annual conferences present and voting concurring, That the following be added to the limitations and restrictions upon the powers of the General Conference, namely:—

"If the General Conference shall adopt a rule or regulation which, in the judgment of the episcopacy, or an annual conference, shall be deemed unconstitutional, such rule or regulation shall be referred to the several annual conferences, and the aggregate vote of three-fourths of the travelling preachers composing these bodies

shall be competent either to affirm the constitutionality of said rule or regulation, or pronounce it unconstitutional, null, and void.

By vote referred to the Committee on Law Questions.

The Committee on Missions further report, relative to the organization of a Home Missionary department, the following:—

“*Resolved*, That it is the judgment of this conference, that the organization of a home, or domestic missionary society, is not expedient.”

Moved to amend, by adding, “inasmuch as sufficient provision is made for domestic missions, in the present missionary organization.” A motion was made to recommit the report. Moved and carried to lay this motion on the table. By vote the amendment was laid on the table. A motion to lay the report on the table failed. A motion to extend the session a few minutes failed. Time having expired, conference adjourned. Prayer by brother Traiton.

May 11.

Referred to Law Committee.

Report of Missionary Committee.

Amendment offered, and laid on the table.

## FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 12.

May 12.

Conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened with the usual religious exercises by brother Dodge. Bishop Waugh in the chair. The journals were read.

H. Colburn moved to suspend the order of the day for the purpose of receiving two appeals. Carried.

He presented the appeal of Benjamin D. Sniffen, from the decision of the Oneida Conference, by which he had been expelled from the Church.

H. Colburn moved that the conference entertain the appeal, and fix the time of hearing. Carried.

S. Comfort moved that the appeal be made the order of the day for Thursday next, at nine o'clock, carried.

On motion, voted that the request of the appellant to have the assistance of brother John A. Collins be granted.

B. M. Hall presented the appeal of Ezra Sprague from the decision of Troy Conference, by which he was suspended from the ministry.

J. T. Peck moved that the appeal of Ezra Sprague be entertained. Carried.

Voted that the case be heard at ten o'clock to-day.

Certificate of election of I. Winner as a delegate from New-Jersey Conference presented.

Certificate of Eaton Shaw of Maine Conference, duly elected delegate of said General Conference, was presented.

Dr. Akers presented a report, in part, from the Committee on Itinerancy, on the state of the vote on the alteration of the sixth restrictive article.

Appeal of B. D. Sniffen, of Oneida Conference, made order of day for Thursday.

J. A. Collins appointed to assist him.

Appeal of Ezra Sprague.

I. Winner's certificate of election presented, Also E. Shaw's, of Maine Conf.

Report of Committee on Itinerancy.

May 12.

G. Filmore moved that the report be referred to the Committee on the State of the Church.

Laid on table.

P. P. Sandford moved to lay the report on the table. Agreed to.

Report in part from Committee on Boundaries recommended.

A. Poe presented a report, in part, from the Committee on Boundaries. Voted to recommit the report.

Report of Committee on Revisal laid on table.

G. Peck, from the Committee on Revisal, presented a further report, No. 2. Laid on the table under the rule.

Memorial from Wyandott Indians.

On motion of brother Finley, the rules were suspended to make way for presentation of a memorial from the chiefs and official members of the Wyandott Indians.

Referred to com. of three.

Brother Finley moved that the document be committed to a select committee of three, to consider and report thereon. Carried.

Appeal of J. W. Osborn laid over.

J. Holdich moved that the appeal of J. W. Osborn be taken up, and laid over till Tuesday next at nine o'clock. Carried.

Conferences called to present petitions, memorials, &c.

Memorial from Sharp-st. and Asbury charge, Baltimore, in relation to coloured ministers.

J. A. Collins, from the Baltimore Conference, presented the memorial of the Sharp-street and Asbury charge, asking that coloured ministers should have the pastoral oversight of all the coloured people in connexion with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and that an annual conference of coloured preachers be organized. Referred to the Committee on Petitions from Coloured Persons.

By J. Hopkins, in relation to Boundaries. On motion, referred to Committee on Boundaries.

R. Bigelow's book debt referred to Committee on Book Concern.

By A. Poe, of the North Ohio delegation, asking for a remission of the debt of Rev. R. Bigelow to the Book Concern. Referred to the Committee on Book Concern.

Petition of J. S. Inskip and others for division of Book Concern with the South, referred to Committee on the State of the Church.

By Bishop Janes, of John S. Inskip and others, of Dayton, Ohio, praying that some method may be devised to give the Methodist Episcopal Church, *South*, a *pro rata* dividend of the Book Concern. Read, and on motion referred to the Committee on the State of the Church.

Erie Conference resolutions.

By brother Goode, the vote of the North Indiana Conference on the Erie Conference resolutions. Referred to Committee on the State of the Church.

Petition from Illinois Conference referred to Committee on Boundaries.

By P. Cartwright, a petition from Illinois Conference. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

One from same referred to Committee on Book Concern. Resolution of H. Mattison on baptism.

By the same, a memorial of delegates of the Illinois Conference, petitioning for relief from debt to the Book Concern. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

H. Mattison offered the following:—

“*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisal be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so amending the baptismal formula, page 110, paragraph 2, that instead of reading, ‘Give thy Holy Spirit to these persons, that they may be born again and made heirs of everlasting salvation,

&c., it may read, 'That they, being born again, may be heirs,' &c. Laid on the table.

May 12.  
Laid on table.

Brother Cartwright moved to take up the appeal of brother Atkinson. Not carried.

S. Comfort moved the following resolution:—

"Resolved, That the Committee on Questions of Law be instructed to inquire, 'Has an annual conference, by virtue of its original jurisdiction, the right, when one of its members is under the report of being guilty of some crime expressly forbidden in the word of God, to adopt any measure for the investigation of the matters contained in such report in the intervals of its annual sessions, otherwise than in accordance with the provisions contained in answer to question 1, chapter 1, section 19, page 67,' [of the Discipline,] and report thereon." Referred to Committee on Law Questions.

Question of S. Comfort referred to Law Committee.

Brother Brenton offered the following:—

"Resolved, That the Committee on Revisal be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so changing the sixth restrictive rule (fifth line from the bottom) as to read, 'excepting the first and fifth articles,' and report thereon." Adopted.

Resolution on revisal of Discipline adopted.

A. Stevens offered the following:—

"Resolved, That the Committee on Boundaries be instructed to inquire into the practicability and expediency of the construction and publication of a map of the United States and territories, on which the boundaries of the several annual conferences shall be accurately and plainly delineated." Adopted.

Resolution on preparing a map of the United States with boundaries of annual conferences adopted.

On motion, voted to take up the appeal case of E. Sprague.

The minutes and documents of the Troy Conference in the case were read. Testimony read. The case was postponed till nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

Ezra Sprague's case taken up.

A communication from the commissioners and appointee of the Methodist Episcopal Church, *South*, was presented and read. Also a paper from Bishop Soule of the same Church.

Communication from Commissioners of the Church, *South*.

*"To the Bishops and Members of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in General Conference assembled.*

"PITTSBURGH, May 11th, 1848.

"REV. AND DEAR BRETHREN,—The undersigned, Commissioners and Appointee of the Methodist Episcopal Church, *South*, respectfully represent to your body, that, pursuant to our appointment, and in obedience to specific instructions, we notified the Commissioners and Agent of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of our readiness to proceed to the adjustment of the property question, according to the Plan of Separation adopted by the General Con-

May 12.  
Communication  
from Commis-  
sioners of the  
Church, South,  
continued.

ference of 1844. And we furthermore state, that the chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church informed us they would not act in the case, and referred us to your body for the settlement of the question as to the division of the property and funds of the Church. And being furthermore instructed by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in case of a failure to settle with your Commissioners, to attend the session of your body in 1848, for the 'settlement and adjustment of all questions involving property and funds, which may be pending between the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South;' take this method of informing you of our presence, and of our readiness to attend to the matters committed to our trust and agency by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South: and we desire to be informed as to the time and manner in which it may suit your views and convenience to consummate with us the division of the property and funds of the Church, as provided for in the Plan of Separation adopted with so much unanimity by the General Conference of 1844. And for our authority in the premises, we respectfully refer you to the accompanying document, marked A.

"A. L. P. GREEN,  
"C. B. PARSONS,  
"L. PIERCE. } Commissioners.

"JOHN EARLY, *Appointee.*"

*Extract from the Journal of the General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, at its session held in Petersburg, Va., 1846:—*

"1. *Resolved*, by the delegates of the several annual conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in General Conference assembled, That three commissioners be appointed, in accordance with the Plan of Separation adopted by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1844; and to act in concert with the commissioners appointed by the said M. E. Church; to estimate the amount due to the South, according to the aforesaid Plan of Separation; and to adjust and settle all matters pertaining to the division of the Church property and funds, as provided for in the Plan of Separation, with full power to carry into effect the whole arrangement with regard to said division.

"2. *Resolved*, That the commissioners of the M. E. Church, South, shall forthwith notify the commissioners and Book Agents of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of their appointment as aforesaid, and of their readiness to adjust and settle the matters aforesaid; and should no such settlement be effected before the session of the



General Conference of the Methodist E. Church in 1848, said commissioners shall have power and authority, for and in behalf of this conference, to attend the General Conference of the M. E. Church, to settle and adjust all questions involving property or funds which may be pending between the M. E. Church and the M. E. Church, South.

May 12.  
Communication from commissioners of the Church, South, continued.

"3. *Resolved*, That should the commissioners appointed by this General Conference, after proper effort, fail to effect a settlement as above, then, and in that case, they shall be, and are hereby authorized to take such measures as may best secure the just and equitable claims of the M. E. Church, South, to the property and funds aforesaid.

"4. *Resolved*, That John Early be, and is hereby authorized to act as the agent or appointee of the M. E. Church, South, in conformity to the Plan of Separation adopted by the General Conference of 1844, to receive and hold in trust for the use and benefit of the M. E. Church, South, all property and funds of every description which may be paid over to him by the agents of the M. E. Church."

The conference then proceeded to appoint, by ballot, the three commissioners provided for in the report. On the first balloting, H. B. Bascom, A. L. P. Green, and S. A. Latta, were elected to that office.

"5. *Resolved*, That should a vacancy occur in the Board of Commissioners or in the office of appointee, herein before provided for, by death or otherwise, in the interim of the General Conference, then and in that case the remaining members of the Board shall have power to fill such vacancy with the approbation of one or more of the bishops."

A true copy. In behalf of the Board of Bishops.

JOSHUA SOULE, *Chairman*.

Voted that the session be extended until the reading of the document be finished and it be disposed of.

J. A. Collins moved that so much of these documents as relates to the division of the funds be referred to the Committee on the State of the Church. Carried.

Financial part referred to the Committee on the State of the Church.

Also the following:—

"That the communication from Bishop Soule to this General Conference be referred to a select committee of five, with instructions to report that as Bishop Soule has adhered to the Methodist Episcopal Church, *South*, and thereby withdrawn himself from the jurisdiction of this General Conference, it is improper for this body to take action upon the matters contained in this communication."

Resolution to refer the communication of Bishop Soule to a committee of five.

A Griffith offered the following substitute for brother Collins' resolution:—

May 12.  
A. Griffith's substitute for bro. Collins' resolution.

“Whereas, the Rev. Joshua Soule, D. D., bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, *South*, has laid a letter before this General Conference, asking, or demanding, an investigation of his character and administration from the year 1844 to 1846, (two years,) as one of the bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church; and whereas the Discipline and form of government of said Methodist Episcopal Church make no provision for the trial, investigation of character, of errors, and improper conduct, of any of her bishops, *except in case of a direct charge of immorality*, in the interim of her quadrennial sessions, at which *alone* they are held responsible for all lesser offences. (See Discipline, chapter i, sections 4-6.)

“And whereas the said Rev. Joshua Soule, D. D., bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, *South*, at the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, *South*, held at Petersburg, in Virginia, in May, 1846, did formally and publicly withdraw, retire, and separate himself from the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, openly renouncing her jurisdiction, and disclaiming her authority, all of which he had an undoubted right to do as a Christian, a minister, or a bishop. Therefore, in view of the above-recited premises,

“*Resolved*, That it be the sense of this General Conference, that we have no control, nor any right of jurisdiction whatsoever, over the case of the aforesaid Rev. Bishop Soule, he having long since, of his own accord, dissolved all ecclesiastical relations between himself and the proper authorities of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and thereby placing himself beyond the reach of this body.

“ALFRED GRIFFITH.

“PITTSBURGH, May 5, 1848.”

The conference adjourned. Benediction by Bishop Hedding.

May 13.

### SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 13.

The conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened with the usual religious exercises by brother S. Comfort. Bishop Morris in the chair.

The journals were read.

The chair announced the following modification of the Committee on Revisal:—

Committee on Revisal modified.

Levi Scott, George Gary, James M'Mahan, Hiram Kinsley, Timothy Benedict, Jesse T. Peck, and Silas Comfort.

Bp. Soule's communication.

The rules of order were suspended to take up the business under consideration, when the conference adjourned.

The substitute of brother Griffith was, on motion, laid on the table.

May 13.  
Bp. Soule's communication,  
continued.

The following substitute was offered:—

“That, whereas the Rev. Bishop Soule did formerly declare, that he did renounce the jurisdiction of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and thereby withdraw from said Church, and had united himself with a separate ecclesiastical connexion under the title of the Methodist Episcopal Church, *South*; therefore,

“*Resolved*, That it is the sense of this General Conference, that they have no jurisdiction over the Rev. Bishop Soule, and can exercise no ecclesiastical authority over him.”

Voted to strike out the preamble. The resolution was adopted. The secretary was authorized to furnish Bishop Soule a copy.

Preamble struck out, and resolution adopted.

The rules were further suspended for the following resolution:—

“That we respectfully request the Rev. Dr. Dixon to answer the following queries, viz.:—

Questions to Dr. Dixon.

“1. What construction is put upon our General Rules by the British Connexion, in regard to the admission of members into full membership? Do they admit *seekers* as well as *regenerate persons*, and if so as a Church, do they still approve of the usage and the rule?

“2. What is the practice of the British Connexion in regard to enforcing the attendance of members upon class? Is the rule strictly enforced, and is it a general conviction that the enforcement of it is wholesome?

“3. What is the practice of the British Connexion in regard to reporting members? Do they report probationers as members?

“4. Whether the rule in regard to the admission of strangers into love-feasts and class-meetings is strictly observed?

“5. Also, on any other subjects which he may deem useful.”

“*Resolved*, That the thanks of this conference be given to Dr. Dixon for his full and interesting reply to the above inquiries, and we most fully reciprocate to him, and those connected with him, the kind feelings tendered us through him.”

Thanks to Dr. Dixon for his reply.

The Committee on the State of the Church reported further in part, as follows:—

Com. on State of the Church report further.

“The Committee on the State of the Church beg leave further to report in part:—

“1. That they have had under consideration a communication from the Commissioners of the M. E. Church, South, in relation to a division of the property of the

May 13.  
Com. on State  
of the Church  
report further,  
continued.

Book Concern, and the Chartered Fund, and that they cannot act advisedly upon the communication in question until they receive the official reports of all the annual conferences in relation to the change of the sixth restrictive rule, as recommended by the last General Conference.

"2. The committee would ask the attention of the conference to the necessity of an order pointing out some plan of conference with the aforesaid commissioners, either by appointing a committee of — to confer with the commissioners and report the result to this conference, or by authorizing the Committee on the State of the Church to invite them to a conference. The former plan would save time, and would, in the judgment of your committee, be preferable.

" Respectfully submitted,

" GEO. PECK, *Chairman.*"

Report adopted.

The report was adopted, and the committee instructed to invite the commissioners to a conference with them, or a committee of their own number, as they shall deem best.

Report of Com.  
on Itinerancy  
referred to the  
Com. on State  
of the Church.

Conference took up the report of the Committee on Itinerancy, containing the vote of the annual conferences of the M. E. Church, relative to the alteration of the sixth restrictive rule, and referred it to the Committee on the State of the Church.

Bro. Sprague's  
defence.

By vote, took up the order of the day. Brother Sprague made his defence.

The time having expired, the conference adjourned to meet again at half-past two o'clock. Prayer by brother Simpson.

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 13.

Conference met at half past 2 o'clock. Bishop Hamline in the chair. After the usual exercises by brother Farrington, the journals were read. The rules of order were suspended to take up the business upon which the conference was acting when we adjourned. Brother Sprague continued his defence. When closed, by motion conference adjourned. Prayer by brother Gurley.

Bro. Sprague's  
defence con-  
tinued.

May 15.

### MONDAY MORNING, MAY 15.

Conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened with the customary religious services by brother Walker. Bishop Waugh in the chair, in the temporary absence of Bishop Janes to attend an appointment.

Rules suspended  
to hear a letter  
on expenses of  
delegates.

The journals were read, and, on motion of brother Jewett, the rules were suspended to hear a letter to the Committee on the Expenses of the Delegates.

Voted that the communication be laid on the table for the present.

May 15.  
Laid on the  
table.

J. A. Collins, from the Committee on the Book Concern, presented a report in part, No. 3, parts 1 and 2.

“ NO. III.—PART I.

“ The Committee on the Book Concern, to whom was referred ‘ The memorial from the Book Committee of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada, ’ have carefully considered the same, and respectfully submit the following report thereon :—

Report of Com.  
on Book Con-  
cern, No. 3,  
parts 1 and 2.

“ The Book Committee, in their memorial, ask a modification of the plan adopted by the General Conference in 1836, for the settlement of the claim of the Canada Conference upon the property of the Book Concern of the Methodist Episcopal Church; and also that the General Conference direct the Book Agents at New-York to remit the balance due upon the obligation given them by the Canada commissioners, amounting to some \$400, and return the bond to the commissioners.

“ After an examination of the facts and reasons presented in the memorial, and from the statements made by the representatives from Canada and the Agent at New-York, your committee are of opinion that the requests of ‘ the Book Committee of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada ’ should be granted, and recommend to the General Conference the adoption of the following resolutions :—

“ 1st. *Resolved, &c.*, That in view of the fact that our Canada brethren have derived but little advantage from the arrangement of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, adopted for their benefit in 1836, the Book Agents at New-York are hereby directed to let them have books at the cost prices during the ensuing four years.

“ 2. *Resolved, &c.*, That the Agents at New-York be directed to release the Canada commissioners from the amount due on the obligation given by them to the Agents in 1836, and that the said obligation be returned to the commissioners.

“ PART II.

“ The Committee on the Book Concern have also had under consideration the petition of Rev. C. B. Tippet, praying a continuation of his salary as Agent, &c., and the payment of his travelling expenses from New-York to Baltimore, and sundry applications for release from claims of the Book Concern, and submit for adoption by the General Conference the following resolutions :—

“ 1st. *Resolved, &c.*, That the request of the Rev. C. B. Tippet for the continuance of his salary as Agent, &c.,

May 15.  
Report of Com.  
on Book Con-  
cern, No. 3,  
parts 1 and 2,  
continued.

and the payment of his travelling expences from New-York to Baltimore, be not granted.

"2d. *Resolved, &c.*, That the Agents at New-York be directed to remit the claim of the Book Concern against the estate of the late Rev. John Ball, deceased.

"3d. *Resolved, &c.*, That the Agents at Cincinnati be directed to remit the claim of the Book Concern against the estate of the late Rev. John H. Piper, deceased.

"4th. *Resolved, &c.*, that the Agents at New-York be directed to remit the claim of the Book Concern against the estate of the late Rev. Russell Bigelow, deceased.

"In behalf of the committee,

"JOHN A. COLLINS, *Chairman.*

"PITTSBURGH, May 15th, 1848."

Brother Collins moved to adopt the report.

Brother Sandford moved to amend the report so as to give C. B. Tippetts his expenses from New-York to Baltimore. Withdrawn for the present.

First item of  
part 1 amended  
and adopted.

J. A. Collins offered the following amendment to the first item of the report. It being understood the books purchased by the Book Concern in Canada shall not be disposed of in such places as will bring them in competition with the books of the Concern in the United States, that the expense of transportation shall be borne by the Canada establishment, and that payment for books shall always be made to our Agents in funds at *par* in New-York. Amendment adopted. Resolution of the report adopted as amended.

Second resolu-  
tion adopted.

2. Resolution releasing the Canada Book Concern from certain obligations to the Book Concern of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Adopted.

1. Resolution, part 2, read, recommending *nonconcurrency* in the request of C. B. Tippetts.

Amendment of-  
fered to first  
resolution.

Brother Sandford renewed his motion to amend so as to pay brother Tippetts's moving expenses from New-York to his station.

Laid on the  
table.

Brother Sandford's amendment laid on the table. The resolution, as reported by the committee, adopted.

Part 2 adopted.

2. Resolution releasing the estate of brother Ball from claims of the Book Concern, adopted.

3. Resolution releasing the estate of John H. Piper, adopted.

4. Resolution releasing the estate of Russell Bigelow, adopted.

Whole report  
adopted.

Voted to adopt the report as a whole.

Mr. Green to  
have a copy of  
doings of Gen.  
Con. in relation  
petitions of  
'anada Conf.

On motion of brother Porter, the secretary was ordered to give Rev. Mr. Green a copy of the doings of this conference, in relation to the petitions of the Canada Conference.

Brother Wright, from the Committee on Temperance, reported in part. Laid on the table under the rule.

Brother Clark moved to suspend the rules for the purpose of resuming the appeal case from the Troy Conference. Agreed to.

On motion, voted to take up said appeal.

Brother A. Witherspoon responded to E. Sprague in behalf of the Troy Conference delegation.

Bishop Janes took the chair at ten o'clock.

The delegates from the Troy Conference *rested* the case at the conclusion of brother Witherspoon's remarks, and brother Sprague responded.

Brother Currier asked to be excused from voting, not having heard the minutes read. He was excused.

On motion, it was voted to excuse the delegation of the Troy Conference from voting, at their own request.

Brother Griffith asked whether the minutes taken by the committee in the case of E. Sprague were read before the conference, and made the ground of their action in the case. Answered by Troy Conference delegates in the affirmative.

I. Winner moved that the decision of the Troy Conference, in the case of Ezra Sprague, be *affirmed*.

On motion of John A. Collins, the session was extended ten minutes.

S. Comfort offered a substitute to brother Winner's motion,—that the proceedings in the case of E. Sprague have not been according to rule. On motion, voted to adjourn.

Prayer by brother Shaw, of New-Jersey.

## TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 16.

The conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened with the usual religious exercises by brother Pilcher. Bishop Hamline in the chair.

The journals were read, and the order of the day was suspended, to introduce an account presented to the Committee on Expenses of Delegates.

On motion, the account was ordered to be paid by the Book Agents.

On motion, the rules were further suspended to finish the case of E. Sprague.

Brother Comfort withdrew his substitute, and offered the following:—

"*Resolved*, That in view of informalities in the manner of taking and recording testimony in the case of Rev. E. Sprague, he be referred back to the Troy Conference for a new trial."

A motion to lay this substitute on the table failed.

May 15.

Report of Com. on Temperance, in part, laid on table. Appeal case of E. Sprague resumed.

Bro. Currier excused from voting. Troy delegation excused from voting.

Motion of I. Winner to affirm the decision of Troy Conference.

S. Comfort's substitute.

May 16.

Account of Com. on Expenses of Delegates presented.

Ordered paid.

Brother Comfort withdrew his substitute, and offer'd another.

Motion to lay substitute on table failed

May 16. Brother Winner offered an amendment so as to make the resolution read, introducing the word "fact," instead of "manner," and inserting "before a committee," after the word "testimony."

Laid on table. Voted, that the amendment of brother Winner be laid on the table.

Brother Peck moved to amend. Brother Peck moved to amend, so as to read, "the decision be, and is hereby reversed."

Amendment of brother Cooper laid on table. Brother Cooper amended, by adding, "or not, as they may choose." Laid on the table.

Resolution of brother Comfort adopted. Whereupon the resolution of brother Comfort was adopted.

Brother Osborn's case taken up. Voted, further to suspend the order of the day, to take up the special order of the day, and, on motion, the case of brother Osborn was taken up.

By vote, agreed that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet again at half-past two o'clock, specially to attend to this case. Continued the reading of the testimony.

Voted, to lay the present case on the table, to make way for the following, viz. :—

A motion of instruction to Law Committee. "That the Committee on Law be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so altering the Discipline, (two-thirds of the General Conference, and three-fourths of the members of the several annual conferences, present and voting, concurring,) as to add the following to the section relating to the General Conference: "At every session of the General Conference a committee, consisting of one member from each of the delegates composing that body, be chosen by the delegates respectively, in which one of the bishops shall preside, shall be appointed, to be denominated, 'The Committee on Appeals.' The said committee shall sit as a 'court of appeals' during the regular sessions of the General Conference, from time to time, as necessity may require, and shall have full authority to hear, try, and finally adjudicate, all appeals from the decision of any annual conference, and which may be referred to them by the General Conference."

Referred to Law Committee. Referred to the Committee on Law Questions. Conference adjourned. Prayer by brother Webber.

## TUESDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 16.

The conference met according to adjournment at half-past two o'clock, and was opened with the usual religious services by brother Gurley. Bishop Janes in the chair.

The journals were read.

Brother Osborn's case taken up. Took up the special order of the day, viz., the appeal case from the Baltimore Conference. The reading of the minutes in this case was resumed and finished.



On motion, that the decision of the committee in the case of Rev. J. W. Osborn be read.

May 16.

On motion adjourned. Prayer by brother Clarke of Erie Conference.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 17.

May 17.

The conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened by the customary religious exercises by brother Pitman. Bishop Waugh in the chair.

The journals were read.

The order of the day was suspended to receive a memorial from J. C. Lyon. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

Memorial of J. C. Lyon referred to Committee on Book Concern.

The Committee on Temperance reported, No. 2. Laid on the table one day under the rule.

The order of business was suspended to take up the appeal of J. W. Osborn, and on motion it was taken up. Brother Holdich made the opening speech. Brothers Griffith and Davis spoke in behalf of the Baltimore Conference.

J. W. Osborn's appeal case taken up.

A motion that when we adjourn we adjourn to meet again at half-past two o'clock, to finish the case, was laid on the table.

A motion was made to lay this business on the table, to hear from Dr. Dixon, and the session was lengthened for that purpose.

Dr. Dixon made his farewell communication, and, on motion, the following resolution was adopted:—

Dr. Dixon's farewell address.

“Resolved, That we most affectionately respond to the sentiments so feelingly expressed by the Rev. Dr. Dixon, and cherishing the most grateful sense of his labours and intercourse with us, we commend him to the care of divine Providence, and pray for his safe return to his family and field of labour.”

On motion, conference adjourned. Prayer by Dr. Dixon.

THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 18.

May 18.

The conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened by brother George Gary with the customary religious exercises Bishop Morris in the chair.

The journals were read.

Brother Trimble moved that the rules be suspended for the purpose of admitting resolutions by brothers Young and Finley. Carried.

Brother Young offered the following:—

“Resolved, That the Committee on Missions be instructed to inquire into the expediency of supplying more

Resolution of brother Young on missions.

- May 18. missionaries for the Welsh and Norwegians in the United States, and of extending our Gospel labours among them." Adopted.
- Brother Finley's resolution on the property question. Brother Finley offered the following:—  
 "Whereas the division of the Book Concern, and other Church property, with the Church, *South*, has not been authorized by the vote of the annual conferences, as provided for in the Plan of Separation; and whereas they still claim that we owe them, which involves questions of great magnitude and importance, therefore,  
*Resolved*, That the Committee on the State of the Church be instructed to inquire into the propriety and expediency of offering to refer the above question to disinterested arbiters, to be chosen by the parties, for amicable adjustment, and report thereon." Laid on the table for the present.
- Committee on State of the Church on preparing a history of the Church for the last four years. Church papers in quarto form. "Also, *Resolved*, That the Committee on the State of the Church be instructed to inquire into the expediency of having the history of the Church written for the last four years, and report thereon." Adopted.  
 "Also, *Resolved*, That the Committee on the Book Concern be instructed to inquire into the expediency of *our papers* being printed in quarto form, and report thereon." Adopted.
- Memorial presented. Dr. Tomlinson presented a memorial from Gallipolis, Ohio, which was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.
- Questions in relation to Ezra Sprague. J. Clark presented several questions of the Troy delegation, in relation to the case of E. Sprague. Laid on the table for the present.  
 D. Smith offered the following:—  
 "*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisal be instructed to add to chapter 1, section 19, answer to question 4, page 70, eighth line from the top, the following words, 'whether taken before the conference, or a committee appointed for that purpose.'" Laid on the table under the rule.
- Resolution to Committee on Revisal. P. P. Sandford, from the Committee on the Episcopacy, presented a report, as follows:—  
 "The Committee on Episcopacy, after hearing Bishops Hedding and Janes, in reference to a matter of complaint against their administration, which appeared in the Genesee Evangelist, adopted the following as expressive of their convictions in the case:—  
 "1. *Resolved*, That in the judgment of this committee, in the decision of Bishops Hedding and Janes, in the case of Rev. J. N. Maffit, in determining the place of his membership, they acted entirely within the limits of their Episcopal jurisdiction, and in perfect accordance with the Discipline and usage of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
- Report of Committee on Episcopacy.

"2. *Resolved*, That the circumstances in that case were such as fully to justify and require their authoritative interference.

May 18.  
Report of Com-  
mittee on  
Episcopacy,  
continued.

"The committee also had under consideration a complaint against the administration of Bishop Morris, and adopted the following as their opinion on the subject:—

"The Committee on Episcopacy, to whom was referred so much of the memorial from adhering members of the Ebenezer Church, St. Louis, as referred to a certain letter said to have been written by Bishop Morris to the preacher in charge of the Centenary Church, St. Louis, have had the same under consideration, together with other matters connected therewith, and have been presented with a letter from said preacher in charge, dated Pittsburgh, May 11, 1848, certifying that no such letter was ever received by him; wherefore,

"*Resolved*, That there is no cause of complaint against the administration of Bishop Morris in that matter.

"The committee have carefully inquired into the administration and moral conduct of all the bishops for the four past years, and would recommend to the conference the adoption of the following resolution:—

"*Resolved*, That the administration of the bishops is hereby approved, and that their characters pass.

"The committee have also examined the claims and receipts of the bishops for the four past years, and find that their claims have been paid, with the exception that there is due Bishop Morris \$21, and Bishop Janes \$237, for travelling expenses, and the committee recommend to the conference the adoption of the following resolution:—

"*Resolved*, That Bishops Morris and Janes be paid the balance due them for travelling expenses.

"P. P. SANDFORD, *Chairman*."

J. A. Collins moved to lay it on the table for the present. Lost.

Resolution to lay report on table lost.  
Part of report taken up.

Took up so much of the report as relates to the administration of Bishops Hedding and Janes, in the case of J. N. Maffit.

Voted to lay the item of the report relating to Bishops Hedding and Janes on the table, until they can both be present.

That part of report referring to Bps. Hedding and Janes laid on table till they be present.  
Resolution of committee in relation to Bp. Morris adopted.

The preamble and resolution relating to Bishop Morris were read. The resolution was adopted, as follows:—

"*Resolved*, That there is no cause of complaint against the administration of Bishop Morris in that matter."

Bp. Morris requested to furnish a copy of Mr. Boyle's letter.

Moved that Bishop Morris be requested to furnish a copy of the letter of Rev. Mr. Boyle, for the benefit of the memorialists from St. Louis. Carried.

May 18.  
 Resolution of  
 Episcopal Com.  
 in relation to  
 administration  
 of the bishops,  
 laid on table.  
 Resolution a-  
 bout paying  
 bishops travel-  
 ling expenses  
 adopted.  
 Report of Com.  
 on State of the  
 Church about  
 the sixth re-  
 strictive article.  
 Report received  
 and ordered to  
 be entered on  
 book of reports.  
 Memorial from  
 city of N. Y.

Moved to take  
 up appeal case  
 from Oneida  
 Conference.

Moved to insert  
 Baltimore in-  
 stead of Onei-  
 da, lost.

Memorials pre-  
 sented.

Journal of Pitts-  
 burgh Confer-  
 ence relating to  
 division of said  
 conference re-  
 ferred to Com-  
 mittee on  
 Boundaries.  
 Memorial pre-  
 sented.

Voted to lay on the table the resolution of the Episcopal Committee in relation to the administration of the bishops.

Resolution of the committee to pay the balance of the travelling expenses of the bishops, namely: Bishop Morris \$21, and Bishop Janes \$237. Read and adopted.

The Committee on the State of the Church presented a report on the state of the vote to alter the sixth restrictive rule, to the effect that the number of votes required by the Discipline to change said rule had not been given.

Moved to receive the report, and order it to be entered upon the journal of reports. Agreed to.

G. Peck presented a memorial from members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the city of New-York, which, on motion, was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

S. Comfort moved to suspend the general orders to take up the special order, namely: the appeal case from the Oneida Conference.

Brother Trimble moved to amend, by inserting the appeal from Baltimore instead of from Oneida. Lost.

Brother Comfort withdrew the motion.

Brother Filmore moved to suspend the general orders to receive memorials and petitions.

The chair presented a memorial on the subject of boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

A memorial from S. M. E. Goheen, in behalf of Liberia Mission Conference, asking that said conference may be allowed representation in the General Conference, was presented and read. Voted to refer said memorial to the Committee on Missions.

Brother Wright presented a memorial from Thomas Stringfield and S. Patten, in relation to the dividends claimed by the Holston Conference. Referred by vote to the Committee on the State of the Church.

A memorial was presented by brother Davis, and referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

J. A. Massey presented a memorial on the subject of church music. Referred to the Committee on Revisal.

Brother Mattison presented a memorial in relation to boundaries. Referred to Committee on Boundaries.

Brother Greenwood presented a memorial on the subject of boundaries. Referred to Committee on Boundaries.

Brother Kenney moved that so much of the journals of the Pittsburgh Conference as relates to a division of said conference, be referred to the Committee on Boundaries. Carried.

R. Hopkins presented a memorial from preachers in Pittsburgh Conference, in relation to division of said

Conference. The paper was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

May 18.

Brother Eddy presented a memorial on the subject of books. Referred to Committee on Book Concern.

Memorials presented.

Also a paper on boundaries. Referred to Committee on Boundaries.

The same from the Oneida Conference delegation on boundaries. Referred to Committee on Boundaries.

Brother Steadman presented a memorial from Theodore Stow. Referred to Committee on Book Concern.

The law questions presented by brother Judson. Referred to the Committee on Law Questions.

Law questions referred to Law Committee.

By P. Cartwright, from sundry members from Missouri. Referred to the Committee on the State of the Church.

Brother Dennis presented a paper from Dr. Luckey. Voted to refer to the Committee on Law Questions.

Papers presented by brother Dennis.

Another by the same. Referred to the Committee on Law Questions.

Another by the same from J. T. Arnold. Laid on the table.

The orders of the day were, on motion, suspended to take up and finish the appeal case from Baltimore. Dr. Holdich closed the case.

Appeal case from Baltimore taken up.

Brother Farrington moved that the decision of the Baltimore Conference, in the case of John W. Osborn, be reversed.

Resolution to reverse decision of Baltimore Conference.

Brother J. A. Collins asked to be excused from voting. He was excused.

J. A. Collins excused from voting.

A motion, to excuse all the delegates from Baltimore, was laid on the table.

Resolution to excuse Baltimore delegation laid on the table.

Brother Sandford asked to be excused from voting, on the ground of being absent when the case was heard. He was excused.

Brother Sandford excused from voting. Motion to reverse carried.

And the motion to reverse the action of the Baltimore Conference in this case was carried.

On motion, voted to take up the appeal case from Oneida Conference.

Appeal case from Oneida Conference taken up.

Voted, to sit with closed doors during the examination of this case.

Voted, that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet again at half-past two o'clock this afternoon.

A letter from the appellant was read, and J. A. Collins appeared as his counsel.

B. D. Sniffen's appeal case.

It was moved that the president be requested to appoint some person to keep the door during the trial of this appeal. Carried.

Whereupon Benj. Griffen was appointed door-keeper.

On motion, voted that the appeal of B. D. Sniffen be admitted. The journals of the Oneida Conference in the case were read.

- May 18. Jesse T. Peck moved the following resolution:—  
 Case of B. D. Sniffen. “Resolved, That in view of informalities in the journals of Oneida Conference in relation to B. D. Sniffen, he be referred back to Oneida Conference for a new trial.”  
 Withdrawn. Renewed by J. A. Collins.  
 Moved to prolong the sessions ten minutes. Carried.  
 Adjournment. Voted, that conference do now adjourn. Prayer by brother Phelps.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 18.

The conference met at half-past two o'clock. Religious services by brother Elliott. Bishop Hamline in the chair.

The journals were read.

Voted, to suspend the general order to take up the appeal case of B. D. Sniffen. Voted to take up the said case.

J. A. Collins' exceptions to Journals of Oneida Conference.

J. A. Collins withdrew the motion pending at the time of the adjournment, and presented a paper of exceptions to the journals of the Oneida Conference, in the trial of B. D. Sniffen, namely:—

Action in Sniffen's case.

“As counsel for B. D. Sniffen, in his appeal pending before this General Conference, and in his behalf, I except to the journals of the Oneida Annual Conference, in his case, on the following points:—

“1. Because the Secretary of the Oneida Conference did not keep regular minutes of the trial.

“2. Because the charges and specifications on which said Sniffen was arraigned, tried, convicted, and expelled from the M. E. Church, by said conference, do not appear on the record, nor is there any reference to any *minutes*, kept by the secretary of said conference, in which they are recorded.

“3. Because of the omissions and irregularities, the evidence, if there be any, does not come before the General Conference, in the manner prescribed by the Discipline in such cases.”

The counsel for the appellant addressed the conference in [support of] this bill of exceptions. S. Comfort and D. Holmes replied against said bill, and brother Collins responded.

G. Peck's resolution.

George Peck moved, that the exceptions taken by the counsel are not sufficient to bar the appeal or prevent its being investigated by this conference. Carried.

And the minutes of the trial of B. D. Sniffen were read.

J. Clark moved to adjourn. Lost.

Brother Collins, in behalf of the appellant, made his plea. Brothers Comfort and Holmes replied. A motion to adjourn was lost. Brother Collins closed the pleadings. Brother Porter moved that the decision of the Oneida

Conference be affirmed, and the Oneida Conference delegation be excused from voting, if they desire. The conference **AFFIRMED** the decision of the Oneida Conference in the case of B. D. Sniffen.

May 18.  
Oneida Conference decision affirmed.

Conference adjourned. Benediction by Bishop Waugh.

FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 19.

May 19.

The conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened with appropriate religious exercises by brother D. P. Williams. Bishop Janes in the chair.

Opening of conference.

The journals were read.

A communication from the British Conference, with an extract from the journals of said conference. Read and referred to the Committee on Correspondence.

Communication from the British Conference.

The order of the day was suspended to receive resolutions. Resolution of D. Holmes:—

“*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisal be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so altering the Discipline, page 26, sec. 4, ques. 3, ans. 2, as to read as follows: ‘provided that he (the bishop) shall not allow any preacher to remain on the same station more than three years successively.’” Laid on the table.

D. Holmes' resolution.

By brother Sandford:—

“*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several annual conferences in General Conference assembled, That no preacher is under obligation to give a certificate of membership to any member of the M. E. Church, unless said member wishes to remove his membership to another charge in the M. E. Church, though, as a matter of courtesy, he may give a recommendation to a member in good standing who wishes to unite with another evangelical denomination.” Adopted.

Brother Sandford's resolution.

Whereas, the General Conference of 1840 passed the following resolution, appended to the report of the Westmoreland petition, viz.:—

“*Resolved*, That under the provisional exception of the general rule of the Church on the subject of slavery, the simple holding of slaves, or mere ownership of slave property in states or territories where the laws do not admit of emancipation, and permit the liberated slaves to enjoy freedom, constitutes no barrier to the election or ordination of ministers to the various grades of office known in the M. E. Church, and cannot therefore be considered as operating any forfeiture of right in view of such election and ordination, and whereas, said resolution is liable to misconstruction, and has been misconstrued to the prejudice of our beloved *Methodism*, therefore resolved, by the delegates of the several annual conferences in General Conference assembled, that the Committee on the

J. J. Steadman's resolution.

May 19. State of the Church be, and are hereby instructed to inquire into the propriety of having said resolution *rescinded*.

“J. J. STEADMAN.”

Referred.

Brother Comfort's resolution.

Brother Comfort offered the following resolution, viz. :—  
“*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisal be instructed to take into consideration the expediency of so amending the Discipline on page 162, answers 1 and 4 to question 1, (part 2, sec. 2,) and the second question and answer of the same section, page 164, as to conform to the prevailing usage of the Church on that subject, and report thereon.”

It was laid on the table under the rule.

J. C. Smith's resolution.

Brother J. C. Smith offered the following:—

“*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisal be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so altering the Discipline, chap. 2, sec. 7, 5th paragraph, last line, as to strike out the words ‘proper trial,’ and insert the words ‘manifest reformation’ in lieu thereof.”

Brother Power's resolution.

Brother Power presented the following:—

“*Resolved*, That ans. 2d to quest. 2d of the Discipline, page 171, be so amended as to read as follows:— ‘annually by the quarterly conference at its last meeting for the year, the preacher having charge,’” &c., &c.

Brother Massey's resolution.

Brother Massey offered the following:—

“*Resolved*, by the delegates of the annual conferences assembled, That to prevent all possible misconception of the meaning of the closing proviso of the restrictive articles or constitution, on page 22, small edition of the Discipline, (the requisite majority of the annual conferences concurring,) the word ‘several,’ in the ninth line, be stricken out, and the word ‘all’ inserted, so as to read ‘all the annual conferences,’ instead of ‘the several annual conferences.’” Laid on the table under the rule.

“*Resolved*, That after to-morrow there shall be no more resolutions offered to amend the Discipline, except from committees, during the present session of the General Conference.”

Brother Creagh moved to amend by adding, “and memorials.” The amendment was laid on the table, and the resolution passed.

Brother Jewett's resolution.

Brother Jewett offered the following:—

“*Resolved*, That the Discipline, chap. 1, sec. 4, ans. 8, be so amended as to read, ‘The bishops may, when they judge it necessary, unite two or more circuits or stations together, requiring the preachers to itinerate, without affecting their separate financial interests or pastoral charges.’” Laid on the table under the rule.



*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Book Concern be and are hereby instructed to receive and consider any proposition which may be made to them relative to the transfer of Zion's Herald to the General Conference.

May 19.  
A. Stevens' resolution.

"A. STEVENS,  
"M. TRAFTON.  
"M. HILL."

A motion to lay this on the table failed. Carried and referred to the Committee on the State of the Church.

B. Griffen offered the following:—

*Resolved*, That this conference will adjourn *sine die* on Wednesday, 31st of the present month."

B. Griffen's resolution.

A motion to lay this resolution on the table failed.

It was, on motion, indefinitely postponed.

*Resolved*, That whereas, if in the judgment of any member of the conference, the discussion of a subject should be terminated, it shall be in order for him to move that the vote on the question be now taken, which motion, if seconded, shall be put without debate; and if two-thirds of the members present and voting, sustain the motion, the vote on the subject under discussion shall be taken without further debate, in the following order: first, on the substitute, if there be one; second, on the amendment; third, on the main question.

Resolution on the previous question.

"J. DRUMMOND,  
"S. ELLIOTT."

A motion to strike out "two-thirds" and insert "a majority" failed. The resolution was adopted.

By brother Spicer:—

*Resolved*, That the Book Agents at New-York be directed to publish a monthly magazine as soon as a sufficient number of subscribers can be obtained to warrant such a publication." Laid on the table.

Brother Spicer's resolutions.

Also the following:—

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisal be instructed to inquire into the propriety of amending the note of recommendation to members by introducing the words, the 'Methodist Episcopal Church,' instead of 'our Church.'

*Resolved*, That after Monday next, the rule calling for petitions and memorials be suspended for the remainder of the session of this conference."

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Questions of Law be instructed to inquire, when charges are preferred against a preacher at an annual conference, and he cannot be tried during the session for want of testimony, whether it is proper for the conference to appoint a committee to try him, with power to acquit or suspend him in the interval of the conference. If not, has the conference the

A. Stevens' resolution.

May 19. right to refer the case of an accused preacher to the presiding elder who may have charge of him, to try him under the rule for the trial of immoral travelling preachers in the interval of an annual conference.

A. Stevens' resolution, continued.

"A. STEVENS,  
"S. G. ROSZEL."

J. Porter's resolution.

"Resolved, That the Committee on Missions be instructed to inquire into the propriety of amending the Discipline, part 2, section 6, paragraph 3, so as to read, 'which shall be subject to the order of the conference; provided, that not more than one-half of it shall be appropriated within its own bounds, without the consent of the managers of the parent society.'

"J. PORTER."

Rules suspended for brother Atkinson's appeal.

By vote, suspended the rules to take up the appeal from Illinois Conference of brother Atkinson. The appellant stated in writing the ground of his appeal.

Brother Simpson's objection to the evidence.

Proceeded to read the charge and evidence. Brother Simpson objected to the presentation of the minutes as evidence in the case, because they had not been taken by the secretary in open conference. The chair decided the objection out of order.

Brother Simpson appealed from the decision of the chair.

Brother Collins moved, that the conference sustain the chair on the point of order. Adopted. The reading proceeded and closed.

Brother Cartwright for appellant.

Brother Cartwright, in behalf of the appellant, addressed the conference. This case was laid on the table for the present.

Announcement of the death of Dr. Emory.

The chair announced to the conference the decease of Dr. R. Emory. J. A. Collins offered the following:—

Resolutions in case of Dr. Emory's decease.

"Whereas, this General Conference has received intelligence of the decease of Dr. R. Emory; and whereas the deceased occupied an elevated position in the Methodist Episcopal Church, as a scholar, minister of the Gospel, and an eminent Christian; and whereas it is proper that public notice be taken, and sympathy expressed on such occasions as the one above referred to; therefore,

"1. Resolved, That this General Conference has received with profound sorrow the intelligence of the decease of Dr. R. Emory, President of Dickinson College, and while we bow with submission to this dispensation of divine Providence, we cherish with pleasing recollection the remembrance of his fervent piety, eminent learning, and deep devotion, zeal, and usefulness, as a minister of the Gospel of Christ.

"2. Resolved, That the sympathy and condolence of

the General Conference with the family of the deceased are hereby expressed.

"3. *Resolved*, That the secretary of the conference furnish the family of the deceased with a copy of the preamble and resolutions."

By vote, the decision of the Illinois Conference in the case of brother Atkinson was reversed.

Conference adjourned. Prayer by brother Plimpton.

May 19.  
Resolutions in the case of Dr. Emory's decease, continued.

Decision in brother Atkinson's case reversed.

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 20.

May 20.

Conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened with the usual religious exercises by brother Cartwright. Bishop Waugh in the chair.

J. A. Collins offered the following:—

"*Resolved*, That the Book Agents at New-York be, and they are hereby directed to pay the moving expenses of Dr. Bond from New-York to Baltimore." Moved to lay the resolution on the table. Lost. Brother Cooper moved to lay the resolution on the table, until we get the information ordered in 1844, in relation to travelling expenses of General Conference officers. Lost. The resolution was adopted.

Brother Collins' resolutions.

J. A. Collins offered the following:—

"*Resolved*, That the Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati be and are hereby directed to furnish to this conference a statement of the amount paid to Book Agents and Editors during the last four years, in addition to their salaries and travelling expenses, specifying the objects for which such moneys have been paid, and the claims any of them may have for literary or other labour, which are still unsettled, and also the sums paid for manuscripts, for books, for the pages of the Quarterly Review, and our other periodicals, and for assistance in the editorial departments, specifying in each case the names of the individuals, and the precise objects for which payments have been made.

J. B. Finley moved that the question be now taken. Carried by a vote of one hundred and twenty-seven.

Previous question.

The vote on the resolution was then taken, and it was adopted.

J. Young offered the following:—

"*Resolved*, That Bishop Hedding be and is hereby respectfully requested to furnish the Agents in New-York with a copy of an address delivered by said bishop before the Committee on Episcopacy, leaving out names and localities, and that the Agents be requested to publish the same in pamphlet form." Voted, that the resolution be laid on the table for the present.

J. Young's resolution.

Brother T. Spicer offered the following:—

May 20.  
T. Spicer's re-  
solutions to the  
Committee on  
Revisal, contin-  
ed.

"Resolved, That the Committee on Revisal be instructed to inquire into the propriety of so amending the rule on page 181, as to make the estimate of the Committee on Table Expenses subject to the action of the quarterly conference." Adopted.

By the same, "That the Committee on Revisal be instructed to inquire into the propriety of so amending the rule, for locating travelling preachers without their consent, as to authorize an annual conference to locate a man when, in the judgment of three-fourths of its members, he is no longer useful as a travelling preacher." Moved to lay it on the table. Lost. The resolution was adopted.

E. Thompson offered the following resolution with a preamble prefixed:—

E. Thompson's  
resolution.

"Resolved, That the first Monday in January be observed annually throughout our community as a day of public religious service of fasting and prayer in behalf of our colleges and seminaries." Referred to the Committee on Education.

M. Hill moved the following in connexion with a preamble, namely:—

M. Hill's reso-  
lution.

"Resolved, That the Committee on Revisal be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so altering the Discipline in section 5, question 2, answer 6, page 32, and section 10, question 1, answer 16, page 47, as to make it the duty of all travelling ministers to render an account to their respective conferences of the amount of the books which they sell annually, to be inserted in the Minutes, as an article of statistical intelligence." Laid on the table.

George Peck offered the following:—

G. Peck's reso-  
lution.

"Resolved, That the bishops be respectfully requested to forward to the Book Agents a copy of the *course of study* which they shall point out for candidates for admission and travelling deacons; that the Agents be directed to publish the same in the latter part of the small edition of the Discipline." Moved to strike out Discipline, and insert Methodist Almanac. Laid on the table.

The resolution was laid on the table under the rule.

Brother Spencer offered the following:—

Resolution on  
horse-feed.

"Resolved, That the Committee on Law be requested to say whether *horse-feed*, in the case of those who are under the necessity of keeping a horse to attend their appointments and duties in the ministry, is travelling expenses, or not?" Moved to lay on the table. Lost.

The resolution was adopted.

J. Clark offered the following:—

J. Clark's reso-  
lution.

"Resolved, That the Committee on Revisal be directed to inquire into the propriety of so altering the closing paragraph of part 2, and section 2, as to provide for arrang-

ing the trustees of our several Churches and parsonages into three classes, where this arrangement does not now exist; and to provide for the appointment or election of one class each year, where the laws of the state will allow."

Brother Simpson offered the following substitute to brother Clark's resolution:—

"Resolved, That the several annual conferences be requested to take proper measures to ascertain what changes, if any, are requisite in our deed of settlement and mode of appointment of trustees, so as to conform to the laws of the several states, and add to the security of the property of the Church. And when said annual conferences shall have agreed upon such changes, not affecting, however, any of the trusts contained in our present deed, and when such changes shall have been inspected and approved by the bishops, so as to secure uniformity as far as possible, then the Book Agents shall be authorized to publish copies of said deeds, to be furnished without charge to the presiding elders of the several states, who shall be charged with the duty of seeing that our Church property is *properly* secured, according to the form of said deed."

Brother Sargent moved the indefinite postponement of the whole subject.

Brother Clark admitted brother Simpson's substitute; and, on motion, the previous question was ordered, by a vote of one hundred and eighteen.

The motion for indefinite postponement was lost, and the question recurred on the substitute. Brother Cooper moved to amend, by striking out all that relates to the furnishing of deeds. Brother Simpson admitted the amendment. The substitute was laid on the table under the rule.

Brother Herr offered the following, in connexion with a preamble:—

"Resolved, That the Committee on Revisal be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so amending the Discipline, page 27, chap. 1, sec. 4, line 11, so as to read 'and Sabbath Unions.'" Laid on the table.

Brother Brenton offered the following:—

"Resolved, That the Committee on Revisal be instructed to inquire what amendments and alterations, if any, are necessary to the 19th section, chap. 1, of the Discipline, concerning the trial of immoral preachers, and report thereon."

O. C. Baker offered the following:—

"Resolved, That the Committee on Revisal be instructed to inquire into the propriety of so amending the Discipline, page 25, ans. 14 to quest. 6, that the numbers of probationers be given in the Minutes separate from those in full membership."

May 20.  
J. Clark's resolution, continued.

Brother Simpson's substitute.

Substitute admitted, and previous question ordered.

Motion for indefinite postponement lost.

Brother Cooper's motion to amend admitted.

Substitute laid on the table.

Brother Herr's resolution to Committee on Revisal.

Brother Brenton's resolution to Committee on Revisal.

O. C. Baker's resolution to Committee on Revisal.

May 20.

Brother Mattison's resolution to Committee on Revisal.

Brother Mattison offer the following:—

"That the Committee on Revisal be instructed to consider the propriety of amending question 6. page 23, of the Discipline, whereby we are to inquire at each annual conference, *who have been elected by the suffrages of the General Conference to exercise the Episcopal Office, and superintend the Methodist Church in America.*"

Letter to J. A. Collins referred to Committee on Revisal.

J. A. Collins moved, that so much of a certain letter addressed to him as relates to amendments in the Discipline be referred to the Committee on Revisal. Carried.

J. B. Finley presented a letter from commissioners of the Church, South. Resolution to refer to Committee on State of the Church failed, and brother Finley withdrew paper.

J. B. Finley presented a letter from the commissioners of the M. E. Church, *South*, to N. Bangs, G. Peck, and J. B. Finley, in relation to the division of the funds.

Brother Finley moved to refer it to the Committee on the State of the Church. Brother Finley withdrew the motion to refer, and brother Creagh renewed it, when brother Finley withdrew the paper.

I. Stone has leave of absence.

Brother Mattison asked leave for brother I. Stone, of the Black River Conference, to return home in consequence of ill health. Adopted.

Voted, that the Committee on the Expenses of Delegates be instructed to pay brother Stone's expenses this afternoon.

Brother Herr offered the following, prefaced by a preamble:—

Brother Herr's resolution about a member withdrawing from the Church.

"Resolved, That it is the judgment of this General Conference, that no preacher or member of our Church is entitled to the privilege of dissolving his membership while under censure." Laid on the table.

D. Patten presented the following, from the journal of the Providence Conference:—

Communion from Providence Conference.

"Resolved, That it is desirable that our ritual should be revised, and made conformable to our standard writers and the improved circumstances of our denomination." Referred to the Committee on Revisal.

Thomas Carlton offered the following:—

Resolution in relation to Book and Publishing Committees.

"Resolved, That the Committee on the Book Concern be directed to inquire if any, and if any, what changes are needed in the Book Committees and Publishing Committees," adopted.

Voted, to take up the general orders of the day.

P. P. Sandford, from the Committee on Law Questions, presented a report, which was read. The first resolution was taken up, viz. :—

Report of Committee on Law Questions.

"Resolved, That a presiding elder has a right to employ a local preacher without a recommendation from a quarterly conference."

Brother Kenny moved to amend.

Brother Kenny moved to amend, by inserting the word *not*.

S. Comfort moved to extend the session ten minutes. May 20.  
 Lost.  
 The amendment was laid on the table. Amendment  
laid on table.  
 On motion, voted to adjourn. Prayer by brother —.

MONDAY MORNING, MAY 22.

May 22.

The conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened with the usual religious exercises by brother E. Smith. Bishop Morris in the chair.

The journals were read, and the rules were suspended to admit the following:—

“Resolved, That the financial secretary of the American Bible Society be invited to take a seat within the bar, and be privileged to speak on all questions relating to the American Bible Society.”

Resolution in relation to Financial Secretary of the American Bible Society.

Rules further suspended to call for memorials, &c.

Memorial of Dr. Bond for claims on Book Concern. Referred to Committee on the Book Concern.

Memorials, &c., presented.

Brother Barrows presented a paper from M. Newhall. Referred to the Committee on Revisal.

Brother Drummond presented a communication from brother M'Abee relative to book debts. Referred to Committee on the Book Concern.

Also from preachers of the Pittsburgh Conference, on the subject of tracts. Referred to the Committee on Tracts and Sunday Schools.

Also from one hundred and ninety-seven members of the M. E. Church, Leesburgh, Ohio, on the subject of slavery. Referred to Committee on the State of the Church.

From George Webber relative to an error in the entry of his vote, on the first resolution, of the Plan of Separation, placing it in the affirmative when it should have been in the negative.

Brother Tomlinson presented a document containing financial statements of the condition of Augusta College. Referred to Committee on Education.

From P. Elder, of Zanesville, asking some alteration in Discipline. Referred to Committee on Revisal.

By the same, a paper from S. Jones. Referred to Committee on Book Concern.

Brother Walker, a paper touching the Boundary Question. Referred to Committee on Boundaries.

By brother Trimble, a memorial from Cincinnati. Referred to the Committee on the State of the Church.

By brother Goode, a paper touching the question of boundaries. Referred to Committee on Boundaries.

By brother Cartwright, a memorial from the African Green-street Church, St. Louis. Referred to the Committee on the State of the Church.

May 22.

Memorial presented.  
Committee on State of the Church report in part.

By brother Talbot, a paper touching boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

The Committee on the State of the Church reported further, in part. Voted, to lay the report on the table, making it the order of the day for to-morrow at eight o'clock, and that we sit during the investigation of the report with closed doors, admitting travelling preachers of the M. E. Church and General Conference officers.

Made order of the day for Wednesday.

Moved and carried to strike out to-morrow and insert Wednesday, also to amend by inserting to be printed for the use of the General Conference. A division of the question was called for. The first part of the resolution was adopted. A motion to lay the second part on the table was lost.

The second part of the resolution was lost.

Motion to sit with closed doors lost.

Further report from Committee on State of the Church.

A further report from the Committee on the State of the Church was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed for the use of the members, and made the order of the day for Wednesday morning at eight o'clock.

Report of the Committee on Revisal, No. 3.

The Committee on Revisal made a further report, marked 3. Laid on the table under the rule.

Report of the Committee on Revisal, No. 4.

The same committee made a further report, No. 4. Laid on the table under the rule.

Committee on Education report recommended.

The Committee on Education reported. Moved to recommit the report to be perfected.

Committee on Chartered Fund.

The Committee on the Chartered Fund reported. Laid on the table, and made the order of the day for to-morrow morning.

Committee on the Memorial from the Wyandott tribe of Indians reported. A motion was made to adopt the report of the committee.

Report on Wyandott Indians.

"1. *Resolved*, That this General Conference do most earnestly recommend to the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church to refund to the Wyandotts the whole, or five hundred dollars of the amount, to pay the debt incurred in building their church, provided the Methodists, in the above tribe of Indians, are recognized as belonging to the M. E. Church.

"2. That the decision of this General Conference, in relation to this matter, be conveyed to the chiefs and council of the Wyandotts, by the secretary, as soon as possible." Report and resolutions adopted.

The Committee on Missions reported:—

Report of Com. on Missions.

"*Resolved*, That we recommend that the German missionaries now attached to the Ohio Annual Conference remain in such connexion for the next four years."

The report was adopted.

"*Resolved*, That the German districts now belonging to the Illinois Annual Conference be transferred to the



Rock River Conference for the next four years." Referred to the Committee on Missions.

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The Committee on Missions made a further report relative to Oregon, &c. Moved to lay it on the table, and make it the order of the day for to-morrow at nine o'clock. Failed. Moved to strike out the word "New-Mexico."

Report of Committee on Missions in relation to Oregon.

Conference adjourned. Prayer by brother Jacoby.

TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 23.

May 23.

Conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened with the usual religious exercises by brother Wever. Bishop Hamline in the chair.

The journals were read, and on motion the rules were suspended, to make way for a resolution on the Book Concern from Genesee Conference, as follows:—

"Rev. C. B. Tippett presented certain names of persons indebted to the Book Concern, whereupon it was

C. A. Smith's indebtedness to the Book Concern.

"Resolved, That the account against Clarke A. Smith, deceased, be referred to the General Conference." Adopted.

Brother Finley moved to suspend the rules, for the purpose of disclaiming the meaning of an *act of this conference*, set forth in an article which he held in his hand, said to have been published in Zion's Herald. Agreed to. Brother Stevens, as editor of that paper, explained the article alluded to. Brother Davis addressed the conference, objecting to said editorial, and was followed by brother Finley on the same side.

Brother Finley in relation to editorial in Zion's Herald.

Moved to take up the order of the day. Carried.

Dr. Durbin—from the Committee on Education. The first resolution was read, namely:—

"Resolved, That the proper authorities in each of our universities, colleges, and academies be respectfully requested to furnish, in writing, to the next General Conference, definite answers to the following questions:—

Report of Committee on Education.

"1. The date of the institution?

"2. The number of names of the departments of instruction?

"3. The number of permanent teachers?

"4. The number of volumes in library?

"5. The extent and value of the apparatus and museum?

"6. The present number of students, and the average number annually for the last four years?

"7. How many of them are members of Evangelical Churches, and how many of them became such during their residence in the institution?

"8. The amount and character of the property and funds of the institution?

"9. The annual income and expenditure?

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Report of Committee on Education, continued.

"10. The financial plan for permanently endowing the institution, or for meeting its current expenses ?

"11. Its relation to the Methodist Episcopal Church?"  
The resolution was adopted.

"2. *Resolved*, That we respectfully but earnestly ask the attention of each annual conference to the propriety and necessity of presenting the claims of the literary institutions under its care, at least once a year, at a stated time fixed by the conference, to each congregation, and of taking a public collection in each congregation for the current support of said institutions." Adopted.

On motion, voted to adopt the whole report. (See Appendix A.)

Resolution to refer editorial in Zion's Herald to committee.  
Committee on Revision of the Hymn-Book.

J. A. Collins moved to suspend the rules to refer the editorial in Zion's Herald to a committee. Laid on the table.

The committee to nominate a committee to revise the Hymn-Book reported as follows:—David Dailey, Philadelphia Conference; J. B. Alverson, Genesee Conference; James Floy, New-York Conference; David Patten, jr., Providence Conference; F. Merrick, Ohio Conference; Robert A. West, of Brooklyn, and David Creamer, of Baltimore.

Moved to add the name of William Hunter to this committee. Lost. The report was adopted.

Report of Committee on Boundaries.

A. Poe reported in part from the Committee on Boundaries.

Brother Filmore moved to suspend the rules to take up the report. Carried.

New-York Conference amendment of P. P. Sandford laid on table.

New-York boundary taken up. P. P. Sandford moved to amend the report by adding all of the New-York district except Stamford, Norwalk, New-Canaan, and Poundridge. A motion to extend the time to permit brother Sandford to finish his speech failed.

Voted to lay the amendment on the table.

D. Curry's substitute.

D. Curry offered the following substitute:—

"The New-York Conference shall include all that portion of the state of New-York now embraced in New-York, Newburgh, Delaware, Poughkeepsie, and Rhinebeck districts, and so much of Massachusetts and Connecticut, as is now embraced in Rhinebeck district."

Laid on table.

Brother Parks moved to lay the substitute on the table. Carried.

Previous question carried.  
Report of New-York Conference adopted.  
New-York East Conference report adopted.  
Leave of absence to J. J. Matthias.

Brother Finley moved the previous question. Carried.  
Item of the report relating to New-York Conference adopted.

The report bounding the New-York East Conference was adopted.

Brother Holdich asked leave of absence for brother J. J. Matthias for the rest of the session, in consequence of the illness of his father. Granted.

Leave was granted to brother Bonney to be absent during the remainder of the session, on account of ill health.

The item of the report bounding the Providence Conference was adopted.

Also that bounding the New-England Conference.

Also that bounding the Maine Conference.

The question of the boundary of East Maine was taken up. Brother Marsh moved to amend the report by striking out "East Maine," and inserting "Bangor." Lost.

The boundary reported for East Maine was adopted.

The report bounding New-Hampshire and Vermont Conferences respectively was adopted.

The report bounding the Troy Conference was taken up. Brother Jewett moved to strike out Kinderhook and Stuyvesant Landing. Lost.

Brother Jewett moved to add the remaining part of Kinderhook circuit. Carried.

The boundary as amended was adopted.

The boundaries of Black River Conference was taken up and adopted.

The boundary of Oneida Conference was taken up and adopted.

East Genesee Conference boundary taken up. Brother Finley moved to postpone this topic until to-morrow to accommodate brother Alverson, who is unwell and wishes to speak on this point. Carried.

Voted that the Committee on the Expenses of Delegates be instructed to pay the expenses of the brethren who have to return home.

Boundary of Erie Conference taken up. Voted to recommit said item.

North Ohio boundary taken up and passed.

Brother Finley presented a memorial from Cleveland, Ohio. Voted to refer so much of said paper as relates to the Book Concern to the Committee on the Book Concern, and so much of the paper as relates to the state of the Church to the Committee on the State of the Church.

Brother Herr presented a paper relating to a revision of Discipline, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisal.

Brother Talbott presented a paper, which was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. Time having arrived, conference adjourned with prayer by brother Berry.

May 23.  
Leave of absence to brother Bonney.

Providence Conference.

New-England Conference.  
Maine Conference.  
East Maine Conference.

N. Hampshire and Vermont Conferences.

Troy Conference.

Black River Conference.

Oneida Conference.

East Genesee boundary postponed.

Order to pay expenses of delegates returning home.

Erie Conference boundary re-committed.

North Ohio passed.  
Memorial from Cleveland, O.

Brother Herr's paper referred to Committee on Revisal.

Brother Talbott's paper referred to Committee on Book Concern.

### WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 24.

May 24.

The conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened with the customary religious exercises by brother Bain.

Bishop Janes in the chair. The journals were read,

- May 24. and the conference took up the report of the Committee on  
 Erie Conference. Boundaries in relation to Erie Conference.
- On motion, brother Kent was permitted to speak to the resolution. Erie Conference adopted.
- Pittsburgh Conference. The report of the Committee on Boundaries relating to Pittsburgh Conference taken up. R. Hopkins moved to amend by adding Roscoe to Pittsburgh Conference.
- Brother Kenney moved to amend the amendment by striking out Marietta and Zanesville.
- Brother Kenney's amendment was laid on the table when the previous question was ordered.
- The amendment failed, and then the report was adopted.
- Ohio Conference. The report relating to the boundary of Ohio Conference was taken up, and by vote was laid on the table for the present.
- Michigan Conference. The report of the committee in the case of the Michigan Conference boundary was adopted.
- Indiana Conference. The report of the same committee in the case of Indiana Conference was adopted.
- North Indiana Conference. Also in the case of North Indiana Conference was adopted.
- Rock River Conference. Also in regard to the boundary of Rock River Conference, adopted.
- Wisconsin Conference. The boundary reported in the case of Wisconsin was taken up. Brother Hooper Crews moved so to amend as to make the state line the boundary between Rock River and the Wisconsin Conference. The amendment was laid on the table. The report was adopted.
- Iowa Conference. Iowa Conference boundary taken up. Brother Reed moved to strike out *Nebraska*, and insert in the stead thereof, "all the territory north of the state of Iowa, and west of the Mississippi River." Adopted.
- And the report, as amended, was adopted.
- Illinois Conference. Illinois Conference. Brother Phelps moved to amend by striking out, "beginning at Warsaw, thence to Augusta, thence to Doddsville, thence to the mouth of Spoon River;" and insert, "beginning at the mouth of the Illinois River, thence to the mouth of Spoon River." Laid on the table.
- Brother Hany moved to amend by including Bloomington in the Rock River Conference. Lost. The report relating to Illinois Conference adopted.
- Baltimore Conference. Boundary of Baltimore Conference taken up. Moved to lay this part of the report on the table. Lost. Moved to recommit, with instruction to give a more definite boundary to the Baltimore Conference. Carried.
- Philadelphia Conference. Philadelphia Conference adopted as reported.
- New-Jersey Conference. The New-Jersey Conference boundary, as reported by the Committee on Boundaries, was adopted.

Voted, to lay the report of the Committee on Boundaries on the table, to take up the special order of the day.

May 24.

By motion, voted to take up the report of the Committee on the State of the Church. Moved to consider the second report first. A call for the previous question was sustained, and the motion failed.

Report of Committee on State of the Church.

Took up the first report. Moved to read it, and act upon the question section by section. Yeas and nays ordered. The first declaration was taken up.

“I. There exists no power in the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church to pass any act which, either directly or indirectly, effectuates, authorizes, or sanctions, a division of said Church.”

The first declaration was adopted by the following vote:

YEAS — Bowen, Wilson, Brison, Morgan, Miller, Collins, Griffith, Roszel, Dailey, Hazzard, Kennaday, Scott, Durbin, Gerry, Stevens, Patten, Allen, Emerson, Pitman, Brown, J. K. Shaw, Force, Felch, Bartine, Winner, Raymond, Trafton, Sargent, Crandall, Porter, Sandford, Creagh, George Peck, Curry, D. Smith, F. Reed, Floy, Griswold, Holdich, Richardson, Griffen, Jewett, Baker, Barrows, Adams, E. Smith, Spicer, John Clark, Benedict, Hall, J. T. Peck, Frazer, Witherspoon, Wever, Currier, Harding, Williams, Gary, Mattison, Leet, Dempster, Hopkins, S. Elliott, Kenney, Swayze, Cook, Drummond, Spencer, Monroe, Comfort, Redding, Parks, Colborn, Eddy, Rounds, Holmes, Snyder, Jenne, Hill, Webber, Fletcher, Farrington, Nickerson, Marsh, E. Shaw, Kinsley, Bain, G. W. Clarke, Ayres, Stedman, Plympton, Summers, Haney, Phelps, Judson, Chandler, Crews, Power, Gurley, Poe, Thomson, Quigley, M'Mahan, Filmore, Alverson, Hosmer, Carlton, Dennis Seager, Nevins, Woodworth, Dodge, Finley, Young, Walker, C. Elliott, Tomlinson, Nast, Herr, Trimble, Wright, Stewart, H. W. Reed, Bowman, J. C. Smith, Brenton, Goode, Cooper, Hargrave, Pilcher, James Shaw, Brakeman, Sprague, Chatfield, Akers, Cartwright, Robbins, Barger, Jacoby, Wood, Simpson, Kerns, Berry, Talbott.

Yeas.

NAYS — J. Davis, Massey, Hamilton.

Nays.

Voted that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet again at half-past two o'clock this afternoon.

“2d declaration: It is the right of every member of the Methodist E. Church to remain in said Church, unless guilty of the violation of its rules, and there exists no power in the ministry, either individually or collectively, to deprive any member of said right. Adopted.”

Second declaration.

YEAS — Davis, Bowen, Wilson, Brison, Morgan, Miller, Bear, Collins, Griffith, Roszel, Dailey, Hazzard, Kennaday, Massey, Scott, Durbin, Gerry, Stevens, Bonney,

Yeas.

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Yeas continued.

Patten, Allen, Emerson, Pitman, Brown, J. K. Shaw, Force, Felch, Bartine, Winner, Raymond, Trafton, Sargent, Crandall, Sandford, Creagh, G. Peck, Curry, D. Smith, F. Reed, Floy, Griswold, Porter, Holdich, Richardson, Griffen, Jewett, Baker, Barrows, Adams, E. Smith, Spicer, J. Clark, Benedict, Hall, J. T. Peck, Frazer, Witherspoon, Wever, Currier, Harding, Williams, Gary, Mattison, Leet, Dempster, Hopkins, S. Elliott, Kenney, Swayze, Cook, Drummond, Spencer, Monroe, Comfort, Reddy, Parks, Colburn, Eddy, Rounds, Holmes, Snyder, Jenne, Hill, Webber, Fletcher, Farrington, Nickerson, Marsh, E. Shaw, H. Kinsley, Bain, G. W. Clarke, Ayres, Steadman, Summers, Haney, Phelps, Judson, Chandler, Crews, Power, Gurley, Poe, Thomson, Quigley, M'Mahan, Filmore, Alverson, Hosmer, Carlton, Dennis, Seager, Nevins, Woodworth, Dodge, Finley, Young, Walker, C. Elliott, Tomlinson, Nast, Herr, Trimble, Wright, Stewart, H. W. Reed, Bowman, J. C. Smith, Brenton, Goode, Hargrave, Cooper, Pilcher, James Shaw, Brakeman, Sprague, Chatfield, Akers, Cartwright, Robbins, Barger, Jacoby, Wood, Simpson, Kerns, Berry, Talbott.

Nay.  
Third declaration.

NAY — William Hamilton.

“3d declaration: This right being inviolably secured by the fifth restrictive article of the Discipline, which guaranties to members, ministers, and preachers, the right of trial and appeal, any acts of the Church otherwise separating them from said Church, contravene the constitutional rights and privileges of the membership and ministry.”

The Yeas and Nays were ordered. The session was prolonged to finish this call.

Before voting, a motion to adjourn prevailed. Prayer by brother Hargrave.

### WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 24.

Conference met at half-past two o'clock, and opened with the usual religious exercises by brother Snyder. Bishop Waugh in the chair.

Brother Hamilton permitted to record his vote in the negative.

The journals were read. Brother Hamilton had his name recorded on the negative side of the question, on both the declarations heretofore voted on by the conference.

The rules were suspended to receive a communication from R. Hopkins, which was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

Leave of absence to brother Bridge.

Leave of absence to brother J. D. Bridge was granted. Orders further suspended to take up the business before the conference at the time of its adjournment. By vote, took up the report of the Committee on the State of the Church. The third declaration was read, and adopted, and the vote was as follows:—

YEAS —Wilson, Brison, Morgan, Miller, Bear, Collins, Griffith, Roszel, Hazzard, Kennaday, Massey, Scott, Gerry, Stevens, Patten, Allen, Emerson, Pitman, Brown, J. K. Shaw, Force, Felch, Bartine, Winner, Raymond, Trafton, Sargent, Crandall, Porter, Sandford, Creagh, G. Peck, Curry, D. Smith, F. Reed, Floy, Griswold, Holdich, Richardson, Griffen, Jewett, Baker, Barrows, Adams, E. Smith, Spicer, J. Clark, Benedict, Hall, J. T. Peck, Frazer, Witherspoon, Wever, Currier, Harding, Williams, Gary, Mattison, Leet, Dempster, Hopkins, S. Elliott, Savage, Cook, Drummond, Spencer, Monroe, Comfort, Reddy, Parks, Colborn, Eddy, Rounds, Holmes, Snyder, Jenne, Hill, Webber, Fletcher, Farrington, Nickerson, Marsh, E. Shaw, Kinsley, Bain, G. W. Clarke, Ayres, Steadman, Plympton, Summers, Haney, Phelps, Judson, Chandler, Crews, Power, Gurley, Poe, Thompson, Quigley, M'Mahan, Filmore, Alverson, Hosmer, Carlton, Dennis, Seager, Nevins, Woodworth, Dodge, Finley, Young, C. Elliott, Walker, Tomlinson, Nast, Herr, Trimble, Wright, Stewart, H. W. Reed, Bowman, J. C. Smith, Brenton, Goode, Cooper, Hargrave, Pilcher, Jas. Shaw, Brakeman, Sprague, Chatfield, Akers, Cartwright, Robbins, Barger, Jacoby, Wood, Simpson, Kerns, Berry, Talbott.

May 24.  
Yeas.

NAYS —Davis, Bowen, Hamilton, Dailey, Durbin, Kenney.

Nays.

The fourth declaration was read, as follows:—

“The report of the select committee of nine upon the declaration of the delegates in the slaveholding states, commonly called the Plan of Separation, adopted by the last General Conference, of which the memorialists complain, and the operation of which separated them from connexion with the Methodist Episcopal Church, having been intended to secure peace and harmony in our southern boundary, and having been designed to be dependent upon the occurrence of a specified necessity, upon the concurrence of three-fourths of the members of the annual conferences, and upon the observance of a specified boundary by the distinct ecclesiastical connexion separating from us, should such connexion be formed, and the said necessity, in the opinion of this conference, not having arisen, the annual conferences having refused the necessary concurrence, and said provisions respecting a boundary having been infringed by the highest authorities of said connexion, therefore, in view of these facts, as well as for the reasons before specified, there exists no obligation on the part of this conference to observe the provisions of said Plan respecting a boundary, and said Plan is hereby declared null and void.”

Fourth declaration.

J. Davis addressed the conference. His time having

May 24.

expired, conference voted that he be allowed to go on and finish his address.

N. Wilson also having exhausted his time, it was voted that he be permitted to proceed.

Brother Drummond's amendment.

Brother Drummond moved to amend, by striking out the phrase, "upon the concurrence of three-fourths of the members of the annual conferences."

Moved and carried to lay the amendment on the table.

Brother Collins' amendment.

Brother Collins moved to amend the fourth declaration, by striking out all after the words "reasons before specified," and add, "That a Board of Commissioners, consisting of three, be appointed by the General Conference of the M. E. Church, to confer with the like Board of Commissioners of the M. E. Church, *South*. Said Board of Commissioners shall have full power and authority to negotiate and settle all matters of alleged violations of the line of division between the two Churches; and also in connexion with the episcopacy of the M. E. Church and the M. E. Church, *South*, make provisions for the extension of the jurisdiction of either Church over all such societies as may wish to adhere to them respectively." Conference granted leave to brother Collins to finish his remarks.

On motion, conference adjourned. Prayer by brother Hamilton.

May 25.

## THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 25.

The conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened with the usual religious exercises by brother John Stewart. Bishop Morris in the chair.

The journals were read.

Brother Sandford moved to suspend the orders of the day to take up the report on episcopacy. The motion failed.

Voted, to suspend the rules to take up the business on which conference was occupied when we adjourned.

Voted, to take up the report of the Committee on the State of the Church.

Motion to limit speakers.

S. Comfort moved to suspend the rule during this discussion, limiting speakers to fifteen minutes. Laid on the table.

Brother Kennaday permitted to finish.

Brother Kennaday having exhausted his time in addressing the conference, on motion, voted that he have leave to finish his speech.

Brother Porter declined to finish.

Brother Porter's time having expired, moved to extend the time to allow him to finish his speech. Brother Porter declined the privilege.

Brother Curry's time to finish lengthened.

Brother Curry's time having expired, voted that he be permitted to proceed.



Brother Tomlinson moved to recommit the fourth declaration to the committee which reported it.

May 25.

Voted, that when we adjourn we adjourn to meet at half-past two o'clock.

J. A. Collins presented the following addition to his amendment, viz.: "It being understood, that should the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, decline acceding to the above proposition, or not comply therewith, or should the negotiation be unsuccessful; then, and in that event, the authorities of the Methodist Episcopal Church are at liberty to extend her jurisdiction over all societies that may desire it."

J. A. Collins' addition to his amendment.

Brother Cooper moved to lay the motion to recommit on the table. Carried.

On motion the conference adjourned. Prayer by brother Brenton.

#### THURSDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 25.

Conference met at half-past two o'clock, and was opened with the usual religious exercises by brother Trimble. Bishop Hamline in the chair.

The minutes were read, and on motion, the rules were suspended. Voted to take up the business pending at the close of the morning session.

On motion, the *yeas* and *nays* were ordered upon brother Collins' amendment, when the following members voted in the affirmative:—

**YEAS**—Davis, Bowen, Wilson, Brison, Morgan, Miller, Hamilton, Bear, Collins, Roszel, Dailey, Hazzard, Kennaday, Massey, Scott, Durbin, Griffen, S. Elliott, W. Kenney, Cook, Monroe, Bowman.

Yeas on brother Collins' amendment.

**NAYS**—Griffith, Gerry, Stevens, Patten, Allen, Emerson, Pitman, Brown, Shaw, Force, Felch, Bartine, Winner, Raymond, Trafton, Sargent, Crandall, Porter, Creagh, G. Peck, Curry, D. Smith, F. Reed, Griswold, Holdich, Richardson, Jewett, Baker, Barrow, Adams, E. Smith, Spicer, J. Clark, Benedict, Hall, J. T. Peck, Frazer, Witherspoon, Wever, Currier, Harding, Williams, Gary, Mattison, Leet, Dempster, Hopkins, Swayze, Drummond, Spencer, Comfort, Reddy, Parks, Eddy, Rounds, Snyder, Jenne, Webber, Fletcher, Farrington, Nickerson, Marsh, E. Shaw, Kinsley, Bain, G. W. Clarke, Ayres, Steadman, Plympton, Summers, Haney, Phelps, Judson, Chandler, Power, Gurley, Poe, Thomson, Quigley, M'Mahan, Filmore, Alverson, Hosmer, Carlton, Dennis, Seager, Nevins, Woodworth, Dodge, Finley, Young, C. Elliott, Walker, Tomlinson, Herr, Trimble, Wright, Stewart, H. W. Reed, Brenton, Goode, Cooper, Hargrave, Pilcher, J. Shaw, Brakeman, Sprague, Chatfield, Akers, Cartwright, Robbins,

Nays.

May 25. Barger, Wood, Simpson, Kerns, Berry, Talbott, Colburn, Floy.

Whereupon the chair pronounced the amendment lost.

G. Peck offered the following substitute to the original fourth declaration:—

G. Peck's substitute.

"The report of the committee of *nine*, commonly called 'the Plan of Separation,' adopted by the General Conference at its session in 1844, having in its results practically contravened the above-named principles, and having been dependent upon conditions which have not been fulfilled, it is hereby declared that said Plan is and has been null and void."

Brother Webber's amendment.

Brother Webber moved to amend by inserting "always," before "has been null and void."

The previous question was moved. Lost.

It was moved to adjourn. Not carried.

The amendment of brother Webber to insert the word "always," lost.

Subject laid on table.

Moved to lay the subject on the table. Carried.

E. Shaw's expenses ordered paid.

Voted that the expenses of brother E. Shaw, delegate from Maine, in consequence of sickness on his way to this conference, be paid by the Committee on the Expenses of the Delegates.

On motion the conference adjourned. Prayer by brother B. Creagh.

May 26.

### FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 26.

The conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened with the customary religious services by brother Raymond. Bishop Janes in the chair.

The journals were read.

Brothers Colburn and Floy obtained leave to record their votes on brother Collins's amendment.

Voted to suspend the orders of the day.

Took up the report of the Committee on Episcopacy.

First resolution adopted, namely:—

Report of Committee on Episcopacy.

"That in the judgment of the Committee, in the decision of Bishops Hedding and Janes, in the case of J. N. Maffit, in determining the place of his membership, they acted entirely within the limits of their Episcopal jurisdiction, and in perfect accordance with the discipline and usages of the Methodist Episcopal Church."

Second resolution, "That the circumstances in that case were such as fully to justify and require their authoritative interference."

Third resolution, "That the administration of the bishops is hereby approved, and that their characters pass."

The report was adopted.

After remarks from Bishop Hedding relative to his

health, Jesse T. Peck offered the following resolutions:—

May 26.

“Whereas, Bishop Hedding has signified to this General Conference his doubts whether he will be able to do all the work of an effective superintendent during the four years to come, therefore,

Resolutions in the case of Bishop Hedding.

*Resolved*, That he consider himself at liberty to use his own discretion as to the amount of the episcopal or other pastoral labour which he shall prefer during said term.” Adopted.

“*Resolved*, That this General Conference do most earnestly and affectionately request our respected and venerated Bishop Hedding to prepare his biography for publication, including especially his observations and opinions in relation to Methodism.” Adopted.

“*Resolved*, That Bishop Hedding be requested to prepare and publish, or cause to be published at our Book Concern, his views on the pastorship of the M. E. Church in its various grades of class-leaders, preachers in charge, presiding elders, and bishops, with the concurrence of his colleagues.” Adopted.

The secretary was ordered to furnish Bishops Hedding and Janes copies of that part of the report of the Committee on Episcopacy which relates to their action in the case of J. N. Maffit.

The secretary was ordered to furnish Bishop Hedding a copy of resolutions relative to certain requests the conference made of him.

Took up the report of the Committee on Temperance.

Report of Committee on Temperance.

“1. *Resolved*, by the delegates of the several annual conferences in General Conference assembled, That the present rule on spirituous liquors be stricken from the General Rules, and that Mr. Wesley’s original rule be inserted in its place.” Adopted.

Voted to hear the report of the Committee of Correspondence. The address to the British Wesleyan Methodist Church was recommitted. Also the address to the Canada Wesleyan Methodist Church was recommitted, to make corrections.

A report from the Committee on Temperance, No. 2, was taken up.

“*Resolved*, That the following addition be made to chap. 2, sec. 7, second answer to the question, ‘How shall an accused member be brought to trial?’ page 95,—‘the buying, selling, or using intoxicating liquors as a beverage.’”

Moved to amend the second paragraph by inserting “manufacture.” Laid on the table.

“*Resolved*, to strike out chapter 1, section 21, page 75: ‘No elder, deacon, or preacher, among us shall distil,’” &c.

The report was adopted.

May 26.

Financial Secretary of American Bible Society addresses the conference.

The Committee on the Bible Society reported. Brother Levings addressed the conference. He was by vote requested to furnish a copy of his address on the Bible cause, made before the conference, especially the statistics.

Voted to take up the report of the Committee on Boundaries. The report as far as it relates to Baltimore Conference recommitted to perfect.

Voted that when we adjourn we adjourn to meet again at half-past two o'clock.

East Genesee Conference boundary.  
Genesee Conference boundary.  
Baltimore Conference boundary.

The report of Boundary Committee in relation to East Genesee, adopted.

Also in the case of Genesee Conference, adopted.

The report of the committee in relation to Baltimore Conference adopted.

Reports from Sunday School and Finance Committees.

Voted to take up the report of the Committee on the Chartered Fund. Said report was again laid on the table to receive reports from the Committees on Sunday Schools and Finance.

Reports Nos. 1 and 2 from Sunday-School Committee.

C. Cook presented reports from the Committee on Sunday Schools, Nos. 1 and 2, which were read and laid on the table, under the rule.

Also from Committee on Finance.

And also from the Committee on Finance, reports Nos. 1 and 2, which were read and laid on the table under the rule. Conference adjourned. Prayer by brother Youngs.

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 26.

Conference met at half-past two o'clock, and was opened with appropriate religious exercises by brother J. T. Peck. Bishop Waugh in the chair.

Dr. Peck's substitute laid on the table.

The journals were read. The rules were suspended. The conference took up the report on the State of the Church. A motion to lay Dr. Peck's substitute on the table prevailed.

Brother Simpson offered the following substitute, which was acted upon section by section. The previous question was ordered.

Decision of the chair sustained.

Brothers Roszel, Durbin, and Kennaday, asked to be excused from voting, but were not excused.

An appeal from the decision of the chair, that a motion to reconsider the vote on the previous question is out of order was taken. The decision of the chair was sustained.

Brother Simpson's substitute taken up by sections.  
First section.

Moved to take the substitute section by section.

First section. "The report of the Select Committee of Nine, on the declaration of the delegates in the slaveholding states, adopted by the General Conference of 1844, of which the memorialists complain, and the operation of which deprived them of their privileges as members of the M. E. Church, was intended to meet a neces-

sity which it was alleged might arise, and was given as a peace offering to secure harmony on our southern border."

May 26.

This section was adopted by the following vote :—

YEAS—Bowen, Brison, Miller, Bear, Collins, Griffith, Hazzard, Kennaday, Massey, Scott, Durbin, Gerry, Stevens, Patten, Allen, Emerson, Pitman, Brown, J. K. Shaw, Force, Felch, Bartine, Winner, Raymond, Trafton, Sargent, Crandall, Porter, Creagh, G. Peck, Curry, Smith, F. Reed, Floy, Griswold, Holdich, Richardson, Jewett, Barrows, Adams, E. Smith, E. Spicer, J. Clark, Benedict, Hall, J. T. Peck, Frazer, Witherspoon, Wever, Currier, Harding, Williams, Gary, Mattison, Leet, Dempster, Hopkins, S. Elliott, Swayze, Drummond, Spencer, Monroe, Comfort, Reddy, Parks, Colburn, Eddy, Rounds, Holmes, Snyder, Jenne, Hill, Webber, Fletcher, Farrington, Nickerson, Marsh, E. Shaw, G. W. Clarke, Ayres, Steadman, Plympton, Summers, Haney, Phelps, Judson, Chandler, Crews, Power, Gurley, Poe, Thompson, Quigley, M'Mahon, Filmore, Alverson, Hosmer, Carlton, Dennis, Nevins, Woodworth, Dodge, Finley, Young, Elliott, Walker, Tomlinson, Nast, Herr, Trimble, Wright, Stewart, H. W. Reed, Bowman, Brenton, Goode, Cooper, Hargrave, Pilcher, Shaw, Brakeman, Sprague, Chatfield, Akers, Cartwright, Robbins, Jacoby, Wood, Simpson, Kerns, Berry, Talbott, Cook.

Yeas on first section.

NAYS—Davis, Wilson, Morgan, Hamilton, Bain.

Nays.

Sec. 2. "It was further made dependent, first upon the consequence of three-fourths of the members of the several annual conferences, in reference to a part of its regulations."

Second section.

This section was adopted by the following vote :—

YEAS—Miller, Massey, Scott, Durbin, Gerry, Stevens, Patten, Allen, Emerson, Pitman, Brown, E. K. Shaw, Force, Felch, Bartine, Winner, Raymond, Trafton, Sargent, Crandall, Porter, Creagh, G. Peck, Curry, D. Smith, F. Reed, Floy, Griswold, Holdich, Richardson, Griffen, Jewett, Barrows, Adams, E. Smith, Spicer, J. Clark, Benedict, Hall, J. T. Peck, Frazer, Witherspoon, Wever, Currier, Harding, Williams, Gary, Mattison, Leet, Hopkins, S. Elliott, Swayze, Drummond, Spencer, Monroe, Comfort, Reddy, Parks, Colburn, Eddy, Rounds, Holmes, Snyder, Jenne, Hill, Webber, Farrington, Nickerson, Marsh, E. Shaw, G. W. Clarke, Ayres, Steadman, Plympton, Summers, Haney, Phelps, Judson, Chandler, Crews, Power, Gurley, Poe, Thompson, Quigley, M'Mahan, Filmore, Alverson, Hosmer, Carlton, Dennis, Nevins, Woodworth, Dodge, Finley, Young, Walker, Elliott, Tomlinson, Nast, Herr, Trimble, Wright, Stewart, H. W. Reed, Bowman, Brenton, Goode, Cooper, Hargrave, Pilcher, Akers,

Yeas on second section.

May 26. Robbins, J. Shaw, Brakeman, Sprague, Cartwright, Jacoby, Wood, Simpson, Chatfield, Kerns, Berry, Talbott.

Nays. NAYS—Davis, Bowen, Wilson, Brison, Morgan, Bear, Collins, Griffith, Roszel, Dailey, Hazzard, Kennaday, Dempster, Cook, Kinsley, Bain.

Third section. Sec. 3. "And, secondly, upon the observance of certain provisions respecting a boundary by the distinct ecclesiastical connexion separating from us, should such connexion be formed."

This section was adopted by the following vote:—

Yeas on third section. YEAS—Brison, Miller, Collins, Griffith, Hazzard, Kennaday, Massey, Scott, Gerry, Stephens, Patten, Allen, Emerson, Pitman Brown, J. K. Shaw, Force, Felch, Bartine, Winner, Raymond, Trafton, Sargent, Crandall, Porter, Creagh, G. Peck, Curry, D. Smith, Fitch Reed, Floy, Griswold, Holdich, Richardson, Jewett, Barrows, Adams, E. Smith, Spicer, J. Clark, Benedict, Hall, J. T. Peck, Frazer, Witherspoon, Wever, Currier, Harding, Williams, Gary, Mattison, Leet, Dempster, Hopkins, S. Elliott, Swayze, Drummond, Spencer, Monroe, Comfort, Reddy, Parks, Colborn, Eddy, Rounds, Holmes, Snyder, Jenne, Hill, Webber, Fletcher, Farrington, Nickerson, Marsh, E. Shaw, Kinsley, Bain, G. W. Clarke, Ayres, Steadman, Plympton, Summers, Haney, Phelps, Judson, Chandler, Crews, Gurley, Thomson, Quigley, M'Mahan, Filmore, Alverson, Hosmer, Carlton, Dennis, Nevins, Woodworth, Dodge, Finley, Young, Walker, C. Elliott, Tomlinson, Herr, Trimble, Wright, Nast, Stewart, H. W. Reed, Bowman, Brenton, Goode, Cooper, Hargrave, Pilcher, J. Shaw, Brackman, Sprague, Akers, Cartwright, Robbins, Jacoby, Wood, Simpson, Kerns, Berry, Talbott.

Nays. NAYS—Davis, Bowen, Wilson, Morgan, Hamilton, Bear, Dailey, Durbin, Cook, Poe.

Fourth section. Sec. 4. "Without waiting, as this conference believes, for the occurrence of the anticipated necessity, for which the Plan was framed, action was taken in the premises by the southern delegates."

This section was adopted by the following vote:—

Yeas on fourth section. YEAS—Brison, Morgan, Miller, Collins, Griffith, Dailey, Hazzard, Massey, Scott, Durbin, Gerry, Stevens, Patten, Allen, Emerson, Pitman, Brown, J. K. Shaw, Force, Felch, Bartine, Raymond, Trafton, Sargent, Crandall, Porter, Creagh, G. Peck, D. Smith, F. Reed, Floy, Griswold, Holdich, Griffen, Barrows, Adams, E. Smith, Spicer, J. Clark, Benedict, Hall, J. T. Peck, Frazer, Witherspoon, Wever, Currier, Harding, Williams, Gary, Mattison, Leet, Dempster, Hopkins, S. Elliott, Swayze, Drummond, Spencer, Monroe, Comfort, Reddy, Parks, Colborn, Eddy, Rounds, Holmes, Snyder, Jenne, Hill, Webber, Fletcher, Farrington, Nickerson, Marsh, E.

Shaw, Bain, G. W. Clarke, Ayres, Steadman, Plympton, Summers, Haney, Phelps, Judson, Chandler, Crews, Power, Gurley, Poe, Thomson, Quigley, M'Mahan, Filmore, Alverson, Hosmer, Carlton, Dennis, Nevins, Woodworth, Dodge, Finley, Young, Walker, C. Elliott, Nast, Tomlinson, Herr, Trimble, Wright, Stewart, H. W. Reed, Bowman, Brenton, Goode, Cooper, Hargrave, Pilcher, James Shaw, Brakeman, Sprague, Chatfield, Akers, Cartwright, Robbins, Jacoby, Wood, Simpson, Kerns, Berry, Talbott, Felch.

May 26.  
Yeas on fourth section, continued.

NAYS—Davis, Bowen, Wilson, Kennaday, Winner, Cook.

Nays.

Sec. 5. "The annual conferences, by their votes officially received, have refused to concur with that part of the Plan which was submitted to them."

Fifth section.

It was adopted by the following vote:—

YEAS—Collins, Dailey, Kennaday, Massey, Scott, Gerry, Stevens, Trafton, Patten, Allen, Emerson, J. K. Shaw, Bartine, Winner, Raymond, Sargent, Crandall, Porter, Creagh, G. Peck, Curry, D. Smith, Fitch Reed, Floy, Griswold, Holdich, Griffen, Barrows, Adams, E. Smith, Spicer, J. Clark, Benedict, Hall, J. T. Peck, Frazer, Witherspoon, Wever, Currier, Harding, Williams. Gary, Mattison, Leet, Dempster, Hopkins, S. Elliott, Swayze, Drummond, Spencer, Monroe, Comfort, Reddy, Parks, Colborn, Eddy, Rounds, Holmes, Snyder, Jenne, Hill, Webber, Fletcher, Farrington, Nickerson, Marsh, E. Shaw, Bain, G. W. Clarke, Ayres, Steadman, Plympton, Summers, Haney, Phelps, Judson, Chandler, Crews, Power, Gurley, Poe, Thompson, Quigley, M'Mahan, Filmore, Alverson, Hosmer, Carlton, Dennis, Nevins, Woodworth, Dodge, Finley, Young, Walker, C. Elliott, Tomlinson, Nast, Herr, Trimble, Wright, Stewart, H. W. Reed, Bowman, Brenton, Goode, Cooper, Hargrave, Pilcher, James Shaw, Brakeman, Sprague, Chatfield, Akers, Cartwright, Robbins, Jacoby, Wood, Simpson, Kerns, Berry, Talbott.

Yeas on fifth section.

NAYS—Davis, Bowen, Wilson, Brison, Miller, Griffith, Hazzard, Durbin, Pitman, Brown, Felch, Richardson, Jewett, Cook, Kinsley.

Nays.

Sec. 6. "And the provisions respecting a boundary have been violated by the highest authorities of said connexion, which separated from us, and thereby the peace and harmony of many of the societies in our southern border have been destroyed."

Sixth section.

This section was adopted by the following vote:—

YEAS—Davis, Bowen, Morgan, Collins, Griffith, Roszel, Dailey, Hazzard, Kennaday, Massey, Scott, Durbin, Stevens, Patten, Allen, Emerson, Pitman, Brown, J. K. Shaw, Force, Felch, Bartine, Winner, Raymond, Trafton,

Yeas on sixth section.

May 26.  
Yeas on sixth  
section, contin-  
ued.

Sargent, Crandall, Porter, Creagh, G. Peck, Curry, D. Smith, F. Reed, Floy, Griswold, Holdich, Richardson, Griffen, Jewett, Barrows, Adams, E. Smith, Spicer, J. Clark, Benedict, Hall, J. T. Peck, Frazer, Witherspoon, Wever, Currier, Harding, Williams, Gary, Mattison, Leet, Dempster, Hopkins, S. Elliott, Swayze, Drummond, Spencer, Monroe, Comfort, Reddy, Parks, Colborn, Eddy, Rounds, Holmes, Snyder, Jenne, Hill, Webber, Fletcher, Farrington, Nickerson, Marsh, E. Shaw, Kinsley, Bain, G. W. Clarke, Ayres, Steadman, Plympton, Summers, Haney, Phelps, Judson, Chandler, Crews, Power, Gurley, Poe, Thomson, Quigley, M'Mahan, Filmore, Alverson, Hosmer, Carlton, Dennis, Nevins, Woodworth, Dodge, Finley, Young, Walker, C. Elliott, Tomlinson, Nast, Herr, Trimble, Wright, Stewart, H. W. Reed, Bowman, Brenton, Goode, Cooper, Hargrave, Pilcher, J. Shaw, Brakeman, Sprague, Chatfield, Akers, Cartwright, Robbins, Jacoby, Wood, Simpson, Kerns, Berry, Talbott.

Nays.

NAYS—Wilson, Brison, Miller, Cook.

Seventh sec-  
tion.

Sec. 7. "Therefore, in view of these facts, as well as for the principles contained in the preceding declarations, there exists no obligation on the part of this conference to observe the provisions of said Plan."

This section was adopted by the following vote:—

Yeas on seventh  
section.

YEAS—Miller, Griffith, Massey, Scott, Gerry, Stevens, Patten, Allen, Emerson, Pitman, Brown, J. K. Shaw, Force, Felch, Winner, Raymond, Trafton, Sargent, Crandall, Porter, Creagh, G. Peck, Curry, D. Smith, F. Reed, Floy, Griswold, Holdich, Richardson, Griffen, Jewett, Barrows, Adams, E. Smith, Spicer, Clarke, Benedict, Hall, J. T. Peck, Frazer, Witherspoon, Wever, Currier, Harding, Williams, Gary, Mattison, Leet, Dempster, Hopkins, S. Elliott, Swayze, Spencer, Monroe, Comfort, Reddy, Parks, Colborn, Eddy, Rounds, Holmes, Snyder, Jenne, Hill, Webber, Fletcher, Farrington, Nickerson, Marsh, E. Shaw, Kinsley, Bain, G. W. Clarke, Ayres, Steadman, Plympton, Summers, Haney, Phelps, Judson, Chandler, Crews, Power, Gurley, Poe, Thompson, Quigley, M'Mahan, Filmore, Alverson, Hosmer, Carlton, Dennis, Nevins, Woodworth, Dodge, Finley, Young, Walder, C. Elliott, Tomlinson, Nast, Herr, Trimble, Wright, Stewart, H. W. Reed, Bowman, Brenton, Goode, Cooper, Hargrave, Pilcher, James Shaw, Brakeman, Sprague, Chatfield, Akers, Cartwright, Robbins, Jacoby, Wood, Simpson, Kerns, Berry, Talbott, Thompson.

Nays.

NAYS—Davis, Bowen, Wilson, Brison, Morgan, Hamilton, Collins, Roszel, Dailey, Hazzard, Bartine, Kenney, Cook.



Sec. 8. "And it is hereby declared *null and void.*"

This section was adopted by the following vote:—

YEAS—Brison, Miller, Griffith, Roszel, Hazzard, Kennaday, Massey, Scott, Gerry, Patten, Allen, Emerson, Pitman, Brown, J. K. Shaw, Force, Felch, Bartine, Winner, Raymond, Trafton, Sargent, Crandall, Porter, Creagh, G. Peck, Curry, D. Smith, F. Reed, Floy, Griswold, Holdich, Richardson, Griffen, Jewett, Barrows, Adams, Spicer, Smith, Clark, Benedict, Hall, J. T. Peck, Frazer, Witherspoon, Wever, Currier, Harding, Williams, Gary, Mattison, Leet, Dempster, Hopkins, Swayze, Drummond, Spencer, Monroe, Comfort, Reddy, Parks, Colborn, Eddy, Rounds, Holmes, Snyder, Jenne, Hill, Webber, Fletcher, Farrington, Nickerson, Marsh, E. Shaw, Kinsley, Bain, G. W. Clarke, Ayers, Steadman, Plympton, Summers, Haney, Phelps, Judson, Chandler, Crews, Power, Gurley, Poe, Thompson, Quigley, M'Mahan, Filmore, Alverson, Hosmer, Carlton, Dennis, Nevins, Woodworth, Dodge, Finley, Young, Walker, C. Elliott, Tomlinson, Nast, Herr, Trimble, Wright, Stewart, Reed, Bowman, Brenton, Goode, Cooper, Hargrave, Pilcher, James Shaw, Brake-man, Sprague, Chatfield, Akers, Cartwright, Robbins, Jacoby, Wood, Simpson, Kerns, Berry, Talbott, J. C. Smith, Stevens, Durbin.

NAYS—Davis, Bowen, Wilson, Morgan, Hamilton, Collins, Dailey, Kenney, Cook.

The conference voted to take the vote on the preamble in the ordinary way. The preamble was adopted.

Voted that the second part of the report be made the order of the day for to-morrow morning at eight o'clock.

Brother Massey obtained leave to change his vote of yesterday on the first declaration, from negative to affirmative.

Conference adjourned. Prayer by brother Steadman.

### SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 27.

The conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened with the usual religious exercises by brother Wood. Bishop Morris in the chair.

The minutes were read. Brother Harding asked leave of absence after to-day. Granted.

Brother Roszel asked leave of absence after Tuesday next.

Brother Durbin from the Committee on Correspondence reported the address to the British Conference with amendments.

Brother Allen moved that that part of the report which relates to the British government, and the part which re-

May 26.  
Eighth section.  
Yeas on eighth section.

Nays.

Preamble adopted. a-

May 27.

Report of Committee on Correspondence.

- May 27.           lates to the subject of temperance be recommitted. Withdrawn.
- Brother Porter's motion.       Brother Porter moved to strike out all the paragraphs relating to the British government after the words "our hearts," page 7.
- Brother Tomlinson's motion.   Brother Tomlinson moved to recommit the report, and to add one member to the committee from each delegation not represented in the committee.
- Brother Cooper's motion.       Brother Cooper moved the previous question, which was sustained.
- Voted to divide the motion made by Dr. Tomlinson. That portion recommittting the report was adopted. The remaining portion not adopted.
- Motion to strike out.           Voted to instruct the committee to strike out the portion relating to the British government.
- Amendment proposed.       Moved to instruct the committee to amend the address by adding "that the ministers of our Church are in favour of total abstinence from all intoxicating liquors." Laid on table.
- Brother Massey's amendment.   Brother Massey moved to instruct the committee to amend by inserting "temperance on the principle of total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks." Carried.
- Voted to take up the special order of the day. (For report see Appendix B.)
- Moved to postpone the consideration of the report of the Committee on the State of the Church until Tuesday next. Lost.
- Moved to lay the report again on the table. Lost.
- Time afforded brother Tomlinson to finish.   The time of brother Tomlinson, in his address to the conference, having expired, it was prolonged.
- Moved to adopt the report.
- Time afforded G. Peck to finish.       The time of G. Peck in addressing the conference, having expired, he was by vote permitted to proceed.
- Brother Wright presented the following substitute to the report of the Committee on the State of the Church:—
- Bro. Wright's substitute.       "Whereas, it is now ascertained that the recommendation of the General Conference of 1844, to change the sixth restrictive article, so as to allow of a division of the property of the Book Concern, with distinct ecclesiastical connection, which might be formed by the thirteen annual conferences, in the slaveholding states, has not been concurred in by a vote of three-fourths of all the members of the several annual conferences present and voting on said recommendations:
- " And whereas, the thirteen protesting annual conferences in the slaveholding states, having formed themselves into a separate and distinct ecclesiastical organization, under the title or name of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and their General Conference in May, 1846, did authorize their commissioners (whose credentials have

been received by this General Conference) to present and adjust their claim on the funds of the Book Concern of the Methodist Episcopal Church :—

“ And whereas, our common and holy Christianity prescribes and enjoins the most pacific measures for the settlement of all matters in dispute between individuals, as well as associations of professing Christians; and the whole Christian world expect ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ to adopt the most peaceful and conciliatory measures for the settlement of any claim that may be urged against them, therefore,

“ *Resolved*, by the delegates of the several annual conferences, in General Conference assembled, That we propose to the commissioners of the Church South to refer the question of their claim on our Book Concern to *five* arbiters, neither of whom shall be a member of either Church, who shall be chosen in the manner here prescribed, namely :—

“ The commissioners of the M. E. Church, *South*, shall choose two arbiters; and three commissioners, to be appointed by this General Conference, shall choose other two, and the four arbiters thus chosen shall choose a fifth, each party being solemnly bound to abide by the decision such arbiters shall make on the questions of such claims.”

Brother Wright's substitute was laid on the table.

Laid on table.

Dr. Holdich offered and moved the following substitute, stating it to be a paper presented by the bishops in response to a written request of several delegates that they would communicate their opinions in regard to the property question.

Bishop Morris not being present when his colleague agreed to have the paper presented, in consequence of having to preside, he signified his concurrence in the first resolution, and his nonconcurrence with the last two.

“ Whereas H. B. Bascom, D. D., A. L. P. Green, and C. B. Parsons, commissioners of the M. E. Church, *South*, have visited the seat of this conference to urge a claim to a portion of the funds of the Book Concern, based, it is understood, on an act of the last General Conference, known as the ‘ Report of the Committee of Nine :’

Dr. Holdich's substitute.

“ And whereas the nonconcurrence of the annual conferences in that part of said report which bears on the division of said funds, leaves this General Conference without any authority to recognize or adjust said claim in any voluntary way :

“ And whereas it is understood from the periodicals of the M. E. Church, *South*, and from conversations with some of said commissioners, that a suit at law will be resorted to for the recovery of said claim :

May 27.  
Dr. Holdich's  
substitute, con-  
tinued.

"And whereas the commencement of this suit will change the form of this difficulty, rendering it a mere business transaction, so as to throw it within the constitutional control of the General Conference :

"And whereas it is understood that the commissioners would accept none but a strictly legal arbitration :

"And whereas this conference desires to advance as far as its constitutional power will authorize toward an amicable adjustment of this difficulty, therefore,

First resolution.

"Resolved, by the General Conference of the M. E. Church, 1. That should such lawsuit be commenced by the commissioners, our Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati be and are hereby authorized and advised to tender to said commissioners an adjustment of the claim, based on the report aforesaid by arbitration, under such legal sanctions as shall render the award final, and of binding effect on the M. E. Church, and the M. E. Church, South.

Second resolution.

"Resolved, 2. That inasmuch as the General Conference is not formally assured that such suit will be commenced, and inasmuch as an amicable settlement of the difficulty is in any event exceedingly desirable, and inasmuch as this General Conference has no power or authority to act at discretion in this matter, either to allow or arbitrate said claim, if not prosecuted in court, unless the annual conferences authorize it by a change of the constitution, it is hereby recommended to the annual conferences, if said suit is not commenced, so far to suspend the sixth 'Restrictive Article' of the Discipline, as to authorize our Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati to submit to arbitrate what is technically called the Property Question.

Third resolution.

"Resolved, 3. That in case said suit is not commenced, the bishops are requested to lay the last resolution before the annual conferences for their concurrence."

Time given to  
brother Holdich  
to finish.

The time of brother Holdich in addressing the conference having expired, voted that he have leave to proceed.

The substitute of brother Holdich was laid on the table.

J. T. Peck's  
substitute.

J. T. Peck offered the following substitute, seconded by J. B. Finley :—

Preamble.

"Whereas, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, having in due form preferred claims against the vested funds and other property of the Methodist Episcopal Church; and whereas the General Conference has no power officially to respond to, or in any way adjust said preferred claims; and whereas we are anxious that an amicable and strictly equitable disposition may be made of them; therefore,

"1. *Resolved*, by the delegates of the several annual conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church in General Conference assembled, that we hereby advise the Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati, immediately, in due form, and under such instructions as this conference shall hereafter give them, to offer to submit said preferred claims to the full and final decision of judicious and disinterested arbiters.

May 27.  
J. T. Peck's  
substitute, con-  
tinued.  
First resolution.

"2. *Resolved*, That a committee of                    be appointed to report in detail to this conference suitable instructions to be communicated to the said Agents for the government of their action in the premises."

Second resolu-  
tion.

On motion, conference adjourned. Benediction by Bishop Hedding.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 27.

Conference met at half-past two o'clock, and was opened with the usual religious exercises by brother S. Roszel. Bishop Hamline in the chair.

The journals were read. On motion the rules were suspended to allow brother Cook to offer the two following resolutions:—

"*Resolved*, That Dr. Bond, Senior Editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal, as he was referred to in the debates of the morning, be invited, while the report of the Committee on the State of the Church, upon the property question, is before the conference, to address the conference, or participate in the debate, if he see proper." Adopted.

Resolution of-  
fered by broth-  
er Cook.

Also, "*Resolved*, That the secretary be, and hereby is, instructed to furnish Dr. Levings with a copy of the report of the Committee on the Bible cause, and of the proceedings in connexion with its adoption." Carried.

Voted to suspend the general orders. Voted to take up the business pending when the forenoon session closed.

Brother Finley being in order when we adjourned in the forenoon, addressed the conference. His time having expired, voted that he be permitted to finish his remarks.

Time given to  
brother Finley  
to finish.

Dr. Akers addressed the conference; and his time having expired, voted that he be permitted to finish his speech.

Time given to  
Dr. Akers to  
finish.

On motion, conference adjourned. Prayer by Bishop Janes.

## MONDAY MORNING, MAY 29.

May 29.

The conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened with the usual religious exercises by brother J. Frazer. Bishop Janes in the chair. The journals were read.

The Committee on the Book Concern reported. A motion was made to strike out of the report, "Assistant Editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal and Western Christian Advocate." An amendment to the amendment was offered by brother Finley, "That the Book Agents be directed not to employ any assistance for said Editors." Moved to suspend the rule of order, requiring the report to lie on the table one day. Carried.

The amendment to the amendment was, by vote, laid on the table. The amendment to strike out two and insert *one* Editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal, and one Editor of the Western Christian Advocate, prevailed. The report was adopted.

The Committee on the Book Concern further reported No. 2, for this day. Laid on the table by our rule.

Report of Committee on Book Concern.

First resolution.

A further report from said committee, No. 3, for this day.

1. *Resolved*, That the Agents at Cincinnati, be directed to release John S. Barger from the interest on his indebtedness, reducing the debt to \$500, leaving the manner of its collection discretionary with the Agents. Adopted.

Second resolution.

2d resolution, relative to the release of the Maine Conference indebtedness. Adopted.

Third resolution.

3d resolution, relative to J. C. Lyon. Adopted.

Fourth resolution.

4th resolution, recommending not to allow the claim of Dr. Bond for additional compensation, was read. Moved to amend by striking out the word "not." Amendment and resolution adopted.

Fifth resolution.

5. Moved to amend the fifth resolution, instructing the Agents to release the interests in the claim against J. N. M'Abee. Laid on the table. The resolution was adopted.

Sixth resolution.

6. The request of T. Stowe to be released from indebtedness to the Book Concern. Adopted.

Seventh resolution.

7th resolution, substituted by referring the claim against Isaac M'Elroy to the Agents at Cincinnati, to be settled at their discretion. Adopted.

Eighth resolution.

8th resolution. Adopted.

Ninth resolution.

9th resolution, That the request of S. D. Jones, to be released from the claim of the Book Concern against him be *not granted*.

Report adopted.

The report of the committee was adopted.

Report of Committee on Correspondence.

The Committee on Correspondence reported the communication to the British brethren.

Brother Trafton moved to strike out the paragraph, "the mellowing influence of our constitutions," &c. Laid on the table. The report was adopted. (See Appendix C.)

May 29.

The address to the Canada brethren adopted, and with the previous address ordered to be recorded. (See Appendix D.)

Canada address.

The Committee on Missions reported further in several distinct items.

"The Committee on Missions, to whom was referred the memorial of Rev. James Shaw, asking for an increase of men and means to prosecute the work of evangelizing the Northwestern Indians, and especially those in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, beg leave to recommend to the General Conference the adoption of the following resolution:—

Report of Committee on Missions.

"*Resolved*, That the memorial of James Shaw be referred to the proper authorities for making annual appropriations for missionary purposes; and that we hereby recommend the prayer of the memorialist to the favorable consideration of said authorities.

"Signed on behalf of the committee,

"C. PITMAN, *Chairman*.

"May 15, 1848."

"The Committee on Missions, to whom was referred the resolution respecting the German work in the Illinois Conference, beg leave to report, that

"Whereas it is the wish of the German preachers now attached to the Illinois Conference to remain united in one conference, we therefore recommend for the adoption of the General Conference the following resolution:—

"*Resolved*, That we hereby recommend to the Episcopacy that the German missionaries now attached to the Illinois Conference remain in their present connexion the ensuing four years.

"All which is respectfully submitted,

"C. PITMAN, *Chairman*.

"May 22, 1848."

"The Mission Committee, to whom was referred the memorial of Dr. Goheen, beg leave to report that they have had under serious consideration the subject presented and urged in that document, and have agreed to recommend for the adoption of the General Conference the following resolution:—

"*Resolved*, That, from the information now before us, and the various aspects of the subject, we see no sufficient reason for any change of policy in regard to the Liberia Mission Conference.

"All which is respectfully submitted,

"C. PITMAN, *Chairman*.

"May 22, 1848."

May 29.  
Report of Com-  
mittee on Mis-  
sions, continu-  
ed.

“The Committee on Missions, to whom was referred the subject of distinct missionary organizations for domestic purposes, beg leave to report that they have had the matter under careful examination; and, in view of the facts, that but few of the conferences have expressed any desire for such a change in our policy, and that several others have, through their representatives, manifested a strong opposition to the measure, they deem the establishment of two distinct missionary organizations for the Methodist Episcopal Church inexpedient at present. But to meet the case, so far as is practicable and safe, the committee recommend the following to be added to that section of the Discipline under the head of ‘Support of Missions,’ and made the fourth paragraph:—

“Any annual conference may, at its option, by a vote of two-thirds of its members, assume the responsibility of supporting such missions already established, or to be established within its own limits, as have hitherto been reported under the head of “Missions in the Destitute Portions of the Regular Work:” and for this purpose it shall be at liberty to organize a conference domestic society with branches; provided, such organizations shall not interfere with the collections for the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as required by the Discipline. Provided, also, that in case more funds shall be raised for such missions than are needed, the surplus shall be paid over to the treasurer of the Parent Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church at New-York, to be appropriated to such missions, under the care of the society, as may be designated by said conference. It shall be the duty of every such domestic society to send, annually, to the Corresponding Secretary at New-York, a full and detailed account of the number, names, condition, and prospects of each mission under its care; and to the Treasurer of the Parent Society at New-York an account of its receipts, incidental expenses, and disbursements.’

“All which is respectfully submitted,

“C. PITMAN, *Chairman.*”

“May 22, 1848.”

The first report was adopted.

The second report, relative to the German work in Illinois, adopted. (See report.)

The third report, relative to a petition from Dr. Goheen in reference to Liberia, adopted.

The fourth report, relating to a home missionary department, laid on the table for one day, under the rule. (Report adopted June 1.)

Voted to suspend the order of the day.



Brother Kennaday presented a resolution inquiring into the claims of John Ferguson. Referred to the Mission Committee.

May 29.

Brother Kennaday moved to reconsider the vote in the case of Ezra Sprague. Laid on the table.

Voted, to take up the paper containing questions relating to the case of Ezra Sprague. Referred to the Committee on Law Questions.

Questions in E. Sprague's case referred to the Law Committee.

A motion was made and carried, that the election of conference officers be made the order of the day for Tuesday afternoon at half-past two o'clock.

P. Akers offered the following, viz. :—

“*Resolved*, That the Book Agents at New-York be, and they are hereby instructed, to pay over to such person or persons as the said Book Agents may judge to be authorized to receive, and receipt for the same in behalf of the several claimants narrated below, so much of the disciplinary allowances as may be due from year to year to the widows and orphans of such travelling, supernumerary, superannuated and worn-out preachers, as have died in the service of the Methodist Episcopal Church, before the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church, *South*; also the superannuated preachers who still adhere to the Methodist Episcopal Church, so that such widows and orphans, and superannuated and supernumerary preachers aforesaid, living within the bounds of the several annual conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, *South*, may receive what may be equal in amount to that which widows and orphans in the Methodist Episcopal Church may have received, or shall hereafter receive, from the dividends made annually from the Book Concern.”

P. Aker's resolution in reference to claims on Book Concern.

Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

Voted, that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at half-past two o'clock.

Moved and carried, that a committee of three be appointed to draw up a pastoral address.

Committee on Pastoral Address.

Documents from Maysville, through brother Tomlinson, referred to the Committee on the State of the Church.

A resolution relative to the expenses incurred by brother Griffen in the Brooklyn suit, referred to said committee.

The Committee on the Memorial of Coloured People of Baltimore reported. Report laid on the table, under the rule.

The Committee to prepare a course of Study for Local Preachers reported. The session was extended five minutes. The report was laid on the table.

Report of Committee on Course of Study for Local Preachers. Instructions to Committee on Boundaries.

“*Resolved*, That the Committee on Boundaries be instructed to inquire into the expediency of forming a Missouri, Kentucky, Western Virginia, and Arkansas Conference, and report thereon as early as possible.”

May 29.  
Leave of absence to brother Barrows.

Brother Barrows granted leave of absence. Moved to adjourn. Benediction by Bishop Waugh.

### MONDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 29.

Conference opened at half-past two o'clock with the usual religious exercises by brother Jewett. The journals were read.

Voted to suspend the rule to take up the report of the Committee on the State of the Church. Took up the report and substitute, and brother Brenton offered the following, presented by D. Curry and M. Simpson:—

D. Curry and  
M. Simpson's  
substitute.

Preamble.

“Whereas, it is now ascertained that the recommendation of the General Conference, at its session in 1844, to change the sixth restrictive article so as to allow of a division of the property of the Book Concern, with a distinct ecclesiastical connexion, which might be formed by the thirteen annual conferences in the slave states, has not been concurred in by a vote of three-fourths of all the members of the several annual conferences present and voting on said recommendation:

“And whereas, the thirteen protesting annual conferences in the slaveholding states have formed themselves into a separate and distinct ecclesiastical connexion, under the title and name of the ‘Methodist Episcopal Church, South,’ and their General Conference, in 1846, did authorize three commissioners (whose credentials have been received by this General Conference) to present and adjust their claim on the funds of the Book Concern of the Methodist Episcopal Church:—

“And whereas, our *common* and *holy* Christianity prescribes and enjoins the most pacific measures for the settlement of all matters in dispute between individuals, as well as associations of professing Christians, and the whole Christian world will expect ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ to adopt the most peaceful and conciliatory measures for the settlement of any claim that may be urged against them:

“And whereas, this conference desires to advance, as far as its constitutional powers will authorize, toward an amicable adjustment of this difficulty: therefore,”

First resolution.

“1. *Resolved*, by the delegates of the several annual conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church in General Conference assembled, That we hereby authorize the Book Agents at New-York and at Cincinnati to offer to submit said claims to the decision of disinterested arbiters, provided that if said Agents, on the advice of eminent legal counsel, shall be satisfied that when clothed with all the authority which the General Conference can confer, their corporate powers will not warrant them to submit

said claims to arbitration, this resolution shall not be binding upon them.

"2. *Resolved*, That should the Agents find, upon taking such legal counsel, that they have not the power to submit the case to voluntary arbitration, and should a suit at law be commenced by the commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, *South*, said Agents are hereby authorized, then and in that case, to tender to said commissioners an adjustment of their preferred claims by a legal arbitration, under the authority of the court.

"3. *Resolved*, That should the Agents find that they are not authorized to tender a voluntary arbitration, and should no suit be commenced by the commissioners aforesaid, then and in that case the General Conference being exceedingly desirous of effecting an amicable settlement of said claim, recommend to the annual conferences so far to suspend the 'sixth restrictive article' of the Discipline, as to authorize our Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati to submit said claim to arbitration.

"4. *Resolved*, That in the occurrence of the above specified contingencies, the bishops are requested to lay the foregoing resolutions before the several annual conferences for their concurrence."

The first resolution was adopted by the following vote :—

YEAS—Davis, Bowen, Wilson, Brison, Morgan, Miller, Hamilton, Bear, Collins, Griffith, Roszel, Dailey, Hazzard, Kennaday, Massey, Scott, Durbin, Gerry, Pitman, J. K. Shaw, Force, Felch, Bartine, Sargent, Creagh, G. Peck, Curry, D. Smith, F. Reed, Floy, Griswold, Holdich, Richardson, Griffen, Jewett, Spicer, J. Clark, Benedict, Hall, J. T. Peck, Frazer, Williams, Gary, Leet, Elliott, Kenney, Cook, Drummund, Spencer, Monroe, Fletcher, Kinsley, G. W. Clarke, Haney, Judson, Crews, Thomson, M'Mahan, Alverson, Seager, Finley, Nast, Trimble, Wright, Reed, Bowman, J. C. Smith, Hargrave, Chatfield, Jacoby, Wood, Simpson, Berry, Talbott, G. F. Brown.

NAYS—Stevens, Patten, Allen, Emerson, Winner, Raymond, Trafton, Crandall, Porter, Sandford, Barrows, Adams, E. Smith, Witherspoon, Wever, Currier, Harding, Mattison, Dempster, Hopkins, Swayze, Comfort, Reddy, Parks, Colborn, Eddy, Rounds, Holmes, Snyder, Jenne, Hill, Webber, Farrington, Nickerson, Marsh, E. Shaw, Bain, Ayres, Steadman, Plympton, Summers, Chandler, Power, Gurley, Poe, Quigley, Filmore, Hosmer, Carlton, Dennis, Nevins, Woodworth, Dodge, Young, Elliott, Walker, Tomlinson, Kerr, Stewart, Brenton, Goode, Cooper, Pilcher, Jas. Shaw, Brakeman, Sprague, Akers, Cartwright, Robbins, Barger, Kerns.

The second resolution was adopted by the following vote :—

May 29.  
D. Curry and  
M. Simpson's  
substitute, con-  
tinued.  
Second resolu-  
tion.

Third resolu-  
tion.

Fourth resolu-  
tion.

Yeas on first  
resolution.

Nays.

May 29.  
Yeas on second  
resolution.

YEAS—Davis, Bowen, Wilson, Brison, Morgan, Miller, Hamilton, Bear, Collins, Griffith, Roszel, Dailey, Hazzard, Kennaday, Massey, Scott, Durbin, Gerry, Stevens, Patten, Pitman, J. K. Shaw, Force, Felch, Bartine, Raymond, Sargent, Sandford, Creagh, G. Peck, Curry, Smith, F. Reed, Floy, Griswold, Holdich, Richardson, Griffen, Jewett, T. Spicer, J. Clark, Benedict, Hall, J. T. Peck, Frazer, Harding, Williams, Gary, Mattison, Leet, Dempster, S. Elliott, Kenney, Cook, Drummond, Spencer, Monroe, Comfort, Rounds, Holmes, Fletcher, Nickerson, Kinsley, Bain, G. W. Clarke, Haney, Judson, Crews, Thomson, M'Mahan, Filmore, Alverson, Seager, Finley, Young, C. Elliott, Walker, Nast, Herr, Trimble, Wright, Stewart, Reed, Bowman, J. C. Smith, Brenton, Hargrave, Pilcher, James Shaw, Sprague, Chatfield, Jacoby, Wood, Simpson, Kerns, Berry, Talbott, G. F. Brown.

Nays.

NAYS—Allen, Emerson, Winner, Trafton, Crandall, Porter, Barrows, Adams, E. Smith, Witherspoon, Wever, Currier, Hopkins, Swayze, Reddy, Parks, Colburn, Eddy, Snyder, Jenne, Hill, Webber, Farrington, Marsh, E. Shaw, Ayres, Steadman, Plympton, Summers, Chandler, Power, Gurley, Poe, Quigley, Hosmer, Carlton, Dennis, Nevins, Woodworth, Dodge, Goode, Cooper, Brakeman, Akers, Cartwright, Robbins, Barger.

The third resolution was adopted by the following vote :—

Yeas on third  
resolution.

YEAS—Davis, Bowen, Wilson, Brison, Morgan, Miller, Hamilton, Bear, Collins, Griffith, Roszel, Dailey, Hazzard, Kennaday, Massey, Scott, Durbin, Gerry, Stevens, Pitman, J. K. Shaw, D. Smith, F. Reed, Floy, Griswold, Holdich, Richardson, Griffen, Force, Felch, Bartine, Sargent, Sandford, Creagh, G. Peck, Curry, Jewett, Barrows, E. Smith, Spicer, J. Clark, Benedict, Hall, J. T. Peck, Frazer, Witherspoon, Harding, Williams, Gary, Mattison, Leet, Dempster, Hopkins, S. Elliott, Kenney, Swayze, Cooke, Drummond, Spencer, Monroe, Comfort, Rounds, Fletcher, Kinsley, Bain, G. W. Clarke, Summers, Haney, Phelps, Crews, Chandler, Gurley, Thomson, M'Mahan, Alverson, Seager, Woodworth, Finley, Young, C. Elliott, Walker, Nast, Herr, Trimble, Wright, Stewart, H. Reed, Bowman, J. C. Smith, Brenton, Hargrave, Cooper, Pilcher, Chatfield, Jacoby, Wood, Simpson, Kerns, Talbott, G. F. Brown, Berry.

Nays.

NAYS—Patten, Allen, Emerson, Winner, Raymond, Trafton, Crandall, Porter, Adams, Wever, Currier, Reddy, Parks, Colborn, Eddy, Holmes, Snyder, Jenne, Hill, Webber, Farrington, Nickerson, Marsh, E. Shaw, Ayres, Steadman, Plympton, Poe, Quigley, Filmore, Hosmer, Carlton, Dennis, Nevins, Dodge, Goode, James Shaw, Brakeman, Sprague, Akers, Cartwright, Robbins, Barger.

The fourth resolution was adopted by hand vote, and the preamble was also adopted in the same manner.

Brother Barger asked to have his reasons for not voting on Dr. Simpson's substitute for the fourth declaration in the report of the Committee on the State of the Church spread on the journals. A motion was made to grant him leave. Moved to amend by adding, "and all others who desire to have the reasons," &c. Motion and amendment lost.

Brother Thomson asked leave to change his vote on the report on the State of the Church, on the seventh item, from negative to affirmative.

Voted to add four to the committee to write a pastoral address to the Church.

By motion, conference adjourned. Prayer by brother Griffith.

May 29.  
Fourth resolution adopted.  
Brother Barger's request not granted.

Brother Thomson asked leave to change his vote.

TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 30.

May 30.

Conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened with the usual religious exercises by brother Sargent. Bishop Morris in the chair. The journals were read.

A. Poe reported from the Committee on Boundaries.

Voted to suspend the rule which requires propositions to amend the Discipline to lie on the table one day, for the purpose of taking action upon the above-named report.

Pittsburgh boundary read. Laid on the table until the report of the Western Virginia Conference be acted upon.

Report relating to the boundary of Western Virginia Conference read and adopted.

Pittsburgh Conference boundary read and adopted.

Boundaries of Ohio Conference read and adopted.

The boundary of Missouri Conference read and adopted.

Amendment to the boundary of Indiana Conference read and adopted.

Amendment to the boundary of Illinois Conference adopted.

Report in regard to Liberia Mission Conference adopted.

Report in relation to a map, laid on the table.

The fifth resolution, in relation to the division of Ohio Conference, laid on the table.

The resolution in relation to the division of Oneida Conference, laid on the table.

Moved to reconsider the vote in relation to the boundary of East Genesee and Genesee Conferences. Lost.

The report in relation to Carlisle was adopted.

Voted that Illinois Conference and Missouri Conference have leave to hold their next session together.

Report of Committee on Boundaries.

Boundary of the Pittsburgh Conference.

Of Western Virginia.

Of Ohio.  
Of Missouri.

Of Indiana.

Of Illinois.

Of Liberia.

Of Ohio.

Of Oneida.

Of Genesee and East Genesee.

Illinois and Missouri Conferences to hold next session together.

May 30.  
 Of New-York  
 and New-York  
 East Conferen-  
 ces.  
 Of Pittsburgh  
 and Western  
 Virginia Con-  
 ferences.  
 Leave to Bro.  
 Durbin to  
 change his  
 vote.  
 Same to brother  
 Patten.

Report of Com-  
 mittee on Itin-  
 erancy.

Same order in regard to New-York Conference and New-York East Conference.

Same in regard to Pittsburgh and Western Virginia Conferences.

Voted to give brother Durbin leave to change his vote on the last question relating to the so-called Plan of Separation, from *nay* to *yea*.

Voted to grant brother Patten leave to change his vote on the third resolution, in regard to the property question, from *nay* to *yea*.

The report from the Committee on Itinerancy was presented by Dr. Akers.

“The Committee on the Itinerancy beg leave further to report, that they have carefully examined the records of the several annual conferences for the last four years, which were submitted to them, and they find that the general character of said records is good. Yet your committee have thought it their duty to notice a few things, which they deem worthy of correction by this General Conference.

“First. One conference on locating one of its members, retained a certificate of his location. Therefore your committee recommend the following for adoption:—

*Resolved*, That when a member of an annual conference is located, he is entitled to a certificate of the fact under the hand of the president of said conference.

“Second. An exception was taken by your committee to one conference for not sustaining a charge of mal-administration against one of its members, when they had found him guilty of withholding a certificate from a member removing from his charge, although he refused to try the person when he was willing to be tried. Therefore, your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution:—

“*Resolved*, That when a member wishes to remove his residence out of any particular charge, and there are, in the judgment of the preacher in charge, sufficient reasons for withholding a certificate, and the member is willing to be tried, he shall be held guilty of mal-administration, unless he proceed in the trial of such person.

“Third. Your committee except to the records of several of the annual conferences for want of explicitness and fulness of statement, namely, several were not paged; some had not the numbers in society; some no steward’s report; some mentioned that reports were made on different subjects, but did not tell where they were to be found; others spoke of trials of members, but did not show the investigations in detail, nor tell where the evidence could be found.

“In view of correcting all such defects in the records

for the future, your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution:—

“*Resolved*, That it shall be the duty of each annual conference, through its president, and by its secretary, to cause to be kept either on its regular journal, or in a separate book kept for that purpose, a full transcript of the adopted reports, and of the doings of said conference in respect to trials, including the evidence on which the conference may have acted, to which such references shall be made in the principal conference journal, as that the said reports, evidence in trials, &c., as excepted to above, may be readily found.

“Fourth. Your committee have had under consideration the petition of a number of persons praying this General Conference to authorize the bishops to divide the city and county of New-York into convenient charges of three, four, or more churches each, and to cause the pastors of said charges to itinerate with each other, &c. Or should this body be of opinion that the bishops are now possessed of the power asked for, then the petitioners request a recommendation from this General Conference directing the bishops to exercise the said power.

“After a careful consideration of this subject, your committee have concluded to report the following resolution for adoption:—

“*Resolved*, That it is inexpedient to grant the petition asked for in the memorial from New-York.

“Fifth. Your committee would also report the following resolution for adoption, in respect to a memorial from the Pittsburgh delegation and others, praying for authority to be given to the annual conferences to appoint a committee for the trial of ministers, &c.:—

“*Resolved*, That it is not expedient that this General Conference should grant the prayer of the petitioners.

“Sixth. Your committee have ascertained that, in some instances, there exists a strong disposition to confine ministerial and pastoral labours to the towns and villages, to the comparative neglect of societies in the country. Also, we ascertain that, in some instances, ministerial support is deficient in consequence of the smallness of the charge. In other instances, because of the sparsely settled state of the country; in others, because of the poverty of the members; and in some instances, where there was no want of pastoral labour, support was defective for want of liberality; in other cases, for the want of suitable stewards. But in all such cases, in respect to finances, the members of the Committee report the several conferences in an improving condition. And for the correction of the above-mentioned tendency, in some instances, to neglect country appointments, by

May 30.  
Report of Com-  
mittee on Itin-  
erancy contin-  
ued.

May 30.  
Report of Com-  
mittee on Itin-  
erancy contin-  
ued.

devoting too much time to the towns and villages, your committee offer for adoption the following resolution:—  
“Resolved, That the several annual conferences be, and they are hereby directed to make special inquiry on this subject in the examination of character.

“P. AKERS, *Chairman.*”

First resolution.

1. Resolution in relation to certificates of located preachers. Adopted.

Second resolution.

2. Resolution in regard to the failure of a preacher to try members in certain cases. Adopted.

Third resolution.

3. Resolution in regard to the record of reports in relation to the trial of a minister. Read. Brother Sandford moved to amend by inserting the words “or on file as documents.”

Brother Steadman moved to lay the amendment on the table. Carried.

Brother Sandford moved to lay the resolution on the table. Lost.

Brother Cooper moved the previous question. Carried. The resolution was then adopted.

Fourth resolution.

4. The resolution adverse to the petition from New-York in relation to the itinerancy. Read and adopted.

Fifth resolution.

5. Resolution laid on the table for the present.

Sixth resolution.

6. Last resolution read and adopted.

Whole report, except the resolution laid on the table, adopted.

Report of Pub-  
lishing Com-  
mittee of Pitts-  
burgh Chris-  
tian Advocate.

The report of the Publishing Committee of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate presented, and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

The report of the Committee on the Chartered Fund taken up.

Report of Com-  
mittee on Char-  
tered Fund.

“The committee to whom were referred the report and communication from the Chartered Fund, beg leave to report that they have given the subject a full investigation, and find the exhibit of its fiscal affairs satisfactory, properly audited, and in every respect in such a state as to give every assurance of the strict fidelity with which the duties of the trust are performed.

“In accordance with the requirements of the charter, the trustees have nominated four persons, from which number it will devolve upon the General Conference to elect two persons to fill vacancies occurring in the board, namely, John Whiteman and James B. Longacre, one of whom to be chosen to fill the place of the Rev. Samuel Harvey, deceased.

“Solomon Townsend and Ephraim Clark, one of whom to be chosen to fill the place of Philip Eisenbright, removed.

“The committee respectfully present for the adoption of the conference the following:—



"Resolved, That an election for two Trustees of the Chartered Fund be held at o'clock.

May 30.

Report of Com.  
on Chartered  
Fund, con-  
tinued.

"Resolved, That the Trustees of the Chartered Fund be authorized to apply to the Legislature of Pennsylvania for such alterations in their Charter as will allow the Board to fill any vacancy or vacancies which may occur therein during the interim of the sessions of the General Conference, such appointment or appointments to require confirmation by the General Conference next ensuing.

"Resolved, That the Trustees be authorized to apply to the Legislature for such alterations in the Charter as will allow such increase in the amount of their annual income as they may deem advisable.

"Resolved, That the condolence of the General Conference be tendered to the family of Rev. Samuel Harvey, in whose death the Church, and society at large, have lost a most worthy ornament, and by which event the Chartered Fund has lost one of its earliest and most faithful officers, whose devotedness to its interests was not only evinced in the services he rendered, but in the provision of his will, bequeathing to the fund the sum of one thousand dollars.

"Resolved, That the thanks of the General Conference be tendered to the Board of Trustees for the care and fidelity with which the duties of the trust are discharged.

"Resolved, That a copy of this Report be transmitted by the secretary to the Board of Trustees, and that a certificate of the election of such persons as may be chosen to fill the afore-mentioned vacancies, signed by one of the bishops and the secretary, be also sent to the Board.

"A. GRIFFITH, *Chairman.*"

Report adopted.

John Whiteman elected Trustee of the Chartered Fund in the place of Rev. Samuel Harvey, deceased.

Solomon Townsend also elected Trustee of the Chartered Fund in the place of Philip Eisenbright.

T. Spicer, from the Committee on the Arrangement of the Discipline, presented his report.

Voted to suspend the rule, to allow of direct action upon this report.

J. T. Peck moved to adopt the report, subject to the review of a committee hereafter to be appointed to edit the publication of the Discipline, which committee shall have power to make any changes necessary to harmonize any discrepancies that may have escaped the action of the committee here. Adopted.

Rearrangement  
of Discipline.

Voted that Tobias Spicer, and the persons who shall be elected Editors of the Quarterly Review and Christian Advocate and Journal, be said committee to edit the Discipline.

- May 30.  
Report of Committee on Re-  
visal, No. 5.
- The Committee on Revisal reported, No. 5.  
Voted to suspend the rules, to allow of immediate action on this report.
- First Item. 1st item, so amending the Discipline as to make the report of the Estimating Committee subject to the action of the Quarterly Conference, adopted.
- Second Item. 2d item, proposing to amend the Discipline, so as to make it the duty of Preachers in Charge to report the number of members and probationers separately.  
Brother Power moved to amend the report, so as to make it the duty of Preachers in Charge to report the deaths of members that may occur.  
On motion of brother Drummond, the previous question was ordered, and the amendment of brother Power failed.  
2d item was adopted as reported.
- Third item. 3d item, recommending to strike out quest. 6, page 23, of the Discipline, read and adopted.
- Fourth Item. 4th item, nonconcurring in the suggestion of a paper from Baltimore.
- Fifth Item. 5th item, in relation to the trial of ministers.  
First recommendation of this item, changing the title of the chapter, adopted.  
Second recommendation adopted.  
Third recommendation.  
Brother Reddy moved to amend, by adding, "with such other testimony as may be admitted." Amendment adopted.  
The recommendation as amended adopted.  
Recommendation in regard to location of ministers.  
Brother Sargent moved to amend so as to make a vote of two-thirds necessary to locate.  
Moved to lay this amendment on the table. Lost.  
Moved to lay this item of the report on the table. Lost.
- Previous question. On motion of G. Filmore, the previous question was ordered, and the amendment lost, and the recommendation as reported was adopted.  
Last item adopted.  
The report, as amended, is as follows:—  
"The Committee on Revisal present a report in part, No. 5.  
"1. We recommend to concur with the resolution offered by brother Spicer, as follows: paragraph 5, page 181, after the words, 'stationed with them,' add the following words: 'which estimate shall be subject to the action of the Quarterly Meeting Conference.'  
"2. We recommend to concur in the resolution proposing to report the numbers of members and probationers separately, as follows: answer 9, page 114, after the
- Report of Com.  
on Revisal,  
No. 5.

words, 'of the members,' add, 'and of the probationers;' and also let question 14, page 25, be so altered as to read, 'What is the number of members and of probationers in society?'

May 30.  
Report of Com-  
mittee on Re-  
visal, No. 5,  
continued.

"3. In accordance with a resolution referred to us, we recommend to strike out question 6, page 23, namely, 'Who have been elected by the suffrages of the General Conference to exercise the episcopal office, and superintend the Methodist Episcopal Church in America?' and that the other questions be numbered accordingly.

"4. In the first and second items of the paper from a gentleman in Baltimore, presented by Rev. J. A. Collins, we recommend nonconcurrence. The third item is provided for in another report.

"5. Having considered the resolution offered by brother Brenton in regard to the trial of ministers, the committee recommend the following alterations in chapter i, section 19, namely: (1.) To alter the title of the section, so as to read, 'Of the method of proceeding against Accused Travelling Ministers or Preachers;' (2.) to prefix to answer to question 1, the words, 'in the interval of the annual conference;' (3.) To add after the words, 'face to face,' in the fifth line of answer, the words, 'and cause a correct record of the investigation to be kept and transmitted to the annual conference.' They recommend, moreover, to number the answer to question 1 as answer 1, and to add as a second answer to said question, after the second paragraph on page 68, and before question 2, the following words: 'If the charge be preferred at the conference, the case may be referred to a committee in the presence of a presiding elder, or a member appointed by the bishop in his stead, who shall cause a faithful record of the proceedings and testimony to be laid before the conference, on which, with such other evidence as may be admitted, the case shall be decided.' (4.) To alter question 4 and answer, so as to read, 'Question 4. What shall be done when a travelling minister is accused of being so unacceptable, inefficient or secular, as to be no longer useful in his work? Answer. The conference shall investigate the case; and if it appear that the complaint is well founded, and the accused will not voluntarily retire, the conference may locate him without his consent.' (5.) To alter the second paragraph on page 70, from the first to the ninth line, so as to read, 'In all the above-mentioned cases it shall be the duty of the secretary of the annual conference carefully to preserve the minutes of the trial, whether taken before a committee or before the conference, and all the documents relating to the case, together with the charge with which the accused

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is charged, and the specification or specifications ;' then it follows, ' which minutes,' &c.

" All which is respectfully submitted,  
" L. SCOTT, *Chairman.*"

Committee on  
Pastoral Ad-  
dress.

The bishop reported the Committee to draft the Pastoral Address as follows : J. Holdich, S. Comfort, M. Simpson, G. Webber, J. F. Wright, W. Hamilton, Hooper Crews.

Committee of  
Estimation for  
Editors and  
Agents.

Statement of salaries, house rent, and travelling expenses, of Editors and Agents at New-York, presented by the Chair, and being read, was ordered filed among the Conference papers.

A statement of amounts paid, and to whom, for contributions to the Ladies' Repository, and for manuscripts at the Western Book Concern, from 1844 to 1848, was presented. Moved to refer to the Committee on the Book Concern. Motion laid on the table, and the paper ordered on file.

A paper from James V. Watson referred to Committee on the Book Concern.

On motion, conference adjourned. Prayer by brother Kinsley.

## TUESDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 30.

Conference met at half-past two o'clock, and was opened with the usual religious services by brother Herr. Bishop Hamline in the chair.

The minutes were read. Moved to suspend the general orders. Carried.

Voted to take up the special order.

Leave of ab-  
sence granted  
to J. C. Smith,  
J. Kerns, and  
O. C. Baker.

Voted to grant brother John C. Smith, brother John Kerns, and O. C. Baker, leave of absence.

A motion to excuse brother Farrington after to-morrow failed.

J. B. Finley moved the following :—

Order of elec-  
tion.

" *Resolved*, That in the election of General Conference officers the following order be observed :—

" 1. Christian Advocate and Journal. 2. Quarterly Review and books. 3. Western Christian Advocate. 4. Ladies' Repository. 5. German Apologist. 6. Pittsburgh Christian Advocate. 7. Northern Advocate. 8. Sunday School Advocate and books. 9. First Book Agent at New-York. 10. Second Book Agent at New-York. 11. First Book Agent at Cincinnati. 12. Second Book Agent at Cincinnati. 13. Missionary Secretary." Carried.

Voted to appoint three tellers who shall go out with one of the secretaries and count the votes.

Tellers.

B. Griffen, J. B. Finley, and James Porter, were appointed tellers.

Voted that the brethren be permitted to nominate candidates for General Conference officers in open conference.

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Voted to take up the report of the Committee on Revisal, No. 1.

1st item adopted. 3d item adopted. 4th item adopted, after amendment. 5th item laid on the table. 6th item taken up and adopted.

The report is as follows:—

“The Committee on Revisal beg leave to report, in part, the following alterations in the Discipline:—

Report of Committee on Revisal, No. 1.

“1. Chapter i, section 21, answer to question 2, after the first period, insert the words, ‘if the accused refuse or neglect to appear before said committee, he may be tried in his absence.’

“2. Chapter i, section 19, answer to question 4, after the words, ‘travelling preachers,’ insert the words, ‘or with having neglected his work.’

“3. Chapter i, section 19, so to alter the sentence after the word ‘suspend,’ as to make it read, ‘from all ministerial services and church privileges until the ensuing annual conference.’

“4. Chapter i, section 21, answer to question 1, so alter the fifth paragraph in the answer, as to make it read, ‘Every local elder, deacon or preacher shall be amenable to the quarterly meeting conference where he resides. He shall have his name recorded on the journal of said conference, and also enrolled on a class paper, and meet in class, or, in neglect of either, he shall not be permitted to exercise his ministerial office; and when a preacher is located or discontinued by an annual conference, he shall be amenable to the quarterly meeting conference of the circuit or station where he had his last appointment.’

“5. Chapter i, section 4, answer to question 3, strike out answer 8.

“6. Strike out the proviso in answer to question 2, page 161.

“GEORGE PECK, *Chairman.*”

Balloted for Editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal. The tellers returned and reported.

Abel Stevens was duly elected editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal.

Abel Stevens  
elected editor  
of Christian  
Advocate and  
Journal.

Balloted for Editor of the Quarterly Review, and the tellers retired. The tellers returned and reported.

John M’Clintock was duly elected Editor of the Quarterly Review.

J. M’Clintock  
elected Editor  
of Quarterly  
Review.

Balloted for Editor of the Western Christian Advocate. The tellers retired. The tellers returned and reported.

Matthew Simpson was declared duly elected Editor of the Western Christian Advocate.

M. Simpson  
elected Editor  
of Western  
Christian Ad-  
vocate.

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Voted to reconsider and suspend the order requiring the ballot, so far as the editorship of the Ladies' Repository is concerned, there being but one candidate.

B. F. Tefft  
elected Editor  
Ladies' Repository.

Benjamin F. Tefft was duly elected editor of the Ladies' Repository.

Balloted for the Editor of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.

The report of the Committee on Revisal resumed, No. 2.

First item adopted,  
Second item adopted.

The report is as follows:—

The Committee on Revisal beg leave further to report in part :

Report of Com-  
mittee on Re-  
visal, No. 2.

“The committee recommend the following question and answer to be inserted in chapter i, section 19:—

“*Quest.* 3. What shall be done when a member of an annual conference fails in business, or contracts debts which he is not able to pay?

“*Ans.* Let the presiding elder appoint three judicious members of the Church to inspect the accounts, contracts, and circumstances, of the supposed delinquent; and if, in their opinion, he has behaved dishonestly, or contracted debts without the probability of paying, let the case be disposed of according to the answer to question 1 of this section.’ And that the two questions which follow be numbered accordingly.

“Also that the following question and answer be added to chapter i, section 21:—

“*Quest.* 4. What shall be done when a local elder, deacon, or preacher, fails in business, or contracts debts which he is not able to pay.

“*Ans.* Let the preacher in charge appoint three judicious members of the Church to inspect the accounts, contracts, and circumstances of the supposed delinquent, and if, in their opinion, he has behaved dishonestly, or contracted debts without the probability of paying, let the case be disposed of according to the answer to question 2 of this section.’

“Respectfully submitted,

“GEORGE PECK, *Chairman.*”

The tellers returned, and the secretary read a vote reading William Hunt. Voted that the vote be not counted.

Wm. Hunter  
elected Editor  
of Pittsburgh  
Christian Ad-  
vocata.

William Hunter was duly elected editor of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.

Voted to suspend the order for the ballot, to vote for editor of the Christian Apologist, there being but one candidate.

William Nast was duly elected editor of the Christian Apologist.

May 30.  
W. Nast elected Editor of Chr. Apologist.  
Wm. Hosmer elected Ed. of Nor. Chr. Adv.  
D. P. Kidder elected Ed. of S. S. Advocate.

William Hosmer was elected editor of the Northern Christian Advocate.

Daniel P. Kidder was duly elected editor of the Sunday-School Advocate and books.

The order for the ballot was dispensed with in the last two cases.

Balloted for first Book Agent at New-York, and the tellers retired.

The Report of Committee on Revisal, No. 3, introduced. First item read.

The tellers returned and reported.

George Lane was duly elected first Book Agent at New-York.

G. Lane elected first Book Ag't at N. Y.

Balloted for second Book Agent at New-York, and the tellers retired.

Brother Snyder moved to recommit the first item of the report, with instructions to report some provisions for the board of unmarried preachers. The whole subject was indefinitely postponed.

Report of Com. on Revisal, No. 3.  
First item postponed.

The third item of the report was read and adopted, as follows:—

Third item adopted.

“Strike out of the Discipline the 2d answer, in 23d section, viz: ‘Let no person that is not a member of our Church be admitted to the communion without examination, and some token given by an elder or deacon.’”

Fourth item of the report taken up.

The tellers returned and reported.

Levi Scott was duly elected assistant Book Agent at New-York.

L. Scott elected second Book Ag't at N. Y.

Balloted for first Book Agent at Cincinnati. The tellers retired.

Moved to strike out the words from the pending report, “the congregation standing,” and all after it. The whole subject laid on the table.

Fourth item laid on table.

The tellers returned and reported.

Levi Swormstedt was duly elected first Book Agent at Cincinnati.

L. Swormstedt elected first Book Agent at Cin., Ohio.

Balloted for second Book Agent at Cincinnati. The tellers retired.

Fifth item of the report taken up. The previous question was ordered. The item was adopted. It reads as follows:—

“To alter chap. i, sec. 9, p. 41, second paragraph of the page, 4th line, by striking out the word ‘two,’ and inserting ‘four.’”

The tellers returned, and reported John H. Power duly elected assistant Book Agent at Cincinnati.

John H. Power elected second Book Agent at Cin., Ohio.

Balloted for Missionary Secretary, and tellers retired.

- May 30. The report of the Revisal Committee laid on the table.  
 Dr. Bond to have Voted to give Dr. Bond access to the General Confer-  
 access to the ence journals and papers, to assist him in preparing a liter-  
 journals, &c. ary work.
- Com. on Exp. The Report of the Committee on the Expenses of De-  
 of Deleg. rep'd. legates was presented by brother Jewett. Voted to adopt  
 Report adopted. the report.
- Report of Com. Fourth report of the Committee on Revisal taken up.  
 on Revisal. First item adopted.  
 No. 4. Second item laid on the table.  
 Third item adopted, as follows:—  
 “To amend the certificate of membership, by striking  
 out ‘our,’ and inserting ‘Methodist Episcopal.’”  
 Fourth item adopted, as follows:—  
 “Change chap. ii, sec. 7, fifth paragraph, by striking  
 out ‘proper trial,’ and inserting ‘satisfactory reformation.’”
- Course of Study Report of the Committee on the Course of Study for  
 for Local Pr's. Local Preachers taken up.  
 Brother Barger being absent when the vote was cast for  
 Missionary Secretary, moved that he have leave to go out  
 and vote. Lost.  
 Moved to lay all the report, excepting that part propos-  
 ing amendments in the Discipline, on the table. Carried.  
 The tellers returned and reported.  
 Charles Pitman was duly elected Missionary Secre-  
 tary.  
 On motion, Conference adjourned.  
 Benediction by Brother Sandford.
- C. Pitman elect- ed Cor. Sec. of Miss. Society.

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## WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 31.

- The Conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened  
 with the usual religious exercises by brother Rounds.  
 Bishop Janes in the chair.  
 The Journals were read.  
 Order of the day suspended to recur to memorials.
- Memorials, &c. Bishop Hedding presented a memorial from local preach-  
 ers of Oneida Conference. Laid on the table.  
 By the same, the petition of H. C. Tilton. Referred to  
 the Committee on the Book Concern.  
 Bishop Janes presented a letter from J. W. White, re-  
 lative to alterations in the Discipline. Laid on the  
 table.  
 By the same, a letter from A. Milhice. Laid on the table.  
 Voted to take up the order of the day.  
 The Committee on the Book Concern reported:—  
 1st resolution. Moved to amend by striking out “inex-  
 pedient,” and inserting “expedient.” This amendment  
 was lost, and the first item was laid on the table.  
 2d resolution adopted.
- Report of Com. on Book Con- cern.



3d resolution, relative to the subscription price of Christian Advocate and Journal. Brother Massey offered a substitute, viz., that our Book Agents at New-York, and Editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal, and Book Agents at Cincinnati, and Editor of Western Christian Advocate, be, and they are hereby, directed to take measures to ascertain, as speedily as possible, whether a sufficient number of subscribers can be obtained to justify their furnishing that paper for one dollar per year, always in advance; and if they can, to reduce the paper, for the ensuing volume, to that price. Motion to lay on the table prevailed.

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on Book Con-  
cern.

4th resolution, relative to the sale of some property, adopted.

5th resolution, relative to Sabbath-school depositories, adopted.

6th resolution, relative to the continuance of Sunday School Advocate, adopted.

7th resolution, relative to revising Catechism, adopted.

8th resolution, relative to advertisements in the Quarterly Review, adopted.

9th resolution, relative to the Quarterly being made more practical, adopted.

10th resolution, relative to an alteration in Discipline. Rule suspended, and the resolution adopted.

11th resolution, relative to advertisements in the Christian Advocate and Journal. Amendment offered, "if the subscription be reduced." The amendment adopted.

12th resolution, relative to the form of the paper. Brother Finley offered to amend by striking out "inexpedient," and inserting "expedient." Amendment lost.

Order suspended to hear a letter from Bishop Soule, requesting a copy of all recorded on the journals in reference to his case.

"REVEREND AND DEAR BRETHREN,—If your journals contain any record of the proceedings of the Conference in reference to my communication to your body, I respectfully request a copy of such record.

Letter from Ep.  
Soule.

"I received from your secretary a copy of a resolution passed by the Conference in the words following:—'Resolved by the delegates, &c., That they have no jurisdiction over the Rev. Bishop Soule, and can exercise no ecclesiastical authority over him.' But as this resolution makes no reference to my communication, I have no official assurance of its reception, or of any action of the Conference in reference to it.

"You will confer a special favour by furnishing me with

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a copy of all recorded on the journal in reference to the case.

Very respectfully,

“JOSHUA SOULE.

“PITTSBURGH, May 31st, 1848.”

The secretary was ordered to give such extract.

Resumed the report of the Book Committee. The resolution was adopted.

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on Book Con-  
cern.

13th resolution, relative to discounts. Brother Holmes moved to strike out “15 per cent.” and insert “20 per cent.” Moved to amend the amendment, by striking out “20 per cent,” and inserting “10 per cent.” Call for the previous question. The resolution was adopted. A motion to lay this report on the table prevailed.

14th resolution, relative to the prices of Bibles and Testaments, adopted.

15th resolution, relative to discounts to wholesale purchasers, adopted.

16th resolution, relative to real estate. A substitute was offered by brother Collins.

17th resolution, to add to sec. 4, chap. i, page 27, in the Discipline, “and an agent for the German publishing fund.”

18th resolution, relative to claim on M. R. Hopkins, adopted.

19th resolution, relative to depository in Charleston, South Carolina, adopted.

20th resolution, relative to claims of widows, orphans, and superannuated preachers, in the bounds of the Church, South. Brother Akers moved to amend by striking out “inexpedient,” and inserting “expedient.” This resolution was laid on the table.

21st resolution, relative to Pittsburgh Christian Advocate, adopted.

22d resolution, relative to payment of dues by Pittsburgh Christian Advocate, adopted.

23d resolution, relative to changing the Discipline, so as to add to sec. 8, paragraph 29, page 201, “or manuscripts,” after the word “books.” This resolution was laid on the table.

24th resolution, relative to cost of the Quarterly Review for the last four years, laid on the table.

25th, containing three resolutions.

Moved to take up the report of Book Committee, No. 2.

Voted, that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet again at half-past two o'clock.

1st resolution, relative to appointment of Book Committee at New-York, adopted.

2d resolution, relative to Book Committee at Cincinnati. Brother Herr moved to amend by adding, “one from Ohio, N. Ohio, Indiana, N. Indiana, Illinois, Rock River, Mi-

chigan, and that the annual conferences appoint them." Laid on the table.

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Brother Brenton moved to strike out "seven," and insert "five;" one from Ohio, N. Ohio, Indiana, N. Indiana, and Illinois. The session was by vote lengthened ten minutes.

Brother Shaw asked leave of absence for brother Brown. Granted. Also for himself, to accompany brother Brown, who is sick. Granted.

Brothers Brown and Shaw granted leave of absence.

Brother Drummond moved to amend the amendment of the pending resolution, by striking out "Illinois" and inserting "Pittsburgh." Lost.

Brother Brenton's amendment lost.

The 2d resolution was adopted.

3d resolution, relative to a change of 17th paragraph, 2d section, page 197, to add East Genesee after Genesee, and the words "to be chosen annually."

4th resolution, relative to a change in chap. i, sec. 4, 2d answer to question 3, there be added after Cincinnati, "at Auburn and Pittsburgh."

Brother Cartwright offered the following resolution:—

Brother Cartwright's resolution.

"That the superannuated ministers, their widows and children, adhering to the M. E. Church, south of the line supposed to have been fixed by the so-called Plan of Separation, receive their pro rata share of the dividend of the Book Concern and Chartered Fund for the four years past, they furnishing proper vouchers of their relation to said Church."

By motion, adjourned.

Benediction by Bishop Hedding.

### WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 31.

Conference met at half-past two o'clock, and was opened with the usual religious exercises by brother Chandler.

Bishop Waugh in the chair.

The journals were read.

A motion was made to suspend the rules of order, and carried.

Rules of order suspended.

Took up the business on which we adjourned. By motion, brother's Cartwright's resolution was laid on the table.

Brother Cartwright's resolution laid on table.

The following resolutions were offered, as part of the report of the Book Concern:—

Report on Book Concern taken up.

26th resolution, relative to the transfer of Zion's Herald, adopted.

27th resolution, relative to the appointment of Editor and publishing committee for said paper, adopted.

28th resolution, relative to the relinquishment of a claim against C. A. Smith, adopted.

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29th resolution, relative to a claim against H. C. Tilton, to be referred to Agents at New-York, to be settled at their discretion, adopted.

The preamble read, one amendment made, and the preamble adopted, and the whole report (except the parts laid on the table) adopted.

The report is as follows:—

Report of Com.  
on Book Con-  
cern.

“The Committee on the Book Concern beg leave to submit their final report.

“The committee have carefully examined the Reports of the Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati, and the various communications referred to them, and present, as the result of their deliberations, the resolutions connected with this report.

“A number of propositions in regard to the price of our books, and the best means to be adopted to increase their circulation; the propriety of reducing the price of the Christian Advocate and Journal at New-York to \$1 00 per annum, and the establishment of depositories, was before the committee, and fully discussed. The conclusions to which the committee have come are believed to be the best which under all the circumstances could be arrived at.

“In the report of the Book Committee at New-York, the General Conference is requested to decide the question whether Editors should be allowed additional compensation for literary productions.

“After investigating this point, your committee are of opinion that the talents and time of Editors as well as Agents ought to be devoted *exclusively* to the duties of their office.

“The attention of the committee was called to the large amounts paid for the travelling expenses of Editors the four past years, the action in regard to which will be found below.

“Your committee had no report from the depository in Charleston, South Carolina, nor from the paper in that place; nor from the papers at Richmond, Virginia, and Nashville, Tennessee; and consequently took no action in regard to them.

“After a patient consideration of all the matters submitted to them, your committee recommend the following resolutions for adoption by the General Conference:—

“1st. *Resolved, &c.*, That it is inexpedient to publish a periodical for sermons of living ministers.” Not adopted.

“2d. *Resolved, &c.*, That the travelling expenses of Editors ought to include *only* those growing out of their moving to the place of their appointment, and the necessary expenses incurred in their going to and returning from the

annual sessions of the Conferences of which they are members." Adopted.

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on Book Con-  
cern, con-  
tinued.

"3d. *Resolved, &c.*, That it is inexpedient to alter the terms of publication of the Christian Advocate and Journal at New-York." Laid on the table.

"4th. *Resolved, &c.*, That the Agents at New-York be, and they are hereby, authorized to dispose of the four houses on Crosby-street whenever an advantageous opportunity may offer, and, with the advice of the Book Committee, erect other houses on a part of the lots recently purchased on Mulberry-street: provided that new buildings can be erected without materially increasing the expenses of the Concern." Adopted.

"5th. *Resolved, &c.*, That the Agents, if they deem it advisable, be authorized to establish one or more sabbath-school depositories in each Annual Conference that may provide for such depositories, and under such regulations as the Agents, with the concurrence of the Book Committee, shall approve." Adopted.

"6th. *Resolved, &c.*, That the Sunday-School Advocate as it is be continued." Adopted.

"7th. *Resolved, &c.*, That our standard Catechisms be revised by the Editor of our Sunday-School Books, under the supervision of the Book Committee at New-York." Adopted.

"8th. *Resolved, &c.*, That it is expedient to insert advertisements in the Quarterly Review to an extent not to increase the postage thereon." Adopted.

"9th. *Resolved, &c.*, That while we highly prize the Quarterly Review in its present character, it is our firm conviction that were it made more practical it would be more popular and useful." Adopted.

"10th. *Resolved, &c.*, That we recommend the following addition to the Discipline, before the proviso in the seventh paragraph of section 8, part 2: 'And the Agents at New-York shall fill the orders for the Agents at Cincinnati for the plates of such book or tract; and when the Agents at New-York are about to issue any new work of less than seven hundred pages, they shall, when practicable, give notice to the Agents at Cincinnati, and furnish, if ordered by them, duplicate plates, which with the above shall be at cost.'" Adopted.

"11th. *Resolved, &c.*, That the General Conference permit advertisements to a limited extent in the Christian Advocates, at the discretion of the Agents and Book and Publishing Committees, if the price should be reduced." Adopted.

"12th. *Resolved, &c.*, That it is inexpedient to alter the Christian Advocate and Journal to the quarto form." Adopted.

"13th. *Resolved, &c.*, That a deduction of 15 per cent. on an average be made on the retail prices of the books of the General Catalogue; and that the discount to preachers on

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cern, con-  
tinued.

the books (with the exception of Bibles and Testaments) be, for cash purchases, 30 per cent. ; on credit, 20 per cent." Adopted.

"14th. *Resolved, &c.*, That the price of Bibles and Testaments, with the discount thereon, be left to the discretion of the Agents at New-York and Cincinnati." Adopted.

"15th. *Resolved, &c.*, That the discount to wholesale purchasers of our books be left to the discretion of the Book Agents." Adopted.

"16th. *Resolved, &c.*, That it is the sense of this General Conference, that the Agents at New-York and Cincinnati purchase no additional real estate in New-York or Cincinnati but such as is indispensably necessary to carry on advantageously the Book Concern." Adopted.

"17th. *Resolved, &c.*, That the Bishops be allowed to appoint an agent or agents for the German publishing fund, when requested to do so by an annual Conference." Adopted.

"18th. *Resolved, &c.*, That so much of the debt of M. R. Hopkins as is due to the Concern at New-York be referred to the Book Agents at New-York for settlement at their discretion." Adopted.

"19th. *Resolved, &c.*, That the Agents at New-York be authorized to close up or continue the depository at Charleston, South Carolina, at their discretion." Adopted.

"20th. *Resolved, &c.*, That, in view of the action taken by the General Conference in regard to the settlement of the property question, on the 28th inst., it is inexpedient to take any action on the subject of the widows and orphans of travelling preachers of the Church, South, as suggested in the resolution offered by P. Akers and N. Rounds." Laid on the table.

"21st. *Resolved, &c.*, That the General Conference have learned with great satisfaction the flourishing condition of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate, as presented in the statement of the Publishing Committee, and that the Conference approve the method adopted to increase the circulation of that paper." Adopted.

"22d. *Resolved, &c.*, That the indebtedness of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate to the depository in this city, amounting to some \$1,400, be divided into instalments, and paid so as not to embarrass the paper." Adopted.

"23d. *Resolved, &c.*, That the Discipline, part 2, section 8, paragraph 29, page 201, be so altered as to introduce 'or manuscripts,' after the word 'books.'" Laid on the table.

"24th. *Resolved, &c.*, That, in the judgment of the General Conference, the contents of the Quarterly Review have cost too much during the past four years, owing to the fact that so large a portion of the articles which have

appeared in it were paid for; and the editor is hereby directed to lessen the expenditures in this particular for the future." Laid on the table.

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Report of Com-  
mittee on  
Book Concern,  
continued.

The Committee on the Book Concern report further, in part, as follows:—

"25th. *Resolved, &c.*, That the Discipline, part 2, section 8, paragraph 5, page 193, be so changed as to read as follows:—

"'The Book Committee at New-York shall consist of seven travelling ministers, to be chosen by the General Conference. During the intervals of the General Conference, they shall have power to fill any vacancy that may occur in their own body. It shall be the duty of the Book Committee to examine into the condition of the Book Concern, to inspect the accounts of the Agents, and make a report thereof yearly to all the annual conferences and to the General Conference.' The remaining part of the paragraph to remain as it is.

"26th. *Resolved, &c.*, That the 13th paragraph of same section, page 196, be so changed as to read as follows:—

"'The Book Committee of this department of the Book Concern shall consist of seven travelling ministers, to be chosen by the General Conference, whose powers,' &c., and then read the balance of the paragraph as it is.

"27th. *Resolved, &c.*, That there be added to the 17th paragraph, same section, page 197, 'East Genesee,' after 'Genesee,' and the words, 'to be chosen annually.'

"28th. *Resolved, &c.*, That in chapter i, section 4, second answer to question 3, there be added, after 'Cincinnati,' 'at Auburn and Pittsburgh.'

"29th. *Resolved, &c.*, That the Book Agents at New-York be, and hereby are, authorized to negotiate with the proprietors of Zion's Herald for the transfer of that paper to the General Conference, on such terms as said Book Agents may judge expedient and the Book Committee at New-York shall approve." Adopted.

"30th. *Resolved, &c.*, That in case the above-mentioned negotiation is effected, the conferences pledged to patronize said paper shall have power to appoint a Publishing Committee of twelve persons, half of whom shall consist of members of the present publishing association; and that said committee shall have power to appoint an editor until the next session of the General Conference." Adopted.

"31st. *Resolved, &c.*, That the Agents at New-York be directed to remit the claim of the Book Concern against the estate of the late Clarke A. Smith, deceased." Adopted.

"32d. *Resolved, &c.*, That the claim of the Book Con-

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cern against H. C. Tilton be referred to the Agents at New-York for settlement at their discretion." Adopted.

"All which is respectfully submitted. In behalf of the committee,

"J. A. COLLINS, *Chairman.*

"PITTSBURGH, May 27th, 1848."

E. J. Selleck's  
appeal taken  
up.

A motion to suspend the rule to take up the appeal of E. J. Selleck prevailed.

The letter of E. J. Selleck was read.

A motion to admit the appeal of E. J. Selleck prevailed.

Brother Pilcher appearing in behalf of the appellant, taking three exceptions to the proceedings in this case, brother Carlton replied in a few words.

A motion to reconsider the vote, admitting the appeal, prevailed. The motion to admit the appeal was lost.

The Committee on the State of the Church presented the following reports. Report No. 5 was adopted, and is as follows:—

Report of Com-  
mittee on the  
State of the  
Church, No. 5.

"Your committee have had under their consideration the various claims referred to them, and recommend to the General Conference the adoption of the following resolutions:—

"1. *Resolved*, That while this conference deeply sympathizes with those who have been deprived of their houses of worship in various places, under the operation of the so-called Plan of Separation; yet there is no power to draw upon the funds of the Book Concern to indemnify them for their losses. Nevertheless, all such claims will be duly considered and urged in the final adjustment of the alleged claims of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, should such adjustment take place.

"2. *Resolved*, That this conference has no power to draw upon the funds of the Book Concern to meet any claims which any of our local brethren in Arkansas, as set forth in some petitions, may have, for services rendered to the Church.

"3. *Resolved*, That the annual conferences, within whose bounds any travelling ministers may reside, who have suffered from the Plan of Separation, be, and they are hereby, authorized to examine and determine the nature and amount of said claims, and make such arrangement for their settlement, through their boards of stewards and their mission committees, as they may judge best.

"Respectfully submitted,

"GEORGE PECK, *Chairman.*"

Report No. 6 was adopted. The report is as follows:—



"The Committee on the State of the Church beg leave further to report, in part, as follows:—

"Among the papers referred to them for examination, they find memorials from different places in the slaveholding states, praying for recognition as members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, for ministers to be sent to them for the organization of conferences, districts, &c., which memorials are signed, in all, by two thousand seven hundred and thirty-five persons.

"In regard to these memorials we recommend for adoption the following:—

"Resolved, That we recognise all persons in these United States, who were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1844, who have not been separated from said Church by withdrawal or expulsion, according to Discipline, and who express a desire to be recognised as still under our care and jurisdiction, as members of the Methodist Episcopal Church; and that we regard it as our duty, as far as practicable, to supply all such with the preaching and ordinances of the Gospel.

"GEORGE PECK, *Chairman.*"

The secretary was ordered to give Dr. Akers a copy of the above report.

Report No. 7, in relation to the St. Louis and Maysville difficulties, was adopted, and reads as follows:—

"Whereas the Plan of Separation, as it is called, passed by the General Conference of 1844, has, in its operations, deprived a large number of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, situated in the state of Missouri, of the ministry and the privileges of the Methodist Episcopal Church during the last three years:

"And whereas this portion of the Church has also been deprived of their houses of worship from the same cause, greatly to their pecuniary injury; and whereas one society in St. Louis has, at great expense for them, erected a new house of worship, for which, after having entirely exhausted their means, they are considerably in debt for it; and two other societies, in the same city, have commenced suits to obtain their houses by law, for which object it is necessary to have means successfully to prosecute said suits to a final decision; and in other places they are destitute of sufficient means to build new houses to worship God in: therefore be it

"Resolved, by this General Conference, 1. That the societies belonging to the Methodist Episcopal Church in the city of St. Louis, and in the town of Hannibal, all in the state of Missouri, be, and they are hereby, authorized to appoint an agent to travel and solicit aid from the Church, for the purpose of their relief from their pecuniary

May 31.  
Report of Committee on the State of the Church, No. 6, continued.

The secretary ordered to give Dr. Akers a copy of the above report.

Report of Committee on the State of the Church, No. 7.

May 31.  
Report of Com-  
mittee on the  
State of the  
Church, No. 7,  
continued.

embarrassments, and the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church are requested to render to said agent all the aid and facilities in their power to accomplish this object.

“*Resolved*, 2. That the several annual conferences be requested to take such measures to assist the brethren in those places as they, in their wisdom, may see proper.

“*Resolved*, 3. That the petitions of brother J. Armstrong and brother Savage be referred to the Ohio Annual Conference, to adopt such measures as they may deem proper to assist said brethren,

“Respectfully submitted,

“GEORGE PECK, *Chairman.*”

Report No. 8, relating to the Brooklyn Church case, was adopted. It is as follows:—

No. 8.

“The Committee on the State of the Church further beg leave to report:

“That they have considered the resolution referred to them, as to the expenses sustained by Rev. B. Griffen in recovering possession of the Centenary Church, at Brooklyn, and they recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:—

“1. *Resolved*, by the delegates of the several annual conferences in General Conference assembled, That brother Benjamin Griffen, of the New-York Conference, has our *heartly commendation* for the Christian firmness and fidelity with which he maintained his position as a Methodist minister at Brooklyn the past year, and defended the rights of our ministry against the *assumptions* of the trustees of the Centenary Church in that city.

“2. *Resolved*, That the New-York and the New-York East Conferences be respectfully and earnestly requested to take such measures as they, in their wisdom, may deem proper to remunerate brother Griffen for the expenses which he incurred in recovering possession of said Church, and for the losses which he sustained in his ministerial support while deprived of the occupancy of his pulpit.

“Respectfully submitted,

“GEORGE PECK, *Chairman.*”

The further consideration of the report was suspended.

Voted, that when we adjourn we adjourn to meet again at half-past seven P. M.

Voted to suspend the rule.

Brother Griffen presented the following resolution, namely:—

“Whereas this conference, having divided the New-York Conference into two conferences, and having pro-

vided that the two conferences shall meet together at their next session ; and

"Whereas, The trustees of the New-York Annual Conference are an incorporated body, and as part of said trustees are annually elected by the members of the New-York Conference, therefore,

"Resolved, That the said division of the New-York Conference shall not take effect till after its next session.

"B. GRIFFEN,  
"P. P. SANDFORD."

May 31.  
B. Griffen and  
P. P. Sand-  
ford's resolu-  
tion.

Resolution adopted.

"Resolved, That the conference proceed to appoint two committees of five for New-York and Cincinnati, to estimate the amount of salaries for Conference Agents and Editors."

Committees to  
estimate sala-  
ries for Confer-  
ence Agents  
and Editors  
at New-York  
and Cincinnati.

For New-York—B. Griffen, G. Peck, F. Reed, D. Smith, T. Benedict.

For Cincinnati—J. Young, E. G. Wood, H. W. Goode, P. Cartwright, L. B. Gurley.

"Resolved, That the Book Agents be, and they are hereby, directed to pay the sexton of this church fifty dollars for her faithful services to the General Conference during the session." Adopted.

Conference ordered payment to be made for printing conference reports, \$3 50.

"Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by the chair to nominate the Book Committee at New-York, and also a like committee for the Book Committee at Cincinnati." Adopted.

"Resolved, That a collection be taken up for our assistant postmaster."

"Resolved, 1. That the cordial thanks of the members of this General Conference are due, and are hereby most respectfully tendered to our brethren, and friends, and their excellent families, who have so kindly and hospitably accommodated us during our present session.

Vote of thanks  
for entertain-  
ment.

"Resolved, 2. That the above resolution be published in the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate, and read in the pulpits of the Methodist Episcopal Churches in Pittsburgh, Alleghany, Birmingham, and Manchester.

"JESSE T. PECK,  
"J. DRUMMOND."

Resolutions adopted.

Brother Hamilton moved that copies of the address from the British brethren and the Canada brethren be furnished for publication in the Christian Advocate and Journal. Carried.

Address from  
the Canada and  
the British  
brethren to be  
published in  
the Christian  
Advocate and  
Journal.

Conference ordered all action relative to the Westmoreland case stricken from the journal.

All action in the  
Westmoreland  
case to be  
stricken from  
the journal.

Conference adjourned. Benediction by brother Filmore.

May 31.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 31.

Conference met at half-past seven o'clock, and was opened with the usual religious exercises by brother B. M. Hall. Bishop Morris in the chair.

The journals were read.

Brother Jacoby granted leave of absence.

Leave of absence after to-night was granted to brother Jacoby.

A motion, requesting that all the business coming before the conference to-night be presented by the president, was laid on the table.

Brother Nast granted leave of absence.

Brother Nast was granted leave of absence.

The report of the Committee on the State of the Church was resumed. Read in part,

Committee to nominate the Book Committee for New-York and Cincinnati.

Committee to nominate Book Committee for New-York—J. A. Collins, J. P. Durbin, J. Holdich, A. D. Sargent, Glezen Filmore.

Like committee for Cincinnati—Charles Elliott, P. Akers, H. Kinsley, H. W. Goode, L. W. Berry.

A. Stevens presents his resignation as Editor of Christian Advocate and Journal.

Brother A. Stevens presented to the conference his resignation of the editorship of the Christian Advocate and Journal.

Conference accepted, and voted to elect an Editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal. Balloted, and the tellers retired.

The report of the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society was presented.

G. Peck elected Editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal.

The tellers returned and reported. Dr. G. Peck was elected editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal.

Brother Richardson to fill the place of G. Peck on Committee to estimate salaries of Agents and Editors at N.Y.

Brother Richardson was appointed to fill the place of G. Peck on the Committee to estimate salaries of Agents and Editors at New-York.

Peck on Committee to estimate salaries of Agents and Editors at N.Y.

The Mission Committee presented several reports, as follows:—

Report of Committee on Missions.

“1. The Committee on Missions, having been advised that there are great difficulties in changing some of the missionaries so often as once in two years, recommend for the adoption of the General Conference the following alteration in the Discipline:—

“After the words ‘Indian missions,’ in the eleventh line from the top, on page 28, section 4, insert, ‘Welsh, Swedes, Norwegians, and other missionaries among foreigners, (not including the Germans,) where supplies are difficult to be obtained.’

“Respectfully submitted,

“C. PITMAN, *Chairman.*”

Report adopted.

“2. The Committee on Missions, to whom was referred the claims of John Ferguson, for some time a teacher of

a school in one of our Indian missions, beg leave to report, that they have carefully considered these claims, with the accompanying documents, and have agreed, under all the circumstances of the case, to recommend the following resolution for the adoption of the General Conference:—

“*Resolved*, That the claims of John Ferguson, for services performed in one of our Indian missions, be referred to the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church for adjustment; and that, if said claims shall appear to them to be well authenticated, the Board be, and is hereby, recommended to settle with brother Ferguson according to the principles of moral equity.

Respectfully submitted,

“C. PITMAN, *Chairman*.”

Report adopted.

“3. The Committee on Missions have received from the Recording Secretary of our Parent Missionary Society the following proposed amendment to the constitution of the Society, to be inserted at the close of the first paragraph of the 13th article:—

““*Provided, nevertheless*, That in the intervals between the meetings of the General Missionary Committee, the Board of Managers, with the concurrence of a majority of the bishops, may adopt a new missionary field if they shall deem it important, and may also provide for any unforeseen emergency that may arise; and, to meet such demands, may expend any additional sum not exceeding five thousand dollars.’

“Respectfully submitted,

“C. PITMAN, *Chairman*.”

Report amended and adopted.

Took up the Report of the Mission Committee, presented May 22:—

“The Committee on Missions, to whom was referred the memorial from Oregon praying for the establishment of an annual conference in that country, have had the subject under serious consideration; they have also had before them the resolution of brothers Simpson and Collins on the propriety and importance of embracing the territories of California and New-Mexico within the bounds of an annual conference, and have agreed, after a careful examination of both documents, to recommend to the General Conference the adoption of the following resolutions:—

“1. *Resolved*, by the delegates of the several annual conferences in General Conference assembled, That provision be, and is hereby, made for the establishment of an

May 31.  
Report of Com-  
mittee on Mis-  
sions, contin-  
ued.

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Report of Com-  
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sions, contin-  
ued.

annual conference on the Pacific coast, to embrace Oregon, California, and New-Mexico, to be called, 'The Oregon and California Mission Conference,' and that it be organized as soon as practicable, under the authority and direction of our episcopacy.

"2. *Resolved*, That the bishops shall have authority to appoint a superintendent for said conference, and assign him his duties; and that the managers of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church shall fix his allowance.

"3. *Resolved*, That we hereby recommend that one of our bishops visit Oregon during the ensuing four years, if practicable, and that his expenses be met in the usual way.

"4. *Resolved*, That the Oregon and California Mission Annual Conference shall have all the rights and privileges of other annual conferences, excepting those of sending delegates to the General Conference, and of drawing the annual dividend from the avails of the Book Concern and of the Chartered Fund.

"All which is respectfully submitted,

"C. PITMAN, *Chairman*.

"PITTSBURGH, May 13, 1848."

The resolution relative to the Mission Annual Conference on the Pacific Coast being read, a motion to lay on the table failed. A motion to adjourn failed. The call for the previous question was not sustained.

The first resolution was adopted.

The second resolution was adopted.

The third resolution was laid on the table.

The fourth resolution was adopted.

Moved, that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet again at half-past seven o'clock to-morrow morning.

Brother Tomlinson offered the following resolutions:—

Resolutions re-  
questing Bish-  
op Hedding to  
visit the Brit-  
ish Conference.

"1. *Resolved*, unanimously, by the delegates of the General Conference in General Conference assembled, That our highly esteemed and beloved senior bishop Hedding, D. D., be, and is hereby, respectfully and earnestly requested, if practicable, to visit the British Conference at some time within the ensuing four years, to reciprocate for himself, and in behalf of this body, and of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, the fraternal salutations which this conference, during its present session, received with such great delight and edification from that venerable body through their excellent and able representative, Rev. Dr. Dixon.

"2. *Resolved*, unanimously, That should our senior bishop find it impracticable to comply with this request, on account of feeble health, or from any other cause, the board

of bishops be, and they are hereby, affectionately desired to select one of their number to perform for himself and his colleagues, for us and for the whole Church, the pious, important, and most agreeable service specified in the foregoing resolutions.

"3. *Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions, duly authenticated, be placed in the hands of the bishops.

"J. S. TOMLINSON,  
"JOSEPH HOLDICH."

By motion, conference adjourned. Benediction by Bishop Waugh.

### THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 1.

June 1.

Conference met at half-past seven o'clock, and was opened with the usual religious exercises by brother J. B. Finley. Bishop Hamline in the chair. The journals were read.

Brother Jewett moved to suspend the orders. Carried.

He offered the following:—

"*Resolved*, That if the annual conferences shall be called upon to vote on the resolution proposing a suspension of the sixth restrictive article, the secretaries of the several annual conferences be directed to forward to the Book Agents at New-York a certified statement of the vote of their conference, that said agents may decide thereon." Adopted.

Brother Jewett's resolution on the sixth restrictive article.

Brother Goode offered the following:—

"*Resolved*, That a committee of three, one of whom be the secretary, be appointed to superintend the publication of the Journal and Reports of this General Conference, and the Book Agents at New-York are hereby instructed to publish the same with as little delay as practicable."

A Committee of three to superintend General Conference journal and reports, and the Book Agents at New-York to publish it.

Brother Goode also offered the following:—

"*Resolved*, That the Editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal be hereby instructed, as soon as practicable, after final adjournment, to prepare and furnish for publication in our official papers a connected transcript of all resolutions, or other actions of this body, deciding points of law, or in any manner affecting the administration of discipline." Adopted.

Editor of Christian Advocate and Journal to prepare and publish resolutions, &c., of General Conference.

Brother Brown requested leave to record his vote on the property question. Voted that leave be granted him.

Voted to take up the report of the Committee on Sunday Schools and Tracts, No. 1.

The first resolution of the report, amending the constitution of the Sunday-School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church was adopted.

The second resolution, amended as above, was adopted.

The third resolution was adopted.

Leave granted to brother Brown to record his vote on the property question.

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools and Tracts, No. 1.

continued.

June 1.  
Report of Com-  
mittee on Sun-  
day Schools  
and Tracts,  
No. 1., con-  
tinued.

The fourth resolution was laid on the table.  
The fifth resolution was adopted.  
The report, as a whole, was taken up.  
Moved to amend by striking out the first clause after the words, "Methodist Episcopal Church." Carried.

Report of Com-  
mittee on Sun-  
day Schools  
and Tracts,  
No. 2.

The report, as amended was adopted. (See Appendix E.)  
Report No. 2, on Sunday Schools and Tracts, was taken up.  
The whole report was adopted. (See Appendix F.)  
Voted to take up the report of the Committee on Finance, No. 1.

Report of Com-  
mittee on Tem-  
perance.

The resolution amending the Discipline was laid on the table.

Brother Wright, from the Committee on Temperance, presented a report, which was read and adopted. (See Appendix G.)

Book Commit-  
tee for New-  
York.

The committee appointed to nominate a Book Committee for New-York reported the following names:—

John A. Collins, Baltimore Conference.  
J. Holdich, New-York East Conference.  
D. Filmore, Providence Conference.  
A. D. Sargent, New-England Conference.  
Z. Phillips, Troy Conference.  
N. Rounds, Oneida Conference.  
T. Carlton, Genesee Conference.

Report adopted.

T. Spicer offered the following resolutions:—

T. Spicer's reso-  
lution on alter-  
ation of Disci-  
pline.

"Resolved, That the rule of Discipline, page 41, com-  
mencing with the word 'let,' near the middle of the  
page, and ending with the word 'trial,' at the close of the  
same paragraph, be so amended as to make it the duty of  
the presiding elder to give the explanation alluded to,  
instead of the preacher in charge; and that it be  
transferred to the section, 'Of the Duties of Presiding  
Elders.'" Adopted.

"On page 95, instead of 'be strong and presumptive,'  
let it read, 'afford strong presumption of guilt.' Also,  
that on page 27, at the end of the 8th line, there be added  
after the words 'military posts,' the words, 'and naval  
stations,' so that it may read, 'state prisons, military posts,  
and naval stations.'" Adopted.

J. Young offered the following:—

Resolution of  
brother Young  
on Presiding  
Elders.

"Whereas, in some instance or instances, annual con-  
ferences have advised our bishops not to appoint the same  
person to the office of presiding elder for two terms in  
succession, and have also advised them not to reappoint  
any one to that office who has served two terms therein;  
and whereas such advice is regarded as an unsuitable  
interference with the duties and responsibilities of the  
episcopacy: therefore,

"Resolved, That it is the sense of this conference,



that our bishops should not be restrained or embarrassed by any such advice on the part of an annual conference." Adopted.

June 1.

J. Steadman offered the following :—

"Whereas the following resolution is found appended to the report on the Westmoreland petitions, and was adopted by the General Conference of 1840, to wit :—

J. Steadman's resolutions on slavery.

"*Resolved*, That under the provisional exception of the general rule of the Church on the subject of slavery, the simple holding of slaves, or the mere ownership of slave property in states and territories where the laws do not admit of emancipation, and permit the liberated slave to enjoy freedom, constitutes no legal barrier to the election and ordination of ministers to the various offices known in the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and cannot, therefore, be considered as operating any forfeiture or right, in view of such election and ordination :"

"And whereas said resolution is liable to misconstruction, and has been misconstrued greatly to the prejudice of our beloved Methodism. Therefore,

"*Resolved*, 1st. That said resolution be, and is hereby, rescinded.

"*Resolved*, 2d. That in rescinding said resolution, we contemplate no interference with the section of Discipline on slavery; but wish simply to leave it without note or comment."

Moved to lay the above resolution on the table. Lost.

Voted to take the previous question.

The resolutions and preamble were adopted.

Voted to take up the report of the Committee on Law Questions.

Report of Committee on Law Questions taken up.

The first resolution was read.

Moved to amend by adding the words, "in the intervals of the quarterly conference." Laid on the table.

Moved to amend by making it read, "the presiding elder has *not* a right to employ a local preacher, &c., except in the intervals of the quarterly conference."

Moved to lay the motion to amend on the table. Lost. Previous question ordered. Amendment adopted.

The resolution as amended adopted.

The second resolution was read.

J. Clark moved to amend by striking out what relates to expulsion. Laid on the table. Voted to take up again brother Clark's amendment. The previous question ordered. Amendment adopted. Resolution, as amended, adopted.

Brother Finley asked leave of absence. Not granted.

Bro. Finley not granted leave of absence.

The third resolution read. Laid on the table.

The fourth resolution read. T. Spicer offered a substitute, as follows :—

June 1.  
T. Spicer's substitute.

"Resolved, That the following clause be added to answer 8, of question 2, in Discipline, page 45: 'Persons who remove from one circuit or station to another, shall be responsible to the society from which they remove, until they have united elsewhere.'"

Moved to lay the substitute on the table. Carried.

Moved to postpone the consideration of this subject fifteen minutes, to fix the seat of the General Conference. Laid on the table.

The previous question was ordered. The resolution, as reported, was adopted.

The fifth resolution was read, and laid on the table.

The sixth resolution was read and adopted.

The seventh resolution was read. Moved to amend by inserting the word "not." Laid on the table.

J. Clark moved to amend by striking out the words "an appeal," and inserting "an application for a new trial."

The previous question was ordered. The amendment carried.

The resolution, as amended, was adopted.

The eighth resolution was read and adopted.

The appendix to the report was read and laid on the table.

The following is the report:—

Report of Committee on Law Questions.

"The Committee on Questions of Law have carefully considered the interrogatories propounded by the bishops to the conference, and by the conference referred to said committee, and they present their answer in the following resolutions, which are respectfully submitted, namely:—

"1. Resolved, That a presiding elder has not a right to employ a local preacher without a recommendation from a quarterly conference.

"2. Resolved, That when an annual conference decides that a preacher having charge has expelled a member contrary to Discipline, the decision restores the member so expelled.

"3. Resolved, That a certificate of membership is valid until the holder has had a reasonable opportunity of presenting it.

"4. Resolved, That when a member receives a certificate of membership from a preacher having charge of a circuit or station, he is responsible for his moral conduct (from the date of his certificate until he joins) to the society receiving him upon that certificate.

"5. Resolved, That testimony taken before a committee sitting in the case of an accused member of an annual conference, is to be received as evidence on the trial of said minister before the annual conference, and that a rule for taking such testimony shall be provided.

"6. *Resolved*, That questions relating to the admissibility of testimony are questions of law.

"7. *Resolved*, That when a preacher, who differs in judgment from the majority of the society, or the select number, concerning the guilt or innocence of an accused person, carries up the trial to the quarterly conference, it is an application for a new trial.

"8. *Resolved*, That in no case of an appeal can new evidence be admitted.

"All which is respectfully submitted,

"P. P. SANDFORD, *Chairman*."

"PITTSBURGH, May 17, 1848."

June 1.  
Report of Com-  
mittee on Law  
Questions.

APPENDIX.

"The Committee on Law Questions have also considered the following paper referred to them, namely:—

"*Resolved*, That the Committee on Questions of Law be instructed to inquire whether an annual conference, by virtue of its original jurisdiction, has the right, when one of its members "is under report of being guilty of some crime expressly forbidden in the word of God," to adopt any measure for the investigation of the matters contained in such report, in the intervals of its annual sessions, otherwise than in accordance with the provisions contained in answer to question first, chapter first, section nineteenth, page 67, and report thereon."

"Your committee beg leave to report a negative answer to the above interrogatory.

"Respectfully submitted,

"P. P. SANDFORD, *Chairman*."

"PITTSBURGH, May 17, 1848."

The following further Report of the Committee on Law Questions, in relation to an appeal court, &c., was taken up.

The first item was read, and resolution adopted.

The second item, in relation to superannuated preachers, was read.

Moved to strike out the word "not" in the first resolution.

Moved to lay the amendment on the table. Carried.

Moved to lay the whole report on the table. Lost.

The previous question ordered, and the resolution adopted as reported.

The 2d, 3d, and 4th resolutions were read and adopted.

The third item, in relation to "horse feed."

Brother Massey moved to strike out all except that which would make "horse feed" travelling expenses. Adopted, and the resolution was laid on the table.

Fourth item, in relation to E. Sprague. 1st resolution adopted. 2d resolution was read. Moved to amend by

June 1.

inserting the word "not." Amendment laid on the table.  
The resolution was adopted.

3d resolution was adopted. 4th resolution adopted.  
5th resolution adopted.

Secretary to furnish Troy delegates with a copy of resolutions in E. Sprague's case. Report of Committee on Law Questions.

The secretary was ordered to furnish the Troy delegates with a copy of the resolutions in the case of E. Sprague.

The whole report was adopted, and is as follows:—

"The Committee on Law Questions have had under consideration the proposition of the bishops respecting a delegated annual conference; the plan of a connectional conference, and the explanatory letter of Dr. Luckey accompanying it; the proposition so to alter the section of the Discipline relating to the General Conference as to authorize the appointment of a committee of that body to sit as a Court of Appeals during the sessions of the General Conference from time to time; and also the resolution which proposes to make the annual conferences judges of the constitutionality of the laws passed by the General Conference: and after bestowing upon each of the above-mentioned subjects all the deliberation so justly due to their intrinsic importance, no less than to the eminence of the sources whence they have respectively originated, your committee think that changes so vital should not be made at this juncture. Better that they should be subjects of consideration by the whole connexion for the next four years, and subjects of action, if need be, of the next session of this body.

"Your committee beg leave further to report answers to several questions referred to them.

"First. In relation to the trial of a preacher under certain circumstances:—

"1. *Resolved*, That an annual conference has a right, when charges are preferred against one of their number, and the case cannot be tried during their session for want of testimony, to refer it to the presiding elder who may have charge of him, under the rule for the trial of immoral ministers in the interval of an annual conference.

"Second. In relation to superannuated preachers:—

"1. *Resolved*, That a superannuated preacher living out of the bounds of his own conference is not a member of the quarterly conference where he resides.

"2. *Resolved*, That such minister has no voice in the society where he lives.

"3. *Resolved*, That he has a right (as all other Methodist preachers) in class meetings.

"4. *Resolved*, That he is under the jurisdiction of the presiding elder, so far as is provided in the Discipline, pages 24 and 68.

"Third. In relation to a certain item of expense:—

"*Resolved*, That horse feed, in the case of those who are under the necessity of keeping a horse to attend to their

appointments and duties in the ministry, is to be paid for as travelling expenses.

“Fourth. In relation to the case of E. Sprague :—

“They return the questions propounded by the delegates of the Troy Conference, with their answers subjoined.

“Ques. 1. In what relation to the Troy Conference did the above act of the General Conference place Rev. E. Sprague? Does he still remain suspended from the ministry or not?”

“Ans. His relation to the Troy Conference is that of an accused member.

“Ques. 2. May the Troy Conference suffer the said E. Sprague to withdraw from the Church, should he request it, before the trial takes place, as required by the action of this body?”

“Ans. They may.

“Ques. 3. When the trial takes place, is the Troy Conference at liberty to use any part of the testimony read before this body as documentary evidence in the case?”

“Ans. Yes, if it has been taken according to Discipline.

“Ques. 4. If living witnesses are present at the seat of the conference, but refuse to give evidence in open conference, is the conference at liberty in such a case to appoint a committee to take such testimony in the presence of the accused out of the conference; and if so taken, must the testimony be written down by the secretary of the conference?”

“Ans. The conference has a right to appoint a commission to take testimony when the witnesses cannot be brought before the conference, the opposite party being notified to appear before such commission, and having the right to cross-examine the witnesses: in such case the testimony is to be taken by a secretary appointed by the commission, and when reported to conference it must be filed and carefully preserved by the secretary of that body.

“Ques. 5. Must all testimony taken before the conference be spread on the journal, or may it be written down and kept in a form separate from the journal?”

“Ans. Documentary testimony need not be spread upon the journal, but should be filed and preserved by the secretary.

“Your committee do not deem it necessary to sustain their views by elaborate argumentation; and presuming that, at this late hour of the session, the more brief their report the more acceptable, they respectfully submit it.

“P. P. SANDFORD, *Chairman.*

“PITTSBURGH, May 31, 1848.”

June 1.  
Report of Committee on Law Questions, continued.

The final report of the Committee on the State of the Church was read. Moved to change the words “slavehold-

Final report of Committee on the State of the Church read.

June 1. ing conferences," for "conferences in the slaveholding states." Carried.

Moved to adopt the report as a whole.

The previous question ordered. The report was adopted. (See Appendix H.)

Voted to reconsider the action of this conference making the probation of travelling ministers four years. Voted to lay said amendment on the table.

The committee to nominate the members of the Book Committee for Cincinnati reported the following names:—

Book Committee for Cincinnati.

G. W. Walker, Ohio Conference.

L. B. Gurley, North Ohio Conference.

E. H. Pilcher, Michigan Conference.

E. G. Wood, Indiana Conference.

G. M. Beswick, North Indiana Conference.

Peter Cartwright, Illinois Conference.

Hooper Crews, Rock River Conference.

Report adopted.

On motion, voted to take up the report in relation to petitions of coloured preachers. It reads as follows:—

Report of Committee on Petitions of Coloured Preachers.

"The committee to whom were referred memorials from the Sharp-street and Asbury station of coloured members in the city of Baltimore, and from various coloured societies in Pennsylvania, New-Jersey, and Delaware, asking for the organization of annual conferences of coloured travelling preachers, under the supervision of our bishops, beg leave to report:—

"That having carefully considered the memorials, and feeling an earnest desire to do all that can be done to promote the spiritual interests of our coloured people, they recommend to the General Conference, for adoption, the following resolutions:—

"*Resolved*, 1. That the organization of such annual conferences is inexpedient at present.

"*Resolved*, 2. That the Discipline be so amended that the 5th answer in section 10, part 2, shall read as follows: 'The bishops may employ coloured preachers to travel and preach, where their services are judged necessary; provided that no one shall be so employed without having been recommended by a quarterly conference.'

"All which is respectfully submitted,

"JOHN DAVIS,

"FITCH REED,

"JAMES A. MASSEY,

"P. AKERS,

"M. FORCE.

"PITTSBURGH, May 23, 1848."

Moved to proceed to fix the seat of the next General Conference.

June 1.

Motion to lay said motion on the table. Carried.

Voted to take up that portion of the Report of the Committee on the State of the Church read last evening. The report was adopted. (See Appendix I.)

P. Cartwright presented the following:—

“Whereas it is the sense of this General Conference that a history of the Methodist Episcopal Church, embracing the last four years, should be written by some competent person designated by this Conference: therefore,

Dr. Elliott to write a history of the M. E. Church for the last four years.

“Resolved, That Dr. Elliott be, and he is hereby, requested to write said history; and, in order thereto, he shall have access to all the journals and documents of the Church which may be necessary to the accomplishment of this important work.”

John F. Wright offered the following:—

“Resolved, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That Rev. Dr. N. Bangs be, and he is hereby, appointed our messenger to convey our friendly salutations, and fraternal and Christian regards, to our brethren of the Canada Conference at their session in the year 1849; and in case he by any means should fail to fulfil this commission, our superintendents are hereby authorized and requested to appoint some one to serve in the place of Dr. Bangs, and perform the duties herein assigned to him.” Adopted.

Dr. Bangs to visit the Canada Conference.

Voted to continue the session until we finish our business.

Voted to take up the Report of Committee on Missions.

Moved to adopt the report as a whole. Carried. (For report, see page 92.)

J. Drummond moved the following:—

“Whereas the period has arrived when, in the judgment of this General Conference, the societies in Liberia ought to render considerable assistance in the support of our missionaries who labour for their spiritual good; and whereas we have reason to fear that our itinerant system has not been so fully carried out in that distant land as is desirable,

J. Drummond's resolution on lessening expenses in Liberia.

“Resolved, That we recommend to the Board of Managers of our Missionary Society to take such steps, by diminishing appropriations or otherwise, as they may deem necessary, to induce our members there to do what they can for the support of our missionaries, and to fully establish our itinerant system of preaching, that the blessing of the gospel may be more speedily extended to the natives.” Adopted.

Voted that we now proceed to fix the seat of the next General Conference.

- June 1. Baltimore, Rochester, Boston, Philadelphia, Providence, and Troy, were severally nominated.
- Next General Conference to be held at Boston. Baltimore received thirteen votes, Rochester received twenty-nine votes, Boston received eighty-nine votes; and Boston was therefore voted to be the seat of the General Conference to be held on the first day of May, 1852.
- On motion, the thanks of this Conference were given to those places which have invited the next session of the General Conference.
- Vote of thanks for entertainment passed. Resolutions voting thanks for our entertainment were called up, and passed unanimously by a rising vote.
- W. Herr offered the following:—
- Manuscript of Dr. Elliott's history to be examined and approved prior to publication. "*Resolved*, That the manuscripts of Dr. Elliott's history be from time to time submitted for examination and approval to the Agents and Editors of the Western Book Concern prior to its publication, and that he shall receive such compensation as may be agreed on by the Agents and Book Committee." Adopted.
- Editors of General Conference papers to employ assistance, &c. Moved that the Editors of the General Conference papers be permitted to employ such assistance and correspondence as they shall deem necessary respectively for the best good of these papers, with the approval of the Book Committee at New-York and Cincinnati, and the Publishing Committees at Auburn and Pittsburgh. Adopted.
- J. F. Wright offered the following:—
- "*Resolved*, That the Book Agents at Cincinnati be instructed to pay the travelling expenses of J. T. Mitchell to his own Conference, should he see fit to return."
- Moved to lay the above on the table. Lost.
- J. A. Collins moved to amend by adding also the moving expenses of C. B. Tippet from New-York to Baltimore.
- The previous question was ordered, and the amendment adopted.
- The resolution, as amended, adopted.
- Report of the Committee on Pastoral Address. J. Holdich, from the Committee for that purpose, reported a Pastoral Address.
- Moved that the report be adopted, allowing the chairman of the Committee to revise it if he deem it necessary, not affecting the sense. (See Appendix K.)
- J. M. Trimble offered the following:—
- "*Resolved*, That the journals of this General Conference be committed to Jesse T. Peck to finish the record of the reports, &c., after the adjournment of the General Conference." Adopted.
- J. T. Peck to finish the record of the General Conference. Voted that the Book Committee appointed at this session go immediately into office.
- Vote of thanks to secretaries. On motion, "*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Conference



are due, and are hereby tendered, to the secretaries for the efficient and faithful manner in which they have discharged their official duties.

June 1.

“Resolved, That the thanks of this General Conference be, and are hereby, tendered to the members of the Philological Institute for the use of their desks during our session.”

Vote of thanks to Philological Institute.

Moved to call up the resolutions in relation to a delegate to England. Lost.

Voted that the Secretary be instructed to furnish J. Armstrong with a copy of the action of this Conference relative to the Maysville Church.

Secretary to furnish J. Armstrong with a copy of the action in relation to the Maysville Church.

Also to Dr. Bangs a copy of the resolution appointing him a delegate to the Canada Conference.

Also to Dr. Bangs as a delegate to Canada Conference.

On motion of T. Spicer, J. T. Peck was added to the Committee to edit the Discipline.

J. T. Peck added to Committee to edit the Discipline.

Brother Herr offered the following :—

“Resolved, That the thanks of this General Conference are due, and are hereby tendered, to the pastors and officers of the different Churches, whose pulpits have been offered to, and occupied by, the members during the session.”

Vote of thanks for use of pulpits during the session.

On motion of brother Cartwright, voted that the journals be now read.

Voted to call up the resolution ordering that a copy of the Course of Study, prepared by the Bishops for probationers and travelling deacons, be published in a fly-leaf in the Discipline. Adopted.

Course of Study to be published in Discipline.

Voted that the thanks of this Conference be presented to the trustees of this Church for the use of the Church during our present session.

Vote of thanks to trustees for use of Church.

On motion of brother Cartwright, voted that we now adjourn *sine die*.

Final adjournment.

The doxology was sung, prayer was offered by brother Charles Elliott, and the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Waugh.

Thus ended the tenth delegated General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

ELIJAH HEDDING,  
BEVERLY WAUGH,  
THOMAS A. MORRIS,  
LEONIDAS L. HAMLINE,  
EDMUND STORER JANES,

*Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church.*

JOSEPH M. TRIMBLE, *Secretary.*

JESSE T. PECK,  
JOHN FRAZER,  
L. A. EDDY, } *Assistant Secretaries.*

## A P P E N D I X .

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The following is the letter of Bishop Soule, referred to on page 43.

TO THE BISHOPS AND MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NOW IN SESSION.

PITTSBURGH, *May 10, 1848.*

REV. AND DEAR BRETHREN,—In conformity to the “Plan of Separation” adopted by the General Conference of 1844, providing for “a distinct ecclesiastical connection, should the Conferences in the slaveholding states find it necessary to unite in such a connection,” these Conferences, at their first sessions after the General Conference, had the subject under their deliberate consideration. But that there might be no hasty action in a matter of such important concern, and that the views and counsels of all the Conferences might be obtained, after sufficient time to examine the whole ground, they appointed delegates to meet in Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, on the 1st of May, 1845. These delegates convened at the time and place appointed; and after deliberate examination of the deeply interesting subject on which they were met, accompanied with much prayer, they came to the decision, with almost unparalleled unanimity, that it was necessary for the Conferences in the slaveholding states, represented by them in Convention, to unite in a distinct ecclesiastical connection, under the provisions of the act of the General Conference. Having settled this important question, the Convention provided for the consummation of a separate organization by appointing a General Conference, to be held in Petersburg, Va., on the 1st of May, 1846. The acts of the Convention were submitted to the Annual Conferences for their approval, and, being approved, delegates were elected to the General Conference. The delegates having convened, and the General Conference being organized, I regarded the provisions of the “Plan of Separation,” for a distinct ecclesiastical connection, consummated in the establishment of the “Methodist E. Church, South.” So far as I have had cognizance of the deliberations and decisions of the General Conference, the Convention, and the Annual Conferences, it affords me pleasure to say, that, according to my best judgment, they have been conducted with the strictest regard to the provisions of the “Plan,” and with much of the same spirit of peace, brotherly kindness, and charity, which marked its adoption in the General Conference of 1844, as a scene of the truly moral sublime. As soon as the General Conference was organized, I officially notified the body that I adhered to the Methodist E. Church, South, in conformity with the provision of the second resolution of the “Plan of Separation,” which is in the words following: “2d. That ministers, local and travelling, of every grade and office in the Methodist Episco-

pal Church, may, as they prefer, remain in that Church, or, *without blame*, attach themselves to the Church, South." With this act, my official relation to this General Conference, and to the Methodist Episcopal Church under its jurisdiction, ceased. And being received as one of the bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, my official relations and responsibilities were transferred to that body.

From the foregoing facts it will readily be perceived that I hold myself amenable to the General Conference of the Methodist E. Church for all my acts till 1st of May, 1846. The chief object of my attendance at the present session of your body is to ascertain whether there are any charges to be preferred against me, and if so, to answer to them as best I may. I am aware that it has been the *usage* of the General Conference to appoint a committee on the episcopacy, whose duty it is to inquire into the administration of the government, and other matters appertaining to this department in the Church, and to report the result of their examination to the conference. To this course, under ordinary circumstances, I certainly can have no objection; but coming before you under circumstances of an extraordinary character, such as have never existed before, I respectfully request that any action of the conference, so far as my character is involved, growing out of publications in the official journals of the Church, may be had without reference to committee.

In the Western Christian Advocate of the 12th of June, 1846, the editor, Rev. Charles Elliott, has made a declaration to the Church, and to the American people, to the extent of the circulation of the paper, which I regard as highly injurious to me, so far as Dr. Elliott is regarded as a man of truth. His declaration is in the words following: "But Bishop Soule has withdrawn from the Methodist Episcopal Church *under grave charges*, or liable to them. Charges, we learn, were officially laid in against him previous to the Convention." On the appearance of this announcement, I took the liberty to call on Dr. Elliott, in the presence of four ministers of age and experience, to obtain, if possible, an explanation of this extraordinary statement. In the course of this interview I proposed to Dr. Elliott the following question:—"By whom were these charges 'laid in,' or preferred, and who gave you the information?" To this question the doctor answered promptly, and in a manner suitable to the character of his office as a minister and editor. His reply was, in substance, "That in a letter which he received from James B. Finley, he informed him that he had laid in, or preferred charges against me, previous to the Louisville Convention, and that he had furnished me with a copy of these charges." I assured the doctor that I had never received any charges laid in against me by brother Finley, or the slightest intimation of any intention on his part to charge me, till he gave me the information. I have requested the doctor to retract this statement, so injurious to my character, so far as he is accredited as a man of truth; but this retraction not appearing, I have respectfully, but earnestly, requested him to publish, in the Advocate, the letter of brother Finley giving him the information. Failing in this, I have several times requested to be furnished with these "grave

charges," that I might know what they were, and have some time to prepare to meet them; but in this I have also failed. And although this statement of "grave charges officially laid in against me previous to the Convention" has now been before the American people for nearly two years, in one of the official journals of the Church, and (for aught I know to the contrary) may have gone to Canada, and crossed the Atlantic, I remain as perfectly ignorant of what these charges are as any member of your body, or as any citizen of this city.

In view of this plain statement of facts, which I think will not be denied, it must be perceived that I come before you under no ordinary embarrassments. It is scarcely possible that the announcement that "grave charges were officially laid in against me, under which I had withdrawn from the Church," coming from such a source, and sustained by such authority, should fail to produce an influence prejudicial to my character and to my cause, if, by the presentation of the charges, I shall have an opportunity to make my defence. The shortness of time which I may have for preparation after I shall be put in possession of the charges may operate to my disadvantage. But waiving these considerations, however embarrassing, I avail myself of the opportunity now offered me, respectfully to request that my alleged accuser will lay in his charges to this conference, and thus afford me an opportunity of making my defence as best I may before a tribunal to which I hold myself amenable, as previously stated. As I cannot, consistently with my sense of propriety, make any further communication to this conference on this subject, either verbal or written, till the charges shall be presented, unless the *facts* before stated shall be denied, I respectfully request that this communication may not be made a matter of animadversion in the conference, so as to produce a still stronger influence against me before the charges shall be prepared in proper form. I here dismiss this truly painful subject, which no motive could have induced me to lay before the conference but *justice* to myself, and to others whose characters may be as deeply involved as my own. And having made this communication as my last recourse to obtain the knowledge of the charges which your official journal declares were laid in against me more than two years ago, and under which I had withdrawn from the Church, if I should fail to obtain these charges here, I will indulge the confident hope that such declaration will not be repeated, and that a favourable judgment will be passed upon me, at least at the tribunal of public opinion.

In conclusion, permit me to express my deep and sincere regret that you have found it expedient, as the result of your deliberations, to decline to recognise a fraternal relation, in the bonds of our common Methodism, to the Church, South. The unanimity with which you have arrived at this conclusion, both in your large and intelligent committee, and in your conference action, may be regarded as evidence of the strong consolidation of the great body of ministers and people which you represent, and for which you act. And I will indulge the hope that, at least so far as regards all the essential elements which constitute the "unity of the body of Christ, which is his Church," this consolidation will be fully realized. But suffer me to say, that

though my voice, soon to be hushed in the silence of the tomb, can in all probability be heard no more in your councils; and those bonds which have bound me to you, as a *branch of the great Wesleyan family of Methodists*, for half a century, have been severed by your act; I still feel a deep solicitude for your connexional unity, and for the success of the great work committed to your charge. But I cannot free myself from the apprehension that your act may disturb the peace and harmony of your body, and be, at least, the *accidental cause* of unhappy differences among your body. Against such a result, though your action in connexion with my relation to the Church South has neutralized any personal or official influence I might otherwise exert, I shall continue to interpose my prayers.

In the last four years, though not as successful as in some previous years, the work of God has gradually advanced in the annual conferences of the Church South, and in some parts of the work we have had great and blessed revivals. The increase of white members is 17,462; coloured, 23,896. Total increase in the four years, 41,358.

Very respectfully and affectionately,

Yours in Christian bonds,

JOSHUA SOULE.

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#### A.—REPORT ON EDUCATION.

THE judgment of reason, attested by the history of society, declares that no community can continue to make healthy progress, and establish itself as an integrant and important element in the moral world, unless it take to its aid, and incorporate with its life, sound and liberal education. If this be true in reference to society in general, how much more so in reference to religious society! A Church in its infancy, owing to its more urgent, immediate wants, and the peculiar condition of the people under its care, may be constrained to postpone active attention to liberal education. So it was in the primitive Church. But when it has collected a people which has itself become the parent of a great population born within the bosom of the Church, she cannot fulfil her high mission unless she takes measures to prevent this population from being withdrawn from under her fostering care in the period of its youth. And this she must do by supplying it with the whole circle of sound, useful learning, imbued with Scriptural and vital piety. A Church that seeks to fulfil her mission by retaining and cherishing her own children, and by continually expanding and acting on society, must create a religious literature that shall be imbued, not only with the general elements of Christianity, but with her peculiar views and life. This literature must not be confined to the form of periodical issues, but must become a permanent element in her life and action. These remarks apply, with peculiar propriety and force, to the Methodist Episcopal Church. She has strongly marked doctrines and discipline which distinguish her from her sister Churches. She finds herself in

a new and vigorous world, the vast asylum of the oppressed millions of the old and worn-out world: a new world, in which as yet a mature religious literature has not been produced, suited to its peculiar genius and conditions; a world in which the principal Churches are laudably striving to be felt in the department of education and religious literature. And this noble emulation among the Churches is heightened by the astonishing fertility of the press, striving night and day, by skilful combinations of machinery and the application of steam, to satisfy the craving demand of the country for books. Society, in this new world, is placed under new conditions: it is free to speak as well as to think; and thus mind is brought into keen conflict with mind: and from these rapid and powerful collisions will be evolved the conclusions which will enter permanently into the life of society. How important, then, when every doctrine and dogma is being submitted to the closest scrutiny, and, when accepted, becomes spiritual food for the nation, that we, who believe that we hold and teach the true evangelical doctrine and practice, should be prepared not only to state and defend the same, but to present them to the youth of our people and land, in conjunction with liberal learning, and to clearly exhibit them to the judgment, and apply them to the conscience of those to whom we are sent to preach! In the first case we shall retain and cherish our own people, and in the second bring others under the blessed influences of a pure gospel.

In order to accomplish all this, our schools must comprehend the whole circle of learning, and be open to all. The wealth and intelligence of our people will require the most accomplished education. But if our schools were organized only for our own people, and afforded little more than instruction in our own peculiar views, they would contribute to make us a bigoted sect, instead of an enlightened and liberal Church: and they would afford us but little aid in extending the kingdom of Christ in the earth. We must not forget the social character of our common Christianity, and we must seek to introduce it into the social life of the nation, and make it the ruling element therein.

Nor must we omit to state distinctly that the progress of society in matters of knowledge, and in skill in execution, imperiously demand a corresponding advance in the Christian ministry. It will be impossible for us worthily to fulfil our mission as a Church, unless our ministry shall be in advance of the people in knowledge as well as in spirituality. We must fully measure up to the standard prescribed by our Saviour to his evangelists; we must be able to bring from our treasures things new and old.

There never was a period in the history of the Church when this ability was more necessary. The very foundations of our holy Christianity, as well as its essential principles, are undergoing a severe scrutiny; the light, as well as the ambition and wickedness of the past, are brought to the investigation. The consciousness of what is true and present in the life of the Church must also be earnestly contended for, and pressed into the glorious conflict. For by means of those keen collisions, and in the very midst of them, God will establish the kingdom of his Son, chiefly by the pure and powerful preaching of his holy

word. How important, then, is it that every minister should be able rightly to divide the word of God, and give to each his portion in due season!

Your committee take great pleasure in saying, that they believe that these general views are prevalent, to a great extent, among our ministry and people, and that they are finding additional favour. The true and proper aspect of education is being clearly apprehended: that is, that it must be carried on in close and living union with religion; so that the elements, the evidences, and the history of Christianity, may form a part of the earliest food of the youthful mind. That the interests of education and religion, thus combined, enter into the regular work of the Church and of the ministry, the General Conference has heretofore judged and declared, by authorizing our bishops to appoint our preachers to our colleges and seminaries of learning, and to continue them in such appointments as long as the interests of the Church in this department of her work require. And God has been pleased to affix his seal to this division of our work, by the manifestations of his presence in all our principal institutions; not only once or twice, but in some of them several times, and in some several years in succession. Indeed a careful inquiry would probably lead to the conclusion, that in proportion to the number of students in our schools, as many instances of conversion to God have occurred as in the congregations on our circuits and stations. From among these converted youth, as well as from the bosom of our societies, have come forth, and will come forth, young evangelists, who, subjected to the thorough and well-digested course of study which our superintendents will give them in addition to their former studies, and pursuing this course in conjunction with practical exercise in the work of preaching the gospel and taking care of souls, will become workmen indeed, who shall have no need to be ashamed. And from these seminaries shall go forth, also, our daughters to adorn society, to diffuse the essence and the odour of piety in the more private and sacred walks of life, and thus to become the sympathetic and effectual planters of the seeds of eternal life in the hearts of generations to come.

These general views your committee would earnestly commend to our ministry and the people, in their organized and individual capacity, and press them to extend a prompt and liberal support and patronage to the colleges and seminaries under their care. We would at the same time deprecate the hasty and inconsiderate multiplication of colleges; and most respectfully suggest that it would be much better fully to endow those we have before we attempt to found others. Yet your committee is of opinion that each conference should have at least one capacious and well-endowed academy for the youth within its bounds, both male and female. And if the habits of the people object to the education of these together, then there should be one seminary for males, and one for females.

Your committee beg leave to present for the encouragement of the Church, an intimation of what has been accomplished in the department of education. We are aware that the exhibit is imperfect, yet it will be gratifying to see even what we can now state with cer-

tainty, by reciting the rank and list of the institutions under our care.

## COLLEGES.

Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn.  
 Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa.  
 Indiana Asbury University, Greencastle, Ind.  
 Alleghany College, Meadville, Pa.  
 Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, O.  
 Augusta College, Augusta, Ky.  
 M'Kendree College, Lebanon, Ill.  
 Iowa City College, Iowa.

## SEMINARIES.

Amenia Seminary, Amenia, N. Y.  
 Asbury Seminary, Chagrin Falls, O.  
 Bellevue Seminary, Bordentown, N. J.  
 Baldwin Institute, Berea, O.  
 Female Institute, Middletown, Conn.  
 Fort Wayne Female College, Fort Wayne, Ind.  
 Genesee Wesleyan Seminary, Lima, N. Y.  
 Gouverneur Wesleyan Seminary, Gouverneur, N. Y.  
 Georgetown Seminary, Illinois.  
 Hempstead Seminary, Hempstead, L. I.  
 Juliet Academy, Albion, Pa.  
 Maine Wesleyan Seminary, Kent's Hill, Me.  
 Newbury Seminary, Newbury, Vt.  
 New-Hampshire Conference Seminary, Northfield, N. H.  
 Northwestern Virginia Academy, Clarksburg, Va.  
 Ohio Conference High School, Springfield, O.  
 Onida Conference Seminary, Cazenovia, N. Y.  
 Pennington Male Seminary, Pennington, N. J.  
 Pennington Female Seminary, Pennington, N. J.  
 Preparatory School, Middletown, Conn.  
 Providence Conference Seminary, East Greenwich, R. I.  
 Rock River Seminary, Mount Morris, Ill.  
 Troy Conference Academy, West Poultney, Vt.  
 Wesleyan Academy, Wilbraham, Mass.  
 Wesleyan Female Collegiate Institute, Wilmington, Delaware.  
 Wesleyan Seminary, Albion, Mich.  
 Wyoming Seminary, Kingston, Pa.  
 Wesleyan Female College, Cincinnati, O.  
 Wesleyan Female Institute, Staunton, Va.  
 Worthington Female Seminary, Worthington, O.  
 Wesleyan Seminary, Springfield, Vt.  
 Oakland Female Seminary, Hillsboro', O.  
 Greenfield Male and Female Seminary, Greenfield, O.  
 Dickinson College Seminary, Williamsport, Pa.

Your committee would fain hope that the first resolution, reported herewith, will lay the foundation of a complete return at the next General Conference, if it is the pleasure of the Conference to adopt it.



In conclusion, we beg leave to submit it, together with a second resolution :—

*Resolved*, That the proper authorities in each of our Universities, Colleges, and Academies, be respectfully requested to furnish in writing to the next General Conference definite answers to the following questions :—

1. The date of the institution.
2. The number and names of the departments of instruction.
3. The number of permanent teachers.
4. The number of volumes in the libraries.
5. The extent and value of the apparatus and museum.
6. The present number of students, and the average number annually for the last four years.
7. How many of them were members of evangelical Churches, and how many became such during their residence in the institution.
8. The amount and character of the property and funds of the institution.
9. The annual income and expenditure.
10. The financial plan for permanently endowing the institution, or for meeting its current expenses.
11. Its relation to the Methodist Episcopal Church.

*Resolved*, That we respectfully but earnestly ask the attention of each annual conference to the propriety and necessity of presenting the claims of the literary institutions under its care at least once a year, at a stated time fixed by the conference, to each congregation, and of taking up a public collection in each congregation for the current support of said institutions. All which is respectfully submitted,

J. P. DURBIN, *Chairman*.

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## B.—PROPERTY QUESTION.

The Committee on the State of the Church beg leave further to report, in part :—

That they have had under consideration the claims preferred by the Church South to a portion of the property of the Book Concern and Chartered Fund ; and, pending the discussion of the subject, the question of proposing to refer the whole matter to disinterested arbiters was proposed and considered. Whereupon the committee agreed to recommend to the General Conference for adoption the following resolutions :—

*Resolved*, 1. That it is the sense of this conference that we have no authority, independently of the annual conferences, to enter into arbitration with the commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in relation to the claims set up by them to a division of the vested funds of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

*Resolved*, 2. That this General Conference recommend to the annual conferences so far to suspend the sixth restrictive rule of the Discipline as to allow the appointment of commissioners, for the purpose of arbitrating what is technically called the Property Question with the commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

By order of the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
GEORGE PECK, *Chairman*.

## C.—ADDRESS OF THE BRITISH CONFERENCE.

*To the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of North America, and to the Ministers in Conference assembled.*

VERY DEAR BRETHREN,—At our last annual conference, held in Liverpool, it was resolved, That as it is desirable to maintain that fraternal and Christian affection which has long subsisted between your Church and British Methodists, a representative should be appointed from among us to attend your next General Conference.

The Rev. James Dixon, D. D., was affectionately requested to undertake this important mission, and the Rev. Joseph Stinson was desired to accompany him. We presume that Dr. Dixon, the bearer of this letter, is not altogether unknown to you. Among us he has lived for many years in the highest esteem and veneration. His Christian simplicity, the meekness of his spirit, his manly and effective eloquence in preaching the gospel, as well as the ability and fidelity with which he has maintained our ecclesiastical polity, have pointed him out as well fitted to undertake this mission. The British Conference has deputed him to visit you with the utmost confidence in his integrity and ability. His companion, the Rev. Joseph Stinson, also visits you in compliance with our earnest desire, and with our entire confidence and growing esteem.

A lengthened epistle is rendered unnecessary by the presence among you of our representatives. They will convey to you our fraternal salutations. We respectfully refer you to them for any such information respecting our affairs as it may be agreeable to them to communicate.

Our earnest prayer is that the Holy Spirit may pour upon your approaching assembly his choicest influences, and conduct your deliberations to such results as shall promote the glory of Christ, and the maintenance and spread of Scriptural holiness through your extended country.

We are, dear brethren, in behalf of the British Conference,

SAMUEL JACKSON, *President.*

ROBERT NEWTON, *Secretary.*

## REPLY TO ADDRESS OF BRITISH CONFERENCE.

*To the British Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.*

FATHERS AND BRETHREN,—Nothing gives us more pleasure than to receive your fraternal salutations at a session of our General Conference; and this pleasure is heightened when we receive them at the hands, and in the words, of one of your own body. It affords us much happiness to bear testimony to the excellent spirit and amiable deportment of your representative, the Rev. Dr. Dixon; and we should have been pleased to receive with him the Rev. Joseph Stinson, whom you requested to accompany him. We avail ourselves of your kind

and confiding reference to your representative, and consider his address to us as the voice of our British brethren.

Through him you express the continuance of your cordial affection toward us, and your earnest desire for our increased prosperity. We receive this expression as in some degree a manifestation of paternal feeling on your part, which in our judgment has somewhat of a divine blessing connected with it. And, in return, we declare the unabated admiration and love which we bear your body, and our desire to prove ourselves worthy of our sacred spiritual relations with you. We have good hope that we shall be able to do so, as well from our own knowledge of the true Wesleyan character of our doctrines, services, and discipline, as from the frank and clear declaration of your representative, that the Methodist Episcopal Church appeared to him to exhibit essentially pure Wesleyan Methodism.

Your representative was pleased to allude to the unhappy separation of our beloved Church, growing out of the connexion of one of our superintendents with slavery, prior to the General Conference of 1844; and expressed his deep regret that any such cause of separation should have arisen.

The true cause of the difficulty in our beloved Zion was our refusal to admit, under any circumstances, a connexion of our episcopacy with slavery. True, your honoured representative took occasion to say further, (declaring at the same time that he expressed the sentiments of the whole body of Methodists in England, both ministers and people,) that your sympathies were entirely on the side of liberty.

On our part we would say, that while all our sympathies lie in the same direction, and it is our purpose still, as heretofore, to bear steadily our testimony against the great evil of slavery, and, within our legitimate sphere as a Church, to discountenance it, and seek its removal; we, nevertheless, have long been satisfied that our brethren in other countries, occupying a distant stand-point, and therefore not clearly comprehending the complicated conditions of this extremely difficult subject, have not been able to do full justice to our policy and conduct as a Church in regard to this matter—they may have thought that we should have acted with more directness and decision. Feeling ourselves within the complications of this great evil, whose effects are felt throughout the sacred, social, and political relations of this country, it becomes us to act prudently, and in the fear of God, and strive to consider well, and settle all things on the surest and best foundations for the promotion of his glory, and the peace and prosperity of the Church.

Your representative took occasion to express to us the high satisfaction he felt in visiting our country, and conversing with the most distinguished and intelligent of its citizens, both in the government and in private life. And we acknowledge a sense of unfeigned gratification on our part, while we listened to his frank and candid avowal of his astonishment at the mellowing influences of our institutions, in inspiring our great men with striking condescension and courtesy, and in elevating the lowly. And we were edified with the direct and fervent prayers which he offered up for our government and nation in his public

administrations; while, at the same time, he as frankly and fervently mingled therewith his prayers for your beloved queen, your government, and nation, which found a warm response from our hearts.

We will take this occasion to say, we have great pleasure in observing that you have distinctly assumed all the titles, forms, and functions of a true Church of Christ, which, indeed, we have regarded you always to have been. The present condition of Protestantism in Europe, and particularly in England, renders this position on your part very important to the interests of Christ's Church.

Your systematic and efficient organization, not only for a regular and abundant supply of the word of life to the people, but also for your foreign missionary work, commands our admiration, and moves us to action. We behold you planting the standard of the cross in islands of every ocean, and on the coasts and plains of every continent, provoking us thereby to enter more largely into the same great work.

It gives us pleasure to assure you, that in this respect we are steadily advancing. Though our movements are not so striking as yours, yet they are vast and important. Our own country stretches westward over the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, a distance of thousands of miles, through which is dispersed a sparse population from all the nations of Europe, together with the numerous and populous tribes of the native Indians of its unbroken forests.

These elements of vast empires must be taught the principles, imbued with the spirit, and provided with the institutions of our holy Christianity. This immense domain is our domestic field of missionary operations, and it is a cause of devout thankfulness to God that we see it yearly blossoming as the rose. As a specimen, we mention our German missions. Hundreds of thousands of native Germans flock to our land, bringing with them the cold and heartless Rationalism, or ignorant and fanatical Roman Catholicism, of Germany. In their new and strange circumstances they become easily accessible to us, and within ten years past, five thousand have been converted to God, of whom about two thousand were Roman Catholics. These have been formed into regular societies, which have been reduced to regular circuits, stations, and districts, and well appointed by German preachers, amounting in all to eighty-five. The work is still rapidly advancing, and we are taking measures to insure its increase and purity. Arrangements are being made to compile and publish an Evangelical Commentary on the New Testament, also Sunday-school books for our German Sunday schools, and to translate additional works from our General Catalogue into German. Already this great light, kindled among the natives of Germany now residing in this country, is beginning to illumine their fatherland, by means of letters, books, and visitors from the members of this new evangelical German Church. God is sending Germany to us to be evangelized; and indeed, in some degree, all the nations of Europe; and we doubt not but the reaction of this great domestic missionary work among us will be great and salutary on the Old World. But we are not content within this domestic field—we are extending our missionary operations to Oregon, California, portions of Mexico, and to China. And, aided by the bright example of

your brilliant missionary resources and operations, we hope shortly to fill up the measure of the missionary work which God may be pleased to assign us.

And while we are thus endeavouring to extend the kingdom of God wider in the world, we are not unmindful of the population he hath given us at home. And believing that education is one great means of advancing and fortifying his kingdom among us, we have, within the last twenty years, given much attention to this matter. While we have not thought it best to have theological seminaries proper, and have judged that a proper course of study which our young men are required to accomplish in four years, while they are actively engaged in preaching the gospel, and taking care of souls, will make them able ministers of the New Testament, we have been careful to provide universities, colleges, and academies for the education of our own people, as well as the public at large. And in this department of our work we may congratulate ourselves as having been successful. We have now seven colleges fully organized, and affording academic education to thousands of our younger sons, and also of our daughters, who are thus prepared to diffuse the essence and odour of piety in the more private and sacred walks of life.

We take pleasure in naming, as additional means of education, the vast capital and appliances of our General Book Concern, and the numerous excellent works which issue from it. In the General Catalogue there are two hundred and seventy-five distinct works, some of them extending to six heavy volumes. In the list are commentaries, dictionaries, Church histories, and many excellent ecclesiastical and theological works. We should be wanting in honour did we not acknowledge that many of them have been derived from your connexion. Our Sunday-school publications also are very numerous; the Youth's Library already amounts to four hundred and eleven volumes, and our Tract publications to three hundred and sixty. It would be difficult to state the many thousands of these works that are annually distributed throughout our vast country.

Our periodical literature is also immense. The weekly issues from our various presses in newspaper form amount to not less than forty-five thousand copies. We have one monthly magazine, entitled "The Ladies' Repository," with about seven thousand subscribers. It is conducted with taste and ability, and the mechanical execution and embellishments are very creditable.

Our Quarterly Review is conducted with ability, and affords a medium of presenting to our ministers and principal friends the graver topics in theology, and in general science and literature. Our children in our thousands of Sunday schools are supplied, semi-monthly, with the Sunday-School Advocate, in quarto form. It has now eighty thousand subscribers, and is rapidly advancing to one hundred thousand. We have also a monthly Missionary Advocate, with a subscription list of at least twenty thousand, which distributes throughout our Church general missionary intelligence from various parts of the world. We trust that these vast issues of books and periodicals from our various presses and agencies are deeply imbued with the doctrines and spirit of genuine Christianity.

We did not think it necessary in the earlier part of this address to allude to the only little matter of uneasiness between us; that is, the liberty which some of our ministers (we say *some*, although we are advised of but one case) have taken to visit England, and make appointments for preaching and public services without the regular approbation or concurrence of the proper authorities among you. It gives us pleasure to testify our disapprobation of this course, and to say it has never been done with our sanction; and that we will see that hereafter the proper restraint is put upon all our travelling ministers in this matter. As it respects local preachers, we have no direct authority in the premises; but we wish distinctly to declare our disapprobation of any conduct on their part, as preachers in your country, which has not your special sanction, and is not under your direction.

We have been gratified to observe that the cause of temperance, on the principle of total abstinence from intoxicating liquors, is attracting attention in England; and we respectfully ask your attention to it, and your kind consideration of it as intimately connected with the best interests of society in general, and greatly conducive to the success of the Gospel. Such is our experience in America, particularly when the Church enters heartily into the cause.

In conclusion, it gives us great pleasure to renew to you the expression of our fraternal affection; and to say that it is now in our minds, at some suitable time hereafter, to reciprocate the favour you have done us by sending us your excellent representative to refresh our spirits by his holy ministry, and to edify us by your Christian fellowship which we enjoy through him.

Wishing you all prosperity and peace as a Church, through the abounding grace of God in our Lord Jesus Christ, we are, dear fathers and brethren, yours in the bonds of the Gospel.

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#### D.—ADDRESS OF THE CANADA CONFERENCE

*To the Bishops and Members of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.*

REVEREND FATHERS AND BROTHERS,—With undiminished feelings of regard for our brethren of the Methodist Episcopal Church in general, and particularly for the bishops and ministers who labour in word and doctrine within its pale, we avail ourselves of the occasion of the assembling of the General Conference to renew the testimony of our esteem and affection.

We are aware that very important topics were discussed at your last General Conference, and since that period some of these subjects have engrossed the attention and excited the feelings of ministers and people throughout your extensive country. In the serious difficulties by which you have been surrounded, and the troubles in which you have been involved, we have felt the deepest concern, and cherished the liveliest sympathy. But “God is the hope of Israel, the Saviour

thereof in time of trouble." That he may overrule all things for his own glory, and the ultimate benefit and salvation of your venerated and beloved Church, is our devout and earnest prayer.

Your success in the midst of these trials and conflicts awakens our gratitude and joy. We notice with unmixed pleasure your extensive operations in the diffusion of education, in the circulation of useful and religious books and tracts, in the establishment and support of Sunday schools, and in the preaching of the Gospel as far as your population extends. We rejoice to learn that the great Head of the Church has poured out his Holy Spirit on various parts of your great field of labour, and that thousands by your instrumentality have been brought to the knowledge of Christ. May these tokens of the divine presence and favour be perpetuated among you to the latest generation!

The Wesleyan Church in Canada, as in the United States, has had its times of sorrow and seasons of joy. Since the year 1840 we have had to lament over serious difficulties existing between ourselves and the English Conference. Happily, upon a review of the whole, both parties were led to the conclusion that misapprehension had existed on several points, and that events which gave rise to differences in former years no longer existed. To the English Conference of 1846 we sent our esteemed brethren, the Rev. Messrs. Ryerson and Green, as our representatives, that, if practicable, peace and unity might be restored and promoted between the two legitimate Wesleyan bodies in Western Canada. Under the peculiar guidance of Divine Providence their mission was signally successful. Our English brethren have promptly joined us in mutual agreement to bury in oblivion the record of the painful past: to reunite our separated bodies on terms generous and just: and to go forward as a united host in the defence and maintenance of the glorious gospel of the ever-blessed God. We are certain your earnest prayers will spontaneously blend with our own, that this union may be perpetual.

We are still endeavouring to assist in promoting the great object of useful and religious education in this country. Our college has had its embarrassments; but we are gradually surmounting them. Our Book Room is in a state of efficiency. The mission work among us is increasing, and the funds are increasing with the work. Our other connexional funds are also on the advance, through the liberality of our people. Our united bodies make the statistics of the connexion in Western Canada as follows:—Circuits and missions, 98; preachers, 189; members, 24,882.

Considering the hostilities we have had to combat in past years, we are truly thankful that our situation at present is so favourable, and shall enter upon the duties of another year high in hope and full of expectation, that the blessing of the great Head of the Church will be upon us and our beloved people, prospering us more and more in our work of faith and labour of love.

We have appointed our esteemed brethren, the Rev. Messrs. M. Richey, A. M., J. Ryerson, and Anson Green, as our representatives to your General Conference, to whom we refer you for any additional information respecting us which you may desire.

Signed by order and on behalf of the Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada this 16th day of June, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven.

R. ALDER, *President.*

JAMES MUSGROVE, *Secretary.*

#### REPLY TO THE CANADA ADDRESS.

DEAR BRETHREN,—We have received your very kind and agreeable address by the hands of your worthy and esteemed representatives, the Rev. Mr. Richey, D. D., Rev. J. Ryerson, and Rev. A. Green, conveying to us your warm Christian salutations. Your excellent representatives also took occasion to add thereto further expressions of your fraternal regards, and of your personal esteem and affection for us. We accept all these expressions as tokens of your sincere love toward us, and of your earnest desire to cultivate the same in future. Allow us, dear brethren, to reciprocate from our hearts the affection you bear us, and to render thanks to God for the manifestations of his goodness to you, especially in restoring peace and concord between you and our common parent connexion in England. We rejoice that you have found in the British Connexion, and we believe you will continue to find in it, counsel and support; and that, aided by its general and liberal fostering care, your own industry and enterprises will be abundantly fruitful.

In your address you allude to the interests of education among you, and of the prosperity of your Book Concern, which we regard as a spiritual handmaid of secular learning. It is a matter of real joy to us that you have a fair prospect of permanently endowing a college for the liberal education of your youth, and the youth of your province, under the salutary influence of your own Church. It is wise and good to take care of the people born to you in the bosom of your community, and also to expand and advance the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ in the midst of the world by means of a healthy, sanctified education; an education sound in its elements, and made vital by the personal spirituality of the professors and teachers who dispense it.

Your address also, as did your representatives, alluded to the difficulties which for the last four years have distressed our Zion; and although it appeared to us that they did not fully comprehend them, yet they kindly and properly expressed a hope that these troubles would pass away. They encouraged us by setting forth your own case as one of long-continued and great difficulty, yet happily adjusted at last. We also abide in hope that these difficulties may pass away from us, and our Zion be as tranquil and prosperous as formerly. But we do not now see the end; and have some apprehensions, as it is believed that both the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, claim that essential principles of morals and policy are involved. But in the Lord will we put our trust.

It gives us great pleasure to have no occasion for a lengthy epistle to you, on account of any misunderstandings between us. We are of



one heart and one mind, and rejoice mutually in each other's prosperity. Let us continue to be of the same mind, and to walk by the same rule. It is now in our minds to send to you one of our own body, at a suitable time, to express to you, face to face, the love we bear you, and our fellowship with you.

And now, dear brethren, we commend you to God, and to the word of his grace; and we renew to you the assurance of our fraternal affection in Jesus Christ, our common Lord and Saviour.

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#### E.—REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Committee on Sunday Schools and Tracts have had under consideration the several papers referred to them, and present the following as their report, in part:—

There is no benevolent enterprise among the many which mark the present period that has higher claims upon the attention, or that appeals more loudly to the sympathies of the human heart, than the Sabbath school. If we contemplate it in its bearings upon the spiritual interests of its legitimate subjects, both their age and number invest it with peculiar importance. Other instrumentalities for doing good have to grapple with established habits, which present almost insuperable obstructions to success, and are necessarily restricted in the probabilities of efficiency by the comparative paucity of their objects; whereas Sunday schools lay their forming hand on the yielding mind of youth in great numbers, and in all the departments of society. Ere the enemy has had time to sow the tares of vice, the soil is prepared for and receives the good seed, which experience and observation have shown spring up and bring forth precious fruits, in some thirty, in some sixty, and in some a hundredfold, to the benefit of society and the glory of God. If hitherto the institution has been justly regarded as the nursery of the Church, furnishing her altars with devout worshippers, and her pulpits with warm-hearted and successful ministers, in future it must be more eminently so, especially in the Methodist Episcopal Church. If our zeal should be unabated, and our knowledge steadily progressive, their united influence will not enable us to fulfil our mission—to spread Scripture holiness through the world—unless we strike at the root in religiously educating the children. We may burn with zeal, and shine in all the attractions of learning in the pulpit and through the press; but if we leave our children to the care of others in the Sabbath school, though Christians they may, Methodists they never will become. As we believe in “Christianity in earnest,” and feel our great indebtedness, under God, to the Church of our choice, and would hand down to our children's children to the end of time the doctrines, the moral discipline, and the deep Scriptural holiness of our beloved Methodism as the richest inheritance we have received or can impart, we must, to the utmost of our ability, establish and build up Sabbath schools.

We are happy to say, the “Memorial of the Sunday-School Union

of the Methodist Episcopal Church," which was read before you, and referred to your committee, and the more extended "Report" of the Union, recently published by our Book Agents at New-York, furnish most encouraging evidence that the Church is more alive to this great interest than ever before, and that the prospect is increasingly cheering. Though within the last four years hundreds of our travelling ministry, and thousands of our membership, have separated from us, carrying with them a large number of Sunday-school children, our increase of schools and scholars has been nearly fifty per cent., while the receipts for their support have increased in little more than two years and a half nearly tenfold over all the previous receipts from the organization of the Union to that date. And, best of all, in a single year, more than four thousand conversions have been reported among the teachers and scholars!

In closing this part of the work assigned us, we would present a few resolutions for the adoption of conference, in relation to visiting the schools, forming Bible classes, and enforcing catechetical instruction, if such obligations were not already most solemnly laid upon every Methodist preacher by the disciplinary regulations to which he has voluntarily subscribed. We forbear, therefore, to add more than a solitary reflection: the present growing prosperity in the Sabbath-school cause in the Methodist Episcopal Church, to a great degree, is traceable, no doubt, to the precedent exercise of an agency, the wisdom of which cannot be too highly eulogized, while we deem it prudent not to name the agent, lest we thereby set a precedent which in coming years might be a heavy tax on an honest committee, or render the misfortunes of inefficiency an intolerable burden.

Praying that the cause may always meet the favour its importance merits, until it has contributed its full share in the evangelization of the world, we respectfully submit the result of our labours in proposing the following amendments to the Constitution of the Sunday-School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church, recommended by the Board of Managers, and to the Discipline of the Church.

#### I. In regard to the CONSTITUTION.

1. That Art. III. be amended by erasing the last sentence, and inserting "each annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church shall be entitled to elect a vice-president."

2. That Art. V. be amended by erasing the term "twenty-four," in the sixth line, and inserting "thirty-six;" and also by erasing the words "and county" from the seventh line.

3. That Art. VI. be amended by erasing from the first and second lines the words, "on the second Wednesday in April," and inserting "in the second week in January."

#### II. In regard to the DISCIPLINE.

1. On page 25, in chap. i, sec. 3, question 17, let the question be: "What has been contributed for the support of missions, what for the Sunday-School Union, what for the publication and circulation of tracts, and what to aid the American Bible Society?"

2. On page 45, in chap. i, sec. 10, answer 16, line 3 from the top, under the head of "Duties of those who have charge of Circuits,"

after the word "same" insert the words, "to his annual conference, according to the form published by the Sunday-School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church;" and strike out all after the word "tracts."

3. On page 62, chap. i, sec. 16, eighteenth line from the top, let it read, "Each quarterly conference shall have supervision of all the Sunday schools and Sunday-school societies within its bounds, which schools and societies shall be auxiliary," &c.

4. On page 31, chap. i, sec. 5, after the word "circuit," in the third line from the top of the page, read: "and male superintendents of Sunday schools who are in full membership in the Methodist Episcopal Church; provided that where there are two or more, the principal superintendent only shall be a member of the quarterly conference." [Laid on the table.]

5. On page 63, chap. i, sec. 16, answer 2, fourth line from the top, that all after the word "conference" be erased; and on page 45, chap. i, sec. 1, after answer 16, read: "Ans. 17. To take an annual collection in each of his appointments in behalf of our Sunday-School Union." This will, of course, require that answers 17 and 18, as they now stand, be numbered 18 and 19.

In behalf of the Committee,

C. COOKE, *Chairman.*

PITTSBURGH, May 24, 1848.

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## F.—REPORT ON TRACTS.

The Committee on Sunday Schools and Tracts have had the latter subject under consideration, and beg leave to present the following as their report:—

The Rev. John Wesley might be regarded as the parent of that admirable plan of disseminating knowledge and doing good by the circulation of small printed documents called *tracts*, the utility of which is now so generally admitted, had not One, whose sandals even Wesley was not worthy to bear, adopted the expedient more than eighteen centuries since. The Holy Volume, now and always a unit in truth, is not so in the dates of its parts, nor in the character of its compositions. It is a volume of *tracts*, brought out at different and distinct periods, in different countries, and in divers forms; and in the *manner* of coming into the possession of mankind, exhibiting no less wisdom than in the character of its revelations. We cannot say, that when nearly every instrumentality adapted to promote the salvation of the world was sleeping in profound inefficiency, the fact alluded to awoke in the breast of our distinguished founder the idea that *tracts* would be as efficient in doing good in the eighteenth century as in the first; but it is certain that in this way, or in some other, the philanthropy of that great reformer was directed to tract circulation as a great auxiliary to the

work of preaching the gospel. Others have seen the wisdom of the plan, and are operating upon it with unexampled success. The American Tract Society, which has held its twenty-third anniversary since the commencement of our session, reports its receipts for the last year at \$237,296 94, more than a hundred thousand of which were donations, the remainder the proceeds of sales. In one year it has circulated 6,987,202 publications, making 211,730,285 pages, which, added to the circulation of former years, makes the whole amount of pages in twenty-three years *two thousand and thirty-five millions, nine hundred and one thousand, three hundred and twenty-six!* In this organization several denominations, as such, and many individuals of others unite, while besides these there are several ecclesiastical denominational societies. That a vast amount of good is done by the American association, and also by such as are more isolated, there can be no reasonable doubt. It is a question worthy of our consideration, Ought we to merge our energies in the former, or follow the example of the latter? For many reasons there should be but one response to this question. God has given us a work to do; and while we wish well to, and pray for the success of others, let us do our own work in our own way.

The Discipline makes it the duty of those who have charge of circuits to encourage the distribution of tracts, by forming societies and making collections for this object, in such way as the annual conferences to which they belong direct. But, though four of the bishops, in March, 1845, caused to be published a circular, calling attention to the rule, and to the importance of the work it enjoins, it is to be feared that there is much less done by the Methodist Episcopal Church in this department of Christian enterprise than should be expected. As already remarked, it is a method of doing good commended to us by the example of our own Wesley, and by its obvious facilities for the achievement of great results by limited means. And surely no Church has better opportunities to wield this instrumentality with efficiency than ours, our itinerant system giving us a kind of omnipresence, of which other denominations, whatever other advantages they may have, cannot boast. It is the opinion of your committee, therefore, that there should be incorporated in the Discipline something more in detail than we find, and which shall be obligatory upon preachers in charge, though the annual conferences should wholly neglect to act in the premises.

Invoking the blessing of God on his Church in every lawful effort to promote the great ends of her organization, and especially in sowing broadcast the precious seed by means of tract distribution, we submit for your action our report, recommending the adoption of the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several annual conferences in General Conference assembled, That the Discipline be amended, by inserting after the fifteenth answer to the first question of section 10, chapter i, the following as the 16th answer:—

“If the annual conference to which he belongs should not give any directions on the subject, to take up a collection in the course of the

year, or raise a subscription, as he may judge expedient, the proceeds of which shall be at his disposal in the purchase and distribution of tracts." Respectfully submitted,

C. COOKE, *Chairman.*

PITTSBURGH, Pa., May 24, 1848.

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## G.—REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The Committee on Temperance submit for the action of the General Conference the following as their last report:—

It affords us great pleasure to announce, that within the last twenty years the doctrines of the temperance reformation have been disseminated throughout the civilized world, and in many countries they have exerted a most powerful and salutary influence over all classes of the people. Temperance, we believe, is one of the practical features of our common Christianity, and should combine the energies and zeal of all pious people in its support and promotion. By its instrumentalities unnumbered thousands have been rescued from the most hideous forms of vice—from degradation, poverty, and wretchedness; and their comfortable and smiling families attest the importance of their reformation. This cause has not only arrested and rolled back the desolating tide of intemperance, but it has spread innumerable blessings in its pathway: being often followed by revivals of experimental religion, it secures the interests of its subjects, under God, both in this life and in that which is to come.

The great truth, that alcoholic drinks are never necessary for persons in health, but always injurious, has been freely discussed in all circles of society; and vast multitudes of moderate drinkers have been brought under its influence, and now advocate and practice total abstinence from all intoxicating liquors. In all this we do rejoice.

We proclaim with peculiar satisfaction that we now have Mr. Wesley's rule on spirituous liquors restored to our General Rules. This was done by a vote of two thousand and eleven to twenty-one in the annual conferences. This overwhelming majority may be considered as full proof that the making, vending, or using intoxicating liquors as a beverage are judged to be unchristian practices by American Methodists, and ought not to be tolerated in the Church of God.

Your committee recommend to the General Conference the adoption of the following resolutions:—

1. *Resolved, &c.,* That while we recognise the good hand of our God in giving success to the temperance enterprise in former years, we deem it our special duty, at the present time, to send up our most fervent prayers, and to put forth our utmost Christian endeavours to secure the complete triumph of this great cause; and that we most earnestly recommend to all the annual conferences to adopt such measures as they shall deem best calculated to advance this very desirable object.

2. *Resolved*, That we cordially approve of the design of the New-York Temperance Society, based on Christian principles, and should rejoice to see similar associations organized throughout the country.

JOSHUA MONROE,  
JOHN F. WRIGHT,  
JOHN BOWEN,  
G. WEBBER,  
J. DODGE,  
B. CREAGH,  
L. A. EDDY.

#### H.—FINAL REPORT—ON THE STATE OF THE CHURCH.

The Committee on the State of the Church, after a full and careful examination of all the sources of information within their reach, including, as they believe, all that are essential to a just understanding of the subjects hereinafter named, do recommend to this body the adoption of the following as their final report:—

1. We claim that the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, exists as a distinct and separate ecclesiastical communion solely by the act and deed of the individual ministers and members constituting said Church.

In support of this position we set forth the following facts. On the fifth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and forty-four, John Early, W. A. Smith, Thomas Crowder, and Leroy M. Lee, of the Virginia Conference; H. B. Bascom, William Gunn, H. H. Kavanaugh, Edward Stevenson, B. T. Crouch, and G. W. Brush, of the Kentucky Conference; W. W. Redman, William Patton, J. C. Berryman, and J. M. Jameson, of the Missouri Conference; E. F. Sevier, S. Patton, and Thomas Stringfield, of the Holston Conference; G. F. Pierce, William J. Parks, L. Pierce, J. W. Glenn, J. L. Evans, and A. B. Longstreet, of the Georgia Conference; James Jamieson, Peter Doub, and B. T. Blake, of the North Carolina Conference; J. Stamper, of the Illinois Conference; G. W. D. Harris, Wm. M'Mahan, Thomas Joyner, and S. S. Moody, of the Memphis Conference; John C. Parker, William P. Radcliffe, and Andrew Hunter, of the Arkansas Conference; William Winans, B. M. Drake, John Lane, and G. M. Rogers, of the Mississippi Conference; Littleton Fowler, of the Texas Conference, Jesse Boring, Jefferson Hamilton, W. Murrain, and G. Garrett, of the Alabama Conference; Robert Paine, John B. M'Ferrin, A. L. P. Green, and T. Maddin, of the Tennessee Conference; and W. Capers, Wm. M. Wightman, Charles Betts, S. Dunwody, and H. A. C. Walker, of the South Carolina Conference, did present to the General Conference, then in session in the city of New-York, the following declaration, to wit: "That the continued agitation of the subject of slavery and abolition in a portion of the Church, the frequent action on that subject in the General Conference, and especially the extra-judicial proceedings against Bishop Andrew, which resulted, on Saturday last, in the virtual suspension of him from his office as superintendent, must produce a state of things in the South which renders a continuance of the juris-

diction of that General Conference over these conferences inconsistent with the success of the ministry in the slaveholding states," from which it is evident that they sought their remedies for alleged grievances, not in any constitutional acts, but in a violation of the integrity of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

And further, on the sixth day of June in the year above written, the above-named gentlemen, and N. C. Berryman, of the Illinois Conference; I. T. Cooper, W. Cooper, T. J. Thompson, and Henry White, of the Philadelphia Conference; E. W. Sehon, of the Ohio Conference, and T. Neal and T. Sovereign, of the New-Jersey Conference, in addition, presented a protest to the above-named General Conference against its action in the case of Bishop Andrew, in which they assert, "If the compromise law be either repealed, or allowed to remain a dead letter, *the South cannot submit, and the absolute necessity of a division is already dated.*" Now, while we wholly deny the existence of any "compromise law," in the sense here claimed, the indication in this extract, and indeed in the whole document, of a purpose upon the part of these protesting brethren to secure a division of the Church, is too plain to be mistaken.

And further, at the close of the General Conference, on the eleventh day of June, and year above mentioned, fifty-one of the above-named brethren assembled in the city of New-York, and by formal resolution, recommended to the Southern Conferences the appointment of delegates to a convention, to commence in Louisville, Kentucky, on the first day of May, one thousand eight hundred and forty-five, said delegates to be instructed "on the points on which action is contemplated, conforming their instructions, as far as possible, to the opinions and wishes of the membership within their several conference bounds." And the said brethren issued from this unauthorized meeting an address, in which they call the attention of Southern Methodists "to the *proscription and disability* under which the Southern portion of the Church must, of necessity, labour in view of the action alluded to, unless some measures are adopted to free the minority of the South from the oppressive jurisdiction of the majority in the North in this respect;" and they declare "that they regard a separation at no distant day as inevitable." There is, therefore, no room to doubt that the appointed Louisville Convention was one of those leading "measures" adopted by these fifty-one brethren for the express purpose of freeing the minority of the South from what they are pleased to term "the oppressive jurisdiction of the majority in the North," and that the contemplated separation, if it actually occurred, must be the legitimate result of these premature preliminary arrangements.

And further, the several annual conferences now included in the Church South did, at their meetings, successively, of their own will and accord, vote to approve the holding of the Louisville Convention, for the purposes proposed by the members of the aforesaid meeting at New-York, appointed delegates to said convention, and, in various forms of expression, directly assumed, as far as they were able, the responsibility of the dismemberment of the Church evidently contemplated in the appointment of said Louisville Convention.

In the mean time Bishop Soule wrote to Bishop Andrew, requesting him to resume episcopal functions, and, in the character and office of a bishop, to attend the sessions of annual conferences, which he did, though said act was clearly in contravention of the expressed will of the General Conference, "that he desist from the exercise of the" episcopal "office so long as the impediment" of slaveholding "remained." By which acts both Bishop Soule and Bishop Andrew openly repudiated the authority of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

And further, in the convention assembled at Louisville in May, one thousand eight hundred and forty-five, delegates from the following conferences, namely, Kentucky, Missouri, Holston, Tennessee, North Carolina, Memphis, Arkansas, Virginia, Mississippi, Texas, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, and Indian Mission, Bishops Soule and Andrew presiding, did formally resolve "That it is right, expedient, and necessary to erect the annual conferences represented in this convention into a distinct ecclesiastical connexion, separate from the jurisdiction of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as at present constituted," and they did "solemnly *declare* the jurisdiction hitherto exercised over said annual conferences by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church *entirely dissolved*; and that said annual conferences shall be, and they hereby *are, constituted* a separate ecclesiastical connexion." Accordingly a delegated General Conference from the annual conferences above named, held at Petersburg, Virginia, May, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, did assume the powers and privileges of authorized representatives of a separate ecclesiastical connexion, under the style and denomination of "the Methodist Episcopal Church, South," to which Church many of the former ministers and members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, some evidently from choice, and others from the force of circumstances which they felt themselves unable to resist, did, formally or informally, attach themselves, thereby withdrawing themselves from the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Finally, while a clearly marked line of history, extending from the first-named declaration to the final action of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, shows the independent action of the ministers and members of said Church in its organization, we affirm it to be impossible to point to any act of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church erecting or authorizing said Church; nor has the said General Conference, or any individual, or any number of individuals, any right, constitutional or otherwise, to extend official sanction to any act tending directly or indirectly to the dismemberment of the Church.

2. In view of the formal declaration of the brethren herein first named, that certain acts of the General Conference, especially the act in the case of Bishop Andrew, "must produce a state of things in the South which renders a continuance of the jurisdiction of that General Conference over these conferences inconsistent with the success of the ministry in the slaveholding states"—fearing that ministers and members of the Methodist Episcopal Church would, according to the



opinion expressed in the declaration above quoted, deem it necessary to erect themselves into a separate and independent Church in the intervals of General Conference sessions, when no remedies for so great an evil could be provided in time, and desiring, as far as practicable, in accordance with suggestions made by brethren from the South, to adopt measures calculated to pacify our members and ministers in the South; the General Conference, at its session in New-York, A. D., one thousand eight hundred and forty-four, did *propose* a Plan for the adjustment of relations between the Methodist Episcopal Church and her separating members and ministers, when such separation should, by their own act and deed, if at all, occur. Said Plan, based entirely upon the above first-named declaration of the delegates from thirteen specified and above-written conferences in the slaveholding states having relation to those conferences, and to no others, *proposed* an amicable division of territory between them and the Methodist Episcopal Church, as follows:—"The northern boundary" of the prospective new Church to be fixed at the northern extremities of those "societies, stations, and conferences," a majority of whose members should, of their own free will and accord, vote to adhere to the said Southern Church; and ministers, travelling and local, to be allowed to remain in the Methodist Episcopal Church, or attach themselves to the "Methodist Episcopal Church, South," at discretion. And said Plan further *proposed* to make over and give to the prospective "Southern Church so much of the capital and produce of the Methodist Book Concern as will, with the notes, book-accounts, presses," &c., in the South, due and belonging to the Book Concern of the Methodist Episcopal Church, (the transfer of which is provided for in the fourth article of said Plan,) "bear the same proportion to the whole property of said Concern that the travelling preachers in the Southern Church shall bear to all the travelling preachers of the Methodist Episcopal Church." And said Plan further *proposed*, that "the Book Agents at New-York be directed to make such compensation to the conferences South for their dividend from the Chartered Fund as the commissioners to be provided for shall agree upon."

But the whole of this Plan was expressly or otherwise conditional, as follows, namely:—

(1.) That the asserted "state of things in the South which renders a continuance of the jurisdiction of that General Conference over these conferences inconsistent with the success of the ministry in the slaveholding states" should be "*produced*" by the action of the General Conference in the cases referred to.

(2.) That three-fourths of the members of all the annual conferences should, "at their first approaching sessions," concur in the vote of, at least, two-thirds of the General Conference so to alter "the sixth restrictive article" of the Discipline as to add to it the following words, to wit: "and to such other purposes as may be determined upon by the votes of two-thirds of the members of the General Conference;" it being certain that should such vote be refused by the annual conferences, the financial part of the Plan could not go into effect, which financial part was deemed by both parties essential to the Plan; and it

being probable that those who were opposed to the Plan as a whole, would vote against the change in the sixth restrictive article.

(3.) It was clearly and necessarily implied, that the friendship and fidelity of the parties should be evinced by voluntarily keeping inviolate the principles and ordinances of the Plan, pending the settlement of the important conditions upon which its validity and binding force depended.

In support of the above statement of facts, we refer expressly to the aforementioned declaration of the fifty-two southern brethren, and to the report of the Committee of Nine, presented to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church on the seventh day of June, 1844.

And further, it will be observed that the *declaring* brethren of the South did not claim that a state of things *already existed*, that required any separation of the South from the jurisdiction of the Methodist Episcopal Church, or that required the positive enactment of any unconditional plan of such separation. They only asserted that (in their opinion, of course) certain acts of the General Conference "*must produce*" this state of things. And hence they did not proceed upon the supposition that they were the official judges of the facts, which might require the separation of the southern ministers and members of the Methodist Episcopal Church from her jurisdiction. It is true that the report of the Committee of Nine, as it was first presented, made these delegates from the thirteen Conferences South the judges of that necessity; but it was so changed as to leave the question to the annual conferences from which they came, thus showing that the General Conference would by no means allow this question of necessity to be decided by these men. From all of which it appears that the Plan proposed rested, not on the present or future *existence* of any state of excitement in the South, which might be produced by causes entirely apart from the General Conference, but upon the *production of such a state of things* as was predicted by the acts of the General Conference alone. Certainly if, upon returning to their charges, our southern brethren had found that no such "state of things" as they had supposed existed, and hence no separation had occurred, *they* would not assert the validity of the proposed Plan; and if it would have been of no binding force in the absence of the predicted necessity, produced solely by the action of the General Conference, it follows inevitably that such necessity so produced was an indispensable condition of the Plan. And though this necessity had actually been so produced, and the southern ministers and members had actually separated on this ground alone, in this case one of the conditions of the Plan would have been met, we nevertheless affirm that in failure of this condition the Plan became invalid, though *every other condition* of it had been literally fulfilled.

And further, in proof that the proposed alteration of the sixth restrictive article of the Discipline was a fundamental condition of this Plan *as a whole*, we refer to the third resolution of the Report of the Committee of Nine, in which it is expressly asserted. Also to the published speech of Rev. Dr. (now Bishop) Paine, from which the

following language was reported:—"This separation would not be effected by the passage of those resolutions through the General Conference. They must pass the annual conferences, beginning at New-York, and when they came round to the South, the preachers there would think and deliberate and feel the pulse of public sentiment, and of the members of the Church, and act in the fear of God, and with a single desire for his glory." Every word of which, in its connexion, would be entirely incompatible with the idea that he referred merely to an extension of the power of the General Conference in relation to the appropriation of funds; but it is perfectly consistent with the doctrine here asserted, that a vote on the change of that restrictive article was understood to be a vote on the merits of the Plan *as a whole*. So, we believe, many of the members of the annual conferences regarded it, and hence so many of them voted against it as to defeat the measure. Indeed, so essential to the Plan did our southern brethren consider this change of the sixth restrictive article, that they never have, in any way, signified their willingness to accept of the Plan without it. With this agrees perfectly the address of the above-named fifty-one brethren, from their meeting in New-York, held the 11th day of June, 1844, in which they hold the following language:—"It affords us pleasure to state that there were those found among the majority who met this proposition (the Plan, not "of formal and specific separations," but to provide for the results of separation, should it occur, under the necessity above explained) with every manifestation of justice and liberality. And should a similar spirit be exhibited by the annual conferences in the North, when submitted to them, as provided for in the Plan itself, there will remain no legal impediment to its peaceful consummation."

But "if a similar spirit should" not "be exhibited by the annual conferences in the North, when submitted to them, as provided for in the Plan itself," then, of course, by the showing of these fifty-one southern brethren, "there will remain a legal impediment to its peaceful consummation" as a Plan. It is true that the question of a ratification of the Plan was not *directly*, and in so many words, submitted to the annual conferences; but it is evident that, in the honest opinion of these southern brethren, it was *in effect* so submitted. Nor could it by possibility have been otherwise, from the language of the Plan, which submits an amendment of the Discipline absolutely essential to the Plan as a whole, the preachers being obliged to vote upon said amendment in view of its bearing upon the whole Plan, and the failure of said amendment rendering the Plan as a whole entirely unsatisfactory to the South: therefore, in the event of a failure of three-fourths of the members of all the annual conferences—the Southern conferences included—"at their first approaching sessions," to vote for the change proposed in the sixth restrictive article, said Plan would be *as a whole*, and hence of necessity in its details, rendered null and void.

And further, we claim that the position that a sacred, though voluntary observance of the requirements of the proposed Plan by the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the brethren South who should

separate from her, was a fundamental condition of the Plan, is a clear and undeniable inference from the whole design and scope of said Plan. It was as its friends openly claimed, a *peace measure*. It was designed to prevent aggressions from either party, and thus to prevent unchristian feelings and angry collisions between those who claimed to be brethren. If, therefore, this great object, lying at the very foundation of the scheme, and in the light of which alone any part of it has the least significancy, were disregarded or trampled under foot by either party, the other, as a whole, and every individual of them, would be entirely absolved from all obligations to it whatsoever. If, therefore, this shall be found to have been done, then, though all other conditions of the Plan were certainly fulfilled, it will be, to all intents and purposes, null and void.

Finally, it has fully appeared, that to meet in what was then supposed to be the best manner possible, the disastrous results of a violent dismemberment of the Methodist Episcopal Church, should it occur, and provide for an amicable adjustment of all relations between the two parties, this provisional Plan was adopted by the General Conference at its session in the year 1844—that to provide for, or sanction a division of said Church was therefore no part of the intentions of said General Conference. And that it rested upon three distinct and fundamental conditions, the failure of *either of which* must be fatal to its validity and binding force. And though, in the light of four years' history, we are fully convinced that the act implied a degree of faith in men not justified by the facts, and under all the circumstances of the case it was not adapted to secure its intended results, we cannot for a moment question the Christian liberality in which it had its origin.

3. It is evident to us, that the acts of the General Conference complained of did not produce a state of things in the South which rendered a continuance of the jurisdiction of said conference "inconsistent with the success of the ministry in the slaveholding states." Three-fourths of the members of all the annual conferences did not concur in the vote to alter the sixth restrictive rule, and thus sanction the Plan, for the accommodation of which said alteration was asked. And the conditions and requirements of said Plan have been violated, and hence said Plan is [*and*, from the first failure of the conditions of said Plan, or either of them, *has been*] null and void.

In support of which we offer the following facts:—

After the adoption of the proposition for a peace measure, and providing for its final ratification and use, in case the predicted separation should occur, it would, as we humbly conceive, have been in perfect conformity to said peaceful arrangement for the Southern delegates to have used their utmost endeavours, as some of them assured us they would do, to quiet the public mind in the South; and entering instantly upon their regular work, to have met every act of resentment, and every appearance of insubordination to the authorities of the Church, with a calm, dignified, and determined resistance—to have defended the General Conference so far as they could conscientiously do so, and themselves to the utmost; for doing which their motions, speeches,

votes, declaration, and protest, furnished ample materials. To have adopted this course would, we believe, have been doing no more than to meet the just expectations excited by their peaceful protestations upon the conference floor and elsewhere, both before and after the vote upon the proposed pacific plan, and their avowed attachment to the Church of their choice, in its uninterrupted integrity. But if *active* peace measures had been either incompatible with their private opinions or self-respect, or inconvenient under their peculiar circumstances, they, as we verily believe, might have avoided all acts preparatory to the excitement of the public mind, and leading directly or indirectly to the division of the Church; by doing which they would have given to the world an example of moderation under circumstances confessedly difficult and trying, worthy of all commendation, and afforded an opportunity for a free, spontaneous, and in due time decisive verdict of Southern Methodists, upon the question whether the action of the General Conference had, and "must necessarily" have, "produced a state of things in the South which rendered a continuance of the jurisdiction of that General Conference over these conferences inconsistent with the success of the ministry in the slaveholding states." This, we claim and assert, the Methodist Episcopal Church had a right to exact of them, in order to a *just estimate* of the circumstances under which the conscientious and legitimate action of her highest judicatory had placed her in relation to her Southern ministers and membership. But, instead of this, these fifty-one brethren, by character and position highest in rank and influence among Southern Methodists, did, at a meeting called and had before leaving the seat of the General Conference, only ten days after the principal action, and five days after the final action in the case of Bishop Andrew, virtually appoint a convention, to be held in Louisville, Kentucky, to commence on the first of May, one thousand eight hundred and forty-five, to take into consideration the question of a division of the Church, and thus superinduce the very excitement which they should have deprecated, and attempted by every laudable means in their power to allay. Indeed it is evident, as it should have been foreseen, that the appointment of that convention alone was, under the circumstances, decisive of the very question which should have been left to the decision of time under the action of all the conservative elements available in the case.

Moreover, from the said meeting in New-York, which, if it occurred at all, should have given utterance only to counsels peaceful in their nature and tendency, and strictly loyal to the Methodist Episcopal Church, an address was issued "To the Ministers and Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the Slaveholding States and Territories," in which these *fifty-one* brethren say, that the "various action of the *majority* of the General Conference, at its recent session, on the subject of *slavery and abolition*, has been such as to render it necessary, in the judgment of those addressing you, to call attention to the *proscription and disability* under which the southern portion of the Church must of necessity labour in view of the action alluded to, unless some measures are adopted to free the minority of the South from the oppressive jurisdiction of the majority in the North in this

respect. The proceedings of the majority, in several cases involving the question of slavery, have been such as indicate most conclusively that the legislative, judicial, and administrative action of the General Conference, as now organized, will always be extremely hurtful, if not finally ruinous, to the interests of the Southern portion of the Church, and must necessarily produce a state of conviction and feeling in the slaveholding states entirely inconsistent with either the peace or prosperity of the Church. The opinions and purposes of the Church in the North on the subject of slavery are in direct conflict with those of the South; and unless the South will submit to the dictation and interference of the North, greatly beyond what the existing law of the Church on slavery and abolition authorizes, there is no hope of anything like union or harmony."

Further, similar quotations might be made from this address, but we deem it unnecessary. We submit it to a candid world, whether language less respectful to the Church of which they were members, or more inflammatory to Southern minds in the midst of slavery, could well be used. Surely there is no room for surprise, that the most excited meetings soon occurred in all parts of the South, and the most indignant resolutions were passed, leading to a degree of public agitation alarming to the peace of the Church and the nation.

But one more quotation shall be made, to show that these *fifty-one* brethren did not hesitate, formally, to take the initiative in the work of deciding the question which they had raised, and thus *actually*, as they had already done *virtually*, give the full weight of their influence to counteract the pacific measures which they had asked at our hands, and for which they had just voted: "As the undersigned have had opportunity and advantages which those at a distance could not possess, to form a correct judgment in the premises, and it may be expected of them that they express their views fully on the subject, they do not hesitate to say that they regard a separation at no distant day as inevitable." After this declaration, of what avail was it to "beseech their brethren of the ministry and membership in the slaveholding states to examine this matter carefully, and try to reach the conclusion most proper under the circumstances?" or "disposed, however, to defer to the judgment of the Church, we leave this subject with you?" The result was what must have been expected. The voice of remonstrance, though sincere and beseeching against the revolutionary measures urged on by such powerful talents and influence, was too feeble to be heard till the confusion was over, and *it was too late*. The act of separation was consummated, as we have already seen, and many thousands hurried out of the Methodist Episcopal Church into the new organization, with scarcely an opportunity to know what it was for.

We thus see clearly that the way for separation was prepared, not by a state of things in the South "*produced*" by the action of the General Conference, but by revolutionary measures adopted by the Southern delegates at the very seat, and nearly at the time, of our General Conference session. The success of the ministry could not have been hindered by our action; for not only was there no instance

of the kind alleged, but there was a want of time to produce any such result, before these fifty-one brethren, by taking the lead of the Southern mind, anticipated their decision. In view of the whole of which we claim and affirm that the Southern organization was consummated in direct contravention of the Plan proposed to meet the results of separation, thus reducing it to a nullity, by the violation of its first great and fundamental condition. And we moreover claim and affirm that the very acts of calling the convention and issuing the said address, by which Southern opinion was forestalled, was an abandonment of the Plan proposed by the General Conference, and hence, that for the reason above alleged, the Plan has been of no real force since the date of said call and address, to wit, the 11th day of June, 1844.

And further, it appears from official returns made from all the annual conferences voting thereon, including those now embraced in the Church, South, obtained since this session commenced, that the required three-fourths majority of the members of the said annual conferences has not been given, and hence, that for this reason, as shown above, the Plan is null and void.

And further, from information officially given by the bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in answer to a call upon them by the General Conference for a statement of facts in the premises, that in numerous instances the Plan proposed in the event of a separation has been openly violated by the Southern Church, and hence that the peace upon the border and elsewhere, which it was designed to promote, has not been secured. The bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, have claimed a moveable line, thus transferring, from one place to another, the scenes of strife and confusion as fast as society majorities could be obtained, which we regard and affirm to be in direct contravention of the most obvious principles of the said provisional Plan. And it is in evidence before us, that in numerous instances the sense of members on the proposed border has been taken by Southern preachers, privately, and in various other illegal and inconvenient ways, and hence that societies have been reported and claimed for the South, which, by suitable tests, would have given large majorities in favour of adhering to the Methodist Episcopal Church. And in numerous instances influence has been applied, and often varied, and obstinately persevered in, to secure a decision in favour of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and contrary to the wishes of many of our people. And also, in some instances, houses of worship, built at the expense, in whole or in part, by members adhering to the Methodist Episcopal Church, have been taken from them without their consent, and without compensation, and they have been discommoded by vexatious lawsuits, costs, and in various other ways, by preachers and members attached to the Church, South, all of which we claim and affirm is in direct violation of the most sacred objects and conditions of the said proposed Plan, showing that it has long since, in this way also, been rendered a nullity by our brethren of the South, and this, notwithstanding the bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, waiving all conclusions which this General Conference were entitled to draw from the numerous ascertained infractions of the proposed

Plan, resolved, "as far as their administration was concerned," to adhere to it strictly, which, for the sake of the magnanimous Christian example it exhibits, and in view of the right of the General Conference alone to assert the facts of the infraction and consequent destruction of the Plan, we are happy to find they have scrupulously done.

Finally, having thus found, upon clear and incontestable evidence, that the three fundamental conditions of said proposed Plan have severally failed, and the failure of either of them separately being sufficient to render it null and void, and having found the practical workings of said Plan incompatible with certain great constitutional principles elsewhere asserted, we have found and declared *the whole and every part of said provisional Plan to be null and void.*

4. In view of the above-named principles and facts, [as well as the constitutional rights already referred to,] we regard those who have, by their own act and deed, become members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, as having withdrawn from the Methodist Episcopal Church. And whereas those who are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in good and regular standing, cannot be deprived of such membership without due form of trial, all those members who have not attached themselves to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, are and have been members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and as such they are entitled to its care and privileges, as provided for in another report of this committee. Respectfully submitted.

GEORGE PECK, *Chairman.*

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## I.—INFRACTIONS OF THE PLAN.

The attention of the committee has been directed, by sundry memorials submitted to their consideration by the General Conference, to numerous infractions of the provisions of the so-called Plan of Separation, upon the part of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and upon this subject present to the conference the following statement and facts:—

I. *The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, has officially and authoritatively taught the infraction of the Plan by her Convention, her General Conference, her Bishops, her Annual Conferences, her Editors, and leading Ministers.*

1. *The Louisville Convention taught the violation of the Plan.*

In the report on organization, passed Saturday, the 17th of May, 1845, the new Church is declared to be formed out of the conferences represented in the convention, (see History of the M. E. Church, South, p. 186.) But while the convention, in their formal acts of organization, on Saturday, the 17th of May, make this declaration, we find them on the Monday following passing these resolutions, (see Western Christian Advocate, vol. xiii, page 42, col. 7:)—

"Resolved, That should any portion of an annual conference, on the line of separation, not represented in this convention, adhere to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, according to the Plan of Separation



adopted at the late General Conference, and elect delegates to the General Conference of the Church in 1846, upon the basis of representation adopted by the convention, they shall be accredited as members of the General Conference.

*Resolved*, That, in the judgment of this convention, those societies and stations on the border, within the limits of conferences represented in this convention, be constructively understood as adhering to the South, unless they see proper to take action on the subject; and in all such cases, we consider the pastor of the station or society the proper person to preside in the meeting."

Thus, although the convention, in their formal organization, confine themselves to the original limits; yet two days after, when the way was prepared for further inroads, they enlarge the provisions of the Plan, and extend it into the boundaries of the Philadelphia, Baltimore, and other conferences. And in all societies within the border where no votes would be taken, these societies must be *constructively* understood as adhering to the South. Hence their preachers have generally prevented any voting wherever they could by any means hinder it, although the Plan of the General Conference required the societies to vote. The conclusion is, that the convention taught the infraction of the Plan in two very important respects.

First. They exceed the provisions of the Plan by extending it into the territory of the Baltimore, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and other conferences. Thus they teach to cross the line.

Secondly. And in all societies where no vote would be taken, they claim them constructively as belonging to their Church.

2. *The bishops of the M. E. Church, South, have taught the infraction of the Plan.*

Bishop Soule, in his letter, dated Lebanon, Ohio, August 4th, 1845, and published in the Western Christian Advocate of August 22d, 1845, or vol. xii, p. 75, col. 2, teaches the breach of the Plan. It is addressed "to the preachers and border societies of the Kentucky and Missouri Conferences, and of other conferences bordering upon them." The bishop here calls on the societies on the southern verge of the Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa Conferences to vote whether they will, or will not, remain in the M. E. Church. Bishop Soule, however, makes these regulations in reference to his own administration. But this same course was sanctioned by Bishop Andrew immediately, and afterward by their General Conference, and by all their bishops. And indeed Bishop Soule, in his letter to the Rev. Wesley G. Montgomery, dated Nashville, April 30th, 1847, and published in the Western Christian Advocate of May 21st, 1847, hints broadly enough that minorities had best be accommodated. He says: "Minorities on either side of the line of division are entitled to a kind and respectful consideration, and should be treated accordingly. And I should think it far better for such minorities, being on the borders, to receive preachers from the Church to which they desire to adhere, provided they believe themselves able to support them, than for majorities to be interdicted the exercise of a right plainly secured to them by the provisions of the law, or rule, in the case." Now with this instruction about

minorities, as well as the maintenance that the line is a sliding one, and no limits of time are given in which its sliding operation ceases, Southern preachers will find little difficulty in passing over any limits which may be in the way.

But Bishop Capers's letter to Rev. Mr. Moorman, and published in the *Christian Advocate and Journal* of April 21st, 1847, claims all the territory in the slaveholding states, and this too according to the Plan, or, as he calls it, the "Deed of Separation." Now as Bishop Capers claims all slaveholding territory, and Bishop Soule as much of the territories of the free states as the accommodation of minorities and the sliding line will transfer, it would be difficult indeed to fix any line at all.

It were useless to insist, in a matter so clear, that the bishops of the M. E. Church, South, have taught officially the violation of the plan.

3. *The General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, has taught the infraction of the Plan.*

For proof of this we need go no further than the famous report on the episcopacy, in which the conference sanctions the breaches of the Plan as taught by the convention, and as was taught and practised by Bishops Soule and Andrew, from the session of the convention in May, 1845, to the session of the conference in May, 1846. This document will be found in the *Western Christian Advocate* of June 26th, 1846, and in the *Richmond Advocate* of May 21st, 1846. The report fully clears Bishops Soule and Andrew of any blame for occupying Cincinnati, the Kenhawa district, &c., and gives such full latitude of interpretation, that the limitations of the Plan became a perfect nullity. Our limits will not allow us to quote the report, but it can be perused in the papers, as cited above, as well as in all the southern papers.

4. *The annual conferences, editors, and leading members of the new Church, maintain the infraction of the Plan in perfect accordance with the acts of their convention, their General Conference, and their bishops.*

It were useless to make quotations on this point. Their press teems with approving acts of annual conferences, and the laboured essays and constant admissions of editors and correspondents, upholding fully their conventional, episcopal, and General Conference decisions and acts. And from all this there is no dissent in any quarter.

II. *The bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in their official administration, have actually broken the Plan.*

As undoubted and official testimony on this point, we need only quote the report on this subject by our excellent and devoted bishops, which, at the request of the General Conference, they furnished the committee. This official document is as follows:—

*To the Committee on the State of the Church.*

In compliance with a request of the General Conference, made on the 6th instant, the superintendents present to you such information as they possess in regard to alleged infractions of the "Plan of Separation," on the part of the constituted authorities of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, by which the Methodist Episcopal Church has been injuriously deprived of portions of its territory and members. They must be understood as giving the most authentic statements

which have come to their ears, without vouching their own personal knowledge for the correctness of every item thus presented. They are, nevertheless, impressed with the conviction of the truth of the statements generally, as hereinafter made.

They commence first with *Baltimore Conference*. Within its bounds there is a portion of the state of Virginia, situated between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers, commonly called the "Northern Neck," embracing the counties of King George, Westmoreland, Richmond, Northumberland, and Lancaster. These counties contained the following circuits, (having a membership of eight hundred to a thousand,) namely, King George, Westmoreland, and Lancaster, each having preachers annually appointed to it from the Baltimore Conference. At different times each of those circuits determined to attach themselves to the Methodist Episcopal Church, not as border *societies*, but as *circuits*. To all of them preachers have been sent from the Virginia Conference, who are there at present, to the exclusion of the ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church. From the conference of 1847 preachers were sent to this portion of the Baltimore Conference, who found on their arrival the circuits under the pastoral care of ministers of the Virginia Conference. The ministers sent from the Baltimore Conference, not being able to have access to the preaching places or societies, were withdrawn after suitable time, and sent to places where they were needed, except one, who was left in the charge of the whole field of labour. At present this place appears on the Minutes, "to be supplied." No minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church is now in this ancient portion of the Baltimore Conference.

Warrenton circuit has been occupied between one and two years with preachers from the Virginia Conference; but as this circuit did not go to the Church, South, in whole, a portion thereof continuing in the Methodist Episcopal Church, a preacher from the Baltimore Conference has been continued there. Some of the societies which voted to go to the Church, South, were strictly border societies, but others also went which were as strictly interior societies. One of the churches, (Wesley Chapel,) where a majority adhered to the Methodist Episcopal Church, was forcibly entered, and new locks were attached to its doors; and the Church, South, has it in possession at the present time, unless the civil court has recently decided a suit, which was instituted for the property, in favour of the M. E. Church.

Harrisonburg, in Rockingham county, Virginia, unquestionably an interior society, having by a majority of votes determined to connect themselves with the M. E. Church, South, a preacher from the Virginia Conference has been appointed to labour there. A minority adhering to the M. E. Church are under the pastoral care of one of its ministers. The church was in a course of litigation a few months since, and probably the case has not been decided by the court. An attempt was made to get possession of the parsonage in Harrisonburg for the Church, South, but with what success there is no information.

Leesburg, a station belonging to the Baltimore conference, clearly an interior society, has been visited by a preacher from the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, much agitation produced in the society and

in the community, and a suit at law commenced for the church edifice. Whether the effort is still persisted in to occupy this place is not certainly known. That which makes this case even a glaring one, is the fact that the majority of the society voted to adhere to the M. E. Church. There are other instances of the violation of the Plan of Separation, in the opinion of some equally apparent with the instances given in this paper, of which more certain information may be obtained from Rev. Messrs. William Hamilton, N. J., B. Morgan, S. A. Roszel, John Bear, and J. A. Collins, members of this General Conference.

*Kanawha District*, in the northwest part of Virginia, is a part of Ohio Conference. In 1845 that work was supplied from the Ohio Conference, as usual. The preachers were received with one exception, as far as we know, namely, Parkersburg station. A part of the members there refused to receive any preacher from Ohio Conference. They rejected the preacher sent to them, not for any objection to him personally, but because he came from Ohio; and by threats of violence, and preparation to execute those threats on a given day, compelled him to leave the place, and took possession of the chapel. He, however, returned after some weeks, and in connexion with the preacher of the adjoining circuit, to which they were transferred, served the remaining members of the scattered flock in another house. These outcast members have since erected a chapel for themselves, in which they worship undisturbed; while the old chapel is supplied from Kentucky Conference of the M. E. Church, South. Parkersburg is not a border station. It is the county seat of Wood county, situated at the junction of Little Kanawha and Ohio Rivers, and is about seventy-five miles from the nearest point of the Kentucky state line; so that the Kentucky preachers had to travel that distance through our work to reach it, though they now occupy other places through our work between that and Kentucky. No preachers were appointed from the Kentucky Conference of 1845 to the Kanawha district; but some were sent there, as we learn, during that Conference year, by a presiding elder, that made breaches in some of our circuits. In 1846 the Kanawha district was all supplied from the Ohio Conference, as usual, though the societies in some places were divided by Southern influence. A few weeks afterward a second supply was sent from Kentucky Conference, as we learned from the newspapers. Since that time there have been two presiding elders and two sets of preachers there, one from Ohio Conference, and the other from Kentucky Conference. Indeed it is alleged that, at the last session of the Kentucky Conference, they divided the district; so that the old Kanawha district is now occupied by three presiding elders, one from Ohio, and two from Kentucky.

These are the most material facts which have been reported to us, bearing on the point of inquiry submitted to us, so far as Kanawha district is concerned.

*"Soule Chapel," Cincinnati.*—In 1834 Cincinnati, which had previously been one charge, was divided into two, "Wesley Chapel" and "Fourth-street." Each had definite bounds, within which the stationed minister had exclusive pastoral functions. Private members were *advised* to observe these limits in fixing and holding their membership, but were

not considered *bound* to do so, and did not in all cases practice it. But class-meetings, &c., were held in strict regard to this provision.

New preaching places have been opened in these charges under the direction and countenance of the presiding elder and preachers in charge, have matured societies, and have been finally formed into stations by the presiding bishops and received preachers.

In 1844 the first city missionary was appointed, and was supported by a City Missionary Society, whose object was to *carry the Gospel to the destitute*. The first year, with the approbation of those having authority to direct him, he formed three societies, namely, the Bethel, Ebenezer, and Maley Chapel, and succeeded in erecting two small chapels for "Ebenezer" and "Maley" in the northwest part of the city and suburbs. By permission, he exercised pastoral authority in some or all of these societies.

In 1845 the same brother, Rev. G. W. Maley, was reappointed to the same mission. At the same time two of the aforesaid societies, "Bethel" and "Ebenezer," were made stations, and Rev. J. W. White and Rev. Joseph Bruner were appointed to serve them. These two stations were marked out by metes and bounds, as had been invariably done when new stations were formed in Cincinnati. This was done in council with the presiding elder of Cincinnati district, two or three days after conference closed, it having been forgotten in the pressure of conference business. Letters were written by the presiding bishop to brothers White and Bruner, defining by streets, &c., the bounds of the new charges; and the city missionary had Maley Chapel and the region around it set apart from all the stations as his special field of labour, within which, *and nowhere else*, he was to exercise pastoral functions. As the superintendent, however, was in haste, he did not write to the missionary, but requested the presiding elder, brother Morley, to give him the information.

Three objects were sought in this arrangement:—

*First.* As the City Mission had lost two principal appointments, it seemed proper to encourage the missionary by assigning him the pastoral charge of this precinct territory, which was fast filling up, and which must, of course, receive most of his labours.

*Second.* Ebenezer station bordered on Maley Chapel, and the population and territory were enough to be under the pastoral care of one man, after Maley Chapel and its territory were taken off.

*Third.* It seemed proper to the presiding bishop that each city preacher should have exclusive pastoral authority within his own charge; and, though no rupture was then dreamed of, it was thought the exercise of pastoral functions by the missionary within the different charges would derange and disorder the work.

Within three or four weeks after these arrangements were made, the city missionary obtained leave from the City Missionary Board to *preach* in "Vine-street Church," an old deserted building within the bounds of Morris Chapel charge, from one-half to three-fourths of a mile from "Maley Chapel" charge, and in the heart of the city. If we understand correctly, both the presiding elder and the Board deny that the missionary received any authority to form a society there, or do any other act which belonged to the pastoral oversight. He received no such authority from the bishop.

A number of brethren, however, obtained certificates, and presented them to the city missionary, not in his own charge, but at "Vine street," and in the very heart of the city he proceeded to take possession of his brother's territory, and form a society. Having increased it to a company of several scores, it voted to go South, was created "a charge" by the authority of Bishop Andrew, and Revs. E. W. Schon, G. W. Maley, (the missionary,) and S. A. Latta, were appointed to serve it as ministers of the M. E. Church, South. Bishop Andrew named it "VINE-STREET CHARGE, a border society," &c. In a short time this society purchased a church in the heart of "Wesley Chapel charge," so that between it and the border, or the Ohio River, interposes one whole charge, the Bethel, which makes Soule Chapel as truly an interior station as though it were in Columbus or Cleveland.

"*Andrew Chapel, Cincinnati.*"—"Andrew Chapel" was purchased a few months since by the "Soule Chapel" society, and stands within the bounds of Ninth-street charge, having, like "Soule Chapel," one whole charge—"Morris Chapel"—between it and the border or river. It is understood to have regular preaching; but whether placed on the Minutes of the M. E. Church, South, as a distinct charge we know not, but understand that pastoral authority is exercised there in the formation of classes, receiving members, and exercising discipline.

*Statement of encroachment on the territory of the Philadelphia Conference by the M. E. Church, South.*—Accomack and Northampton counties, Va., are separated from the Virginia Conference by a broad bay, (the Chesapeake,) in every place from fifteen to thirty miles wide. The first place that voted to unite with the Church South was Capeville, in Northampton, about seven miles north of Cape Charles. The next place at which the vote was taken was Salem, eight miles north of Capeville, which, by a strong majority, had previously determined to stay with us. The next place was Johnson's Chapel, about ten miles north of Salem, which, by a small majority, preferred the Church South. The next place reported to have chosen the Church South was Bethel, in Occahannock Neck. Here no vote was taken, but some friends of the Church South went around to the houses of the members, and reported that they had obtained a majority for the new organization. These were all that had declared for the South before Mr. Moorman was sent over. Some time after his arrival, Franktown, five or six miles north of Johnsons, gave a majority of one vote for the South, by getting together members who had not attended class for years. Pungotraque, in Accomack county, about ten miles further north, after giving a majority to remain in the old Church several times, at length chose the new Church by a small majority. And, finally, Cradockville, a few miles southeast of Pungotraque, in a neck, gave a majority for the Church South. There is no appointment between any of the above and the Chesapeake Bay.

Signed,

E. HEDDING,  
B. WAUGH,  
THOMAS A. MORRIS,  
L. L. HAMLIN,  
EDMUND S. JANES.

Although the Plan could have no reference to the Philadelphia, Baltimore, or Ohio Conference, nevertheless, allowing that these conferences could be the theatre of the operations of the Plan on their southern verge, the framers of the Plan, in reference to majorities of societies or stations, as well as to internal societies, have been overlooked by the Southern bishops. At first, by the concession of all, the Plan was confined to the thirteen conferences in the slaveholding states. Next, it was extended by the South to the other conferences; and even in these the border regulations were disregarded, and Southern encroachment stopped at nothing. While our bishops, individually, in laudable submission to the episcopal board, have, on their part, most scrupulously observed the regulations of the Plan, the bishops of the new Church have trampled under foot the provisions of the Plan, while at the same time they have professed to be governed by it; and although the authorities of the M. E. Church did their utmost to preserve the line unbroken, it was unavailing. The authorities of the M. E. Church, South, by precept and example, have broken over the barriers, and the line, by their doing, has no longer any being. They themselves have destroyed the Plan, and have placed it now beyond the reach of the M. E. Church to restore the boundaries. Nor is there now any hope that measures could be taken to restore the line or continue it, did it exist. The General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, by the following resolution, in their report on the administration of their bishops, have decided this point. They say,

*Resolved*, That after a full and patient examination of the particulars of the administration of the Southern bishops, in relation to the Plan of Separation, the General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, consider the charges so repeatedly made by the editors and correspondents of the Western Christian Advocate, and the Christian Advocate and Journal, against Bishops Soule and Andrew, as entirely groundless, and that, on the contrary, the administration aforesaid has been strictly conformed to the rule set forth by authority of the General Conference of the M. E. Church in its legislation on this subject in 1844."

Thus the administration of the Southern bishops has been sustained by their General Conference. They have, therefore, in advance of the M. E. Church, overthrown the Plan, and have left none of it remaining for us to overthrow, and now, in pronouncing it null and void, the South have compelled to this action.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE PECK, *Chairman.*

## K.—PASTORAL ADDRESS

*Of the General Conference to the Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.*

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,—Under a solemn sense of our responsibility, as the representatives in General Conference of your pastors and ministers in Christ Jesus, we cannot permit this occasion to pass away without tendering to you our Christian salutations, with such advice and counsel as present circumstances seem to require.

Since the last General Conference we have had numerous and varied proofs of the divine goodness and mercy toward us as a branch of Christ's visible Church, which demand our most fervent and devout gratitude. Among these we would desire especially to mention the preservation of a sound evangelical theology, as contained in the Holy Scriptures, and taught by Mr. Wesley and the fathers of Methodism; the continuance of a godly ministry, who are constantly labouring to save sinners, and raise up a holy people; the manifest tokens of divine approbation which still attend their labours; and the consequent awakening, conversion, and sanctification of souls. We rejoice also to see the improvement which has been made in our Church in her various departments and operations. In the cause of missions, Sunday-schools, temperance, religious literature, and sound, Christian education, though we are far from thinking that we have fully met our increasing obligations, yet we feel that we have great reason to be thankful to Him who worketh all good in man, and to whom must be given the praise of every good thing. Nor can we omit to mention among the causes of gratitude on the present occasion, what we regard as a signal mark of the divine goodness, that at a period when we, and many with us, had so much reason to apprehend a painful, if not a disastrous session of our General Conference, we have been graciously kept in the utmost harmony and fraternal concord. No session of this body, probably, has been attended with more evident marks of a Christian affection among the members. The uniformly courteous and Christian bearing of the brethren toward each other, even in their warmest and most interesting discussions, has been truly delightful. In all this we cannot but see and acknowledge the hand of God; nor can we fail to acknowledge, beloved friends and brethren in Christ, that we are greatly indebted to your prayers and intercessions, which, we believe, have, day and night, gone up in our behalf to the throne of God.

But while we have so many evidences of the divine goodness toward us, we must not conceal from ourselves that we rest under a fearful weight of responsibility; and it behooves us to take good heed to our ways, lest, after all, we betray our trust. As God, in his grace and providence, is enlarging our means and facilities for cultivating his vineyard, we must take care that we faithfully improve the talents intrusted to us. And here permit us, in virtue of our office as your ministers, in Christ's name, to address you in the words of faithful admonition.



We sincerely hope that the increasing facility enjoyed by your ministers of the present day for intellectual improvement and literary cultivation, that while you may duly appreciate whatever advantages you enjoy in this respect, you will still bear in mind that it is by the "preaching of the cross" alone that God will convert the world. However highly, therefore, you may enjoy a cultivated ministry, never be satisfied with any preaching that does not direct the soul to Christ. Upon this subject, however, we will not, and we trust we need not enlarge. We believe that you feel as deeply as ourselves that the health of the Church and salvation of the world depend, under God, on a ministry, the subject and end of whose preaching is "Christ crucified"—"Christ the wisdom of God and the power of God," "the only name given under heaven among men whereby we can be saved."

We would call your attention also to the necessity of maintaining in purity and vigour that form of Christianity which God has committed to our keeping. While we look with Christian affection on all our sister evangelical Churches, and bid them God-speed in our common work of saving men, we must not forget that there is a peculiar adaptation in the economy of Methodism to the great purposes of the Gospel, and that our ecclesiastical institutions have been especially owned of God, and signalized by a remarkable success. And, while we are willing to allow that, in certain subsidiary prudential arrangements, we may very properly consult changes in the social state and habits, and adapt our modes of operation to special occasions and emergencies, we must still remain steadfast in whatever is essentially characteristic of primitive Methodism. Especially we would insist on the necessity of a faithful and diligent attendance upon all the public and social means of grace. A decent regard for religious consistency, and even conformity to reputable usage in society, and other motives not strictly Christian, may lead persons to attend the ministry of the word. But we trust you will show the sincerity of your profession and the earnest nature of your piety, not only by diligence in attending public service, but also by a close attendance upon those means of grace which are peculiar to ourselves. We grieve to hear that in many parts of our work there is a great, and, we fear, an increasing neglect of those most important means of improvement in religious experience and character—class-meetings. We pray you, beloved brethren and friends, do not help, by any neglect of yours, to prostrate, or cause to be undervalued, what has been found of such inestimable service in our Zion, and which has, more than any prudential institution among us, served to keep alive in our body the life and power of godliness.

But we find it impracticable to dwell at length upon particulars. Let us, then, exhort you generally to care and faithfulness in observing the General Rules of our societies. It behooves us to be watchful, lest, as Providence increases our secular and social advantages, we lose somewhat of the purity and simplicity of the Christian character. With an increase of wealth, taste, and refinement, therefore, will naturally arise increased temptations to worldly pursuits and compliances, and practices that are not after Christ, and "do not tend to the knowledge and love of God," or to holy living. It is to be feared that in some places the spirituality of our Church is suffering from inattention to these considera-

tions, and a want of sufficient care. This is no time for indifference. We must preserve the ancient landmarks. As our General Rules are such as commend themselves to every truly awakened conscience, we hope that they may everywhere be strictly and conscientiously observed.

Among the means of maintaining the purity and permanence of the Church of Christ, nothing is more essential than a strict observance of the Lord's day. We trust you will ever remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. God and his Church demand this of you, and the interests of mankind depend on it. We hope you will not only abstain from your ordinary secular employments on that day, and from all labours except those of necessity or mercy, strictly so called, but also from social calls and visits, and from everything that would prevent the entire consecration of this day by yourselves and others to the immediate service of God. We recommend, also, that you render whatever assistance you can, prudently and judiciously, to promote the observance of the Sabbath in the community.

Closely connected with the observance of the Sabbath is the religious instruction of children. We do not mean that this work is to be confined to the Sabbath. Far from it. Yet the Sabbath affords so favourable an opportunity for the performance of this duty, and the duty is so appropriate to the day, that we cannot but look upon both as closely connected. Certainly parents cannot "sanctify the Sabbath" more effectually than by employing the intervals between public service in reading the Bible, or interesting religious books, to their children, teaching them our forms of Catechism, or in some way taking pains to imprint upon their infant or youthful minds the great and beautiful things of God's word. This work must be attended to. We are called to it by every holy obligation, and by the most profound and far-reaching considerations. Let us be in earnest upon it. We fear that many children, of even professedly religious parents, grow up fearfully, shamefully ignorant of the Bible, and of the great doctrines of Christianity. These things ought not so to be. Nor can the Sabbath school make up for the lack of parental duty in this matter. We rejoice in the success of the Sabbath-school cause, and trust you will spare no pains to make this method of religious instruction as efficient as possible. Still this cannot do the work of the parent, though it may afford him most important aid. Remember the words of God to his ancient Church: "Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door-posts of thy house, and upon thy gates: that your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth." Deut. xi, 18-21.

We think it proper to call your attention to a change in one of the General Rules of our united societies. We allude to the one on intoxicating liquors. By the concurrent votes of the General and Annual Conferences, Mr. Wesley's rule on this subject, which prohibits buying

and selling, as well as using spirituous liquors as a beverage, has been restored. To the restoration of this rule we felt driven, as well by the propriety of the thing as by the force of public sentiment. Consistency of conduct, and a regard to our moral and religious responsibilities, would permit no longer delay. Methodism was at the first far in advance of the general opinion in regard to the use of ardent spirits, and it would be a shameful act of dereliction now to fall in the rear. It has become the belief of almost all enlightened and pious persons that the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, as well as their use, for a beverage, are inconsistent with an elevated standard of morals, as well as with sound views of Christian obligation. It is, therefore, our decided opinion that no countenance or support should be given, nor ecclesiastical justification extended, to a practice so utterly inimical to the safety and well-being of society, and so ruinous to individual character and happiness, both in this world and the next, as that which is herein condemned. But while we recommend a strict observance of this rule, and ask your faithful and strenuous coöperation to render it practically efficient, still, as its restoration is recent, and must have somewhat the nature of a retrospective or *ex post facto* law, we also recommend a reasonable forbearance with delinquents, and also kindness and gentleness in the mode of its enforcement. These remarks have a special reference to those who were engaged in the liquor business prior to the restoration of the rule. It will be well to allow them a reasonable time to withdraw their capital, and invest it in some other occupation. What may be considered a reasonable time will depend on circumstances, which we must leave to your consideration. Be mild and gentle, yet decided with offenders. It is better to save a soul, if practicable, than to cut him off without hope of remedy; and, on the other hand, we must not let the whole Church suffer for the secular interest, or the perverseness of a few incorrigible delinquents.

It will naturally be expected that we should take some notice in this address of the peculiar difficulties of our Church, which have excited so much attention since the General Conference of 1844, and which have constituted one of the most delicate topics of discussion before us. In the disposition of this subject, we can assure you that we have exercised all the wisdom and discretion that heaven had conferred upon us. That we have succeeded in satisfying all is more than we can reasonably expect; yet we hope that the measures adopted will, in the main, prove acceptable to the great body of our people.

You are, no doubt, aware that we have received numerous petitions and memorials from individuals and societies residing in the southern states, praying that we would take some measures whereby they might remain in the Church of their early choice. The petitioners thought the cause of separation not sufficient, and believed it to be their duty to continue in connexion with the Methodist Episcopal Church. For the reasons, moreover, which are assigned in the report of the Committee on the State of the Church, which we have not time here to enumerate, we felt perfectly at liberty to declare the Plan of Separation, as it was called, null and void. We felt not only at liberty to do this, under existing circumstances, but we also believed that we could not otherwise

fulfil the obligations of the Church to those who still claim her fostering care.

But while we felt in duty bound to provide for our adhering members in the southern states, we still felt disposed to do all we could constitutionally to adjust, in some amicable way, the difficulty in regard to the invested funds of the Church. You will easily perceive that this was a question of peculiar delicacy. On the one hand, as the permission required in order to divide the funds had been refused by the annual conferences, and we had, therefore, no constitutional power to meet the claims of the Church South, neither, on the other hand, were we disposed to reject them if they are founded in justice and equity. Moreover, we felt neither disposed nor competent to decide this question for ourselves, and on our sole responsibility. We have, therefore, made arrangements for submitting the whole question to an arbitration, for amicable adjustment, which will ultimately, we trust, give satisfaction to all concerned.

If the measures we have taken on this whole subject do not seem to you the most judicious, we trust you will duly consider the extreme delicacy and difficulty of our position. We were of different opinions on some points, and yet we have been enabled to exercise a great degree of forbearance and kindness toward each other, so that our differences of opinion have led to no alienation of feeling. We trust it will be so with you. Be calm and prayerful. If you do not at once see the propriety of our course, be patient. Wait until you shall have had time maturely to weigh the matter, and, above all, take no rash step that may cause agitation or tumult in the Church, or in the community. We trust the God of love and peace will be with you, and that he will out of apparent evil bring forth good, and make everything ultimately redound to his own praise and glory.

Finally, beloved brethren, "whom we greatly long after in the bowels of Jesus Christ," let us exhort you to "be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord; forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." Live in the exercise of a genial charity toward one another, and toward all mankind; live in the exercise of a lively faith in the Son of God; cultivate holiness of heart, purity of life, and all the graces of the Christian profession. And in your approaches to a throne of grace, do not neglect to pray for immediate and continued blessings from the Holy Spirit upon the Gospel labours of your servants and brethren in our common Lord and Saviour.

In behalf of the General Conference,

ELIJAH HEDDING,  
B. WAUGH,  
THOMAS A. MORRIS,  
L. L. HAMLINE,  
EDMUND S. JANES.

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JOURNAL

OF THE

GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

HELD IN BOSTON, MASS.,

1852.



## LIST OF DELEGATES BY CONFERENCES.

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BALTIMORE CONFERENCE—Nicholas J. B. Morgan, Alfred Griffith, John Davis, Norval Wilson, John A. Collins, John Bear, Henry Slicer, John A. Gere, S. Samuel Roszell, Aquila A. Reese, Charles B. Tippet, Benjamin N. Brown.

PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE—Francis Hodgson, Levi Scott, John P. Durbin, David Dailey, Thomas J. Thompson, William Barnes, Elijah Miller, J. Cunningham.

PROVIDENCE CONFERENCE—David Patten, Abel Stevens, Erastus Benton, William T. Harlow, Daniel Webb, Daniel Wise.

NEW-JERSEY CONFERENCE—John M'Clintock, George F. Brown, Daniel P. Kidder, John S. Porter, Jefferson Lewis, James Ayars, Thomas M'Carroll, Isaac Winner.

NEW-ENGLAND CONFERENCE—Miner Raymond, Charles K. True, Jefferson Hascall, Charles Adams, James Porter, Amos Binney.

NEW-YORK CONFERENCE—George Peck, Phineas Rice, Peter P. Sandford, Abiathar M. Osbon, Joseph Holdich, John C. Lyon, Jarvis Z. Nichols.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE—Osmon C. Baker, Elisha Adams, Reuben Dearborn, Elihu Scott, Elijah Mason.

NEW-YORK EAST CONFERENCE—Laban Clark, Nathan Bangs, Heman Bangs, Bartholomew Creagh, James H. Perry, Seymour Landon, Edwin E. Griswold.

TROY CONFERENCE—Stephen D. Brown, Barnes M. Hall, Andrew Witherspoon, John Clark, Zebulon Phillips, Timothy Benedict, Desivignia Starks, John Frazer, Reuben Wescott.

WESTERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE—Samuel G. J. Worthington, Moses Tichnell.

VERMONT CONFERENCE—Joseph C. Aspinwall, Andes T. Bullard, Edmund Copeland.

PITTSBURGH CONFERENCE—Thomas M. Hudson, Homer J. Clarke, Robert Hopkins, Andrew Magee, John Coil, William Hunter, Samuel Wakefield.

EAST MAINE CONFERENCE—Nathan D. George, William H. Pilsbury, Albert Church, Asahel Moore.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE—Chauncey Hobart, William H. Sampson, Henry Summers.

BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE—George Gary, Hiram Mattison, Isaac L. Hunt, Arza J. Phelps, Gardner Baker, Burroughs Holmes.

MAINE CONFERENCE—George Webber, Joseph H. Jenne, Charles C. Cone, Aaron Sanderson, Stephen Allen.

ERIE CONFERENCE—Calvin Kingsley, Hiram Kinsley, William Patterson, Bryan S. Hill, William H. Hunter, Edwin J. L. Baker, James H. Whallen.

ROCK RIVER CONFERENCE—Asahel E. Phelps, Luke Hitchcock, Stephen P. Keyes, Richard Haney, John Chandler.

ONEIDA CONFERENCE—David Holmes, Elias Bowen, Daniel W. Bristol, William Reddy, Lyman Sperry, Isaac Parks, Ephraim B. Tenny, John M. Snyder, Silas Comfort.

NORTH OHIO CONFERENCE—Edward Thomson, John H. Power, Henry Whiteman, Thomas Barkdull, John Quigley, Adam Poe, Hiram M. Shaffer.

IOWA CONFERENCE—Henry W. Reed, Joseph Brooks, Jacob G. Dimmitt.

EAST GENESEE CONFERENCE—William Hosmer, Moses Crow, John Dennis, John G. Gulick, Benjamin F. Tefft, Nathan Fellows.

NORTH INDIANA CONFERENCE—George M. Beswick, William H. Goode, Samuel T. Gillett, John L. Smith, Joseph Marsee, John Daniel.

MISSOURI CONFERENCE—Joseph H. Hopkins, Christopher L. Houts.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE—Wellington H. Collins, Elijah H. Pilcher, Edward M'Clure, Daniel D. Whedon, Francis B. Bangs, Resin Sapp.

GENESEE CONFERENCE—Thomas Carlton, Eleazer Thomas, Philo E. Brown, Israel Chamberlayne.

OHIO CONFERENCE—William Nast, Joseph M. Trimble, Jacob Young, Charles Elliott, George W. Walker, Granville Moody, John F. Wright, Uriah Heath, Zachariah Connell, Cyrus Brooks, Alfred M. Lorraine, Michael Marley, Robert O. Spencer.

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE—Peter Akers, Peter Cartwright, James B. Corrington, George Rutledge, Philip Kuhl, Colton D. James.

INDIANA CONFERENCE—Matthew Simpson, William M. Daily, Edward R. Ames, James Havens, Elijah Whitten, Lucien W. Berry.

# JOURNAL

OF THE

## GENERAL CONFERENCE, 1852.

### SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 1.

THE eleventh delegated General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church assembled in the Bromfield-street Church, in the city of Boston, at nine o'clock, A. M., May 1.  
Bishops Waugh, Morris, and Janes being present. Organization.

Bishop Waugh opened the session by reading the Holy Scriptures, and singing hymn 216, and prayer by brothers Laban Clark and Jacob Young; then singing hymn 212, and prayer by brothers Peter Cartwright and George Gary.

Joseph M. Trimble and Charles Adams were requested to act as secretaries in organizing the Conference.

Bishop Waugh called the Annual Conferences in order, and the following delegates presented their certificates of election, and were recognised as members:— Conferences called.

*New-York Conference.*—George Peck, Phineas Rice, Peter P. Sandford, Abiathar M. Osbon, Joseph Holdich, John C. Lyon, Jarvis Z. Nichols. Delegates.

*New-Hampshire.*—Osmon C. Baker, Elisha Adams, Reuben Dearborn, Elihu Scott, Elijah Mason.

*Troy.*—Stephen D. Brown, Barnes M. Hall, Andrew Witherspoon, John Clark, Zebulon Phillips, Timothy Benedict, Desivignia Stark, John Frazer, Reuben Wescott.

*New-York East.*—Nathan Bangs, Heman Bangs, Bartholomew Creagh, James H. Perry, Seymour Landon, Edwin E. Griswold, L. Clark.

*Western Virginia.*—Samuel G. J. Worthington, Moses Tichnell.

*East Maine.*—Nathan D. George, William H. Pillsbury, Albert Church, Asahel Moore.

*Pittsburgh.*—Thomas M. Hudson, Homer J. Clarke, Andrew Magee, John Coil, William Hunter, Samuel Wakefield.

*Vermont.*—Joseph C. Aspenwall, Andes T. Bullard, Edmund Copeland.

*Wisconsin.*—Chauncey Hobart, William H. Sampson, Henry Summers.

May 1.  
Delegates.

*Black River.*—George Gary, Hiram Mattison, Isaac L. Hunt, Arza J. Phelps, Gardner Baker, Burroughs Holmes.

*Maine.*—George Webber, Joseph H. Jenne, Charles C. Cone, Aaron Sanderson, Stephen Allen.

*Erie.*—Calvin Kingsley, Hiram Kinsley, William Patterson, Bryan S. Hill, William H. Hunter, Edwin J. L. Baker, James H. Whalen.

*Rock River.*—Asahel E. Phelps, Luke Hitchcock, Stephen P. Keyes, Richard Haney, John Chandler.

*Oneida.*—David Holmes, Elias Bowen, Daniel W. Bristol, William Reddy, Lyman Sperry, Isaac Parks, Ephraim B. Tenny, John M. Snyder, Silas Comfort.

*North Ohio.*—Edward Thomson, John H. Power, Henry Whiteman, Thomas Barkdull, John Quigley, Adam Poe, Hiram M. Shaffer.

*Iowa.*—Henry W. Reed, Joseph Brooks.

*East Genesee.*—William Hosmer, Moses Crow, John Dennis, John G. Gulick, Benjamin F. Tefft, H. N. Seaver.

*North Indiana.*—George M. Beswick, William H. Goode, Samuel T. Gillett, John L. Smith, Joseph Marsee, John Daniel.

*Missouri.*—Joseph H. Hopkins, Christopher L. Houts.

*Michigan.*—Wellington H. Collins, Elijah H. Pilcher, Edward M'Clure, Francis B. Bangs, Resin Sapp.

*Genesee.*—Thomas Carlton, Eleazer Thomas, Philo E. Brown, Israel Chamberlayne.

*Ohio.*—William Nast, Joseph M. Trimble, Jacob Young, Charles Elliott, George W. Walker, John F. Wright, Uriah Heath, Zachariah Connell, Cyrus Brooks, Alfred M. Lorrain, Michael Marley, Robert O. Spencer.

*Illinois.*—Peter Akers, Peter Cartwright, James B. Corrington, George Rutledge, Philip Kuhl, Colton D. James.

*Indiana.*—Matthew Simpson, William M. Daily, Edward R. Ames, James Havens, Elijah Whitten, Lucien W. Berry.

*Baltimore.*—Nicholas J. B. Morgan, Alfred Griffith, John Davis, Norval Wilson, John A. Collins, John Bear, Henry Slicer, John A. Gere, S. Samuel Roszell, Aquila A. Reese, Charles B. Tippet, Benj. N. Brown.

*Philadelphia.*—Francis Hodgson, Levi Scott, John P. Durbin, David Dailey, Thomas J. Thompson, William Barns, Elijah Miller, James Cunningham.

*New-Jersey.*—John M'Clintock, Geo. F. Brown, Daniel P. Kidder, John S. Porter, Jefferson Lewis, James Ayars, Thomas M'Carroll.

*Providence.*—David Patten, Abel Stevens, Erastus Benton, Wm. T. Harlow, Daniel Webb, Daniel Wise.

*New-England.*—Miner Raymond, Charles K. True, Jefferson Haskall, Charles Adams, James Porter, Amos Binney.

The Conference proceeded to elect a Secretary for the present session. May 1.

A motion was made to choose by nomination and election. Election of Secretary.

A substitute was offered and adopted, to proceed by ballot to the choice of Secretary.

By motion, the chair was requested to appoint persons to receive and count the ballots.

Brothers Cartwright and Holdich were appointed by the chair.

Brothers Ames and Slicer were requested, by the chair, to act as secretaries to the tellers in counting the votes cast for Secretary.

Jos. M. Trimble was chosen Secretary.

Moved and carried, to postpone the choice of Assistant Secretaries till Monday next.

Conference agreed to open their sessions at 8 o'clock, A. M., and adjourn at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ , P. M. Time of opening and closing sessions.

The following resolutions prevailed:—

*Resolved*, That the Editors of the General Conference papers, who are members of this body, and the Editor of Zion's Herald, be a Committee to employ a Reporter, and superintend the official publication of our proceedings. Publishing Committee.

*Resolved*, That the Presiding Elders of Boston and Charlestown Districts, and the Preachers stationed in Boston, be a Committee to superintend the arrangements for supplying the pulpits and superintending public worship. Committee on public worship.

*Resolved*, That when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at half-past three o'clock.

The session was prolonged a few minutes, and then adjourned with prayer by brother Tichnell.

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

Bishop Morris in the chair.

After religious services by brother O. C. Baker, the list was called, and the journals read.

Brothers P. P. Sandford and H. J. Clarke presented their certificates of election as delegates, which were read. Certificates of P. P. Sandford and H. J. Clarke.

Brother Tenny asked and obtained leave of absence till Monday.

On motion of brother Slicer, the Superintendents were requested to make their communications to the Conference on Monday next, at 10 o'clock, A. M. Superintendents requested, &c.

The rules by which the General Conference of 1848 was governed were called for, and on motion of brother N. Bangs they were read. Rules governing General Conference.

Brother J. A. Collins offered the following as an additional rule, which was adopted, to wit:—

It shall be in order for any member to call for the yeas and nays upon any question before the Conference; and if Adoption of new rule.

- May 1.** the call be sustained by twenty-five of the members present, the vote thereon shall be taken by yeas and nays.
- Brother W. M. Dailey offered the following as an additional rule, viz. :—
- Whenever two-thirds of the General Conference shall sustain a call for the previous question, it shall be ordered, and the main question put without further debate.
- Two-third rule tabled.** This was by motion laid on the table.
- Brother Slicer proposed an amendment to rule fifteenth, to add after the word until [the words] it has been read to the Conference twice, on two separate days.
- On motion, it was laid on the table.
- Rules adopted.** The rules above referred to, with the additional rule by brother Collins, were adopted for the government of the present session of this Conference.
- A motion by brother H. Bangs to print the rules, was, by motion, laid on the table.
- Standing Committees ordered.** By motion of brother Ames, the Conference ordered the following Standing Committees, viz., on Episcopacy, on Itinerancy, on Missions, on Boundaries, and on the Book Concern: such Committees to consist of one delegate from each of the Annual Conferences, to be nominated by the delegates from said Conferences.
- On motion of brother H. Bangs, Conference adjourned with prayer by brother J. S. Porter.

### MONDAY MORNING, MAY 3.

- May 3.** Bishop Janes in the chair.
- After the ordinary religious services by brother N. Bangs, the list was called, and the journal read and approved.
- Bar of Conference.** Brother Osbon moved that a line running with the second post from the door be the bar of the Conference.
- The following Standing Committees were appointed :—
- Episcopal Committee.**—*Episcopal Committee.*—P. P. Sandford, E. Scott, N. Bangs, T. Benedict, S. G. J. Worthington, E. H. Pilcher, S. T. Ballard, I. Chamberlayne, S. Wakefield, Jacob Young, W. H. Pillsbury, Peter Cartwright, Henry Summers, L. W. Berry, George Gary, Alfred Griffith, George Webber, D. Dailey, Hiram Kinsley, Daniel Webb, Richard Haney, Charles Adams, John S. Porter, Elias Bowen, John H. Pond, Henry W. Reed, Wm. Hosmer, Wm. H. Goode, Joseph H. Hopkins.
- Itinerancy Committee.**—*Itinerancy Committee.*—J. Z. Nichols, O. C. Baker, Heman Bangs, B. M. Hall, S. G. J. Worthington, E. Copeland, John Coil, N. D. George, W. H. Sampson, I. L. Hunt, Joseph H. Jenne, E. J. L. Baker, A. E. Phelps, J. M. Snyder, Adam Poe, H. W. Reed, H. N. Seaver, G. M. Beswith, C. J. Houts, F. B. Bangs, Philo E. Brown, Zachariah



Connell, J. B. Corrington, Elijah Whitten, John Davis, Wm. Barnes, David Patten, Jefferson Lewis, Miner Raymond. May 3.

*Mission Committee.*—George Peck, Elijah Mason, Bartholomew Creagh, John Clarke, S. G. J. Worthington, E. Copeland, Hom. J. Clark, Albert Church, Chauncey Hobart, Hiram Mattison, Charles C. Cone, B. S. Hill, L. Hitchcock, Silas Comfort, Henry Whitman, Joseph Brooks, John G. Gulick, S. T. Gillett, C. J. Houts, Resin Sapp, Thomas Carlton, Alfred M. Lorraine, E. D. James, E. R. Ames, N. J. B. Morgan, Erastus Benton, J. P. Durbin, Geo. F. Brown, Chas. K. True. Mission Committee.

*Committee on Boundaries.*—Phineas Rice, R. Dearborn, E. E. Griswold, Desivignia Starks, Moses Tichnell, J. C. Aspenwall, Thomas M. Hudson, Asahel Moore, Chauncey Hobart, Burroughs Holmes, Aaron Sanderson, Calvin Kingsley, John Chandler, I. Parks, Hiram M. Shaffer, Joseph Brooks, John Dennis, John L. Smith, Joseph H. Hopkins, Wellington H. Collins, Thomas Carlton, George W. Walker, Peter Akers, James Havens, John A. Gere, Francis Hodgson, William T. Harlow, James Ayers, Amos Binney. Boundary Committee.

*Committee on Book Concern.*—A. M. Osbon, John A. Collins, Elisha Adams, Thomas J. Thompson, Zebulon Phillips, Daniel Wise, Laban Clark, John M'Clintock, M. Tichenell, James Porter, A. T. Bullard, Robt. Hopkins, Asahel Moore, Henry Summers, A. J. Phelps, Stephen Allen, Wm. H. Hunter, S. P. Keys, David Holmes, John Quigley, Joseph Brooks, B. F. Tefft, Joseph Marsee, C. J. Houts, T. M'Clure, Eleazer Thomas, John F. Wright, Geo. Rutledge, Wm. M. Dailey. Book Concern Committee.

Brother Phelps moved to dispense with the order of the day. Carried.

On motion of brother N. Bangs, the Conference agreed to proceed to the election of Assistant Secretaries. Assistant Secretaries.

Brother H. Bangs moved that the Conference elect, by ballot, three Assistant Secretaries. Carried.

Brother Porter moved that the brother having the highest number of votes be the first Assistant, and the others in the same order. Agreed.

On motion, the Conference ordered that the tellers retire, and, with the aid of brothers Ames and Slicer, count the votes, and report to the Conference.

Brother J. A. Collins proposed the following:—

*Resolved,* That a committee of seven be appointed by the chair, to be denominated the Committee on Revisal, to whom shall be referred all petitions, memorials and propositions asking for or contemplating any change in the Discipline, unless otherwise ordered by the Conference. The resolution was amended, by saying one from each conference instead of seven, and adopted. Committee on Revisal ordered.

- May 3. Brother W. H. Goode offered the following:—
- Committees ordered. 1. *Resolved*, That a committee of seven be appointed by the chair, to whom shall be referred all matters pertaining to our seminaries of learning, to be called the Committee on Education. Adopted.
- Education. 2. That a similar committee be appointed upon the Bible Bible. cause, to whom shall be referred all matters pertaining to that subject. Adopted.
- Sabbath Schools and Tracts. 3. That a similar committee be appointed on Sabbath Schools and Tracts, to whom shall be referred all matters pertaining to these subjects. Adopted.
- Temperance. 4. That a similar committee be appointed on Temperance, to whom shall be referred all petitions and propositions on that subject. Adopted.
- Expenses of Delegates. 5. That a committee of three be appointed on the Expenses of the Delegates, whose duty it shall be to ascertain the amount of the expenses of the delegates, of the collections taken up to pay them, and the method of meeting deficiencies, should any occur. Adopted.
- Brother S. Comfort moved to amend the above by making it read "each delegate." Laid on the table.
- On motion of brother Kingsley, the fifth resolution was adopted.
- Committee on German Work. 6. That a committee of seven be appointed as above, to be denominated the Committee on the German Work. Adopted.
- Assistant Secretaries elected. The tellers reported, and the chair declared that brothers C. Adams and B. Griffen were elected Assistant Secretaries.
- Brother J. A. Collins offered the following:—
- Resolved*, That brother W. M. Daily, having the highest number of votes among those not elected, be now, by a rising vote, elected the third Assistant Secretary. Carried.
- Rules of Conference, &c., to be published. Brother Mattison proposed the following:—
- Resolved*, That the Committee on Printing be instructed to publish the rules of the Conference, together with the standing and other principal committees, and the boarding places of the delegates, in pamphlet form, for the use of the members of this body. Adopted.
- Brother Reddy moved that we now proceed to the order of the day, and hear the Address of the Superintendents. Carried.
- Bishop's Address read. Bishop Waugh then read to the Conference the Address of the Superintendents. (See *App.* V. p. 180.)
- After the reading of the Address, brother J. S. Porter offered the following, which was adopted:—
- Committee on the Funeral Services of Ep. Hedding. *Resolved*, That so much of the Address of the Bishops as relates to our lamented Bishop Hedding, be referred to a committee of five, with instructions to make arrangements for appropriate funeral services to be solemnized in this house some time during the session of this Conference, and

that they prepare a suitable record to be put upon the Journal. May 3.

Brother Tippett offered the following:—

That so much of the Episcopal Address as relates to the Episcopacy, be referred to the Committee on Episcopacy. Bishop's Address referred to Com. on Episcopacy.

That so much as relates to the subject of the Itinerancy, be referred to the Committee on Itinerancy. Itinerancy.

Also, that so much of the Address as relates to the subject of lengthening the time of probation in our Annual Conferences, be referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

That so much of the Address as refers to the subject of Temperance, be referred to the Committee on Temperance. Temperance.

That so much of the Address as relates to the publication of the books of our General Catalogue, be referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. Book Concern.

That so much as refers to the publication of Sunday-school Books and Tracts, be referred to the Committee on Sabbath Schools. Sabbath Schools.

That so much of the Address as relates to the Bible Cause, be referred to the Committee on that subject. Bible.

The certificate of brother J. Hascall was read. J. Hascall.

The Episcopal Address was on motion referred to the Committee on Publication, to be published at their discretion. Bishop's Address to be published.

Brother Berry moved to reconsider the vote creating a Committee on the German Work. Laid on the table. Berry's resolution tabled.

By motion, resumed the order of the day. Call was made for petitions and memorials.

Brother Coil, of the Pittsburgh Conference, presented a petition on the subject of boundaries, which was referred to the Committee on Boundaries. Pittsburgh Conf. on Boundaries.

Brother Haney moved to refer so much of the journals of the Rock River Conference as relates to boundaries, to the Committee on Boundaries. Rock River Conf. on Boundaries.

Brother Snyder moved to refer so much of the Oneida Conference journals as relates to boundaries, to the Committee on Boundaries. Oneida Conference on Boundaries.

Brother Marsee, of North Indiana Conference, presented a petition on the subject of boundaries, which was referred to the Committee on Boundaries. North Indiana Conference on Boundaries

Also moved, That so much of the journal of the North Indiana Conference as relates to the subject of boundaries, be referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Brother Goode presented certain papers on the subject of Sabbath Schools. Referred to the Committee on Sabbath Schools. Sabbath Schools.

Brother J. L. Smith presented certain papers relating to the establishment of a North-west paper, which were referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. North-west paper to Book Concern Com.

Brother Beswick, of North Indiana, presented certain papers from John Kesling and others, and asked their refer- North Indiana to Committee on German Work.

- May 3.           ence to Committee on Missions; but by motion they were referred to the Committee on the German Work.
- Western Virginia on Boundaries.   M. Tichenell, of Western Virginia, asked that so much of the journals as refers to boundaries, be referred to Committee on Boundaries.
- Memorial on Depository referred to Book Concern Com.   Brother Houts presented a memorial to the General Conference on the subject of a Depository, &c., on the Mississippi. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.
- Church Suit.           Also, a memorial from several brethren in Newark, Missouri, praying the General Conference to instruct the Commissioners to appeal the Church suit. Read, and on motion of brother J. A. Collins, was referred to a special committee of seven, to be appointed by the chair.
- Missouri Conference on Boundaries.   Also, that so much of the journals of the Missouri Conference as relates to the subject of boundaries, be referred to the Committee on Boundaries.
- Adjourned to 3, P. M.           On motion, the Conference agreed, that when it adjourn it adjourn to meet at 3 o'clock, P. M.
- Conference adjourned. Prayer by brother E. H. Pilcher.

#### MONDAY AFTERNOON.

- The Conference was opened by reading the Scriptures, singing, and prayer by brother A. Poe. Bishop Waugh in the chair.
- Calling Roll.           The calling of the list was ordered to be dispensed with hereafter.
- The journal of the morning session was read, corrected and approved.
- The Conference proceeded with the order of the day.
- The Bishop called for petitions and memorials.
- Michigan Conference Memorial to Committee on Revisals.   A memorial from Michigan Conference, relating to Home Evangelization, was presented by brother E. McClure. It was read in part, when the further reading was ordered to be dispensed with, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- Genesee Conference on Boundaries.   On motion of brother Chamberlayne, so much of the journal of the Genesee Conference as relates to the subject of boundaries, was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.
- G. W. Walker on Boundaries.           Brother G. W. Walker presented a memorial on the subject of boundaries, which was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.
- Vienna Circuit on Boundaries.           A memorial from Vienna Circuit, Ohio Conference, was presented by brother M. Marley, and referred to the Committee on Boundaries.
- Washington Circuit on Boundaries.   A resolution of Washington Circuit, Ohio Conference, was presented by brother Z. Connell, and referred to the Committee on Boundaries.
- Illinois Conference on Boundaries.   On motion of brother P. Cartwright, so much of the journals of the Illinois Conference as relates to the division of

that conference, was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

May 3.

Brother P. Kuhl presented a petition from the German preachers connected with the Illinois Conference, that they may be attached to both the Illinois and Rock River Conferences. The petition was referred to the Committee on the German Work.

German Preachers, Illinois Conference.

On motion of M. Simpson, so much of the journal of the Indiana Conference as relates to the division of that conference and the line between Indiana and North Indiana Conferences, was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Indiana Conference on Boundaries.

J. Havens presented a memorial from Southport Circuit, Indiana Conference, which was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Southport Circuit on Boundaries.

Also moved, That so much of the journal of Indiana Conference as relates to the Book Depository at Indianapolis, be referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

Indiana Conference on Book Depository.

On motion of M. Simpson, so much of the journal of Indiana Conference as relates to the formation of a German Conference, was referred to the Committee on the German Work.

Indiana Conference on the German Work.

H. Slicer, of Baltimore Conference, presented a memorial from the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the Baltimore City station, proposing the removal of the remains of Bishop Asbury and Bishop Emory to the new cemetery at Mount Olivet, which was read to the Conference. Whereupon, on motion of N. Bangs, it was resolved unanimously that this General Conference cordially approve of the proposition of said trustees, and that the secretary be requested to notify the said trustees of the action of the Conference upon their memorial.

Trustees of Baltimore, concerning reinterment of Bishops Asbury and Emory.

J. Bear, of Baltimore Conference, presented a petition from the West Baltimore station, relative to the Church suit, requesting that there may be no appeal from the decision of the United States Circuit Court, which was referred to a select committee of seven, yet to be appointed.

Church Suit.

A petition of W. M. Meminger, asking to be released from a debt to the Book Concern, was presented, and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

W.M. Meminger.

A memorial from New-Jersey Conference was presented by J. S. Porter, requesting the General Conference so to alter the Discipline of the Church, as to give to the Annual Conferences the power to decide who shall be claimants on the funds of the Conference, and to what extent.

N. Jersey Conference on claimants.

The above memorial pending, H. Bangs submitted the following resolution, which was adopted :—

*Resolved*, That a committee of seven be appointed to examine and consider whether our temporal economy does not require revision—and if any, what that revision is, and report the same to this Conference.

Committee on Temporal Economy.

- May 3. The memorial from New-Jersey Conference, was then referred to the committee just ordered.
- Course of study for local preachers. A resolution of the New-England Conference was presented by M. Raymond, on the subject of a course of study for local preachers. Referred to Committee on Revisals.
- Locating ministers. On motion of C. B. Tippet, so much of the Episcopal Address as relates to locating unacceptable ministers, was referred to the Committee on Itinerary.
- Bishop Hedding. The names of the committee ordered this morning for the purpose of providing for the funeral services occasioned by the decease of Bishop Hedding, were announced by the chair, viz. :—L. Clark, N. Bangs, D. Webb, A. Griffith, J. Porter.
- Notices were given, and the Conference adjourned. Prayer by brother Landon.

## TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 4.

- May 4. Bishop Morris in the chair.
- After the usual religious services by brother J. Corrington, the journals were read and approved.
- The names of D. D. Whedon and G. Moody were placed upon the list of members of the Conference—having presented their certificates.
- Committees. The chair announced the following committees :—
- Revisals. *Committee on Revisals.*—George Peck, O. C. Baker, S. D. Brown, S. Landon, S. G. J. Worthington, Wm. H. Pillsbury, T. M. Hudson, A. T. Bullard, H. Summers, G. Gary, G. Webber, H. Kinsley, A. E. Phelps, W. Reddy, E. Thomson, H. W. Reed, J. Dennis, W. H. Goode, C. J. Houts, W. H. Collins, T. Carlton, M. Marley, P. Akers, J. Havens, N. Wilson, F. Hodgson, J. M'Clintock, D. Webb, J. Porter.
- German Work. *Committee on German Work.*—J. F. Wright, E. R. Ames, P. Rice, P. Cartwright, W. Nast, J. C. Lyon, P. Kuhl.
- Education. *Committee on Education.*—M. Simpson, H. J. Clarke, D. D. Whedon, M. Crow, S. S. Roszel, L. Sperry, A. Stevens.
- Sabbath Schools and Tracts. *Committee on Sabbath Schools and Tracts.*—H. Slicer, D. P. Kidder, W. Patterson, A. Witherspoon, T. Barkdull, J. Hascall, J. Daniel.
- Bible cause. *Committee on Bible Cause.*—C. Elliott, J. Holdich, W. Hunter, D. W. Bristol, A. A. Reese, J. H. Whalen, G. Baker.
- Expenses of delegates. *Committee on the Expenses of Delegates.*—C. B. Tippet, J. M. Snyder, A. Magee.
- Church Suit. *Committee on Church Suit.*—J. Davis, L. Scott, M. Simpson, M. Raymond, R. O. Spencer, J. H. Perry, T. Carlton.
- Temporal Economy. *Committee on Temporal Economy.*—H. Bangs, Thomas

M'Carroll, U. Heath, J. Fraser, J. Bear, J. Cunningham, C. Brooks. May 4

*Committee on Temperance.*—H. Kinsley, F. Hodgson, L. W. Berry, G. Moody, I. Winner, E. B. Tenney, B. M. Brown. Temperance.

C. Adams asked to be excused from serving on the Committee on Episcopacy. C. Adams.  
Granted.

F. Hodgson was excused from serving on the Committee on Boundaries, and E. Miller nominated and appointed to serve on said Committee. F. Hodgson.

C. J. Houts was excused from serving on the Committee on Missions, and J. Hopkins appointed in his place. C. J. Houts.

P. P. Sandford moved, That so much of the journals of the New-York Conference as relates to the subject of boundaries, be referred to the Committee on Boundaries. Boundaries.

G. Peck presented a memorial from Greene-street Quarterly Conference, praying the General Conference to provide by rule for making the male superintendents of Sabbath schools members of the Quarterly Conference. Referred to Committee on Sabbath Schools. Sunday School Memorial.

The appeal of Ezra Sprague, of the Troy Conference, was, by vote, made the order of the day for Thursday morning next, at 9 o'clock. E. Sprague's appeal.

Z. Phillips moved that so much of the journals of the Troy Conference as refers to the amendment of our Ritual, be referred to the Committee on Revisals. Ritual.

He also presented certain resolutions of the State-street Quarterly Conference, of Troy City, which were read, and, on motion, the first resolution was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy, and the second resolution to the Committee on the Book Concern. Resolutions from State-street.

Brother Brown presented the request of P. R. Stover, requesting to be released from a claim of the Book Concern. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. P. R. Stover.

N. Bangs moved, That so much of the journals of the New-York East Conference as relates to our temporal economy, be referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy. Also, That so much of the journal as relates to boundaries, be referred to the Committee on Boundaries. Journals of New-York East Conference.

J. H. Perry presented the appeal of J. M. Pease, and, by motion, it was ordered to be taken up immediately after the reading of the journal on to-morrow morning. J. M. Pease.

B. Creagh presented the petition of Local Preachers in New-York and its vicinity, respecting a course of study for local preachers; which was read, and referred to the Committee on Revisals. Local Preachers.

N. Bangs moved, That so much of the journal of the New-York East Conference as relates to the same subject, be referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Bishop Waugh presented several papers from the Pitts- Boundaries.

- May 4. burgh Conference, on the subject of boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.  
 Brother Summers presented certain papers upon the subject of boundaries from Wisconsin Conference. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.
- Depository. Also, a communication on the subject of a Depository. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.
- Journals referred to Committee on Book Concern. Also moved, that so much of the journals of Wisconsin Conference as relates to a Depository, be referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. So referred.  
 W. H. Sampson presented a paper on the same subject. Referred as above.  
 H. Mattison moved, That so much of the journals of Black River Conference as refers to a Book Depository, be referred to the Committee on Book Concern.  
 H. Kinsley moved, That so much of the journals of the Erie Conference as relates to the Book Concern, be referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.
- Local Preachers. Also, That so much of the journal as relates to the course of study for local preachers, be referred to Committee on Revisals.
- Boundaries. Also, That so much of the journal as relates to boundaries, be referred to the Committee on Boundaries.
- Slavery. C. Kingsley presented a paper upon the subject of slavery. Referred to Committee on Revisals.
- Boundaries. Also, one on boundaries. Referred to Committee on Boundaries.
- Depositories and paper. By motion, all the papers now present from the bounds of the Rock River Conference, on the subject of Book Depositories and Conference paper at Chicago, were referred to the Committee on Book Concern.  
 E. H. Pilcher moved that whenever a petition, memorial, or resolution of an Annual Conference is presented and explained, it shall take the reference desired, unless objected to by the Conference.
- Lay Delegation. Brother Sperry presented a paper from the people of Oneida District on the subject of Lay Delegation.  
 N. Bangs moved to create a committee of seven, to whom all petitions, &c., on this subject shall be referred. On motion, it was laid on the table for the present, as was also the paper presented by brother Sperry.
- Report of Committee on Publication. By motion, the order of the day was suspended, to make way for the Committee on Publication.  
 G. Peck made a verbal report, which was afterwards reduced to writing, and is as follows:—
- Report of Publication Committee. The Committee on Publication report in part, That after due inquiry, the committee find that competent reporters to report the proceedings of the body can be procured for three hundred dollars; and that the committee having the proprietorship of the Daily Zion's Herald, will



pay one hundred dollars of this expense. The committee ask of the Conference instruction, as to an arrangement with reporters and the proprietors of the Daily Zion's Herald, for the publication of the proceedings of this Conference upon the terms above specified.

May 4.

GEO. PECK, *Chairman.*

May 4, 1852.

*Resolved*, That the Conference approve of the employment of two reporters by the Committee on Publication, on the conditions stated in the report. Reporters.

Order of the day further suspended to admit the following, offered by H. Mattison:—

*Resolved*, That the Book Agents present, or who may be present, who are not members of this body, be invited to a seat within the bar, and to take part in our discussions on all subjects relating to the Book Concern. Adopted. Book Agents.

E. Bowen presented a memorial on the subject of circulating our books. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. Circulating of Books.

Also, one from the Quarterly Conference of Wyoming and Troy charges, which was referred to Committee on Revisals.

J. M. Snyder presented a memorial from Nicholas charge on lay delegation. Laid on the table.

A. Poe moved, That so much of the journals of the North Ohio Conference, touching H. O. Sheldon's indebtedness to the Book Concern, be referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. H. O. Sheldon.

E. Thomson presented a petition from Delaware, Ohio, on the subject of boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries. Boundaries.

J. H. Power presented a paper on the same subject; referred as above.

H. W. Reed presented a paper on the subject of boundaries. Also moved, That so much of the journal of the Ohio Conference as relates to a Book Depository and Paper in the North-west, be referred to Committee on Book Concern. Depository and North-west paper.

Brother Crow presented a resolution of the Genesee Conference on the course of study for local preachers; referred to the Committee on Revisals. Also, one touching a Book Depository; referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. Local Preachers. Depository.

Brother Gulick presented a paper touching claimants upon conference funds; referred to Committee on Temporal Economy. Claimants.

J. Dennis presented the following:—

1. Memorial from Quarterly Conference of Fourth charge, in Rochester, on the subject of boundaries. Referred to Committee on Boundaries. Boundaries.

- May 4. 2. A similar paper from Third charge in Rochester. Same reference.
3. A memorial from Quarterly Conference of Sodus Ridge, touching the claim of superannuated and supernumerary preachers. Referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.
- Change of Restrictions. Also, a memorial from the Ministerial Association, asking several changes in our Discipline, removing restrictions, &c., which was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.
- California. W. H. Goode presented a paper from I. Owen, on the subject of a Book Depository and Paper in California. Referred to Committee on Book Concern.
- Brother Marsee presented papers relating to conference boundaries. Referred to Committee on Boundaries.
- J. M. Stagg. J. L. Smith moved that the appeal of J. M. Stagg, of North Indiana Conference, be made the order of the day for Monday morning next, at 9 o'clock.
- Brother Gillett presented papers from California, on the subject of boundaries. Referred to Committee on Boundaries.
- Depository and paper. Also, one relative to Book Depository and Paper, which was referred to Committee on the Book Concern.
- J. L. Smith, a similar paper. Like reference.
- Brother Houts presented a paper on boundaries. Referred to Committee on Boundaries.
- German Work. *Resolved*, That so much of the journals of the Missouri Conference as relates to the subject of the German Work, be referred to the Committee on the German Work.
- Depository and North-west paper. F. B. Bangs presented a paper on the subject of a Book Depository and Paper in the North-west, which was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.
- Brother Pilcher presented a paper on boundaries; it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.
- Also, one on studies of probationers; it was referred to the Committee on Education.
- Books and depositories. T. Carlton presented a paper relating to the circulating of books, establishing of depositories, &c.; referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.
- B. Williams. Also, a petition of Benajah Williams, asking to be released from debt to Book Concern. Referred as above.
- Depositories. Also moved, That so much of the journal of the Genesee Conference as relates to Book Depositories, be referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.
- Superannuated Preachers. Brother Brown moved, That so much of the journal of the Genesee Conference as refers to the superannuated preachers and their claims, be referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.
- Time of Probation. Also, That so much as refers to the time of the probation of travelling preachers, be referred to Committee on Revisals.
- Seating Hearers. J. Young presented a memorial from Rushville Circuit,

- on the subject of seating our congregations. Referred to the Committee on Revisals. May 4.
- R. O. Spencer presented a resolution of Ohio Conference, relating to probation in Annual Conferences. Referred to Committee on the Itinerancy. Probationers.
- J. F. Wright presented a memorial on the subject of ministerial support. Referred to Committee on Temporal Economy. Ministerial Support.
- Also, a paper from S. Williams, on the subject of a cheap commentary. Referred to Committee on Book Concern. Cheap Commentary.
- Brother Nast presented the action of the Ohio Conference on the subject of a German Conference. Referred to the Committee on the German Work. German Conference.
- C. Elliott presented the action of the Ohio Conference on the subject of a mission to Rome. Referred to the Committee on Missions. Mission to Rome.
- Also, a petition on the subject of boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.
- Also, a petition from Wesley Chapel, Dayton, and High-street, Springfield, relating to the action of the Ohio Conference relative to Union Chapel, Cincinnati. Referred to the Committee on Itinerancy. Union Chapel, Cincinnati.
- Also moved, That the appeal of John S. Inskip, of the Ohio Conference, be made the order of the day for Tuesday next. John S. Inskip.
- Brother Moody presented a paper from N. M'Lean, on the subject of Indian Missions. Referred to Committee on Missions. Indian Missions.
- P. Akers presented a resolution of the Illinois Conference, asking that the estate of W. B. Carter be released from indebtedness to the Book Concern. Also, one in reference to a depository and paper in the west. Both referred to the Committee on Book Concern. W. B. Carter.
- Brother Corrington presented a paper in reference to a Church paper in the west. Read and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. Paper in the West.
- Brother Whitten presented a petition for the release of a claim of the Book Concern against Mrs. A. Hensley. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. Mrs. A. Hensley.
- Brother Berry presented a statistical report of Asbury University. Referred to the Committee on Education. Asbury University.
- Brother Simpson presented a similar document from Georgetown Seminary. Referred to same Committee. Georgetown Seminary.
- J. A. Collins presented a memorial from Washington city, touching the erection of a house of worship in Washington city. Read, and referred to a Committee of three. Washington city Church.
- F. Hodgson presented a memorial relating to tract distribution. Referred to Committee on Tracts. Tracts.
- Also, one touching the claims of superannuated preachers, &c. Referred to the Committee on Revisals. Claims of Superannuated Preachers.

- May 4. Also, a resolution on the subject of appeals. Referred as above.
- Church Suit. The Committee on the Church Suit obtained leave of absence from the morning session.
- Local Preachers. G. F. Brown presented a resolution of New-Jersey Conference on the course of study of local preachers. Referred to Committee on Revisals.
- Zion's Herald. Brother Patten asked that so much of the journal of the Providence Conference as relates to Zion's Herald, making it a Conference paper, be referred to Committee on the Book Concern.
- Local Preachers. Also, presented a resolution of concurrence with Erie Conference on course of study for local preachers. Referred to Committee on Revisals.
- Missions. Also, a resolution of Providence Conference on the subject of missions. Referred to Committee on Missions.  
M. Raymond presented a memorial from Charlestown, referring to alterations in the Discipline. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- M'Kendree College. Brother Corrington presented a communication from M'Kendree College. Referred to Committee on Education.
- Publishing books in Germany. Bishop Janes presented certain letters from Germany on the subject of publishing books in Germany. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.
- Change in Standing Committees. The delegation of Illinois Conference requested a change in the members of the standing committees as follows:— Peter Cartwright, to the Committee on Boundaries; and Peter Akers, to the Committee on Episcopacy. Granted.
- H. M. Shaffer. H. M. Shaffer was added to the Committee on Temporal Economy.
- J. Hascall. J. Hascall was nominated by his delegation, and was appointed a member of the Committee on Episcopacy.
- Committee on Washington Memorial. The chair announced the Committee on the memorial from Washington city, viz.:—J. Bear, E. E. Griswold, E. Thomson.  
The following resolution was adopted:—
- Annual Conference Journals. *Resolved*, That the journals of the several Annual Conferences be placed in the possession of the Committee on Itinerancy; and that all extracts rendered for the use of the General Conference shall be made by the Secretary of each Annual Conference, or, in his absence, by the representative of said Conference on the said Committee, and shall be regarded as authentic, for the use of the General Conference or any of its committees.  
The journal of the New-York Conference was read, showing that P. Rice was elected a delegate of this Conference.
- Monument to deceased Bishops. *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to receive the voluntary contributions of members of this body, to aid in the erection of a suitable monument in memory of our lamented Bishops, Asbury, George, and Emory.

The following substitute was offered and adopted :—

May 4.

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to receive the voluntary contributions of the members of this Conference, to aid in the project of the Baltimore brethren for the erection of a monument to the memory of our deceased Bishops.

Conference adjourned. Benediction by P. P. Sandford

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 5.

Bishop Janes in the chair.

May 5.

Conference met at 8 o'clock, and was opened by reading the Scriptures, singing, and prayer by J. Ayres.

The journal of yesterday read, corrected and approved.

The chair announced the Committee on the Baltimore Monument, viz. :—H. Slicer, A. J. Phelps, U. Heath.

Monumental Committee.

Elijah Miller, delegate from Philadelphia Conference, appeared and took his seat.

E. Miller.

The order of the day was suspended to provide a Committee to prepare a Pastoral Address; wherefore H. Mattison submitted the following resolution, which was adopted :

Pastoral Address.

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to draw up a suitable Pastoral Address to be issued by this General Conference to the membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Robert Hopkins, delegate from Pittsburgh Conference, appeared and took his seat.

The appeal of J. M. Pease was, on motion of J. H. Perry, J. M. Pease. deferred to Friday morning, immediately after the reading of the journal.

The order of the day was further suspended; and on motion of H. J. Clarke it was ordered that the appeal of J. N. M'Abree from the decision of the Pittsburgh Conference, be made the order of the day for Wednesday morning next, at 9 o'clock.

J. N. M'Abree.

The report of the Book Concern at New-York, was presented and read to the Conference, and on motion of L. Clark was referred (except so much as relates to the Church Suit) to the Committee on the Book Concern.

Report of New-York Book Concern.

So much as refers to the suit was referred to the Committee on the Church Suit.

Church Suit.

Moved, That the report be published in Zion's Herald.

J. Porter moved, as a substitute, That the report be submitted to the Committee on Publication, with instruction to publish so much thereof as they may deem suitable. Laid on the table.

E. Bowen then moved so to amend the original motion as to order the publication of the report in all our Church papers. The amendment and the motion as amended were adopted.

- May 5. D. P. Kidder, who was appointed at the General Conference of 1848 to revise our standard Catechisms under the supervision of the Book Committee, presented his report, which was read, and, on motion of N. Bangs, was referred to a committee of three.
- Catechisms.
- New-York Conference. P. P. Sandford presented the resolution of New-York Conference, concurring with the Ohio resolution, concerning time of probation. Referred to Committee on Itinerancy.
- Claims. Z. Phillips presented a resolution from Washington-street, West Troy, on the claims of superannuated preachers, which was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.
- Pews, &c. Also, a petition from the same Quarterly Conference on Pews and Church Sitings. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- Western Virginia Academy. Brother Worthington presented the catalogue and statistical account of North-Western Virginia Academy. Referred to the Committee on Education.
- Tracts. On motion of Brother Sampson, so much of the journals of the Wisconsin Conference as relates to the subject of Tracts, was referred to the Committee on Sunday Schools and Tracts.
- Uniformity of administration. C. Hobart presented a paper from Jamesville, Wisconsin Conference, for the adoption of measures to insure uniformity of administration. Referred to Committee on Revisals.
- Slavery. H. Summers presented a memorial from Bristol circuit, Wisconsin Conference, on Slavery, which was referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- W. Patterson presented a memorial from Mercer station, Erie Conference, on the subject of Slavery. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- D. Pritchard. E. J. Baker presented a request from Erie Conference to remit the claim of the Book Concern against D. Pritchard. Referred to Committee on the Book Concern.
- Depository. R. Haney presented a memorial from Elizabeth charge, Rock River Conference, praying the General Conference to establish at Chicago a Book Depository and religious paper. Referred to Committee on the Book Concern.
- Term of Probation. On motion of A. J. Phelps, so much of the journal of Rock River Conference as relates to the extension of the term of probation, was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.
- California Conference. A. J. Phelps presented a communication from the California Conference on the subject of boundaries and a Book Department, which was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.
- Love-Feasts. D. W. Bristol presented a resolution from Oneida Conference on the subject of Love-Feasts. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- Slavery. Also, a memorial from members of the Methodist Epis-

copal Church of Cazenovia station, on the subject of Slavery. Referred to the Committee on Revisals. May 5.

Also, a memorial on the subject of a course of study for local preachers. Referred to Committee on Revisals. Local Preachers.

Also, from brother Bannister, of the California Conference. E. Bannister. Referred to Committee on Missions.

Also, a resolution of Oneida Conference, asking the power to determine who are, and who are not, claimants of the funds of the Conference, and requesting a change of the rule on that subject. Referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy. Claimants.

Also, a memorial from Oneida Conference relating to the establishment of a Book Depository in central New-York. Referred to Committee on Book Concern. Depository.

Brother Shaffer presented a memorial from North Ohio Conference, on the subject of boundaries. Referred to Committee on Boundaries. Boundaries.

H. W. Reed moved that so much of the journal of the Iowa Conference as relates to extending the term of probation be referred to the Committee on Itinerancy. Term of probation.

Also, presented a memorial relating to a course of study for local preachers. Referred to Committee on Revisals. Local preachers.

Also, a memorial on boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

On motion of M. Crow, so much of the journal of the East Genesee Conference as relates to boundaries was referred to the Committee on Boundaries. Boundaries.

Bishop Morris presented a memorial from Hiram Thayer, of Onondaga County, N. Y.; and so much as relates to slavery was referred to the Committee on Revisals, and so much as relates to temperance to the Committee on Temperance, and so much as relates to orthography to the Committee on Education. H. Thayer.  
Slavery.  
Temperance.  
Orthography.

P. Cartwright presented a paper from Illinois Conference on boundaries. Referred to Committee on Boundaries. Boundaries.

A memorial of J. V. Watson, editor of Michigan Christian Advocate, offering that paper to the General Conference, was presented, and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. J. V. Watson.

Brother Sapp presented a report and catalogue of Albion Seminary. Referred to the Committee on Education. Albion Seminary.

On motion of brother Brown, so much of the journal of Genesee Conference as relates to the time which a bishop may continue a preacher in the same charge, was referred to the Committee on Revisals. Change of restrictions.

C. Elliott presented a petition from brethren of Union Chapel, of Cincinnati, praying the General Conference to instruct the Episcopal board to appoint a preacher for the purpose of organizing them into a Methodist Episcopal Society. Referred to the Committee on Episcopacy. Union Chapel.

- May 5. M. Marley presented a memorial from W. Herr, of the  
W. Herr. Ohio Conference, referring to the journal of that Conference  
in relation to the passage of his character.  
It was moved that the memorial be read.  
Moved, to lay the last motion on the table. Lost.  
The motion to read prevailed, and the memorial was read,  
and then referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.
- Monthly journal. J. F. Wright presented a memorial from W. P. Strick-  
land, on the subject of a monthly journal. Referred to the  
Committee on Book Concern.
- Kentucky me- Also a petition from Kentucky, praying that an annual  
morial. conference be formed in that State. Referred to Committee  
on Boundaries.  
Also a petition from Kentucky, requesting that very few  
alterations be made in our excellent Discipline, and especially  
opposed to a lay delegation. Laid on table for the present.
- Depository. G. Moody presented a memorial and argument from  
brother Dryden, in relation to a Book Depository at San  
Francisco. Referred to Committee on Book Concern.
- Urbana in ref- M. Marley presented a memorial from Urbana station,  
erence to pewed Ohio Conference, on pewed houses of worship. Referred  
churches. to the Committee on Itinerancy.
- Danville Semin- P. Cartwright presented a memorial from the president of  
ary. Danville Seminary. Referred to Committee on Education.
- M. Clappet. On motion of P. Akers, so much of the journal of Illi-  
nois Conference as relates to the indebtedness of Moses  
Clappet to the Book Concern, was referred to the Commit-  
tee on the Book Concern.
- Time of proba- On motion of brother Corrington, so much of the jour-  
tion. nal of Illinois Conference as relates to the extension of the  
time of probation of itinerant ministers, was referred to the  
Committee on Itinerancy.
- Boundaries. F. Hodgson presented a memorial from Philadelphia  
Conference on boundaries. Referred to the Committee  
on Boundaries.
- Germany. J. P. Durbin presented a resolution of the Missionary  
Board, in relation to the circulation of religious books in  
Germany. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.
- Newark Insti- D P. Kidder presented statistics of Newark Wesleyan  
tute. Institute. Referred to the Committee on Education.
- Sunday-School Also a memorial of Sunday-School Union, and a memo-  
Union. rial of the Editor of Tracts. Referred to the Committee on  
Tracts.
- Lay delegates. M. Raymond presented a memorial from a convention  
of lay delegates of the M. E. Church, which was read to  
the Conference.  
P. Cartwright moved its reference to the Committee on  
Revisals, which was laid on the table.
- Committee of A motion was then made, That the above memorial be  
twenty-nine. referred to a special committee of twenty-nine.



Moved to lay the above motion on the table. Lost.

May 5.

The resolution was then adopted.

The committee was instructed to give the delegates a hearing on the subject of their memorial.

A motion, that the members of the said committee be nominated by their delegations respectively, was laid upon the table.

J. Porter presented a memorial from Ashburnham, asking for the abolishment of the office of Presiding Elders, and supplying its place by that of Chairman of Districts, in those annual conferences which may prefer such an arrangement. Referred to the Committee on Itinerancy. Presiding Elders.

J. P. Durbin presented a petition of Liberia Conference, asking the appointment of a bishop for that field of labour. Referred to the Committee on Missions. Liberia Conference.

Also, presented the minutes of the two last sessions of the Oregon and California Mission Conference. Referred to the Committee on Itinerancy. Oregon and California Conference.

Also, a petition of the California Conference, in reference to its division. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Also, from the same conference, asking that some provision be made relating to ministers from the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, coming within the bounds of that conference. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Also, a petition from brother Simmons, of California, asking for a recognition of the California Christian Advocate, which was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. Christian Advocate, California.

Bishop Morris presented a communication from Isaac Owen, of San Francisco. Whereupon it was ordered that so much of the said communication as refers to a book depository, &c., be referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. I. Owen.

The papers relating to lay delegation, which were previously laid upon the table, were now taken up, and referred to the committee of twenty-nine, just ordered. Lay delegation.

The committee ordered for the purpose of examining the Catechism reported by D. P. Kidder, was announced by the chair—Elias Bowen, J. H. Power, G. Webber. Catechism Committee.

S. Comfort presented the following resolution, which was adopted:—

“Whereas, some obscurity of sentiment and practice obtains among us respecting the relation between baptism and the Lord’s Supper, as to the order of time in which they should be administered, therefore, Baptism and Lord’s Supper.

“Resolved, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to take into consideration the propriety of inserting a rule in the directions relating to the Lord’s Supper, with a view to promote greater uniformity among us, and report thereon.

“S. COMFORT,  
H. MATTISON.”

May 5. On motion of brother Reddy, the papers on lay delegation, now in the hands of the Committee on Revisals, were transferred to the committee of twenty-nine, ordered this morning.

The time of adjournment having arrived, notices were given, and the Conference adjourned.

#### THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 6, 1852.

- May 6. Bishop Waugh in the chair.  
After the usual religious services by I. Chamberlayne, the journals were read and approved.
- I. Winner and W. Hunter. I. Winner and W. Hunter presented their certificates of election as members of this General Conference, and their names were entered on the list.  
On motion of N. Bangs, the order of the day was suspended to offer the following resolution:—  
*Resolved*, That the committee for superintending the appointments, together with three members of this Conference, to be appointed by the chair, be instructed to take into consideration, and prepare for the celebrating of the introduction of Methodism into New-England by Rev. Jesse Lee, by appropriate services on Boston Common, and report a time and person suitable to deliver an address.
- Introduction of Methodism into New-England. On motion of J. Davis, the above was laid on the table for the present.  
The chair announced the following committees:—  
*Committee on Lay Delegation.*—M. Simpson, P. Rice, O. C. Baker, Z. Phillips, B. Creagh, S. G. J. Worthington, N. D. George, H. J. Clarke, J. C. Aspinwall, C. Hobart, G. Baker, J. H. Jenne, J. H. Whalen, R. Haney, S. Comfort, A. Poe, J. G. Dimmitt, J. G. Gulick, J. Marsee, C. J. Houts, E. H. Pilcher, I. Chamberlayne, J. Young, P. Cartwright, A. Griffith, F. Hodgson, G. F. Brown, D. Patten, and M. Raymond.
- Committee on lay delegation. *Committee on Pastoral Address.*—C. Elliott, G. Gary, J. M'Clintock, J. A. Gere, A. Stevens.  
Brother Goode moved further to suspend the order of the day. Agreed to.
- Committee on Pastoral Address. Boundaries. Brother Goode presented a memorial from Indianapolis, on boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.
- E. Sprague. By motion, the Conference agreed to take up the special order of the day—the appeal of E. Sprague.  
J. Holdich offered the following:—
- Closed doors. That in this, and all the appeal cases coming before us, the Conference sit with closed doors. This motion was laid on the table.
- E. Sprague. The chair called on the appellant to state the grounds of his appeal. E. Sprague gave to the Conference his reasons for appealing.

The journals and documents on the case of E. Sprague were read to the Conference. The appellant, E. Sprague, was then heard in his defence. At the close of his speech, the following resolution prevailed:—

May 6.

That when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at 3 o'clock.

By motion, the case of E. Sprague was laid on the table for the present.

J. Porter reported, in part, on the subject of the funeral services of Bishop Hedding, as follows:—

The Committee, to whom was referred that part of the Bishops' Address which related to the decease of our lamented Bishop Hedding, with instructions to provide for suitable funeral services, &c., beg leave to report, in part, as follows:—

*Resolved*, That the said services be solemnized in this house on Thursday afternoon next, and that our senior Bishop Waugh be respectfully requested to preach a sermon on that occasion.

The Conference granted the committee on the monument to the memory of our deceased bishops, leave to pass their subscription-paper through the Conference room, and also to receive subscriptions from other than members of the Conference.

J. M'Clintock was excused from serving on the Book Committee, and, by nomination of the New-Jersey delegation, D. P. Kidder was appointed to fill the vacancy.

J. M'Clintock.

D. P. Kidder.

The Conference then adjourned.

Prayer by C. B. Tippett.

#### THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Bishop Morris in the chair.

The Conference met at 3 o'clock, and was opened by reading the Scriptures, singing, and prayer by brother Phelps.

The journal of the morning session was read and approved.

The case of E. Sprague was, on motion, resumed, and A. Witherspoon, on the part of the Troy Conference, responded, and afterwards Z. Phillips further responded; after which the appellant replied, and then the Conference, on motion, adjourned, with the benediction by J. Clark.

Case of Ezra Sprague.

#### FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 7, 1852.

Bishop Janes in the chair.

The religious exercises of the morning were led by E. Bowen, after which the journals were read and approved.

May 7.

On motion of N. Bangs, the order of the day was suspended, and the Conference resolved to take up the case of E. Sprague.

Case of E. Sprague concluded.

May 7.

N. Bangs proposed the following:—

*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several annual conferences, in General Conference assembled, That the action of the Troy Annual Conference, by which Ezra Sprague was expelled, be, and the same is, hereby affirmed.

Seconded by L. Clark.

P. S. Hill moved that the resolution be so amended as to read, "that the action by which E. Sprague was expelled, be not affirmed."

The proposed amendment was, on motion of P. P. Sandford, laid on the table.

J. Parks moved, as a substitute for N. Bangs's resolution, the following:—

That the case of E. Sprague be referred back to the Troy Conference for a new trial on the same charges.

The substitute, on motion of L. Hitchcock, was laid on the table.

C. K. True proposed to submit a substitute, that called for an expression from the chair as to what was the usual method of action in appealed cases.

The chair stated, that in the Annual Conferences the bishops decided questions of law; in the General Conference they did not. That was the reason there had been no response to the several appeals that had been made to the chair. He had stated, in the early part of the proceedings, what had been the usage of former General Conferences, viz., to refer the case back for a new trial, reverse or affirm the decision of the Annual Conference. The proposition now made proposed to introduce a new principle and mode of proceeding. If the Conference choose to adopt it, the chair does not question its authority to do so.

P. P. Sandford moved, that we adhere to our usual course in such cases, as stated by the chair. Not sustained.

The resolution of N. Bangs, affirming the action of the Troy Conference, was passed—yeas 110, nays 37.

Appeal of J. M.  
Pease.

The Conference resolved to take up the appeal of John M. Pease, of the New-York East Conference.

After some remarks upon this case, A. M. Osbon moved to refer the case to the Committee on Itinerancy, with instruction to make a special report thereon. Carried.

The order of the day was suspended to present the following:—

Court of Appeal.

*Resolved*, That the subject of providing for a constitutional test and council of appeal, submitted to the General Conference of 1848, and the report of the committee on the same, as found on page 128 of the printed journal, be called for and read. Also, that it be committed to a select committee of five, with instructions to report a bill in form.

"L. CLARK,  
N. BANGS."

The resolution was adopted.

May 7.

L. Clark presented a paper touching the subject, which was referred to the above committee.

The order of the day was further suspended to admit the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Book Concern be instructed to take into consideration the expediency of having our book of Discipline published in the Swedish language. Discipline in Swedish.

The order of the day was suspended for the following:—

On motion, the Conference reconsidered the vote giving a paper from the Philadelphia Conference on the subject of a method of trying appeals, to the Committee on Revisals, and ordered that said paper be referred to the committee just ordered on that subject. Court of Appeal.

The order of the day was further suspended, and A. Magee was appointed a member of the Book Committee, to fill a place vacated by the illness of R. Hopkins. A. Magee on Book Committee.

The order of the day was further suspended, and, on motion of D. P. Kidder, T. Carlton was added to the Committee on Temporal Economy. T. Carlton.

The order of the day was indefinitely suspended by vote.

W. H. Goode presented the following resolution, which was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Temporal Economy be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making the following amendment on page 166 of the Discipline, viz., to strike out all after the word “years” in the fifth line of paragraph 3, section 2, part iii, to the close of said paragraph, and insert instead thereof, “and a preacher whose wife is dead, leaving a child or children of such age as to have a claim for support, shall be allowed, at the discretion of the estimating committee, a sum sufficient to meet the necessary expenses of his family, under the peculiar circumstances.” Temporal Economy.

H. Kinsley was excused from serving on the Committee on Revisals, and E. J. L. Baker appointed to fill his place. E. J. L. Baker.

H. Summers was excused from serving on the Committee of the Book Concern, and W. H. Sampson was appointed in his place. W. H. Sampson.

T. Carlton was excused from serving on the Committee on Boundaries, and P. E. Brown was appointed to fill his place. P. E. Brown.

J. H. Power offered the following:—

*Resolved*, 1st. That a committee of three be appointed to collect from the journals of the several Annual Conferences the episcopal decisions there recorded on all questions of law and the administration of discipline, and all other questions that pertain to our economy. Episcopal decisions.

2d. That when these decisions are collected, the bishops be respectfully requested to review, revise, and prepare

- May 7. them, together with those of their official decisions which have not been recorded on the Annual Conference journals, for publication in book form.
- 3d. That when they are thus prepared, the Book Agents be directed to publish these official decisions, in such form that they can, when desired, be bound together with the Discipline, in one volume.
- A motion to lay the above on the table, failed.
- By motion of J. Holdich, the resolutions were referred to the Committee on Episcopacy, to examine and report thereon.
- Mission Conference. F. Hodgson presented a memorial from coloured brethren in the bounds of Philadelphia Conference, in regard to setting apart a Mission Conference. Referred to Com. on Missions.
- Resolutions of General Conference to be published. J. H. Power offered the following:—*Resolved*, That the resolutions of the General Conference which are to govern in the administration of discipline, be also collected by said committee, and published as above indicated.
- It was referred to Com. on Episcopacy, with instructions to consider and report thereon. By motion, laid on the table.
- Court of Appeal Committee. The chair announced the committee ordered this morning on the subject of a court of appeal, viz., L. Clark, L. Scott, H. Kinsley, L. W. Berry, J. Porter.
- Conference adjourned. Benediction by H. Slicer.

## SATURDAY, MAY 8.

- May 8. Bishop Waugh in the chair.
- Conference met at 8 o'clock, and was opened by reading the Scriptures, singing, and prayer by G. Webber.
- The journal of yesterday was read, corrected, and approved.
- The order of the day was taken up.
- General Missionary Committee report. P. P. Sandford presented the report of the General Missionary Committee for the last four years, which was read and ordered to be filed with the Conference papers. (See *Appendix D*, p. 134.)
- Report of New-York Book Committee. The report of the New-York Book Committee was presented and read, and referred to Committee on Book Concern.
- Exhibit of Western Book Concern. The Agents of the Western Book Concern in Cincinnati had leave to present their exhibit of that establishment, which was read. Also the Agents' report of the same concern for the last four years, was read, and both papers referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.
- Western Book Concern report. The report of the Book Committee on the Western Book Concern was presented, read, and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.
- General Missionary Committee report. On motion of N. Bangs, the Conference reconsidered the vote by which the report of the General Missionary Committee was disposed of, and said report was referred to Committee on Publication, to be disposed of at their discretion

J. A. Collins presented and read a report, in part, of the Committee on the Book Concern, the several resolutions of which were ordered to be acted upon item by item.

May 8.

REPORT.

"The Committee on the Book Concern, to whom were referred the memorials of P. R. Stover, W. M. Meminger, and Mrs. Ann Hensley, praying release from claims held by the Book Agents; the resolution of the North Ohio Conference in relation to the claim against H. O. Sheldon; and of the Erie Conference, in relation to the claim against D. Pritchard; and also the memorial of Samuel Williams, in relation to the publication of a cheap commentary upon the Bible—have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to submit the following report thereon:—

"The memorial of P. R. Stover states, that on the 18th day of January, 1851, he mailed at St. Albans, for the Book Agents at New-York, the sum of \$20, for the purchase of books, which did not reach its destination; to which is appended the certificate of the postmaster at St. Albans, testifying to the mailing of the letter at the time specified. P. R. Stover.

"There is no doubt that by some means the money was lost on its passage; but as, by an established principle in the transaction of their business, the Agents do not hold themselves responsible for money mailed to them in payment for books, in view of the large discount made on them to travelling preachers, your Committee are of opinion that the prayer of the petitioner for relief ought not to be granted, and therefore recommend to the General Conference the adoption of the following resolution:—

"*Resolved*, That the request of P. R. Stover, contained in his memorial to this General Conference, to be released from the claim held against him by the Book Agents at New-York, be not granted."

This resolution was adopted.

"The memorial of W. M. Meminger represents, that he had received from Jehu Hank, a local preacher on Monroe Circuit, Baltimore Conference, the sum of \$100, to be paid to the Book Agents at New-York, and on his way to Conference he passed through Washington city, and visited the senate chamber, where the money was picked from his pocket, which fact is certified to by J. W. Ewing and R. D. Chambers. The memorialist, under the impression that he is responsible to the Book Agents for this money, prays the General Conference to release him from that liability. W. M. Meminger.

"Your Committee are of opinion that the General Conference has no jurisdiction in the case, as presented in the

May 8. memorial, and recommend the adoption of the following resolution:—

“*Resolved*, That the Book Committee be discharged from the further consideration of the memorial of W. M. Meminger.”

This resolution was adopted.

Mrs. A. Hensley. “Mrs. Ann Hensley prays to be released from the payment of a certain note, held by the Agents at Cincinnati against her deceased husband, on the ground that the note was given for a debt contracted before their marriage, for which she received no benefit, and all their means had been exhausted in meeting their liabilities, especially those to the Book Concern.

“It appears that the Agents hold two notes against brother Hensley, and the petitioner asks to be released from the payment of the note of the oldest date—stating that she will try to pay the other.

“In view of the facts and circumstances in this case, the Committee recommend to the General Conference the adoption of the following resolutions:—

“*Resolved*, 1st. That the Book Agents at Cincinnati have no claim against sister Hensley for the payment of the old note, referred to in her memorial, and that they be, and hereby are, directed to cancel the same.

*Resolved*, 2d. That if, on examination, the Agents find endorsements of credit on the old note for moneys paid since the death of brother Hensley, they be, and hereby are, instructed to enter said credits upon the other note of later date.”

The above resolutions were adopted.

H. O. Sheldon. “In regard to the claim against H. O. Sheldon, and the claim against Daniel Pritchard, your Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution:—

“*Resolved*, That the claim against H. O. Sheldon for \$724 83, and the claim against Daniel Pritchard for \$113, be referred to the Book Agents, to be settled at their discretion.”

Brother Hill moved to amend, so as to release D. Pritchard from his debt to the Book Concern, which was laid on the table.

J. H. Power moved to amend, so that the claim of H. O. Sheldon be referred to the Book Agents, with power to compound the debt at their discretion. Laid on the table.

The resolution was then adopted.

Commentary on the Bible.

“The memorial of Samuel Williams prays the General Conference to cause to be published a brief but comprehensive Commentary upon the Bible, adapted to the use of the great body of the Methodist people, either as an abridgment of the standard Commentaries now in existence in the Methodist Episcopal Church, or as an original work.



"The subject embraced in the memorial merits the favourable consideration of the General Conference, and your Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:—

May 8.

"Resolved, That, in the judgment of the General Conference, it is desirable that a cheap Commentary upon the Bible should be published by our Book Concern as soon as practicable."

The resolution was adopted.

"Resolved, That the memorial of Samuel Williams, of Cincinnati, in relation to this subject, contains many valuable suggestions, and is hereby referred to the Book Agents and Editors at New-York.

Memorial of Samuel Williams.

"JOHN A. COLLINS, *Chairman.*"

This resolution was adopted.

The report, as a whole, was then adopted.

The Committee on Missions reported in part.

Committee on Missions' report.

The following alterations, recommended by the Board at New-York, were concurred in by the Conference:—

In Article 5th, to add the word "respectively" after "Conferences," in the fifth line from the beginning. Also, to add the words "in their own body," after the word "occur," in the fourth line from the conclusion.

Alterations in Missionary Constitution.

In Article 7th, strike out the word "April," and insert the word "November."

In Article 10th, to add to the article the words, "of the meeting at which the minutes are read and approved."

In Article 11th, in the third line from the beginning, to strike out the words "with branches;" also, all after the word "prescribe," in the fourth line from the beginning.

In Article 12th, in first line, to strike out the words "or branch;" also, insert in first line, after "society," the words "or donor." Also, to strike out, at the close of the article, "go into the treasury of the parent Society, to be appropriated as the Constitution directs," and insert in lieu thereof the words, "shall be at the disposal of the Society for its general purposes."

In Article 13th, to strike out, after the word "New-York," in the sixth line, the following words, "at the time of the holding of the Anniversary of the Missionary Society," and insert the following words, "between the first and fifteenth of November, as shall be determined by the Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer."

Also, to strike out, line eleventh from the beginning, the words "in conjunction with," and insert the words "with the concurrence of." Also, to strike out of the twelfth line the words "bishop who shall preside in the New-York Conference," and insert the words "with the concurrence of at least two of the bishops." Also, in fifth line from the conclusion of first paragraph, to strike out the words "the presiding," and insert the words "two or more."

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In Article 14th, to strike out all after the word "them," in seventh line from the beginning.

Articles 15th and 16th: to strike out both of these articles, and in lieu of the latter part of Article 14th, and of Articles 15th and 16th, insert the following articles, viz.:—

"XV. Each Superintendent of Missions, and where there is no Superintendent, each Missionary, shall make a regular quarterly report to the Corresponding Secretary at New-York, giving information of the state and prospects of the several missions under his care.

"XVI. Each Missionary shall report to his Superintendent once a quarter, in writing, the state and prospects of the specific work in which he is engaged.

"XVII. No one shall be acknowledged a Missionary, or receive support from the funds of this Society, who has not some definite field assigned him, or who could not be an effective labourer on a circuit, except as provided for in Article 5th.

"XVIII. This Constitution shall not be altered but by the General Conference, upon the recommendation of the Board of Managers; or by the Board, on the recommendation of the General Conference."

The Committee on Itinerancy presented a report, as follows:—

"The Committee on Itinerancy beg leave to report, in part, as follows:—

J. M. Pease.

"They have had under consideration the complaint of *John Morris Pease* against the action of the New-York East Conference, by which he was denied his dividends as a superannuated member of that body, for the years 1849 and 1851, and submit the following resolution in the case for consideration:—

"*Resolved*, That the action of the conference in this case be reversed, and brother Pease be paid, from its funds, his dividends for those years, with interest.

"HEMAN BANGS, *Chairman*.

"BOSTON, *May 8, 1852.*"

The report was adopted.

Bishop Hedding.

The Committee appointed to prepare a memorandum in reference to Bishop Hedding, deceased, to be placed upon the journal of the Conference, reported.

The report was referred back to the Committee.

J. M'Clintock submitted the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Verbal revision of Discipline.

*Resolved*, That the matter of arrangement and verbal revision of the Discipline be referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Kentucky Conference.

E. Whitten presented a memorial in reference to the formation of a Conference in Kentucky, which was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

The session was extended five minutes.

May 8.

Brother Brown presented a memorial from Orrin Pier, of Troy Conference, asking whether an Annual Conference has a right to leave one of its members without an appointment, for the purpose of trial. Referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

Orrin Pier.

The report of the Western Book Agents was referred to the Committee of Publication, for publication in Zion's Herald.

Western Book Agents.

G. Peck presented a paper from E. L. Fancher, Esq., which was referred to the Committee on the Church Suit.

E. L. Fancher.

G. Peck presented resolutions from the Quarterly Conference of Hancock, Deposit, and Cannonsville, against alterations of boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Boundaries.

J. M. Snyder presented a memorial from Newfield station, Oneida Conference, on the subject of boundaries, which was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

O. C. Baker presented the statistics of New-Hampshire Conference Seminary, which were referred to the Committee on Education.

New-Hampshire Conference Seminary.

P. E. Brown presented a paper from Warsaw, Genesee Conference, on the subject of Slavery. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Slavery.

J. Young presented a paper on the license of local preachers. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Local Preachers.

A petition from E. A. Rice, of Portersville, Vermont, asking to be released from a debt due the Book Concern, was presented. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

E. A. Rice.

A memorial from Bradford circuit, Erie Conference, on the subject of boundaries, was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Boundaries.

Conference adjourned. Benediction by D. Webb.

MONDAY, MAY 10.

Bishop Morris in the chair.

May 10.

After the usual religious services, led by E. E. Griswold, the journals were read, amended, and approved.

J. G. Dimmett, whose credentials were read some days since, appeared, and took his seat.

J. G. Dimmett.

The committee appointed to prepare a minute for the journals of this Conference touching the decease of Bishop Hedding, reported the following, which was adopted:—

Whereas it hath pleased Almighty God, in his infinite wisdom, to remove from among us, by death, our senior Bishop, the Rev. Elijah Hedding, who died in Poughkeepsie, New-York, April 9th, 1852, in the seventy-second year of his age, and in the fifty-first of his ministry;

Bishop Hedding.

- May 10. Therefore, *Resolved*, That this General Conference makes this record upon its journal as a token of profound respect for the deceased, as a minister of unblemished reputation, deep theological knowledge, sound experience in the things of God; of Christian simplicity and holy tempers as a Christian; as an able and impartial administrator of the discipline of the Church, sweetly and delightfully blending together the dignity of the Bishop with the urbanity of the Christian gentleman; and who at last died in peace and holy triumph, with a well-grounded hope of immortality and eternal life. May we follow *him* as he followed Christ!
- Brother Adams moved to amend the above, by inserting after the words "his ministry" several resolutions, which were, on motion, laid on the table.
- Rev. Dr. Green. The Rev. Dr. Green, from the Wesleyan connexion in Canada, was introduced to the Conference, and his credentials read.
- Bishop Hamline. The Superintendents presented a communication from Bishop Hamline, tendering his resignation of the Episcopal office, which was read; also, a letter from his physicians, which was read. His parchment of ordination was also presented. These documents were referred to the Committee on Episcopacy.
- Report of Missionary Committee. The Committee on Missions reported. That part of the report touching alterations in our Discipline, relating to missions, was read, and, on motion, laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.
- On motion of brother Slicer, the above report was made the order of the day for Wednesday next.
- Liberia Annual Conference. The committee further reported on the petition of the Liberia Annual Conference, asking a Bishop for said Conference. The report was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed, leaving out the name recommended for Superintendent.
- Increase of Foreign Missions. The committee further reported on the resolution of the Providence Conference, relating to the extension of our foreign missionary field, and recommended the adoption of the resolution of said Conference, viz. :—
- "*Resolved*, That the time has fully come, when the Methodist Episcopal Church ought to increase the number and the extent of her foreign missions."
- Adopted by an almost unanimous vote.
- Increase of Missions among Indian tribes. P. Cartwright offered the following, which was adopted :—
- Resolved*, That the Committee on Missions be directed to consider and report specially on the necessity and manner of extending our missions among the Indian tribes in this country.
- Fasting & prayer for more labourers. C. K. True offered the following :—
- Resolved*, in view of the great and increasing demand of the work at home and abroad for ministerial labour, That

the General Conference recommend to the several Annual Conferences, to set apart a day of fasting and prayer, at such time as they respectively shall judge expedient, to implore the great Head of the Church to raise up and send forth more labourers into the harvest. Carried.

May 10.

The committee to whom the memorial from Washington city, touching the erection of a church in that city, was referred, reported, and the report was adopted. Church in Washington city.

*Resolved*, 1. That we cordially approve of the erection of a new house of worship of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the city of Washington, as contemplated by our brethren in their memorial.

*Resolved*, 2. That regarding the success of this enterprise as of high importance to the interests of Methodism throughout the country, we will give it our individual influence in our respective Annual Conferences, and, by all appropriate means, aid in its promotion.

J. Young presented the following:—

*Resolved*, That a special committee of three be appointed by the chair to take into consideration the propriety of attempting to obtain, without war, bloodshed, or any unjust or unchristian measure, the same religious privileges for Protestants, in Rome, and other Catholic countries, that Catholics enjoy in the United States. Adopted. Religious privileges in Rome.

The chair appointed C. Elliott, J. P. Durbin, W. T. Harlow, said committee.

The order of the day was suspended, to receive memorials and petitions.

Z. Phillips presented a paper adverse to lay delegation. Referred to the Committee on that subject. Lay Delegation.

L. D. Brown presented a paper from Troy, New-York, on the subject of a course of study for local preachers. Referred to the Committee on Revisals. Local Preachers.

Also, a paper from Troy, asking that all that relates to seating our congregations in our churches be stricken from the Discipline. Referred to the Committee on Revisals. Sittings in Churches.

D. Starks presented the resolution passed by Stillwater Quarterly Conference, on the subject of lay delegation. Referred to the Committee on that subject. Lay Delegation.

Also, a similar paper from Mechanicsville Station. Referred to the same Committee.

A paper from Vermont Conference, on the subject of Sabbath schools, was referred to Committee on Sabbath schools. Sabbath Schools.

Also, a paper from same Conference, on the subject of Slavery. Slavery, was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Also, a paper touching revision of Discipline, was referred to Committee on Revisals. Discipline.

W. Hunter presented a paper on the subject of boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries. Boundaries.

- May 10. T. M. Hudson presented a paper, touching the subject of the sale of our books. Referred to Committee on the Book Concern.
- Sale of Books.
- Time of Probation. Brother Worthington moved to refer so much of the journals of the Western Virginia Conference as relates to the subject of the time of probation for travelling preachers. Referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.
- Local Preachers. Also, so much of the journal of said Conference as relates to the subject of a course of study for local preachers, was referred to the same committee.
- Boundaries. Bishop Waugh presented a petition from Cumberland Circuit (Pittsburgh Conference) Quarterly Conference, relating to boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.
- Trustees of Churches. H. Summers presented a paper, asking a change in our rule relative to Trustees of Churches. Referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.
- Time of Probation. J. Coil moved, That so much of the journal of the Pittsburgh Conference as relates to the time of probation in the Annual Conference, be referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.
- Black River Conference Seminary. H. Mattison presented the statistical report of the Black River Conference Seminary. Referred to the Committee on Education.
- Slavery. C. Kingsley presented two papers, on the subject of Slavery—one from Lebanon Circuit, and one from Nelson Circuit, Erie Conference. Referred to the Committee on Revisals. J. H. Whallen presented a similar paper from Ravenna Circuit. Similarly referred.
- Depository. J. Brooks presented a memorial from Burlington, Iowa, on the subject of a Book Depository and Conference Paper. Referred to the Committee on Book Concern.
- Leaders' Meeting. J. Dennis presented a paper from Rochester, asking for a rule defining the duties, &c., of a Leaders' Meeting. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- Discipline. Also, a paper from Asbury Church, Rochester District, asking some changes in our Discipline. Referred as above.
- Claimants on Conference Funds. Moved, That so much of the journals of the East Genesee Conference as relates to changes in Discipline relative to the subject of claimants on Conference Funds, be referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- Letitia S. Doud. J. H. Trimble presented the memorial of Letitia S. Doud, asking that her dividend from the funds of the Church be not withheld. Referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.
- Sunday School Depositories. S. T. Gillett presented an extract from the journals of the North Indiana Conference on the subject of Sunday-school Depositories. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.
- Boundaries. W. H. Goode presented papers on the subject of boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.
- Missouri Conference. P. Cartwright presented brother Bird's petition for the

division of the Missouri Conference. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries. May 10.

J. Young presented a petition from Putnam, Ohio, on the subject of Slavery. Referred to the Committee on Revisals. Slavery.

Brother Hobart presented a paper on the subject of the division of the Missouri Conference. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries. Missouri Conference.

Brother Heath presented a statistical report of Worthington Female Seminary. Referred to the Committee on Education. Worthington Female Seminary.

A letter from J. B. Finley, on the subject of boundaries, was referred to the Committee on Boundaries. Boundaries.

G. W. Walker presented a paper on the same subject. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Bishop Janes presented a paper from Rushville Circuit, Ohio Conference, asking for lay representation in the General Conference, and praying that no rule be passed to prevent any congregation from seating themselves in church according to their own will. Referred—the first part to the Committee on Lay Delegation; the latter part to the Committee on Revisals. Lay representation and seating congregations.

Bishop Waugh presented a petition from W. Simmons and others, touching the names to be given to the Ohio Conference when divided. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries. W. Simmons.

P. Cartwright presented a memorial from the delegates of Michigan, Indiana, North Indiana, Rock River, Wisconsin, Missouri, and Illinois, asking for a Book Depository and Church Paper at Chicago, and also for a Depository and Church Paper at St. Louis. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. Depository and Church paper.

George Taylor's appeal from the Michigan Conference, was made the order of the day for Friday next, immediately after reading the journals. Geo. Taylor.

The appeal of D. J. Snow, of Illinois Conference, was made the order of the day for Saturday morning next, at 9 o'clock. D. J. Snow.

M. Simpson presented the concurrence of the Indiana Conference with the Erie Conference, asking the General Conference to prescribe a course of study for local preachers. Referred to the Committee on Revisals. Local Preachers.

Bishop Janes presented the memorial of N. N. Robinson, of Baltimore, respecting instrumental music. Referred to the Committee on Revisals. Music.

J. A. Gere presented a paper from Bloomingdale Circuit, Baltimore Conference, against a division of the Baltimore Conference, and against lay delegation. The first, referred to the Committee on Boundaries; the second, to the Committee on Lay Delegation. Lay Delegation.

- May 10. M. Raymond presented a paper on the subject of Church Debts. Also, a paper, asking some alteration of the Discipline touching Bands, &c. Both papers were referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- Church debts and Bands.
- Slavery. M. Raymond presented a resolution of the New-England Conference on the subject of Slavery. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- Changes in Discipline. Also, a memorial from P. Crandall, asking some changes in the Discipline. Referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.
- Slavery. D. Wise presented a memorial on the subject of Slavery. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- Bishop Janes presented a memorial from Flat River Circuit, Michigan Conference, on the subject of Slavery. Referred as above.
- Presiding Elders. A memorial from the Quarterly Conference of Cocheset Station, praying for some alteration in the manner of appointing Presiding Elders. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- Germany Book Depository. A memorial from our German preachers in Germany, asking for a Book Depository, &c., was presented, and referred to the Committee on the German Work.
- Changes among Preachers. S. Landon presented a memorial from one of the Quarterly Meetings of Williamsburgh, seeking to secure changes among our preachers in cities and villages. Referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.
- Sunday-school Anniversary. The Conference was invited, by the Committee of Arrangements for the Sunday-school Anniversary, to join in the services, and be present at the anniversary. D. Wise offered the following resolution:—
- Resolved*, That we accept the invitation so respectfully tendered to us by the Committee of Arrangements for the celebration of the Anniversary of our Sunday-School Union; which was adopted.
- Anonymous Letter. Bishop Janes presented an anonymous letter, asking the General Conference to interfere in settling some difficulties of our Wesleyan brethren in England. Laid on the table.
- Sixth Restrictive Rule. H. Mattison presented the following report, which was adopted:—
- Whereas the General Conference of 1848 recommended, by a vote of ninety-nine to forty-seven, in the event of the occurrence of certain specified contingencies in the Annual Conferences, to so far suspend the "sixth restrictive rule" of the Discipline as to authorize our Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati to submit the claim of the "Methodist Episcopal Church, South," to arbitration; and
- Whereas, the specified contingencies occurring, the subject was presented by our Bishops to fourteen of the twenty-



nine Annual Conferences for their concurrence or dissent; and

May 10.

Whereas no official returns are as yet before us, showing the state of the vote upon this question, in the several Annual Conferences to which it was presented; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Itinerancy be instructed to examine the journals of the several Annual Conferences in regard to said vote, and report to this body.

Z. Phillips was excused from serving on the Committee R. Wescott. on Lay Delegation, and the chair appointed brother Wescott to fill his place.

H. Slicer presented the petition of J. W. Haughwout to J. W. Haughwout. be released from a debt to the Book Concern, he having once mailed the amount to pay it. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

J. Davis, the chairman of the Committee on the Church Church Suit. Suit, asked the Conference for information in regard to the duty of that committee, saying that his understanding was, that it was designed that they should consider the New-York suit alone.

H. Slicer moved, That the understanding of the chairman be considered the sense of this Conference. Carried. Conference adjourned. Benediction by Bishop Waugh.

## TUESDAY, MAY 11.

Bishop Janes in the chair.

May 11.

The Conference met at 8 o'clock, and was opened by reading the Scriptures, singing, and prayer by W. Barnes.

The journal of the preceding session was read, corrected, and approved.

J. Holdich asked, and received for himself and E. Thomson, leave of absence after to-day for the purpose of attending the anniversary of the American Bible Society. Leave of Absence.

The Committee on the Episcopacy reported in part as Bishop Hamline. follows:—"They have had the communication from Bishop Hamline under consideration, and present the following resolutions, and recommend their adoption by the Conference:—

"Whereas it has pleased Almighty God deeply to afflict our beloved Bishop Hamline, and whereas he has been laid aside from active service thereby; therefore,

*Resolved*, 1. That we sincerely sympathize with our beloved Superintendent in his afflictions.

*Resolved*, 2. That, after having fully examined his administration for the last four years, his administration and character be, and hereby are, approved.

"Whereas Bishop Hamline has tendered his resignation in the following language, to wit:—"And now, I think that the circumstances warrant my declining the office. Eight years ago, I felt that Divine Providence had strangely called

May 11. me to the office. I now feel that the same Providence permits me to retire. I therefore tender my resignation, and request to be released from my official responsibilities, as soon as the way is prepared by the Episcopal committee.' Therefore,

"Resolved, 3. That the resignation of Bishop Hamline of his office as a Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, be, and the same hereby is, accepted.

"All which is respectfully submitted,

"P. P. SANDFORD, *Chairman.*

"BOSTON, May 11, 1852."

It was ordered to consider and act upon the report item by item.

The first resolution was unanimously adopted by a rising vote.

The second resolution was unanimously adopted.

While the third resolution was pending, J. A. Collins submitted the following, as a substitute for the said resolution:—

*Resolved*, By the delegates of the several Annual Conferences, in General Conference assembled, that the Bishops be, and they hereby are, requested to return to Bishop Hamline his parchment, accompanied with a communication informing him that this General Conference declines accepting his resignation as a Superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and grants him unrestricted permission, and advises him to adopt and pursue such course for the restoration of his health as his judgment may dictate.

Laid on the table, after the yeas and nays had been called for and ordered, by a vote of 161 yeas, and 10 nays, as follows:—

*Yeas*.—G. Peck, P. Rice, P. P. Sandford, A. M. Osbon, J. C. Lyon, J. Z. Nichols, O. C. Baker, R. Dearborn, E. Scott, E. Mason, S. D. Brown, B. M. Hall, A. Witherspoon, J. Clark, Z. Phillips, T. Benedict, D. Starks, J. Frazer, R. Wescott, N. Bangs, H. Bangs, B. Creagh, J. H. Perry, E. E. Griswold, S. Landon, L. Clark, S. J. G. Worthington, M. Tichnell, N. D. George, W. H. Pillsbury, A. Church, A. Moore, T. M. Hudson, H. J. Clarke, A. M'Gee, W. Hunter, S. Wakefield, J. Coil, J. C. Aspinwall, A. T. Bullard, E. Copeland, C. Hobart, W. H. Sampson, H. Summers, G. Gary, J. L. Hunt, H. Mattison, A. J. Phelps, G. Baker, B. Holmes, S. Allen, G. Webber, C. C. Cone, A. Sanderson, J. J. Jenne, C. Kingsley, H. Kinsley, B. S. Hall, E. J. L. Baker, W. Patterson, A. Phelps, L. Hitchcock, R. Haney, S. P. Keys, J. Chandler, E. Bowen, D. W. Bristol, W. Reddy, S. Sperry, J. Sparks, E. B. Tenny, J. M. Snyder, S. Comfort, E. Thomson, J. H. Power, H. Whiteman, T. Barkdull, J. Quigley, A. Poe, H. M. Shaffer, J. Brooks, J.

G. Dimmitt, H. Hosmer, M. Crow, J. Dennis, J. G. Gullick, B. F. Tefft, H. N. Seaver, G. M. Beswick, W. H. Goode, J. L. Smith, S. T. Gillett, J. Marsee, J. Daniel, J. Hopkins, C. J. Houts, W. H. Collins, E. H. Pilcher, E. M'Clure, D. D. Whedon, F. B. Bangs, R. Sapp, E. Thomson, P. E. Brown, I. Chamberlayne, W. Nast, J. M. Trimble, J. Young, C. Elliott, G. W. Walker, J. F. Wright, U. Heath, Z. Connell, C. Brooks, R. O. Spencer, M. Marley, A. M. Lorraine, P. Akers, P. Cartwright, J. B. Corrington, G. Rutledge, P. Kuhl, C. D. James, M. Simpson, W. M. Dailey, E. R. Ames, J. Havens, E. Whitten, L. W. Berry, N. J. B. Morgan, A. Griffith, J. Davis, H. Slicer, N. Wilson, J. Bear, J. A. Gere, S. S. Roszel, A. A. Reese, C. B. Tippet, F. Hodgson, L. Scott, D. Dailey, J. P. Durbin, W. Barnes, T. J. Thompson, E. Miller, J. Cunningham, John M'Clintock, G. F. Brown, D. P. Kidder, J. S. Porter, J. Lewis, I. Winner, J. Ayers, T. M'Carroll, D. Patten, A. Stevens, E. Benton, W. T. Harlow, D. Webb, D. Wise, M. Raymond, C. K. True, J. Hascall, J. Porter, A. Binney,

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*Nays.*—J. Holdich, E. Adams, L. Clark, J. H. Whallon, H. W. Reed, G. Moody, J. A. Collins, B. N. Brown, C. Adams, W. H. Hunter.

The third resolution was adopted.

The report was amended, by appending the following resolution, submitted by J. A. Collins, and adopted by Conference:—

*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences, in General Conference assembled, That the Bishops be and hereby are, respectfully requested to convey to Bishop Hamline, the acceptance of his resignation as a Superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Church, by the General Conference, accompanied with a communication expressing the profound regret of this body, that the condition of his health has, in his judgment, rendered it proper for him to relinquish his official position; assuring him also of our continued confidence and affection, and that our fervent prayers will be offered to the throne of grace, that his health may be restored, and his life prolonged to the Church."

The preamble of the report was adopted, and then the report as a whole, and as amended, was adopted.

The Committee on the Book Concern reported, in part, as follows:—

"The Committee on the Book Concern report that they have had under consideration the memorial of J. W. Haughawout, praying to be released from the claim of the Book Agents, at New-York, against him, amounting to fifty-six dollars and some cents, which amount he had mailed to them at Town Hill, but which by some means was lost on its passage, and submit the following resolution:—

J. W. Haughawout.

May 11.

"Resolved, That the prayer of the memorialist be not granted."

J. A. Gere moved to amend the report, by striking out the word "not."

N. Bangs moved to lay the motion to amend on the table. Lost.

J. Porter moved that the prayer of the petitioner be referred to the Book Agents for settlement. Adopted.

It was moved to suspend the order of the day, so as to allow H. Kinsley to present a memorial. Lost.

The Committee on Itinerancy reported, in part, as follows:—

Report of Committee on Itinerancy.

"The Committee on Itinerancy beg leave to report, in part, as follows:—

Superannuated and Supernumerary Preachers.

"It appears from the journals of the Erie Annual Conference, that the superannuated and supernumerary preachers in that Conference were instructed to report to the Conference stewards the amounts which they had received as ministers, and that such amounts were applied to their claims upon the funds in the hands of the stewards.

"Your committee are of the opinion that this act of the Conference, so far as the "superannuated" preachers were concerned, was without warrant from the Discipline; and we therefore submit the following resolution for adoption by the Conference, viz.:—

"Resolved, That we regard such action as an infringement of the Discipline.

"HEMAN BANGS, *Chairman.*

"May 11, 1852."

Brother Reed moved to amend the resolution of the report by inserting the word "no."

While this motion was pending, a minority report from the Committee on Itinerancy was presented on the same subject, as follows:—

"We respectfully report, That having examined the resolution of the Erie Conference, directing their supernumerary and superannuated preachers to report what they had received for ministerial services, to be deducted from their claim, and, after due search, finding no rule in our Discipline forbidding an Annual Conference to take this course,

"Therefore, we recommend this General Conference to pass the journal of the Erie Annual Conference.

"Yours, most respectfully,

"JOHN COIL,

"P. E. BROWN,

"E. L. J. BAKER."

J. Porter moved to lay the whole subject on the table. Carried.

Moved, That the appeal order of this day be taken up. May 11.  
Carried.

And it was made the order of the day for to-morrow, immediately after the reading of the journal.

A general suspension of the order of the day was ordered.

H. Bangs submitted the following resolution:—

Superannuated Preachers.

*Resolved*, That each superannuated preacher shall be a member of the Quarterly Meeting Conference of the circuit or station where he shall reside.

Referred to the Committee on Revisals.

A communication from the Western Book Agents was read, and referred to the Committee on the Church Suit. Church Suit.

Bishop Janes presented documents relating to the Chartered Fund, which were referred to a committee of three, to consider and report thereon. Chartered Fund.

Also, a memorial from the Book Committee of the Wesleyan Church in Canada, in connexion with the British Conference, which was referred to Committee on Book Concern. Book Committee of Canada.

Also, a memorial from John Seys, in reference to the appointment to agencies for the Colonization Society, which was referred to the Committee on Revisals. Colonization Society.

J. Coil presented a copy of the journal of the Pittsburgh Conference on the Circular of the Erie Annual Conference, respecting a course of study for local preachers. Referred to Committee on Revisals. Local Preachers.

Brother Shaffer presented a resolution on the subject of baptism. Baptism.

Conference adjourned. Prayer by brother Whiteman.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 12.

Bishop Waugh in the chair. May 12.

After the usual religious services, led by P. P. Sandford, the journal was read, corrected, and approved.

I. Chamberlayne moved, That the order of business be suspended.

T. Carlton was excused from serving on the Committee on Missions, and E. Thomas was appointed in his place. E. Thomas.

H. W. Reed was excused from serving on the Committee on Itinerancy, and J. P. Dimmett appointed in his place. J. P. Dimmett.

By motion, took up the appeal case of J. S. Inskip, of the Ohio Conference. Appeal of J. S. Inskip.

A motion was made, That we do not entertain the appeal of J. S. Inskip.

H. Mattison moved to amend, by striking out the word "not" before entertain. Carried.

The motion, as amended, viz., That we do entertain the appeal of J. S. Inskip, was adopted.

The charges, and vote of the Conference sustaining them,

May 12. were read, when J. S. Inskip stated to the Conference the grounds of his appeal.

The testimony in the case was read to the Conference, after which J. S. Inskip addressed the Conference. Brother Inskip gave way before concluding his remarks, to allow a motion to be made.

The case of brother Inskip was laid upon the table for the present.

It was moved that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at 3 o'clock. Lost.

Chartered Fund. Bishop Waugh announced the following committee on the Chartered Fund:—T. J. Thompson, P. Akers, J. Porter.

The following communication was presented:—

Methodist Episcopal Church, South. “*To the Bishops and Members of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.*”

L. M. Lee.

“REV. AND DEAR BRETHREN,—Accompanying this communication, you will find a certified copy of a resolution of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, authorizing me to attend the session of your body, for purposes therein specified. Your early attention to the request it contains, will much oblige,

“Yours truly,

“LEROY M. LEE.

“BOSTON, May 12, 1852.”

Methodist Episcopal Church, South. “*Resolved*, That L. M. Lee be, and he hereby is, authorized to attend the next session of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and ask permission of their body to copy the records of the General Conference from the beginning down to the session of 1844, for the use of this body and of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

“I hereby certify that the foregoing is a faithful copy upon the journals of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and is part of the proceedings of that body during its session in St. Louis, Missouri, namely on May 14th, 1850.

“THOS. O. SUMMERS, *Sec'y. General Conference of the M. E. Church, South.*”

Copy of General Conference journals for Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

J. M'Clintock offered the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That a committee of one be appointed to meet with the Rev. L. M. Lee in the city of New-York, after the session of this Conference, and, in conjunction with him, to appoint a suitable person or persons to copy the records of the General Conference up to the year 1844, inclusive, at the expense of the said L. M. Lee, which copy, after due examination and certificate by the said committee, shall be handed over to the Rev. L. M. Lee, as the agent of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Laid on the table for the present.

Brother Dearborn asked and obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the session of this General Conference. Conference adjourned. Benediction by G. Peck.

May 13.

Brother Dearborn.

### THURSDAY, MAY 13.

Bishop Morris in the chair.

May 13.

After the usual religious services, led by E. Whitten, the journal was read and approved.

The regular order of the day was laid upon the table.

N. Bangs presented the following resolution, which was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to inquire whether a more equitable method could not be devised for accusing and bringing to trial delinquent preachers before the Annual Conference.

Trial of Delinquent Preachers.

O. C. Baker presented the certificate of Justin Spaulding's election by the New-Hampshire Conference, as a reserve delegate to the General Conference, and, on motion, he was recognised as a member in place of R. Dearborn, who had asked and received leave of absence.

J. Spaulding.

On motion of E. Adams, J. Spaulding was chosen to take the place of R. Dearborn, in the Committee on Boundaries.

Geo. F. Brown presented resolutions of the Quarterly Conference of Keyport Circuit, relating to the Discipline and lay delegation. Referred to Committee on Lay Delegation.

Lay Delegation.

J. Frazer presented a memorial from Morristown Circuit, Troy Conference, asking for an alteration of the Discipline on the subject of Slavery, which was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Slavery.

The appeal case of J. S. Inskip was then taken up, and the appellant resumed and finished his remarks.

J. S. Inskip.

I. Chamberlayne, by reason of ill health, obtained leave of absence for the balance of this morning's session.

I. Chamberlayne.

D. P. Kidder asked, and obtained, leave of absence until Monday next.

D. P. Kidder.

G. Moody, in behalf of the Ohio Conference, responded in part, when, the time of adjournment having nearly arrived, the appeal was laid upon the table for the present.

G. Moody responded.

H. M. Shaffer presented the following resolution, which was adopted:—

H. M. Shaffer.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be requested to inquire into the propriety of leaving the following words out of the prayer on Infant Baptism, on page ninety-five of Discipline, viz.:—"And by the baptism of thy well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ, in the river Jordan, didst." Then it would read, "Sanctify water for this holy sacrament, &c."

Baptism.

Conference adjourned. Prayer by J. Clark.

May 14.

## FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 14.

Bishop Janes in the chair.

After the usual religious services, led by P. E. Brown, the journal was read.

E. B. Tenny.

E. B. Tenny obtained leave of absence for to-morrow. The order of the day was suspended.

Ep. Waugh's Sermon.

J. F. Wright offered the following:—

*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences, in General Conference assembled, That it was with heartfelt satisfaction and much interest we listened to the sermon delivered yesterday, in compliance with our request, on the recent death of our venerated senior Bishop, Rev. Elijah Hedding; and Bishop Waugh is hereby earnestly and respectfully requested to furnish a copy of his very appropriate discourse to the Book Agents (at New-York) for publication, at his earliest convenience.

The resolution was adopted.

Ep. Waugh's reply.

Bishop Waugh arose and said, In reference to the resolution that had been so kindly adopted—and if it were not adopted by so grave a body as that General Conference, he would say, not only kindly, but even flatteringly adopted—it would afford him pleasure to comply with the request, if he could do so in a manner which would give additional interest to the memory of the deceased bishop, whose death so deeply affected the Church. His discourse had not been prepared for the press; but if the General Conference were willing to grant him the privilege of preparing it for publication at his leisure, he would comply with their request.

Whereupon E. R. Ames offered the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That Bishop Waugh use his own discretion in preparing said discourse for publication. Carried.

Geo. Taylor.

E. H. Pilcher moved, That the appeal case of George Taylor be taken up, and made the order of the day for Tuesday next, immediately after the reading of the journal.

Court of Appeal.

S. Comfort presented a paper touching the subject of a delegated Annual Conference. Referred to the Committee on the subject of a Court of Appeal.

Boundaries.

H. Kinsley presented a paper touching the subject of boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Lay delegation.

Presiding Eldership.

J. Frazer presented a paper from Essex and Colchester circuits, on the subject of lay delegation and the presiding eldership. The first part was referred to the Committee on Lay Delegation, the last part to the Committee on Revisals.

Lay delegation.

F. Hodgson presented a memorial against lay delegation from the recent Lay Conference in Philadelphia. Referred to the Committee on Lay Delegation.



Also, the certificate of the appointment of a committee to present the above memorial to the Conference of Laymen, which was referred to the same Committee. May 14.

T. J. Thompson moved, That the Committee on Lay Delegation be instructed to give the above committee a hearing. Carried.

W. H. Sampson presented a resolution touching a change in the Discipline, relating to the reception of preachers on trial in the Annual Conference. Referred to the Committee on Revisals. Term of trial.

H. Kinsley presented several resolutions touching alterations in the Discipline, which were read, and referred to the Committee on Revisals. Alterations in Discipline

G. Moody finished his remarks; and a motion was made that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at 3 o'clock this afternoon. Carried. G. Moody.

G. W. Walker then addressed the Conference; but before finishing his remarks, the time of adjournment having arrived, the Conference adjourned. G. W. Walker.

Benediction by Bishop Morris.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Bishop Waugh in the chair.

The Conference met at 3 o'clock, and was opened by reading the Scriptures, singing, and prayer by E. Benton.

The journal of the morning session was read and approved.

The order of business was suspended, and the appeal case of J. S. Inskip was taken up. Appeal of J. S. Inskip.

G. W. Walker resumed and finished his remarks; after which J. Young and C. Elliott followed with additional remarks in defence of the action of the Ohio Conference. G. W. Walker. J. Young and C. Elliott.

B. F. Tefft then closed in behalf of the appellant; after which the Conference adjourned. B. F. Tefft.

Benediction by J. Clark.

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 15.

Bishop Morris in the chair. May 15.

The usual religious services were led by M. Marley.

The journal was read and approved.

Bishop Waugh presented the communication of N. Bishop, Superintendent of Public Schools, inviting the members of this Conference to visit the public schools. N. Bishop.

On motion, accepted.

Also, a communication from his honour, the Mayor of Boston, inviting this Conference to unite in an excursion among the islands in the harbour, &c., was read, and, on motion, accepted, and a committee of three was ordered, to whom the above invitations were referred, that they may respond thereto. Mayor of Boston.

May 15.

Brother Collins presented a report from Committee on Book Concern, which was read and adopted.

Book Concern report.

“The Committee on Book Concern, to whom was referred the communication of brother L. S. Jacoby, and Mr. John George Heyse, bookseller, Bremen, Germany, in relation to the practicability and importance of establishing commercial arrangements for the importation of choice German books, such as would be purchased by our missionaries and German people in America, and the exportation to Germany of our German publications for sale in that country, have had the same under consideration, and recommend to the General Conference the adoption of the following resolutions:—

“*Resolved*, That the Book Agents at Cincinnati be, and hereby are, instructed to establish such commercial arrangements for the importation of German books of the character above specified, and the exportation of our American publications, as they may find practicable and useful.

“*Resolved*, That in conformity with the recommendation of the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, we hereby authorize the Book Agents to allow our mission in Germany an open credit for our American publications, not exceeding \$500.

“*Resolved*, That said publications be furnished to our missions in Germany at the largest discount allowed by the Agents on the sale of books.

“JOHN A. COLLINS, *Chairman.*”

Episcopacy Committee report.

The Committee on Episcopacy reported, in part, as follows:—

“*Resolved*, That the character and administration of bishops Waugh, Morris, and Janes, for the last four years, be, and hereby are, approved.”

Adopted.

“*Resolved*, That we will, at this session of the General Conference, elect three (additional) bishops.”

Laid on the table for the present.

“*Resolved*, That the Book Agents be, and hereby are, directed to pay Bishop Morris the balance of \$39 24, due him for travelling expenses.”

Adopted.

Barnes Sears.

Bishop Waugh presented an invitation from Barnes Sears, to visit the Massachusetts Board of Education at the State House. Referred to the Committee on the Mayor's invitation.

Itinerancy Committee report.

The Committee on Itinerancy reported as follows:—

“We have had under serious consideration that part of the Episcopal Address which relates to extending the time of probation for admission into the travelling connexion, together with the action of several Annual Conferences, and

several memorials, on the same subject, and submit the following resolution:—

May 15.

“Resolved, That it is not expedient at this time to make any change of our rule of Discipline on that subject, and that the Committee be discharged from the further consideration thereof.”

It was moved to adopt the report.

M. Crow moved to lay that motion on the table, which was lost, and the motion to adopt the report prevailed.

“The Committee on Itinerancy further report, That they have had under consideration a memorial from Letitia H. Doud, of Rochester, N. Y., from which we learn that the memorialist is the widow of a late member of the East Genesee Conference, and that she was denied her dividend the last year by act of said Conference, and she now prays the General Conference to take such action in the premises as shall secure her dividend. We, therefore, offer the following for adoption by the General Conference:—

“Resolved, That the East Genesee Annual Conference be required to pay to Letitia H. Doud her dividend for the last year.”

Adopted.

The Committee further report, as follows:—

“It appears from the journals of the North Ohio Conference, that several of its members were found guilty of imprudence in 1848, for having disregarded the advice of the Conference which was given in 1845.

“We regard this finding as exceptionable.

“We, therefore, offer the following for adoption by this General Conference:—

“Resolved, That the action of the North Ohio Conference in 1848, in finding guilty of imprudence several of its members, for having disregarded its advice, given in 1845, was unauthorized by the Discipline.

“HEMAN BANGS, *Chairman.*”

The resolution was laid on the table.

The regular order of the day was suspended, and, on motion, the case of J. S. Inskip was taken up.

N. Bangs presented the following:—

“Resolved, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences, in General Conference assembled, That the decision of the Ohio Conference, in the case of J. S. Inskip, by which it voted that he had been guilty of violating his pledge, and of contumacious conduct, be, and hereby is, reversed.

“N. BANGS,  
“H. MATTISON.”

May 15.

The chair decided the above out of order, as not embracing the whole of the action or findings of the Ohio Conference in this case, stating that the Conference must affirm or reverse the decision, or, for want of formality, refer it back for a new trial.

On motion of N. Bangs, an appeal was taken from the decision of the chair.

The decision of the chair was sustained.

J. P. Durbin moved to reconsider the vote sustaining the decision of the chair. Laid on the table.

J. A. Collins moved the following:—

*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences, in General Conference assembled, That the decision of the Ohio Conference, in the case of J. S. Inskip, be affirmed.

The call for the yeas and nays was sustained.

*Yeas*.—P. Rice, P. P. Sandford, J. Z. Nichols, J. H. Perry, S. J. G. Worthington, M. Tichnell, H. J. Clarke, A. Magee, J. Coil, C. Hobart, H. Summers, G. Baker, H. Kinsley, W. H. Hunter, E. J. L. Baker, W. Patterson, J. H. Whallon, A. E. Phelps, J. Chandler, W. Reddy, J. H. Power, J. Quigley, H. M. Shaffer, G. M. Beswick, W. H. Goode, J. L. Smith, S. T. Gillett, J. Marsee, J. Daniel, Jos. Hopkins, C. J. Houts, C. Elliott, J. F. Wright, Z. Connell, C. Brooks, R. O. Spencer, M. Marley, A. M. Lorraine, P. Akers, P. Cartwright, J. B. Corrington, G. Rutledge, P. Kuhl, E. R. Ames, J. Havens, E. Whitten, L. W. Berry, N. J. B. Morgan, A. Griffith, J. Davis, H. Slicer, N. Wilson, J. Bear, J. A. Collins, S. S. Roszell, A. A. Reese, C. B. Tippett, B. N. Brown, J. P. Durbin, I. Winner, J. Porter, C. Adams—62.

*Nays*.—G. Peck, A. M. Osbon, J. C. Lyon, O. C. Baker, J. Spaulding, E. Scott, E. Mason, S. D. Brown, B. M. Hall, A. Witherspoon, J. Clarke, Z. Phillips, T. Benedict, D. Starks, J. Frazer, R. Wescott, N. Bangs, H. Bangs, E. E. Griswold, S. Landon, N. D. George, W. H. Pillsbury, A. Church, A. Moore, T. M. Hudson, W. Hunter, S. Wakefield, A. T. Bullard, E. Copeland, W. H. Sampson, H. Mattison, A. J. Phelps, B. Holmes, S. Allen, G. Webber, C. C. Cone, A. Sanderson, J. J. Jenne, C. Kingsley, B. S. Hill, L. Hitchcock, R. Haney, S. P. Keys, D. Holmes, E. Bowen, D. W. Bristol, L. Sperry, I. Parks, J. M. Snyder, S. Comfort, H. Whitman, T. Barkdull, A. Poe, H. W. Reed, J. Brooks, W. Hosmer, M. Crow, J. Dennis, J. G. Gulick, B. F. Tefft, H. N. Seaver, W. H. Collins, E. H. Pilcher, E. M'Clure, D. D. Whedon, F. B. Bangs, R. Sapp, T. Carlton, E. Thomas, P. E. Brown, M. Simpson, W. M. Dailey, J. A. Gere, F. Hodgson, L. Scott, W. Barnes, P. J. Thompson, E. Miller, J. Cunningham, G. F. Brown, J. S. Porter, J. Lewis, J. Ayers, T. M'Carroll, D. Patten, A. Stevens,

E. Benton, D. Webb, D. Wise, M. Raymond, C. K. True, J. Hascall, A. Binney—93. May 15.

N. Bangs moved the following:—

*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences, in General Conference assembled, That the decision of the Ohio Conference, in the case of J. S. Inskip, be, and hereby is, reversed. Decision of the case of J. S. Inskip.

Carried—87 to 64.

M. Raymond proposed a resolution touching this case. The chair decided it out of order.

J. P. Durbin moved that the order of the day be resumed. Carried.

Took up the report of the Committee on Missions, which was read, section by section, and adopted. Report of Committee on Missions.

“The Committee on Missions beg leave to report, for adoption by the Conference, a revision of the chapter on missions for insertion in the Discipline, instead of the one heretofore existing,” &c. For remainder of report, see *Appendix*, F, pp. 139, 140.

The chair announced J. A. Collins, E. R. Ames, and M. Raymond as the committee ordered this morning, to reply to some letters of invitation, addressed to the Conference. Committee on Invitations.

H. J. Clarke moved that the order of the day be suspended, to take up the appeal case of I. N. M’Abee, of the Pittsburgh Conference. Appeal of I. N. M’Abee

The motion prevailed to take up the appeal case of I. N. M’Abee, and it was made the order of the day for Monday morning next, immediately after reading the journal.

The Conference determined to sit with closed doors during the investigation of this case.

The order of the day was further suspended.

J. Young presented a petition from Cincinnati on lay delegation. Referred to the Committee on that subject. Lay delegation

Also, a memorial from W. Herr, W. P. Strickland, and others, in reference to Union Chapel, Cincinnati. Referred to the Committee on Episcopacy. Union Chapel.

Also, a paper from Morris Chapel, relating to Union Chapel. Referred as above.

Dr. Evans, of Nova Scotia, was introduced to the Conference, and, by vote, he was invited to a seat on the platform. Dr. Evans.

W. M. Dailey presented a petition from J. M’Elroy. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. J. M’Elroy.

The order of the day was suspended to receive petitions and memorials.

J. Clark presented a paper from the male members of three societies on Richmondville circuit, praying to be attached to Troy Conference. Referred to Committee on Boundaries. Boundaries.

Also, a memorial from official members of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, Albany, praying the General Time of preachers' stationing.

- May 15. Conference to extend the time a preacher may remain on the same circuit or station. The reading was asked for, but the Conference by vote declined having it read. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- Worn-out preachers. N. Bangs presented a paper from Allen-street Church, New-York, on the subject of the support of superannuated and supernumerary preachers, &c. Referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.
- Wesleyan University. Also, report of Wesleyan University. Referred to the Committee on Education.
- East Maine Seminary. W. H. Pillsbury presented the report of the trustees of East Maine Conference Seminary. Referred to the Committee on Education.
- Quarterly Conferences. B. Holmes presented the petition of W. G. Brown, asking some alteration in Discipline, so as to allow a Quarterly Conference to rescind its doings, &c. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- Slavery. C. Kingsley presented several papers from different places, asking some change in the rule of Discipline on the subject of slavery. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- W. H. Hunter presented a memorial on the same subject. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- Depository and paper at Chicago. A. Phelps presented three memorials on the subject of a Book Depository and Church Paper at Chicago. Referred to the Committee on Book Concern.
- Boundaries. J. M. Snyder presented a paper from North Danby station, on the subject of boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.
- Lay delegation. L. Sperry presented a paper from York Mills station, Oneida Conference, on lay delegation. Referred to the Committee on that subject.
- Boundaries. H. W. Reed presented a paper from Fort Desmoines district, on the subject of boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.
- Pewed and free seats. J. Dennis presented a paper on the subject of pewed and free seats, from East Genesee Conference. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- Also, a paper on the subject of slavery. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- Northern Christian Advocate. W. Hosmer presented a financial report of the Northern Christian Advocate. Referred to Committee on the Book Concern.
- L. Taylor. G. M. Beswith presented a paper from Rev. L. Taylor, North Indiana, on the subject of boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.
- Price of Books. T. Carlton presented a paper from Genesee district, on the subject of reducing the price of our books. Referred to the Committee on Book Concern.
- Lay Delegation. J. F. Wright presented the petition of E. H. Field on the

- subject of lay delegation. Referred to the Committee on Lay Delegation. May 15.
- Also, from same, on alterations in the Discipline. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- M. Marley presented the petition of W. S. Morrow, asking for some alterations in the Discipline. Referred to the Committee on Revisals. Change of Discipline.
- Also, the petition of Geo. W. Harris, on the support of single preachers. Referred to the Committee on Revisals. Single preachers.
- Z. Connell presented a memorial from Sucking Springs, on boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries. Boundaries.
- P. Cartwright presented a paper from Bloomington, on the subject of boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.
- J. B. Corrington presented a resolution of the Illinois Conference, asking some alterations in the Discipline. Referred to the Committee on Revisals. Change in Discipline.
- J. A. Gere presented a paper on lay delegation. Referred to the Committee on Lay Delegation. Lay Delegation.
- F. Hodgson presented a paper from Philadelphia, asking the General Conference to hold its next session in that city. Laid on the table for the present. Invitation from Philadelphia.
- J. S. Porter presented a paper from St. George's charge, Philadelphia, asking for some changes in the Discipline. Referred to the Committee on Revisals. Change in Discipline.
- M. Raymond presented a memorial from Roxbury, on slavery. Referred to the Committee on Revisals. Slavery.
- G. Peck returned some papers relating to Presiding Eldership. Referred to the Committee on Itinerancy. Presiding Elder.
- Order of the day suspended to receive resolutions, &c.
- J. H. Power presented a resolution relating to the appointment of stewards. Referred to the Committee on Revisals. Circuit stewards.
- A. J. Phelps presented a resolution relating to some alterations in the Discipline. Referred to the Committee on Revisals. Change in Discipline.
- J. A. Collins presented a resolution relating to a constitutional test, &c. Referred to the Committee on Court of Appeals. Constitutional Test.
- T. J. Thompson presented a resolution requesting the Committee on Revisals to inquire into the expediency of altering the Discipline, 11th Sect., 9th paragraph, page 51, to make it the duty of preachers to report the number of houses of worship, &c. Referred to the Committee on Revisals. Houses of Worship.
- G. Peck and P. Rice presented the following resolution:—  
 "Resolved, That the Bishops be, and hereby are, respectfully requested to prepare an obituary notice of our late loved and lamented senior Superintendent, for insertion in the minutes." Carried. Obituary of Bishop Hedding.
- B. S. Hill presented a resolution, instructing the Commit-

- May 15. Presiding Elders. tee on Revisals to consider the propriety of certain alterations in the Discipline, touching presiding elders. Referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.
- Change of Discipline. C. Brooks presented a resolution, instructing the Committee on Revisals to inquire into the propriety of amending the Discipline in several points. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- A motion was made to lengthen the session, but did not obtain.
- Conference adjourned. Benediction by P. Rice.

### MONDAY, MAY 17.

- May 17. Bishop Janes in the chair.
- After the usual religious services, by H. W. Reed, the journal was read.
- Amending Journal. M. Raymond moved to amend the journal, by striking out the words, "the passage of his character and all, and there the matter ended."
- C. B. Tippet moved to lay the proposed amendment upon the table. Lost.
- Answers to Invitations. The consideration of the journal was suspended for a while, for the presentation of the report of the committee appointed to respond to the invitations of the Mayor of Boston and others, to an excursion in the harbour, and also to an address by Mr. Webster, in Faneuil Hall, and to visit certain institutions of the city.
- The reported answers, accepting the said invitations, were read and adopted by the Conference, and ordered to be forwarded accordingly. After which, the consideration of the journal of Saturday's session was resumed.
- Amendment of Journal. G. F. Brown moved the following, as a substitute for the preceding motion of M. Raymond:—
- "Resolved, That all the journal subsequent to the final vote of the Conference, touching the case of J. S. Inskip, be stricken out." After some discussion the substitute was withdrawn.
- H. Slicer moved to postpone the further consideration of the journal till after the appeal case of Isaac N. M'Abec shall be disposed of. Laid on the table.
- M. Crow moved to amend the resolution by striking out all after the words, "out of order," in the record of the decision of the chair on the resolution proposed on Saturday, by M. Raymond. The motion prevailed.
- The resolution, as amended, was adopted.
- The journal, as amended, was then approved.
- H. Mattison moved to suspend the order of business, for the purpose of submitting a resolution securing the correctness of the journal for the future. Lost.
- I. N. M'Abec. The special order of the day was then taken up, namely,



the appeal case of I. N. M'Abree, of Pittsburgh Conference. May 17.

C. Adams moved that all clergymen present be excluded from retiring from the Conference-room during the consideration of the pending case. Clergymen Privileged.

The sexton was, on motion, requested to act as door-keeper during the examination of the special order. Door-Keeper.

The journal of the Pittsburgh Conference, in the case of I. N. M'Abree was read, including the charges, specifications, and findings by the Conference. After which, it was ordered to entertain the appeal. I. N. M'Abree.

H. J. Clarke submitted the following resolution:—

“Whereas Rev. I. N. M'Abree alleges, That since the decision of the Pittsburgh Annual Conference, at its session in June, 1850, whereby he was expelled from the Methodist Episcopal Church, new testimony has appeared, important to his defence; therefore,

“Resolved, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in General Conference assembled, That the case of Rev. I. N. M'Abree be, and the same hereby is, referred back to said Pittsburgh Annual Conference, for a new trial.

“H. J. CLARKE,

“S. WAKEFIELD,

“JOHN H. POWER.”

N. Wilson moved that the Pittsburgh delegation be instructed to write to the Presiding Elder of the district in which I. N. M'Abree resides, informing him of the action of this General Conference on his case.

On motion of I. Winner, the motion of N. Wilson was laid on the table.

The order of the day was suspended to take up the appeal case of Isaac M. Stagg, of North Indiana Conference. Appeal of I. M. Stagg.

The journal of North Indiana Conference, in the case of Isaac M. Stagg was read, including the charge, specifications, and findings of the Conference. After which, the appeal was, on motion, entertained.

J. L. Smith appeared as the representative of I. M. Stagg, and stated the grounds of his appeal.

The testimony for the prosecution was then read, and brother Smith proceeded with his remarks in behalf of the appellant.

J. Marsee followed in behalf of the North Indiana Conference. Pending his remarks, it was moved to prolong the session to finish the case. Carried. This motion was reconsidered.

H. Slicer moved that when we adjourn, it be to meet this afternoon, at 3 o'clock. Lost.

Conference adjourned. Prayer by C. Hobart.

May 18.

## TUESDAY, MAY 18.

Bishop Waugh in the chair.

The Conference met at 8 o'clock. The journal was read, corrected, and approved.

Appeal of I. M. Stagg.

P. Cartwright moved to take up the appeal case of I. M. Stagg.

J. Marsee finished his address to the conference, and when he closed,

J. L. Smith, for the appellant, closed the pleadings.

On motion of J. A. Collins, *Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences, in General Conference assembled, That the decision of the North Indiana Conference, in the case of I. M. Stagg, be, and the same is hereby, reversed.

S. Comfort offered a substitute for the above, viz. :—That the case of I. M. Stagg be sent back for readjudication.

On motion of H. M. Shaffer, the substitute was laid on the table.

The resolution offered by J. A. Collins was then adopted, thus reversing the decision of the North Indiana Conference in the case of I. M. Stagg.

Appeal of G. Taylor.

On motion of E. H. Pilcher, the Conference took up the appeal of G. Taylor, who appeals from the action of the Michigan Annual Conference, by which he was convicted of maladministration, and a penalty imposed upon him.

N. Wilson moved that the Conference do not entertain the appeal.

S. Comfort moved to strike out the word "not" before the word "entertain."

H. Kinsley moved that the amendment be laid on the table. Lost.

The amendment to strike out the word "not" prevailed.

The appeal of G. Taylor was entertained.

E. H. Pilcher stated the ground of appeal.

J. S. Porter offered the following :—

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of this General Conference, that the testimony on file, which was read in and admitted by the conference, and duly referred to on the journal of the Michigan Conference, be proper testimony to be read in this case. Adopted.

The minutes containing the testimony were then read, after which E. H. Pilcher, in behalf of the appellant, addressed the Conference.

W. H. Collins then responded in behalf of the Michigan Conference. Brother Collins gave way for a motion to adjourn.

On motion of J. A. Collins, the Conference adjourned. Prayer by E. Thomas.

May 19.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19.

Bishop Morris in the chair.

After reading the Scriptures, singing, and prayer by N. D. George, the journal was read and approved.

On motion of J. M. Trimble, the appeal case of G. Taylor was taken up, and W. H. Collins resumed and finished his remarks in behalf of the Michigan Conference, after which E. H. Pilcher closed for the appellant, when B. Holmes submitted the following resolution:—

Appeal of G. Taylor.

*Resolved*, That the decision of the Michigan Conference, from which George Taylor appeals to this body, be, and hereby is, affirmed.

Brother Tichnell moved to amend, by inserting the word "not." On motion the amendment was laid on the table. The resolution to affirm was then adopted.

The regular order of the day was suspended.

On motion of J. A. Collins, a resolution of thanks was ordered to the city authorities of Boston, for the invitation tendered by them to the General Conference to an excursion among the islands of the harbour.

Thanks to the City Authorities of Boston.

J. A. Collins then introduced the following preamble and resolutions, which were adopted by a rising vote:—

"Whereas His Honour, the Mayor of Boston, in behalf of the city authorities, invited the members of this General Conference to an excursion among the islands in the harbour of Boston, and the invitation was accepted by a unanimous vote of the Conference; and whereas said excursion occurred on the afternoon of Tuesday, May 18, 1852, in which the Mayor and city authorities, nearly all of the members of the General Conference, clergymen of different denominations, and citizens of Boston, participated, and was an occasion of great interest and enjoyment; and whereas the members of the General Conference are deeply impressed with the kindness and attention of the Mayor and city authorities, and are desirous of expressing their appreciation of the same; therefore,

"*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences, in General Conference assembled, That the thanks of the members of this body are due, and are hereby given, to the Mayor and city authorities of Boston, for the signal and refined hospitality manifested towards them by the excursion among the islands in the harbour of Boston;—that the whole-hearted welcome extended to the Conference by His Honour the Mayor, the social enjoyment, the Christian, liberal, and patriotic sentiments uttered on the occasion of this mark of public favour, entitle it, and the authors and originators of the excursion, to a firm hold upon our fondest recollections, and we will cherish it and them in pleas-

May 13. ing remembrance, and pray that the choicest blessings of Almighty God may rest upon them and the citizens of Boston.

"Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolution be sent to the Mayor of Boston, accompanied with the respectful request that they be communicated to the city authorities.

"JOHN A. COLLINS.

"M. SIMPSON."

Report on Itinerancy taken up. A report of the Committee on Itinerancy, which had been laid upon the table, was taken up and read.

After some discussion, H. Slicer submitted the following as a substitute for the report of the Committee on Itinerancy:—

Secret Societies. "Resolved, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences, in General Conference assembled, That it is not competent for an Annual Conference to pass restrictions controlling the action of the members of conference, in relation to secret societies or other organizations, unless such organizations are known to be contrary to the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Therefore,

"Resolved, That the proceedings of the North Ohio Conference in the cases referred to, be, and they are hereby, annulled."

J. P. Durbin moved to lay the substitute on the table. Carried.

J. P. Durbin moved to amend the report of the committee, by striking out all after the word "exceptionable," to the word "disregarded," inclusive.

The proposed amendment was adopted.

The report, as amended, was then adopted, and is as follows:—

"We regard this finding as exceptionable. We therefore offer the following for adoption by this General Conference:—

"Resolved, That the action of the North Ohio Conference in 1848, in finding guilty of imprudence several of its members, for disregarding its advice, given in 1845, was unauthorized by the Discipline."

Report on Missions taken up. On motion of J. P. Durbin, a report, in part, of the Committee on Missions was taken up and read.

It was moved that the first resolution be adopted, as follows:—

Episcopal Functions in Liberia. Resolved, That measures be taken to insure the due exercise of Episcopal functions in the Liberia Mission Annual Conference.

After some discussion, L. Hitchcock submitted the following, as a substitute for the first resolution:—

Resolved, That measures be taken to insure the due exercise of the powers of Ordination in the Liberia Annual Conference.

The substitute was laid upon the table.

May 19.

After further discussion the report was recommitted.

J. Holdich then submitted the following, which was unanimously adopted, by a rising vote :—

“Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to remove by death the Rev. Stephen Olin, D. D., LL. D., late President of the Wesleyan University, who was a member elect of this General Conference, from the New-York East Conference; therefore,

“Resolved, That while we desire to bow with humble submission to this dispensation of the divine hand, we unfeignedly mourn the departure of one who, by his soundness of faith, purity of life, comprehensiveness of intellect, and extensive learning, was so well qualified to be a light and a guide in our Israel; but while we regret that we cannot enjoy the benefit of his counsel in this General Conference, and that the Church militant is deprived of his eminently useful labours, we rejoice in the satisfactory assurance that he has left the Church on earth to be united in the Church in heaven, and that in life and death he had made manifest the power and excellency of redeeming grace.

“J. HOLDICH.

“S. LANDON.”

Bishop Waugh submitted a communication from the Board of Bishops, on the subject of the appointment of probationers to institutions of learning, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Communication from the Bishops.

S. Comfort presented a petition from Waltham, praying for a change in the form of the Sunday School Advocate, so as to admit of its being separated into four parts, and distributed weekly. Referred to the Committee on Sabbath Schools and Tracts.

S. S. Advocate.

T. Barkdull presented a petition from Wadsworth and Sharon circuit, Wooster district, North Ohio Conference, on the subject of lay delegation, which was referred to the committee on that subject.

Lay Delegation.

G. W. Walker presented a communication from J. W. Jameson, on the subject of boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Boundaries.

G. W. Walker presented a communication from W. Morrow, to himself, on the subject of boundaries. Referred as above.

A. E. Phelps presented a petition from an association of ministers in Pottsdam district, on the subject of slavery. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Slavery.

A. E. Phelps also presented a petition from the same association, on the distribution and the price of our books. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

J. Havens presented petitions from Indianapolis district,

Boundaries.

- May 19. on the subject of boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries.  
Adjourned. Prayer by R. O. Spencer.

## THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 20.

- May 20. Bishop Janes in the chair.  
After the usual religious services by J. A. Gere, the journal was read, corrected, and approved.  
On motion of P. P. Sandford,  
Resolved, That, after the present week, the rule requiring the call for petitions and memorials be dispensed with.  
Carried.
- Call for petitions and memorials dispensed with. The Committee on the Expenses of the Delegates reported as follows:—  
“That they have so far progressed with the business assigned them as to ascertain that there will be a deficiency of over two thousand dollars. They submit to the General Conference the following resolutions for adoption:—  
“Resolved, That a draft be ordered on the Book Agents in New-York for an amount sufficient to cover the deficiency.  
“Resolved, That in those circuits and stations where collections have not been taken up to meet those expenses, agreeably to the directions of the Discipline, we will, on our return, make an effort to have such collection taken, and the money so raised shall be forwarded to the Agents as an indemnity for the above draft.  
“Resolved, That the committee be authorized to pay the Assistant Secretary, Rev. B. Griffen, the amount of his travelling expenses.  
“Resolved, That the chairman of the Committee on Expenses of the Delegates be authorized to draw for the amount of deficiency on the Agents at New-York.”  
The above resolutions were adopted.  
The order of the day was suspended.  
On motion of J. M’Clintock,  
Resolved, That the Rev. T. E. Bond and the Rev. Geo. Coles be invited to take seats within the bar.
- Report of Committee on Expenses. On motion of J. M’Clintock, the Conference took up the resolution respecting the request of the Rev. L. M. Lee, touching a copy of the journals of the General Conference, and is as follows:—(See journal of May 12, p. 46.)  
J. A. Collins offered the following as a substitute for the above:—  
Resolved, That the Book Agents at New-York be, and they hereby are, directed to publish the journals of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, from 1800 to 1836 inclusive.  
H. Slicer moved to amend the substitute by adding
- T. E. Bond and G. Coles.  
L. M. Lee.  
Publication of Journals of General Conference.

“except in so far as the journal involves personal character.”

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This amendment was laid on the table, and the substitute offered by J. A. Collins was adopted.

The order of the day was suspended to receive a communication from a committee of the American and Foreign Christian Union, viz., Dr. Baird, Dr. Fairchild, Dr. Kennedy, Rev. Mr. Kirk—each of whom addressed the Conference.

American & Foreign Christian Union.

Dr. Fairchild read to the Conference a memorial from the aforesaid association, after which the following resolution was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the memorial in favour of the American and Foreign Christian Union, just read, be referred to a select committee of five, who shall be instructed to report to this body suitable action in relation to it.

The chair announced the following as said committee:—G. Peck, J. P. Durbin, G. Webber, W. Nast, J. Davis.

The order of the day was resumed.

The Committee on the Book Concern report further as follows:—

“The Committee on the Book Concern, to whom was referred the communication signed by brothers Owen, Taylor, Corwin, Simonds, Briggs, Bannister, Maclay, and Dryden, in relation to the state of the work in California, and, among other things, petitioning the General Conference to establish a book depository and a weekly paper in the city of San Francisco, in that State, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to submit for adoption by the General Conference the following resolutions:—

Report on Book Concern.

“*Resolved*, That the Book Agents at New-York be, and they hereby are, instructed to establish a Book Depository in San Francisco, California, with all reasonable despatch, and with such an amount of stock as they may judge the interests of the work require.”

Depository and paper in California.

Depository in San Francisco ordered.

J. F. Wright moved to amend the resolution by adding, “and the safety of the Book Concern will warrant.”

Amendment withdrawn, and the resolution was then adopted.

“*Resolved*, That a weekly paper, to be denominated the California Christian Advocate, be established in San Francisco, under the patronage and control of the General Conference, and that the Conference accept the paper of that name now published in San Francisco as the nucleus of the enterprise.”

Newspaper in San Francisco.

A division of the resolution was ordered, and, on motion, the first part was adopted, viz., to establish a paper in San Francisco.

H. Slicer proposed to amend the second part by adding, “provided the liabilities of said paper do not exceed \$2000.” This was laid on the table.

May 20.

W. H. Hunter moved to amend by adding, "provided their liabilities do not exceed \$1500." This was laid on the table.

B. S. Hall moved to amend by adding, "provided their liabilities do not exceed \$3000." This was laid on the table.

The second part, viz., "and that the Conference accept the paper of that name now published in San Francisco, as the nucleus of the enterprise," was adopted.

Building in San Francisco.

"Resolved, That the Book Agents at New-York be, and they hereby are, directed to inquire, without avoidable delay, into the propriety and expediency of purchasing a lot in San Francisco, and erecting thereon a substantial building for the accommodation of the depository and paper; and if, in their judgment, the interests of the Church in that quarter of our work require it, they are hereby authorized to make such purchase and erect such buildings."

Carried.

Depository and Newspaper at Chicago.

"Resolved, That the Book Agents at New-York be, and they hereby are, instructed to establish a Book Depository, and weekly paper, to be denominated ———, at Chicago, Illinois.

By vote, the session was prolonged.

A motion was made to strike out "New-York," and insert "Cincinnati," pending which it was moved to lay the subject on the table, and make it the order of the day for to-morrow morning, immediately after the reading of the journal. Lost.

It was moved, that we now adjourn. Lost.

D. P. Kidder moved, as a substitute, the following:—

Resolved, That the Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati be, and they hereby are, instructed to establish a Book Depository at Chicago, Illinois—by mutual arrangement, each Agency furnishing the books it severally publishes, &c.

Withdrawn.

The motion to strike out "New-York," and insert "Cincinnati," in the fourth resolution, prevailed, and the resolution thus amended was adopted.

Conference adjourned. Prayer by W. H. Goode.

## FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 21.

May 21.

Bishop Waugh in the chair.

After the usual religious exercises, led by J. Havens, the journal of the preceding session was read, amended, and approved.

B. N. Brown moved to suspend the order of the day, that he might introduce a resolution. Lost.

Revisal Report.

The Committee on Revisals submitted their Report No. 1



and No. 2, which were laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

May 21.

The Committee on Missions reported, in part, as follows, which was adopted :—

Report of Committee on Missions.

“The Committee on Missions, to whom was referred the petition of the coloured brethren from Philadelphia, asking that the pastors within the Philadelphia and New-Jersey Conferences may be formed into an Annual Conference, under the supervision of the Bishops and of the Presiding Elders of said Conferences, within whose bounds their (the coloured pastors’) work may lie, beg leave to report—

Coloured preachers in Philadelphia and New-Jersey Conferences.

“That the Committee have given due consideration to the said petition, and have heard the bearers of it in person, and have obtained all information within their reach, and have come to the following conclusions :—

“1st. That it is very desirable that the coloured pastors, mentioned in the petition aforesaid, should have an opportunity to meet together once a year, in the presence or under the supervision of the Bishop, or Bishops, in order to confer together with respect to the best means of promoting their work, and to receive the assignment of their work from the Bishop, to the churches usually left in the minutes ‘to be supplied.’

“2d. That in this meeting it is desirable that the Presiding Elders, in whose bounds the coloured churches and congregations lie, should be present to assist the Bishop in assigning the work.

“3d. Provided, upon due inquiry by the Bishops, they shall find a sufficient number of coloured preachers, of sufficient qualifications to justify an annual meeting.

“Having arrived at these conclusions, the Committee have agreed on the following resolution, which is reported for adoption by the General Conference :—

“*Resolved*, That we advise that the coloured local preachers now employed, or who may be employed, within the bounds of the Philadelphia and New-Jersey Annual Conferences, be assembled together once in each year, by the Bishop or Bishops who may preside in said Conference, for the purpose of conferring with said coloured local preachers with respect to the best means for promoting their work, and also for the purpose of assigning them their work respectively; and that the Presiding Elders, within whose bounds and under whose care the coloured churches and congregations are, be present, and aid the Bishop or Bishops in said annual meeting of coloured local preachers: *provided*, that upon due inquiry the said Bishop or Bishops shall find such annual meeting aforesaid to be practicable and expedient.”

The same Committee reported further, which was laid on the table for the present :—

May 21. "The Missionary Committee, to which was referred the Separate Foreign Missionary Board. resolutions of the Providence Conference, advising the organization of a separate missionary department or society for the support of foreign missions, have had the same under consideration; and after careful and free discussion in Committee, have come to the conclusion embodied in the following resolution, which is reported for adoption by the General Conference:—

"Resolved, That it is not expedient to organize a separate Foreign Missionary Society at present; but in the progress of the work, the time may come that the missionary collections should be taken separately for foreign and domestic missions, and be separately administered."

The same Committee further reported in relation to providing the due exercise of Episcopal functions in Liberia. Laid on the table for the present.

Report of Book Committee taken up. On motion of J. A. Collins, the report of the Book Committee, yesterday laid upon the table, was taken up, and the second resolution of said report was read, and it lay on the table under the rule.

Report of Committee on Temporal Economy. The Committee on Temporal Economy reported—  
1st. In relation to the alteration of the deeds of settlement.  
2d. On the election of stewards.  
3d. On the support of preachers and their families.  
4th. A minority report on the same subject.  
5th. A report on raising supplies for effective preachers. All of which were laid on the table under the rule, and all ordered to be printed.

Report of Committee on Itinerancy. The Committee on Itinerancy reported on the office and work of Presiding Elders, setting forth that it is inexpedient to make any change. The report was laid on the table.

W. Herr. The same Committee reported further on the memorial of W. Herr, recommending that the prayer of the memorialist be not granted. The report was adopted.

The report of the Committee on Missions was taken up. The first resolution was adopted, and is as follows:—

Episcopal functions in Liberia. "Resolved, That measures be taken to insure the due exercise of Episcopal functions in the Liberia Mission Annual Conference."

The second resolution was read.

J. A. Collins submitted a substitute for the resolution.

H. Bangs moved to amend the substitute by striking out all after the word "Conference," and the amendment was accepted by the mover, and, as amended, is as follows:—

Resolved, That the General Conference recommend to the Bishops that they make such arrangements as that one of their number shall visit Liberia once or oftener during the ensuing four years, as they shall judge necessary.

Moved, that when we adjourn, it be to meet this afternoon at 3 o'clock. Carried. May 21.  
 Conference adjourned.  
 Benediction by N. Wilson.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Bishop Morris in the chair.

Conference convened at 3 o'clock, and was opened by reading the Scriptures, singing, and prayer by J. Chandler.

The journal was read, corrected, and approved.

The report of the Committee on Episcopacy was taken up, and the following resolution of the report was read:— Report of Committee on Episcopacy taken up.

“The Committee have also had under consideration that part of the Bishops’ Address which relates to strengthening the Episcopacy, and recommend the following resolution:—

“Resolved, That we will, at this session of the General Conference, elect three additional Bishops.” Three additional Bishops recommended.

The resolution was amended by substituting the word “four,” for the word “three.” Amended to four.

The resolution as amended was then adopted.

H. Bangs submitted the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That the election of Bishops be the order of the day for next Tuesday, at 9 o'clock, A. M. Time of election of Bishops.

The Conference took up the business pending at the time of adjournment this morning.

C. K. True submitted an amendment to the resolution under discussion this morning, so as to read as follows:— Change of third restrictive rule proposed.

“Resolved, That immediate steps be taken to secure a change of the third restrictive rule, so as to make it read as follows:—

“3d. They shall not change or alter any part or rule of our government so as to do away Episcopacy, or destroy the plan of our Itinerant General Superintendency: *provided*, that the General Conference shall have authority to elect a Superintendent of our Missions in foreign countries, with Episcopal power, who may not be a member of the Board of General Superintendents; and provided also, that this restriction shall not be so construed as to prevent the General Conference from electing a Bishop or Bishops to be exclusively devoted to our missions in foreign countries respectively, as the General Conference may direct. -

“P. P. SANDFORD,

“A. M. OSBON.

“But should the Annual Conferences refuse to concur with the General Conference in making the foregoing alteration of the restrictive rule, then

“Resolved, That the General Conference recommend to

- May 21. the Bishops that they make such arrangements as that one  
 Episcopal func- of their number shall visit Liberia once or oftener during  
 tions in Liberia. the coming four years, as they shall judge necessary.”  
 On motion, the amendment of C. K. True was laid on  
 the table.  
 The question being on the adoption of the substitute,  
 brother H. Kinsley moved to amend by striking out the  
 word “once,” and insert the word “twice.”  
 The proposed amendment was laid on the table.  
 The substitute was then adopted.  
 It was ordered to take up the amendment submitted by  
 C. K. True and laid on the table.  
 The question being on its adoption, the yeas and nays  
 were ordered.  
 On motion of J. Porter, the resolution was referred to a  
 committee of three.  
 The chair appointed E. R. Ames, J. M’Clintock, and M.  
 Raymond, said committee.  
 The remainder of this report was referred to this com-  
 mittee.
- Boundaries. Z. Phillips presented a petition from Rochester, N. Y.,  
 on the subject of boundaries. Referred to the Committee  
 on Boundaries.
- G. Coles. H. Bangs presented a communication from G. Coles,  
 which was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.
- Pittsburgh Chris- H. J. Clarke presented the report of the Publishing  
 tian Advocate. Committee of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate, which was  
 read, and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.
- Fond du Lac dis- W. H. Sampson presented a memorial from Fond du Lac  
 trict. district. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- Slavery. C. Kingsley presented a memorial from Parkman circuit,  
 on slavery. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- Lay delegation. J. H. Whallon presented a communication from Quarterly  
 Conference of Morgan circuit, on lay delegation.
- Slavery. C. Kingsley presented several papers on the subject of  
 slavery. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- White-Water Fe- S. T. Gillett presented statistics of White-Water Female  
 male College. College, Indiana. Referred to Committee on Education.
- Genesee College M. Crow presented catalogue and statistics of Genesee  
 and Wesleyan College and Genesee Wesleyan Seminary. Referred to  
 Seminary. Committee on Education.
- Change of Disci- Bishop Janes presented a memorial of sixteen members  
 pline in trials of the church in Syracuse, praying for an alteration of the  
 and appeals. Discipline in relation to trials and appeals. Referred to the  
 Committee on Revisals.
- East Genesee J. Dennis presented a memorial from East Genesee Con-  
 Conference. ference, asking to remove some matters from the General  
 Rules to another section. Referred to the Committee on  
 Revisals.
- Sunday Schools. L. W. Berry presented a memorial on Sabbath Schools

from members of Ohio and Indiana Conferences. Referred to the Committee on Sunday Schools and Tracts. May 21.

F. Hodgson presented a memorial of Mrs. — Thomas, relating to the action of the Philadelphia Conference in the case of her husband. Referred to the Committee on Itinerancy. Mrs. Thomas.

J. Cunningham presented a memorial from Philadelphia, praying for no alteration of the Discipline so as to admit of lay delegation, unless two-thirds of each Annual Conference shall first ask for such change in our economy; and further praying that this amendment shall have the force of a restrictive rule. Referred to the Committee on Revisals. Lay delegation.

M. Raymond presented a petition from members of the M. E. Church, for change in the Discipline in respect to the election of stewards. Referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy. Election of Stewards.

Also, a petition from Columbus, Ohio, on lay delegation. Referred to the Committee on that subject. Lay delegation.

J. H. Whallon presented a petition from Cleveland, Ohio, asking that the next General Conference be held in that city. Laid on the table. Cleveland, Ohio, invitation.

C. Brooks presented a memorial from Bethesda and Rapid Forge, on boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries. Boundaries.

Also, a catalogue of Oakland Female Seminary, Hillsborough, Ohio. Referred to the Committee on Education. Oakland Female Seminary.

D. Holmes presented a petition for a Book Depository at Auburn, N. Y. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. Book Depository at Auburn, N. Y.

J. Marsee presented a memorial from Newtown circuit, North Indiana Conference, on the subject of slavery and lay representatives. So much as refers to slavery was referred to the Committee on Revisals, and so much as refers to lay delegation was referred to the Committee on that subject. Slavery and lay delegation.

J. F. Wright presented a memorial from J. F. Chalfont, proposing alterations and additions to the Discipline. Referred to the Committee on Revisals. J. F. Chalfont.

Also, from S. F. Conry, asking for a Kentucky Conference. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries. Kentucky Conference.

Also, a memorial from Hatton Simmons, on the subject of ministerial allowance. Referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy. Ministerial support.

P. Cartwright presented a memorial from Pulaski, on the subject of boundaries. Referred to the Committee on Boundaries. Boundaries.

J. Porter presented two resolutions on the subject of indebtedness to the Book Concern. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. Indebtedness to Book Concern.

Conference adjourned. Prayer by G. W. Walker.

May 22.

## SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 22.

Bishop Janes in the chair.

After the usual religious services by J. Young, the journal was read, amended, and adopted.

The Committee on the Church Suit presented a report, which was adopted, as follows:—

Report of Committee on the Church Suit.

“The Committee on the Church Suit, to whom were referred the reports of the Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati, with other papers relative to the Church property suits, beg leave respectfully to report, that

“Whereas the final decree in the Church Suit at New-York is not yet rendered, and as the suit at Cincinnati is not yet tried; and,

“Whereas, in the judgment of this Committee, the General Conference cannot at present take any enlightened action respecting the course which it may be proper to take under contingencies yet to arise,

“Therefore, your Committee recommend the following resolutions for adoption by the General Conference:—

“*Resolved*, That the decision of the question of appeal from the decision of Judge Nelson, and the settlement of the whole business at New-York, be referred to a commission of five persons, including the Book Agents at that place; and that the case in Cincinnati, in like manner, be referred to a commission of five persons, including the Book Agents at that place.

“*Resolved*, That the additional members of said commissions be appointed by this Conference by ballot, and that each commission be, and hereby is, clothed with full powers to act.

“In behalf of the Committee,

“JOHN DAVIS, *Chairman*.

“BOSTON, May 21, 1852.”

The order of the day was suspended.

N. Bangs moved the following:—

Previous Question.

*Resolved*, That it shall be in order to move that the question be taken without further debate on any measure pending before the General Conference; and if sustained by a vote of two-thirds, the question shall be so taken.

S. Comfort proposed to amend, by striking out “two-thirds,” and inserting “three-fourths.” This was laid on the table.

The resolution was adopted.

Episcopal ordination.

S. Comfort presented a resolution touching changes in favour of the service for Episcopal Ordination. Referred to the Committee on Episcopacy.

J. Young presented the following:—*Resolved*, That we have examined with much satisfaction the beautiful portrait of our late lamented senior Superintendent.

May 22.  
Portrait of Bishop Hedding.

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to superintend, and cause to be taken, a daguerreotype for each member of this General Conference, or as many as desire it; and that by a collection taken in the Conference we will meet the expenses of the same.

J. Davis presented a request, that the next session of the General Conference be held at Washington City. Laid on table.

Petitions for General Conference to hold its next session

M. Crow presented a similar request from Rochester. Laid on the table.

E. H. Pilcher presented a request from Detroit, on the same subject. Laid on the table.

S. P. Keyes presented a request from Chicago, on the same subject. Laid on the table.

B. N. Brown offered the following:—*Resolved*, That Dr. Thomas E. Bond, sen., be, and hereby is, requested to prosecute to completion his History of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Adopted.

History Meth. E. Church by Dr. T. E. Bond, sen.

R. Holmes offered a resolution touching changes in the Discipline. Laid on the table under the rule.

Change of Discipline.

H. Mattison offered the following:—*Resolved*, That the resolution of the General Conference of 1848, which requires the Secretaries of the Annual Conferences to record all adopted reports of committees, and all testimony in the trial of preachers, upon the journal of Conference, or in a separate book, instead of filing documents and referring to them, be, and hereby is, rescinded. Carried.

Rescinding the instruction of Secretaries of Annual Conferences.

J. Marsee offered a resolution touching alterations in the Discipline. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Change of Discipline.

H. N. Seaver presented the following:—*Resolved*, That the Agents of the Book Concern be instructed to send the Christian Advocate and Journal gratuitously to all widows of deceased travelling preachers, who are in good standing in the M. E. Church, applying therefor, and to such superannuated preachers as shall be designated by the Annual Conference of which they are members. Adopted.

Agents instructed to send Advocate and Journal to widows, &c.

B. Holmes presented a resolution touching some change in the Discipline relating to receiving preachers on trial. Referred to Committee on Revisals.

Change in Discipline.

J. S. Porter moved to reconsider the vote adopting rules for our government. Carried.

Change of rules for government of General Conference.

C. Hobart proposed the following amendment to Rule 7th, that a substitute may not be amended before it is accepted by a vote in the place of the original proposition; but when accepted by vote, may be amended as an original proposition. Agreed to. And the Rule as amended was, on motion, adopted.

Amendment to Rule 7.

M. Crow offered a resolution that the Discipline be so

May 22. amended as to authorize the Annual Conferences to examine candidates for admission on trial in the travelling connexion. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.

H. Whitman presented the following:—

Amendment of Discipline. *Resolved*, That the Discipline, page 52, sec. 11, of the duties of those who have the charge of circuits or stations, Ans. 9, and after the words “properly distinguished,” be amended by inserting the following—“also the number of members who have died during the year.” Lies on the table under the rule.

J. Bear offered a resolution touching some changes in the rule for receiving preachers from other Churches. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Baldwin Institute. H. Whitman presented the catalogue of Baldwin Institute. Referred to the Committee on Education.

Flushing Institute. J. M’Clintock presented the catalogue of Flushing Female Institute. Referred to the Committee on Education.

Religious privileges in Rome. The committee appointed on the subject of attempting to obtain the same religious privileges for Protestants in Rome, and other Catholic countries, that Catholics enjoy in the United States, reported, and their report was laid on the table for the present and ordered to be printed.

Committee announced. The chair announced E. R. Ames, J. M’Clintock, and M. Raymond, as the committee ordered yesterday afternoon.

Took up the report of Book Committee.

Resolution fourth was read, amended, and adopted, and is as follows:—

Agents at Cincinnati instructed to establish a Depository at St. Louis. “*Resolved*, That the Book Agents at Cincinnati be, and they are hereby authorized and instructed to establish a depository for books, and a weekly paper, to be denominated by such title as they may select, in the city of St. Louis, Mo., to be under the direction and control of the Book Agents at Cincinnati: *provided*, that in the judgment of the Agents such depository and periodical can be established and sustained with safety to the interests of the Book Concern.”

The whole report was adopted.

The motion to adopt reconsidered, to supply the name of the Church paper to be published at Chicago.

North Western Christian Advocate. Moved to fill the blank with “North-Western Christian Advocate.”

H. W. Reed moved to amend, calling it “Prairie.” Lost. The name, “North-Western Christian Advocate,” prevailed, and the whole report was adopted.

The order of the day was suspended.

J. H. Power offered the following:—

Monument to Bishop M’Kendree. *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to take into consideration the propriety of erecting a suitable monument to the memory of the venerable Bishop M’Kendree.



dree, and if deemed expedient, to submit some plan by which the object may be secured. May 22.

P. P. Sandford moved the following:—

*Resolved*, That the Discipline be so amended in Part I, Ch. iii, § 2, Ans. 1, as to read 30, in the place of 21, the present ratio of delegates. Change of ratio of representation.

Laid on the table under the rule.

A. Witherspoon moved the following:—

*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Book Concern be instructed to inquire into the expediency of publishing the Discipline in the French and Norwegian languages. Discipline in French, &c.

Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

W. H. Collins presented a petition from Ypsilanti, Michigan, on the subject of slavery. Referred to the Committee on Revisals. Slavery.

The Committee on the Chartered Fund reported.

Chartered Fund.

The 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th resolutions were adopted, with the preamble. (See *Appendix*, T, p. 176.)

J. Clark moved the following:—

*Resolved*, That when an Annual Conference decides that a preacher having charge has received or expelled a member contrary to the Discipline, the decision does not exclude the member so received, but restores the member so expelled. Received and expelled members illegally.

Carried.

J. Clark presented a paper on law questions, which was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

The Committee on Sunday schools reported.

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools.

Report No. 1, read, and laid on the table under the rules.

Report No. 2, read, and laid on the table, and ordered to be printed—also No. 1.

Report No. 3. That part of the report relating to the Sunday School Advocate was adopted. Sunday School Advocate.

*Resolved*, That the Sunday School Advocate, from and after the commencement of the next volume, be issued as a weekly sheet, and not less than one quarter of its present size.

*Resolved*, That the Book Agents be requested to publish this periodical on the best paper, and in the best style of printing and engraving that the enterprise will allow; and, if they judge proper, to advance the price not exceeding ten cents per volume."

The Committee on Revisals report, in part, further.

Report No. 3 read, laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

T. J. Thompson moved the following:—

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to alter the chapter in the Discipline on the Chartered Fund, to arrange the Discipline so as to conform to the action of this Conference and the charter of the corporation. Chartered Fund.

- May 22. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- Change of Discipline. A. J. Phelps offered a resolution proposing to alter the rule respecting the reception of travelling preachers on trial. Referred to the Committee on Revisals.
- Report of Committee on Revisals. G. Peck moved to take up the report from the Committee on Revisals, No. 1. Lost. But, On motion, it was made the order of the day for Wednesday morning.
- Temporal Economy. H. Bangs returned several papers, saying, "The Committee on Temporal Economy had acted on the subjects, and requested that they lie on the table."
- Slavery. C. Kingsley presented a memorial from Farmington on the subject of slavery. Referred to Committee on Revisals. W. Hosmer presented a memorial on the same subject. Similarly referred.
- Sunday Schools. J. F. Wright presented a memorial from eight members of our Church on Milford circuit, Ohio, on the subject of Sunday-school superintendents.
- Lay delegation. Also, a memorial against lay delegation. Referred to the Committees on these subjects.
- Family Bible. H. W. Reed and others presented memorials on the subject of publishing, in a convenient size, a family reading and pronouncing Bible. Referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.
- Appeal of D. J. Snow. Took up the appeal case of D. J. Snow. The journal of the Illinois Conference, touching his case, was read. The appeal was admitted. J. B. Corrington stated the ground of appeal to be, that the action of the Conference was informal and illegal. P. Cartwright made some remarks touching this case; and, on motion of N. Bangs, it was *Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences, in General Conference assembled, That the case of D. J. Snow be remanded back to the Illinois Conference for a new trial. H. Slicer moved, as a substitute, That the decision of the Illinois Conference, in the case of D. J. Snow, be reversed. A motion to lay the substitute on the table failed.
- Secretary instructed. The substitute was accepted and adopted, and the Secretary ordered to give the Illinois Conference a copy of the above action.
- Invitations. J. P. Durbin read an invitation to the General Conference to visit the Cabinet of Missionary Curiosities and Library of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, signed by R. Anderson, S. B. Treat, S. L. Pomeroy, secretaries. Adjourned. Prayer, by I. Chamberlayne.

May 24.

## MONDAY MORNING, MAY 24.

Bishop Waugh in the chair.

After the usual religious exercises, led by J. Davis, the journal was read and approved.

H. N. Seaver, a reserve delegate from East Genesee, M. Fellows. stated to the Conference that M. Fellows, a delegate from that conference, had arrived, and that he resigned his seat in favour of M. Fellows.

His resignation was accepted, and M. Fellows presented his certificate of election, and took his seat.

The Committee on Expenses of Delegates was ordered to pay the travelling expenses of M. Fellows.

The order of the day was suspended, for the purpose of Rev. A. Green. hearing the address of Rev. A. Green, representative from the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Canada.

The order of the day was further suspended for the purpose of introducing resolutions.

Z. Phillips, in behalf of the Committee to whom the document from the Book Concern of Canada Conference was referred, presented the following:—

“Resolved, That the Agent of the Book Concern of the Wesleyan Meth. Church, Canada, in reference to books. Canada Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church shall have the privilege of purchasing our books at New-York on the same terms as the Book Concern at Cincinnati, the Agent in Canada paying the duties on the same, and the expenses of transportation.”

N. Wilson moved to reconsider the order by which the Petitions, &c. calling for petitions and memorials was dispensed with after the last week. Lost.

S. T. Gillett submitted the following, which was adopted:—

“Resolved, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed Change in Discipline. to inquire into the expediency of amending Ans. 1, Sec. 4, p. 91, as follows: After the word ‘preacher,’ in the fourth line, insert the following, ‘Who shall cause exact minutes of the charges, testimony, and decision to be taken, and which he shall sign after approval. The trial shall be conducted,’ &c.

“S. T. GILLETT,

“J. HAVENS.”

Referred to the Committee on Revisals.

J. Holdich submitted the following, which was adopted:—

“Resolved, That the Committee on Episcopacy be instructed Representations to England and Canada. to inquire into the propriety of sending representatives to the Wesleyan Conference in England and Canada, and, if they judge expedient, to nominate persons to represent us to both these bodies.

“J. HOLDICH,

“H. BANGS.”

May 24.

L. Clark submitted the following, which was referred to the Committee on Revisals:—

Court of Appeals. “Resolved, That in Part I, Chap. 3, Sec. 3, and after the second answer in the following words:—

“It shall be the duty of each Annual Conference to appoint a standing Judicial Committee of at least six travelling Elders and three local Elders or Deacons, to hear and determine all cases of appeals from local preachers or ministers who may have been accused, tried, and convicted by a Quarterly Meeting Conference. (And a local preacher so convicted shall be allowed an appeal to this Committee, in place of the Annual Conference, as provided in Chap. 8, Sec. 3; and the Bishop presiding at the next succeeding Annual Conference shall preside, or appoint a person to preside, as chairman of the Committee.) Also, it shall be the duty of the Quarterly Conference to appoint a member of their own circuit or station to appear in behalf of the Church, and to present the record of trial with the charge, specifications, minutes taken both before a Committee and Quarterly Conference, with all documents relating to the case, and the same shall be the only evidence admitted. The appellant shall state the grounds of his appeal, and make his defence, without interruption; the representative of the Quarterly Meeting Conference shall respond, and the appellant, or his counsel, shall have the privilege of reply, which shall close the pleadings, and the Committee of Appeals shall determine the case.

“LABAN CLARK,  
“B. CREAGH.”

H. Mattison submitted the following, which lies on the table under the rule.

Change of Discipline.

“Resolved, That we omit from the Discipline the last sentence of page 81, which reads, “Give no tickets to any that wear high heads, enormous bonnets, ruffles, or rings,” and insert in its place, “Give tickets to none who disregard the apostolic caution, (1 Tim. ii, 9,) by adorning themselves with gold, or pearls, or costly array.

“H. MATTISON,  
“J. M. TRIMBLE.”

W. Nast was added to the Committee on Missions.

The Conference then proceeded with the regular order of business.

Missionary Bishops.

The Committee appointed to consider the resolution offered by P. P. Sandford and A. M. Osbon, referring to the election of Missionary Bishops, reported, and is as follows:— (See *Journal of Friday, May 21*, and also at the close of this day's journal.) Laid on the table under the rule.

Invitation.

B. Creagh presented an invitation from the Leaders'

Meeting of Allen-street Church, New-York, to hold the next General Conference in that city. Laid on the table. May 24.

The Mission Committee reported as follows:—

“The Mission Committee, having under consideration the petition of the Ohio Conference in favour of a mission to Italy, or near to Italy, beg leave to report the following resolution for adoption:— Mission to Italy.

“Resolved, That we recommend to the favourable consideration of the General Mission Committee and Board of Managers at New-York, the establishment of a mission with a view to benefit Italy, as soon as may be found practicable.

“By order of Committee,  
“J. P. DURBIN, Sec.”

The report was adopted.

On motion of P. P. Sandford, the resolution of Saturday was taken up, proposing to reduce the ratio of representation to the General Conference. Ratio of representation.

S. Comfort moved to amend the resolution by striking out the number 30, and inserting 26.

H. Slicer moved to lay the whole subject on the table. Carried.

On motion, the resolution of Saturday, providing for reporting the number of deaths in the membership in the annual statistics, was taken up. Death of members.

On motion of H. Bangs, it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

On motion, the Conference proceeded to assign the place of the next General Conference.

On motion of C. B. Tippet, all the memorials lying on the table relating to the subject were taken up.

Memorials were then read, inviting the General Conference of 1856 to Indianapolis, Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago, Rochester, Philadelphia, New-York, and Washington City; also a verbal representation was made from Baltimore. Invitations to hold General Conference.

T. J. Thompson moved, That the next General Conference be held in Philadelphia.

N. Wilson offered the following as a substitute, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That the several places represented be called, and voted on in the order in which they were nominated.

P. Cartwright moved to amend the substitute, so that the Conference shall vote by ballot on the several places in nomination. Laid on the table.

On voting, the city of Indianapolis, Indiana, having received a majority of 77 votes against 69, was declared by the president as the seat of the next General Conference, to be held May 1, 1856. Seat of next General Conference.

- May 24.  
Temperance. Bishop Morris presented a communication from J. C. Warner and Moses Grant of this city, President and Secretary of the Massachusetts Temperance Society, tendering a present to the General Conference of one hundred copies of Dr. Carpenter's work on the subject of Temperance. The present was accepted, and the Secretary was directed to address a letter suitably acknowledging it.
- Bishop Hedding. On motion of N. Bangs, the Conference reconsidered the vote by which it adopted the minute relating to Bishop Hedding. Whereupon, N. Bangs moved to strike out of the said minute the words "the following," and insert the word "this." Carried. The article, as amended, was then adopted.
- Report of Committee on Temporal Economy. The reports of the Committee on Temporal Economy were taken from the table. On motion of H. Bangs, it was ordered that the majority report be so amended as to add the words, "and travelling expenses," to the word "claim," wherever it occurs. On motion of H. M. Shaffer, it was resolved to take up the majority report, item by item. N. Bangs moved to amend, so as to insert the word "minority" for the word "majority." On motion of J. H. Clark, the two reports were referred to a select committee of five.
- Sunday Schools and Tracts. The report of the Committee on Sunday Schools and Tracts was taken up and read, and ordered to be acted upon, item by item. The first item was adopted. The second item pending, it was moved by G. M. Beswick to amend the article, by striking out the words "the publications of the Methodist Episcopal Church," and insert the words "religious tracts and books." J. A. Collins moved to amend the amendment, by adding to the word "Church" the words "and from other sources." On motion of T. Barkdull, it was ordered to lay both the amendments on the table. R. Haney moved, That when we adjourn, it be to meet this afternoon at 3 o'clock. Laid on the table.
- Monument to Bishop M'Kendree. The chair announced the Committee on a Monument to Bishop M'Kendree, viz., D. Webb, P. Cartwright, and G. Gary.
- Committee on Temporal Economy. The special committee of five, ordered to consider the reports on Temporal Economy, was announced to be, J. Porter, H. J. Clarke, I. Winner, P. Akers, and J. Dennis.
- Invitation to visit new jail. Bishop Janes presented a communication from M. Grant, in behalf of the city authorities of Boston, inviting the General Conference to visit the new jail of the city. The Committee of Correspondence was ordered to reply

affirmatively to the above-named communication, which, together with the response, was directed to be published. May 24.

J. M. Trimble presented a communication from Carlos Pierce, inviting the members of the General Conference to the privileges of the Reading Room of the Mercantile Library Association. Invitation from  
Mercantile Li-  
brary Associa-  
tion.

J. P. Durbin announced the decease of John D. Collins, of the China Mission, and submitted the following resolutions, which were adopted by a rising vote:— Death of John D.  
Collins.

“Whereas we have heard of the decease of our beloved brother, the Rev. J. D. Collins, late Superintendent of our China Mission, and up to his decease a member of the mission, therefore,

“*Resolved*, That we receive this information with profound regret and sorrow, and that we sincerely sympathize with his friends in the loss they have sustained.

“*Resolved*, That these resolutions be entered on the General Conference Journal as a testimony of the profound respect we entertain for the memory of our brother, who has fallen a martyr to the cause of missions among the heathen.

“*Resolved*, That we sympathize with the mission in China, and with the Church generally, in the loss sustained by the death of brother Collins.

“*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished to the friends of the deceased, and that they be published.”

The Committee appointed to consider the proposal offered by P. P. Sandford and A. M. Osbon, with regard to the election of Missionary Bishops, beg leave to report the following resolutions, as amended, from said proposal:— Missionary Bish-  
ops.

“*Resolved*, That the third restrictive rule (Discipline, Part I, Chap. iii, Sec. 2, p. 27) be so changed as to read as follows:—

“3d. They shall not change or alter any part, or rule, of our government so as to do away Episcopacy, or destroy the plan of our Itinerant General Superintendency: *provided*, nevertheless, that they shall have power to elect Missionary Bishops for the superintendence of our missions in foreign countries, but who shall not be members of the General Episcopal Board. 24 B

“*Resolved*, That the Bishops be directed to lay the above resolution before the Annual Conferences for their concurrence, beginning with the first that shall hold its session after this General Conference; to see that the votes of the said Annual Conferences be reported promptly to the Missionary Secretary at New-York, who, with the Editors at New-York, shall constitute a committee to audit the vote, and report the result to the next General Conference.”

Conference adjourned. Prayer by brother Brooks.

May 25.

## TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 25.

Bishop Morris in the chair.

After the usual religious services, led by R. Haney, the journal was read and approved.

The rules were suspended to receive resolutions.

N. Bangs presented the following:—

Editors, &c., to  
avoid person-  
alities.

*Resolved*, That all the Editors and Correspondents of periodicals, under the patronage of this General Conference, be instructed to avoid, as far as practicable, all personalities in the controversies which may arise, and in no case to admit an anonymous writer to assail any man's character, either in or out of the Church.

On motion of J. Porter, it was laid on the table.

Report of Com-  
mittee on Ex-  
penses.

The Committee on Expenses of Delegates reported.

P. P. Sandford moved to strike out "be discharged," &c. G. Moody moved, as a substitute, to recommit the report to be amended, &c.

On motion, all amendments and substitutes were laid on the table.

To be published.

The report was adopted, and ordered, That the Book Agents publish, after receiving and applying the collections made for this purpose. (See *App. Y.* p. 196)

Election of Bish-  
ops.

Ordered, That the Conference proceed to the special order of the day.

Conference ordered the appointment of three tellers, to receive and count the ballots.

S. T. Gillett moved, That the Secretary call the list, and each delegate answer the call by depositing his vote. Lost.

J. Havens moved, That we spend a few moments in silent prayer. Carried.

It was moved to request all not members of the Conference, to retire beyond the bar during the canvass. Carried.

H. Slicer, G. W. Walker and C. K. True were appointed tellers.

After counting the ballots for Bishops, Levi Scott, Matthew Simpson, Osmon C. Baker, and Edward R. Ames, having received a majority of all the votes, were declared duly elected Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

J. A. Collins moved, That we now proceed to vote for the principal Book Agent at New-York.

Editor of Advoca-  
te and Jour-  
nal.

B. Creagh offered as a substitute, That we ballot for Editor for the Christian Advocate and Journal. Carried.

T. E. Bond.

Upon the first ballot there was no choice. Upon the second, Dr. T. E. Bond, sen., having a majority, was declared duly elected.

J. A. Collins moved, That we now proceed to ballot for the principal Book Agent at New-York.

Missionary Sec.

H. Slicer moved, as a substitute, that we proceed to ballot



for Missionary Secretary. Carried; and same tellers requested to act. May 25.

A motion was made that when we adjourn it shall be to meet at 3 o'clock, P. M.

The motion to lay on the table failed.

The motion for an afternoon session was carried.

J. P. Durbin, having received a majority of all the votes J. P. Durbin. for Missionary Secretary, was declared duly elected.

On motion of J. S. Porter, the Conference proceeded to elect, by count vote, the Editor of the Quarterly Review Editor of Quarterly. and of the books of the General Catalogue.

J. S. Porter nominated John M'Clintock, and, on count, J. M'Clintock. he was declared elected.

On motion of W. Reddy, the Conference proceeded to elect the Editor of the Northern Christian Advocate. Editor of Northern Christian Advocate.

W. Reddy nominated W. Hosmer, and, on count, he was W. Hosmer. declared elected said editor.

On motion of J. S. Porter, Conference proceeded to elect the Editor of the Sunday School Advocate and of the Sunday-school Books. Editor of Sunday School Advocate, &c.

J. S. Porter nominated D. P. Kidder, and, on count, he D. P. Kidder. was declared elected.

On motion of J. C. Lyon, Conference proceeded to elect the Editor of the Christian Apologist and of the German Books.

J. C. Lyon nominated W. Nast, and, on count, he W. Nast. was declared elected.

By vote, ordered to postpone the further election of officers till the afternoon session.

J. A. Collins read the answer to M. Grant's invitation to visit the new jail of this city. Accepted by the Conference. New Jail.

J. M'Clintock moved, That the Conference order the Book Agents to prefix to the volume of Minutes of the General Conference, ordered to be printed, all the extant minutes from the organization of the Church up to the year 1800. Former Minutes to be published.

The resolution was adopted.

Conference took up the order of the day.

The Committee on Itinerancy reported further, (No. 8.) Report of Committee on Itinerancy. Report adopted, as follows:—

“Report, in part, of Committee on Itinerancy:—

“A memorial was referred to us from a Quarterly Meeting Conference in Williamsburgh, New-York, asking for the adoption of some system, by which regular pulpit exchanges among our preachers in cities and villages may be secured; and we offer for your adoption the following:— Memorial from Williamsburgh.

“Resolved, That it is inexpedient to grant the prayer of the memorialists.

“HEMAN BANGS, *Chairman.*”

May 25.  
E. H. Thomas.

Report No. 9 of the Committee on Itinerancy presented, and adopted, as follows :—

“The Committee on Itinerancy report :—We have considered the memorial of Elizabeth H. Thomas, who represents, That she is the wife of Rev. Richard W. Thomas, late a member of the Philadelphia Annual Conference ; that he was suffered to withdraw from connexion with that body at its late session ; that he was at the time labouring under mental derangement, and his withdrawal has deprived herself and six children of their claims on the funds of the Conference, and reduced them to a state of want and distress.

“The memorialist therefore asks this General Conference to reverse the action of the Philadelphia Conference, or require said Conference to reconsider its action in the premises.

“Your Committee submit the following for adoption :—

“*Resolved*, That this General Conference has no jurisdiction in the above case, and therefore the prayer of the memorialist ought not to be granted.

“H. BANGS, *Chairman*.”

The Committee on Itinerancy further report, “That they have considered the memorial of Orrin Pier, who was left without an appointment in order to a trial before his Presiding Elder ; he complains of this action of the Troy Conference, of which he is a member, and prays this General Conference to decide the following questions :—

“1st. Is such action on the part of an Annual Conference toward one of its members, the beginning of punishment in anticipation of crime ?

“2d. Is such action in accordance with the Discipline and with right ?

“We offer the following for your adoption :—

“*Resolved*, That when an accused member of an Annual Conference cannot be tried during the session, he may be left without an appointment, in order to be tried before his presiding elder as the Discipline directs.

“*Resolved*, That such action is not punishment before conviction, in anticipation of guilt.

“H. BANGS, *Chairman*.”

H. M. Shaffer moved to amend the report, as follows :—

“*Resolved*, That in the case of Orrin Pier, his being left without an appointment by the Troy Annual Conference, in view of having been tried on charges, was unauthorized by the Discipline.

J. M. Snyder proposed as a substitute for the whole, the following, viz. :—

“*Resolved*, That the action of the Troy Annual Conference, by which Orrin Pier was left without an appointment, was unauthorized by the Discipline.

The whole subject was laid on the table.

The committee further report, No. 11, which was accepted, and the resolution adopted as follows:— May 25.

“The Committee on Itinerancy report as follows, on the state of the vote in the several Annual Conferences on the recommendation of the General Conference to authorize the Book Agents to propose an arbitration with the M. E. Church, South. Vote on Arbitration with the M. E. Church, South.

“Previous to the commencement of the Church suit the following named Conferences had voted in the premises, with the following results:—

	For Concurrence.	Against Concurrence.
Baltimore Conference,	133	
Philadelphia “	110	
New-Jersey “	123	6
New-York “	100	9
New-York East “	92	7
Troy “	66	79
Providence “	29	48
New-England “	30	63
New-Hampshire “	3	56
East Maine “	18	45
Black River “	17	67
Wisconsin “	6	33
	—	—
	727	413

“We submit the following for your adoption:—

“Resolved, That the committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

“H. BANGS, *Chairman.*”

The Committee further report, No. 12.

Report read, and, on motion, laid on the table for the present. Session extended.

The Committee further report, No. 13.

Report read, and, on motion, laid on the table.

The Committee further report, No. 14.

Report read, and, on motion, laid on the table.

Adjourned. Prayer by J. Young.

#### TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

Bishop Janes in the chair.

After the usual religious services, led by W. Hosmer, the journal was read, and approved.

The Book Committee report further, in part:—

“Resolved, That a monthly periodical, in which the Ladies Repository shall be merged, be established as a family magazine, to be denominated “The Monthly Repository of Literature and Religion,” to be edited at Cincinnati, and Book Committee's Report on Monthly Periodical.

- May 25. published simultaneously in that city and New-York, the publication to commence on the first day of January, 1853."
- J. M'Clintock offered the following as a substitute for the report.
- Agents to publish a Monthly Journal. *Resolved*, That the General Conference highly approves of the proposition of the Book Agents at New-York to publish a Monthly Journal or Magazine of current and religious literature ; and that they be authorized to commence such a publication as soon as they deem it practicable and safe to the Concern.
- A motion to lay on the table failed.
- A motion was made and sustained, That we now take the vote.
- The motion prevailed, and J. M'Clintock's motion was adopted.
- A motion to suspend the order of the day failed.
- Report of Committee on Episcopacy. The Committee on Episcopacy reported further.
- J. M'Clintock moved to amend the report by inserting, "that we send to England a fraternal letter."
- This was laid on the table.
- A motion was made to lay the subject on the table.
- Ordered to consider the report, item by item.
- Episcopal Decisions. The first item, relating to collecting Episcopal decisions, was read and adopted, viz. :—"That it is inexpedient to take any measures for that purpose, and ask to be released from any further consideration of this subject."
- Proposed change of Discipline. The second item was read, viz. :—"They have also considered the resolution submitted to them asking an alteration in the Discipline, viz., the substitution of the word 'consecrate' for 'ordain,' &c., in several places named, and they are of opinion that no change should be made."
- S. Comfort moved to amend by striking out the word "no" and inserting "this." Laid on the table.
- The item was adopted.
- Delegates to England and Canada. The third item, relating to delegates to England and Canada, was read.
- "The committee report it inexpedient to send a delegate to England, but recommend the appointment of George Gary as a representative to visit the Canada Conference sometime during the next four years." Adopted.
- The whole report was then adopted.
- The rules suspended for the following :—
- On motion of J. M'Clintock,
- Fraternal letter to England. *Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to prepare a fraternal letter to the Wesleyan Methodist Conference in England. The chair appointed J. M'Clintock, G. Peck, A. Griffith, G. Webber, and L. W. Berry.
- The Book Agents were ordered to pay the expenses of the delegate to Canada.

On motion, the Conference agreed to proceed to the election of the Editor of the Western Christian Advocate, by a count vote. May 25.  
Editor of Western Christian Advocate.

J. Havens nominated Charles Elliott, and, on count, he was declared elected Editor of said paper. C. Elliott.

It was moved that we now elect the Editor of the Ladies' Repository.

A substitute was offered that we go into the election of Book Agents at Cincinnati. Substitute accepted and adopted.

An invitation from the Young Men's Christian Association was read. Invitation.

Conference adjourned. Prayer by J. A. Collins.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 26.

Bishop Waugh in the chair.

May 26.

After the usual religious exercises, led by W. Reddy, the journal of the preceding session was read and approved.

The Bishops elect were invited forward, and received the salutations and congratulations of their senior colleagues; after which H. Bangs submitted the following:— Bishops elect.

*Resolved*, That the ordination of our beloved brethren, the Bishops elect, be made the order of the day for to-morrow morning, at 11 o'clock. Carried. Ordination of Bishops.

It was then moved, That we proceed to the election of the principal Book Agent at New-York. Agent at New-York.

A substitute was moved, namely, That the Conference proceed to elect the principal Book Agent at Cincinnati. Agent at Cincinnati.

A motion to lay the substitute on the table was lost.

The resolution to elect the principal Book Agent at Cincinnati was then put, and prevailed.

On motion of P. Cartwright, the chair appointed three tellers, viz., C. B. Tippett, B. Creagh, and S. T. Gillett, and the Conference proceeded to ballot, when the tellers, together with the two Assistant Secretaries, had leave to retire and count the votes, and report. Tellers

The Committee on the Bible Cause reported. The report, together with the resolution, was adopted. (See *Appendix*, G, page 141.)

The tellers appeared and reported, that Leroy Swormstedt had received 150 out of 161 votes for the office of principal Book Agent at Cincinnati; whereupon he was declared duly elected. L. Swormstedt.

J. A. Collins submitted the following resolution, which was adopted.

*Resolved*, That the Book Agents at New-York, be, and they are, hereby directed to pay the expenses of N. Bangs as our late delegate of the General Conference of the M. E. Church to the Canada Conference. Agents to pay expenses of N. Bangs to Canada.

J. A. Collins submitted the following, which was adopted:—

- May 26.  
Editor at Chicago. *Resolved*, That there shall be an Editor of the North-Western Christian Advocate at Chicago, Illinois; who, if chosen from among the travelling preachers, shall be a member of such Annual Conference as he may, with the approbation of the Bishop, select.
- Agent at New-York. J. Clark moved, That the Conference proceed to the election of the principal Book Agent at New-York.  
It was moved, as a substitute, That the Conference proceed to the election of the Editor of the North-Western Christian Advocate. Not admitted.
- Election of New-York Book Agent. A motion to lay J. Clark's motion on the table was lost, and the motion of J. Clark prevailed.  
The Conference balloted accordingly, and the same tellers were requested to act; and the tellers, with the two Assistant Secretaries, were permitted to retire to count the votes, and report.
- Court of Appeals. The Committee to whom was referred the communication of the Episcopacy to the General Conference at Pittsburgh, in 1848, on the subject of providing for a constitutional test and conference of appeals, reported in part.
- First ballot, no election. The second part of same report pending, the tellers appeared, and reported, as the result of balloting for principal Book Agent at New-York, that there was no election.  
Whereupon the Conference proceeded to ballot again, and the tellers retired to count, and report.
- Second ballot, no election. The reading of the second part of the above-named report then proceeded and was finished, when the tellers appeared, and again reported, No election.  
A third balloting was ordered, and the tellers retired to ascertain the result and report.
- Report of Committee on Revisals. The special order of the day was then taken up, viz., the report of the Committee on Revisals on the subject of pews, and promiscuous sitting in our Churches, which was read.
- Third ballot, no election. The pending business was suspended, to hear the report of the tellers, who once more reported that there was no election. The Conference balloted again, and the tellers retired to count and report, and the consideration of the pending report was resumed.  
N. Bangs moved that the first item of the report be adopted.  
W. H. Goode presented a minority report.  
W. Reddy presented a substitute for both reports.
- Fourth ballot, T. Carlton elected. The business was again suspended, to hear the report of the tellers, which was:—That the whole number of ballots was 167, of which T. Carlton had 103, and Z. Phillips 64; whereupon T. Carlton was declared duly elected principal Agent at New-York.
- Assistant Book Agent at New-York. The pending business was further suspended for the purpose of electing an Assistant Book Agent at New-York.

The Conference proceeded to ballot accordingly, and the tellers retired to count and report; then the order of the day was resumed. May 26.

The business was again suspended, to hear the report of the tellers, who reported, No election. First ballot, no election.

The Conference balloted again, and the tellers retired to count.

The business was further suspended, to allow J. M. Trim-Edgar Conkling. ble to present a petition to the General Conference from Edgar Conkling, of Cincinnati, impeaching the Episcopacy for mal-administration. On motion, referred to the Committee on Episcopacy.

J. S. Porter moved the previous question, which was sustained, and the motion of reference prevailed.

The tellers appeared, and reported no election; where-Second ballot, no election. upon the Conference balloted again, and the tellers retired to count.

On motion of P. Cartwright, J. Young was added to the committee to inquire into the expediency and propriety of erecting a monument to the late Bishop M'Kendree. Bishop M'Kendree.

C. Kingsley submitted the following:—

“Resolved, That the formula for the ordination of Bishops on page 121 of the Discipline, be so amended as to read as follows:— Change of Discipline on ordination service.

“The Lord pour upon thee the Holy Ghost for the office and work of a Bishop in the Church of God, now committed unto thee by the imposition of our hands in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. And remember that thou stir up the grace of God in thee; for God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and love, and soberness.

“C. KINGSLEY,

“J. PORTER.”

The resolution lies over, under the rule.

H. Bangs moved, That when we adjourn, it be to meet at 3 o'clock.

P. Rice moved to amend, by adding, With the understanding that the report of the Committee on Boundaries be the order of the day for the afternoon session. Amendment accepted by the mover. A motion that the resolution be divided, was laid on the table.

N. Bangs moved the previous question, which was sustained, and the motion prevailed.

The tellers appeared and reported, that of 167 votes, Z. Phillips had 103, which, being a majority, he was declared Third ballot, Z. Phillips elected. duly elected Assistant Book Agent at New-York.

Conference adjourned. Prayer by J. Coil.

May 26.

## WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

Bishop Morris in the chair.

After the usual religious exercises, conducted by S. Allen, the journal was read, corrected, and approved.

The Committee on Episcopacy reported further, viz. :—

Report of Committee on Episcopacy.

“The Committee on the Episcopacy have considered the charge of mal-administration preferred against the Bishops by Edgar Conkling, of Cincinnati, Ohio, which has been referred to them, and unanimously report the following resolution for adoption by this General Conference :—

“Resolved, That we reaffirm our former position—approving the administration of our Bishops in the matters complained of by E. Conkling.

“All which is respectfully submitted.

“P. P. SANDFORD, *Chairman.*

“BOSTON, May 26, 1852.”

Report of Committee on Boundaries.

The Committee on Boundaries reported. Ordered to consider and act upon the report, item by item. (P. 148.)

The boundaries of New-York Conference adopted. Also, the boundaries of New-York East, Providence, New-England, Maine, East Maine, and New-Hampshire.

Vermont Conference.

The boundaries of Vermont Conference being read, D. Starks submitted the following substitute for those reported :

“Vermont Conference shall include the State of Vermont, except that part lying west of the Green Mountains embraced in the Troy Conference.”

After some discussion, on motion of J. Cunningham, the previous question was ordered.

The question being on the acceptance of the substitute, it was accepted.

On motion, the substitute was adopted.

The report of the boundaries of Vermont Conference, as amended, was then adopted.

The boundaries of Troy Conference being read, D. Starks presented the following substitute :—

Troy Conference.

“The Troy Conference shall include the Troy, Albany, embracing Richmondville Station, from Oneida Conference, Saratoga, Poultney, Burlington, Plattsburgh and St. Alban's Districts.”

The substitute was accepted.

J. C. Aspinwall moved to amend the substitute by striking out the St. Alban's District.

The amendment was laid on the table.

The substitute was then adopted.

Black River, Oneida, Wyoming Conferences.

The reports of the boundaries of Black River, Oneida, and Wyoming Conferences, were adopted.



Pending the report of the boundaries of East Genesee Conference, I. Chamberlayne moved to amend the report by striking out the words "whole of the city of Rochester," and inserting "that part of the city of Rochester on the east side of Genesee River." May 26.  
East Genesee  
Conference.

The amendment was laid on the table.

The report concerning East Genesee Conference boundaries was then adopted.

E. Thomas moved to amend the report on the boundaries of the Genesee Conference, so as to include Bradford Circuit and Avon Circuit. Laid on the table. Genesee Confer-  
ence.

E. Thomas moved to amend so as to include Bradford Circuit, Pennsylvania.

This amendment prevailed, and the report, as amended, was then adopted.

The report on the boundaries of Erie and Pittsburgh Conferences was adopted. Erie and Pitts-  
burgh Confer-  
ences.

C. Brooks proposed to amend the report of the Ohio Conference by adding, "and Bethesda and Rapid Forge Societies in Highland Circuit." Ohio Conference.

The amendment was adopted.

The report of the Ohio Conference boundaries, as amended, was adopted.

Cincinnati Conference. Cincinnati Con-  
ference.

The consideration of the report on the boundaries of this Conference pending, it was moved to adjourn to meet at a quarter before 8 o'clock this evening. A division was called for and ordered, and the latter part of the motion was laid on the table to hear the report.

The motion to adjourn, was lost.

The pending report was laid on the table, to hear the report of the boundaries of Kentucky Conference, which was read.

The consideration of the boundaries of Kentucky Conference pending, Conference adjourned.

Benediction by J. Spaulding.

## THURSDAY, MAY 27.

Bishop Janes in the chair. May 27.

After the usual religious services, led by G. Gary, the journal was read, corrected and approved.

The chairman of the Committee on the German Work asked and obtained leave of absence from the Conference for a short time during the morning session.

The Committee appointed on the Address of the American and Foreign Christian Union reported. American and  
Foreign Chris-  
tian Union.

P. P. Sandford moved to recommit the report.

H. Bangs moved to lay the whole subject on the table. Carried.

May 27.

The Committee on Revisals report further:—

Report of Committee on Revisals.

“Resolved, That the verbal revision and arrangement of the Discipline on the points passed by the Committee on Revisals, be referred to the editors at New-York, to be carried out.” Adopted.

Editors to revise the Discipline.

Previous question called for and ordered.

Superintendent associated with Editors.

C. B. Tippet moved, That one or more of our Superintendents be connected with the editors in making the changes contemplated by the above resolution. Adopted.

Lay Delegation.

The Committee on Lay Delegation reported. (See *Appendix*, J, p. 147.) A motion for a rising vote failed.

The Yeas and Nays were called for and ordered.

*Yeas.*—G. Peck, J. Holdich, P. P. Sandford, P. Rice, A. M. Osbon, J. Z. Nichols, N. Bangs, H. Bangs, B. Creagh, J. H. Perry, E. E. Griswold, S. Landon, L. Clark, O. C. Baker, E. Adams, J. Spaulding, E. Scott, E. Mason, S. D. Brown, B. M. Hall, A. Witherspoon, J. Clark, Z. Phillips, T. Benedict, D. Starks, J. Frazer, R. Westcott, S. G. J. Worthington, M. Tichnell, N. D. George, W. H. Pillsbury, A. Church, A. Moore, T. M. Hudson, H. J. Clarke, W. Hunter, S. Wakefield, J. Coil, J. C. Aspinwall, A. T. Bullard, E. Copeland, C. Hobart, W. H. Sampson, H. Summers, G. Gary, I. L. Hunt, H. Mattison, A. J. Phelps, G. Baker, B. Holmes, G. Webber, C. C. Cone, A. Sanderson, J. H. Jenne, C. Kingsley, B. S. Hill, W. H. Hunter, E. J. L. Baker, W. Patterson, H. Kinsley, J. H. Whallen, A. J. Phelps, L. Hitchcock, R. Haney, S. P. Keyes, J. Chandler, D. Holmes, E. Bowen, D. W. Bristol, W. Reddy, L. Sperry, J. Parks, E. B. Tenney, J. M. Snyder, S. Comfort, E. Thomson, J. H. Power, H. Whiteman, T. Barkdull, J. Quigley, A. Poe, H. M. Shaffer, H. W. Reed, J. Brooks, J. G. Dimmitt, W. Hosmer, M. Crow, J. Dennis, J. G. Gulick, B. F. Tefft, M. Fellows, G. M. Beswick, W. H. Goode, J. L. Smith, S. T. Gillett, J. Marsee, J. Daniel, J. Hopkins, C. Houts, W. H. Collins, E. H. Pilcher, E. M'Clure, F. B. Bangs, R. Sapp, T. Carlton, E. Thomas, P. E. Brown, I. Chamberlayne, W. Nast, J. M. Trimble, J. Young, C. Elliott, G. W. Walker, G. Moody, J. F. Wright, U. Heath, Z. Connell, C. Brooks, R. O. Spencer, M. Marley, A. M. Lorraine, P. Akers, P. Cartwright, J. B. Corrington, G. Rutledge, P. Kuhl, M. Simpson, W. M. Dailey, E. R. Ames, J. Havens, E. Whitten, L. W. Berry, N. J. B. Morgan, A. Griffith, J. Davis, H. Slicer, N. Wilson, J. Bear, J. A. Collins, J. A. Gere, S. S. Roszell, A. A. Reese, C. B. Tippet, B. N. Brown, F. Hodgson, L. Scott, D. Dailey, J. P. Durbin, W. Barnes, T. J. Thompson, E. Miller, J. Cunningham, J. M'Clintock, G. F. Brown, D. P. Kidder, J. S. Porter, J. Lewis, J. Ayers, D. Patten, A. Stevens, E. Benton, W. F. Harlow, D. Webb, D. Wise, M. Raymond, C. K. Truc, J. Hascall, C. Adams, J. Porter, A. Binney, S. Allen—171.

*Nays.*—J. C. Lyon, G. M. Beswick, A. Magee—3.

May 27.

The printing of the report, and the vote on it, were ordered.

On motion, ordered, That any brother, absent when the vote was taken, shall have the liberty of recording his vote in open Conference.

P. E. Brown moved to amend, by requiring the absent brethren to vote on the question. Laid on the table, and the resolution was adopted.

A. J. Phelps presented the appeal of N. R. Peck, of the Black River Conference, and, on motion, it was made the order of the day for the following morning, after the reading of the journal, Conference sitting with closed doors.

Appeal of N. R. Peck.

J. Holdich obtained leave of absence after this morning's session.

On motion of P. P. Sandford, B. Griffen, a reserve delegate from New-York Conference, was chosen to fill the place of J. Holdich.

B. Griffen.

The report of the Committee on Boundaries was then taken up.

Boundaries.

*Resolved*, That we now proceed to the election of the Editor of the North-Western Christian Advocate.

Editor of North-Western Christian Advocate.

*Resolved*, That we elect by a count vote.

S. P. Keyes nominated James V. Watson, and, on count, he was declared elected.

J. V. Watson.

A. J. Phelps presented a resolution with regard to the section of the Discipline, (p. 193,) providing for the election of a Publishing Committee for the Northern Christian Advocate, which was read, and laid on the table, under the rule.

Publishing Committee, Northern Christian Advocate.

The Committee on Revisals reported No. 4. Read, and laid on the table, under the rule.

Committee on Revisals.

Ordered that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at 3 o'clock.

On motion of N. Bangs, the order of business was suspended.

The hour for ordaining the Bishops elect having arrived, Bishop Waugh stated that N. Bangs and D. Dailey would present Levi Scott; J. Havens and T. M. Hudson would present Matthew Simpson; D. Webb and G. Webber would present Osmon Cleander Baker; and P. Cartwright and R. O. Spencer would present Edward Raymond Ames, —which was accordingly done.

Ordination of Bishops.

Bishop Morris read the Collect and Epistle, and Bishop Janes read the Gospel. The imposition of hands was by Bishops Waugh, Morris, and Janes. Thus Levi Scott, Matthew Simpson, Osmon Cleander Baker, Edward Raymond Ames, were solemnly ordained Superintendents, or Bishops, of the M. E. Church. The order of business was resumed.

May 27. A motion to lay the report of the Committee on Boundaries on the table. Carried.

J. H. Perry presented a paper proposing a plan for the trial of appeals, which was read and laid on the table, under the rule.

Court of Appeals. A motion was made to print. G. Peck offered an amendment, together with the report of the Committee on that subject.

H. Slicer offered the following :—

*Resolved*, That all the papers on this subject, and on the table, be referred to a special Committee of five.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution ordering the special committee of five was adopted.

The chair announced H. Slicer, G. Webber, J. F. Wright, E. Bowen and B. Creagh said Committee.

German Work. The Committee on the German Work report, No. 1, read and adopted. No. 2, read and adopted. (See *Appendix*, H, I, pages 145, 146.)

Book Committee. J. Clark moved that a Committee of five be appointed to nominate a Book Committee for the Book Concern at New-York, and that a like number be appointed to nominate a Book Committee at Cincinnati. Carried.

The chair appointed, for New-York, G. Peck, J. A. Gere, J. Clark, C. K. True, G. Gary.

For Cincinnati, G. W. Walker, E. Thomson, J. L. Smith, R. Haney, J. Havens.

H. Bangs moved, That the Book Committee be the Committee to estimate the salaries of the Book Agents, Editors, &c.

Conference adjourned. Benediction by Bishop Ames.

#### THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Bishop Scott in the chair.

After the usual religious services, led by J. Z. Nichols, the journal was read, corrected, and approved.

Ordered to take up the report of the Committee on Boundaries.

Boundaries.

Kentucky Conference, Cincinnati Conference, North Ohio Conferences. The report bounding the Kentucky Conference was adopted.

The report bounding the Cincinnati Conference was adopted.

The report bounding the North Ohio Conference was adopted.

Western Virginia Conference.

S. G. J. Worthington moved to reconsider the vote fixing the boundary of the Pittsburgh Conference. Carried. The Pittsburgh boundary was laid on the table, and that of the Western Virginia Conference was taken up.

J. Clark moved that the substitute offered by S. G. J.

Worthington be accepted. Agreed to. The substitute was adopted. May 27.

On motion, the Pittsburgh boundary was taken up, and, after amendment, adopted. Pittsburgh Conference.

The report on the boundary of Michigan Conference agreed to.

The report on the boundary of Indiana Conference agreed to.

The report on the boundary of North-Western Indiana Conference agreed to.

The report on boundary of North Indiana Conference adopted.

The report on boundary of South Eastern Indiana Conference adopted. Boundaries.

A motion to reconsider the vote fixing the boundaries of the New-England Conference failed.

The report on the Rock River Conference read.

Rock River Conference.

G. Rutledge moved to amend by adding, so as to exclude the Knoxville district. Laid on the table.

The Rock River Conference boundaries adopted as reported.

The Wisconsin Conference boundaries adopted as reported.

The Iowa Conference boundaries adopted as reported.

The Illinois Conference boundaries adopted as reported.

The Southern Illinois Conference boundaries pending,

J. B. Corrington offered to amend by adding, after Hillsborough, "thence to Anderton, Cold Spring, Casey, and Darwin, to the Indiana State line." Laid on the table.

The report was adopted.

Leave of absence was granted to D. Dailey, of Philadelphia. D. Dailey.

The vote was reconsidered so far as the name of the Southern Illinois Conference was concerned.

By motion, "Southern Illinois" was struck out, and "Lebanon" inserted, and then the reported boundary was adopted.

Conference adjourned.

Benediction by S. Landon.

### FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 28.

Bishop Simpson in the chair.

May 28.

After the usual religious exercises, led by H. Slicer, the journal was read and approved.

S. Comfort moved to suspend the order of the day for the purpose of introducing a resolution. Lost.

J. P. Durbin, for the Missionary Committee, presented a report of the number and names of missionaries sent out by the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church Report of Missionary Committee.

May 28. during the past four years, together with the missions to which they were respectively sent. Also, the deaths of missionaries for the same period of time.

After which the same committee reported the following resolutions, which were adopted:—

*Resolved*, That a special meeting of the General Missionary Committee may be called at the Mission Rooms in New-York, by the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society, with the concurrence of at least two of the Bishops, one of whom shall be the Superintendent of Foreign Missions; or by the Bishops just mentioned, with the concurrence of the Board; and that the Corresponding Secretary be charged with calling the Committee when required as provided in this resolution.

2d. The Committee having had under consideration an amendment to the proviso in the 13th Article of the Constitution of the Missionary Society, agreed to recommend the following alteration, viz., strike out the words "a majority of Bishops" in the third line of the proviso, and insert "of the Bishop who has charge, or is to have charge of the work proposed."

Missionary Bishop.

On motion, the report of the Special Committee was taken up, which relates to the election of a Missionary Bishop.

By request of H. Slicer, the Committee on an Appeal Conference had leave to sit during the session of the Conference.

The above report of the Special Committee pending, J. M'Clintock submitted the following, as a substitute for the report.

*Resolved*, That this Conference proceed this afternoon to elect a Missionary Bishop for the Liberia Conference with Episcopal powers to be exercised solely in Africa.

J. A. Collins moved to lay the substitute on the table.

N. Wilson moved to lay the whole subject on the table for the present. Carried.

Appeal of N. R. Peck.

The special order of the day was then taken up, viz., the appeal case of N. R. Peck, of the Black River Conference.

On motion, the travelling and local preachers present were permitted to remain in the Conference room.

The charges, specifications, and findings of the Black River Conference, in the case of N. R. Peck, were read from the journal of said Conference.

Committee for nominating Book Committee had leave to retire.

On motion of G. W. Walker, the nominating committee for nominating the Book Committee at Cincinnati had leave to retire from the Conference room for a few moments.

G. Peck, for the appellant, stated the grounds of appeal.

A. J. Phelps, in behalf of the Black River Conference, presented the evidence on the charge of "lasciviousness," which was read by the Secretary.

Also, the evidence on the charge of "falsehood," which was read. After which A. J. Phelps closed in behalf of the Conference, and then G. Peck closed in behalf of the appellant.

May 23.

L. Clark moved that the action of the Black River Conference be affirmed.

A. J. Phelps and G. Peck, at their request, were excused from voting.

An amendment was offered, "not" excused. This was laid on the table.

On motion, the Black River Conference delegates were excused from voting.

The motion to affirm the action of the Black River Conference was put, and sustained.

So the action of the Black River Conference, whereby it deposed N. R. Peck from his ministerial office, was "affirmed."

M. Crow obtained leave of absence for B. F. Tefft, and also moved that H. N. Seaver, a reserve delegate from East Genesee Conference, take the place vacated by the absence of B. F. Tefft.

B. F. Tefft.

The Committee on the Book Concern reported.

Report of Committee on Book Concern.

The 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th resolutions of the report were accepted, which are as follows —

"3d. *Resolved*, That, on a careful examination of the affairs of the Northern Christian Advocate, we are gratified that its circulation has increased by about one-half during the last four years; and that, notwithstanding it is published at the exceedingly low price of one dollar per annum, its finances are in a healthful condition, affording a handsome dividend yearly. We are also happy to believe that this paper is lending much valuable aid in establishing and extending our cause in the field of its patronage.

Northern Christian Advocate.

"4th. *Resolved*, That the Agents at New-York be instructed to establish a Depository of our books at Buffalo and Auburn, N. Y., at their discretion.

Depositories at Buffalo and Auburn.

"5th. *Resolved*, That we deem it inconsistent with our economy for brethren, indebted to our Book Concern, to memorialize the General Conference to remit their debts, without having first applied to the Agents and failed of obtaining from them a satisfactory settlement.

"6th. *Resolved*, That the petitions presented to this General Conference, for the remission of debts, be referred to the Agents, they being the proper representatives of the General Conference in the premises, and endowed with full power to settle all claims at their discretion.

"7th. *Resolved*, That the propriety of publishing a pronouncing Bible, and also the propriety of publishing the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the French and Swedish languages, be referred to the Book Agents

May 28.

and Editors at New-York and the Book Committee, to be disposed of at their discretion."

The 8th resolution, offered by J. A. Collins as an amendment to the report, was laid on the table for the present.

C. J. Houts moved, as a substitute, to take up the report of the Committee on Boundaries.

The substitute was laid on the table.

Missionary Committee report.

The missionary report was taken up.

The chair decided that the whole subject was before the Conference, as it was previously to its being laid upon the table, and that, of course, the motion to lay the substitute submitted by J. M'Clintock on the table was in order.

The substitute was laid upon the table.

J. P. Durbin proposed to add to the 3d resolution of the report the following words:—"In the United States of America; but their jurisdiction shall be limited to the mission, or missions, for whose supervision they were severally elected and ordained; and such Bishop, or Bishops, shall be amenable to the General Conference for their conduct and administration."

It was ordered that when we adjourn, it be to 3 o'clock, P. M.

H. Bangs moved the previous question. Lost.

The discussion of the amendment pending, and J. A. Collins having the floor,

Conference adjourned.

Benediction by C. Elliott.

#### FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Bishop Baker in the chair.

After the usual religious exercises, conducted by H. N. Seaver, the journal was read, corrected, and approved.

Report of Committee on Missions resumed.

The consideration of the report of the Committee on Missions was resumed.

J. A. Collins not having spoken out his time, on motion he had leave to proceed with his speech.

After further discussion, G. Peck moved the previous question, which was sustained.

The question being on the adoption of the report, as amended, the ayes and noes were ordered.

On voting the ayes were 73, noes 87.

*Yeas.*—P. P. Sanford, A. M. Osbon, J. C. Lyon, E. Scott, E. Mason, S. D. Brown, A. Witherspoon, J. Clark, Z. Phillips, T. Benedict, D. Starks, J. Frazer, R. Wescott, N. Bangs, S. Landon, A. Church, T. M. Hudson, H. J. Clarke, A. Magee, W. Hunter, E. J. L. Baker, E. Copeland, G. Gary, H. Mattison, J. Hunt, G. Baker, B. S. Hill, W. H. Hunter, L. Hitchcock, S. P. Keyes, D. Holmes, E. Bowen, E. B. Tenney, H. M. Shaffer, H. W. Reed, W. Hosmer, M. Crow, J. Dennis, J. G. Gulick, H. N. Seaver, W.



May 23.

H. Goode, J. Daniel, R. Sapp, T. Carlton, P. E. Brown, I. Chamberlayne, J. B. Corrington, G. Rutledge, P. Kuhl, W. M. Dailey, J. Havens, H. Slicer, J. A. Gere, S. S. Roszel, F. Hodgson, J. P. Durbin, T. J. Thompson, J. M'Clintock, G. F. Brown, J. S. Porter, J. Ayers, D. Patten, A. Stevens, E. Benton, C. K. True, J. Hascall, C. Adams, J. Porter, A. Binney, B. Creagh, C. C. Cone, C. Kingsley.

*Noes.*—G. Peck, P. Rice, B. Griffen, J. Z. Nichols, E. Adams, J. Spaulding, B. M. Hall, H. Bangs, J. H. Perry, L. Clark, S. G. J. Worthington, M. Tichnell, N. D. George, W. H. Pillsbury, A. Moore, J. Coil, J. C. Aspinwall, A. T. Bullard, C. Hobart, H. Summers, B. Holmes, Geo. Webber, A. Sanderson, J. H. Jenne, W. Patterson, H. Kinsley, J. W. Whallen, A. Phelps, R. Haney, J. Chandler, D. W. Bristol, W. Reddy, L. Sperry, J. Parks, J. M. Snyder, S. Comfort, E. Thomson, J. H. Power, H. Whiteman, T. Barkdull, I. Quigley, A. Poe, J. Brooks, G. M. Beswick, J. L. Smith, J. Hopkins, C. J. Houts, W. H. Collins, E. H. Pilcher, E. M'Clure, F. B. Bangs, E. Thomas, W. Nast, J. M. Trimble, J. Young, C. Elliott, G. W. Walker, G. Moody, J. F. Wright, U. Heath, Z. Connell, C. Brooks, R. O. Spencer, M. Marley, A. M. Lorraine, P. Akers, P. Cartwright, E. Whitten, L. W. Berry, N. J. B. Morgan, A. Griffith, J. Davis, N. Wilson, J. Bear, J. A. Collins, A. A. Reese, C. B. Tippett, B. N. Brown, W. Barnes, J. Cunningham, D. P. Kidder, I. Lewis, D. Webb, M. Raymond, J. Marsee, S. J. Gilletts, S. Wakefield.

So the report of the Committee appointed to consider the proposition with regard to the election of Missionary Bishops was not adopted,

On motion of J. P. Durbin, the report was indefinitely postponed.

The report on boundaries was then taken up.

Boundaries.

J. C. Aspinwall asked and obtained leave of absence for E. Copeland, of Vermont Conference.

The report of the boundaries of Missouri Conference was read.

Missouri Conference.

After some discussion, R. Haney called for the previous question, which was sustained.

The report on the boundaries of the Missouri Conference was adopted.

The report on the boundaries of the Arkansas Conference was adopted.

Arkansas Conference.

The report on the boundaries of the Baltimore Conference was, on motion, amended and adopted.

Baltimore Conference.

The report on the boundaries of the Philadelphia Conference was adopted.

Philadelphia Conference.

The reports on the boundaries of the New-Jersey, Oregon and California, and Liberia Missionary Conferences were adopted.

New-Jersey, Oregon, California, and Liberia Conferences.

May 28.  
New-England  
Conference.

On motion, the Conference reconsidered the act by which it fixed the boundaries of the New-England Conference.

M. Raymond moved, as a substitute, That the boundaries of the New-England Conference be as they have been for the last four years.

The substitute pending, the previous question was ordered, and the substitute was accepted.

Moved, to lay the substitute on the table. Lost.

N. Bangs called for the previous question, which was sustained.

The substitute was adopted.

Southern Illinois  
Conference.

Ordered, to reconsider the vote by which the "Lebanon" Conference was named, and the name changed to "Southern Illinois."

Moved, to reconsider so much of the report on boundaries as relates to the Arkansas Conference.

Laid on the table, and the report of the Committee on Boundaries, as a whole, was adopted.

P. Cartwright moved, That the Cincinnati and Kentucky Conferences, and also the Arkansas and Missouri Conferences, meet together at their next annual sessions.

Temporal Econ-  
omy.

The Committee on Temporal Economy reported.

Laid on the table under the rule.

Z. Phillips.

J. Clark asked and obtained leave of absence for Z. Phillips, after the present session.

L. Clark submitted the following resolution, which was laid on the table, under the rule:—

Change of  
Church Deed.

*Resolved*, That the words "United States of America," after the words "Methodist Episcopal Church," be stricken out of the Deed of Settlement, and a place be left blank for the insertion of its location, as required by law.

Monument to  
Bishop M'Ken-  
dree.

The Committee appointed to consider the expediency and propriety of erecting a monument to Bishop M'Kendree, reported.

The Conference adjourned.

Benediction by H. M. Shaffer.

### SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 29, 1852.

May 29.

Bishop Ames in the chair.

After the usual religious services, led by G. F. Brown, the journal was read, corrected, and approved.

Adjournment.

J. Davis moved, That we adjourn finally on Tuesday next, at 12 o'clock, M.

A. Poe offered, as a substitute, that we stay here till we finish our business.

The previous question was called for, and sustained.

The report of the  
Book Commit-  
tee taken up.

On motion, the report of the Book Committee, in part acted upon yesterday, was taken up.

The first resolution, relating to the finances of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate, was read, viz. :—

May 29.

“Resolved, That the Publishing Committee of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate be authorized to draw upon the Agent of the Depository in Pittsburgh, for the amount of the claims of the Rev. Z. H. Coston and of Rev. C. Elliott, against the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate, not exceeding \$2,600, to be paid at the earliest convenience of said Depository, and entered to its credit at the General Book Concern in New-York.”

Claim of Z. H. Coston and C. Elliott.

Adopted.

“2d. Resolved, That the amount of \$1,400, due from the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate to the Pittsburgh Book Depository, be, and the same is hereby, remitted.”

Adopted.

The following resolution was read :—

“Resolved, That the Book Agents at New-York be, and they hereby are, instructed to establish a Depository of our books at Washington City, in the District of Columbia, under such conditions and regulations as they may judge proper to adopt.”

Depository at Washington City.

Laid on the table.

N. Bangs moved to reconsider the vote giving Depositories to Auburn and Buffalo, N. Y. Lost.

A motion to take up the resolution relating to a Depository at Washington City prevailed, and the following was offered as a substitute :—

Resolved, That the Book Agents at New-York be authorized to establish a Depository of our books at Washington City, D. C., at their discretion.

H. Slicer moved to amend, by striking out “Washington City,” and inserting “Baltimore.” Laid on the table.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was adopted.

The Committee further report :—

“Resolved, That the purchase of the lot on Mott-street, New-York, and the erection of a building thereon, for the better accommodation of the business of the Concern, are hereby approved by the General Conference.

Building on Mott-street.

“2d. Resolved, That permission is hereby granted to the Book Agents at New-York to dispose of the four houses in Crosby-street, in that city, whenever an advantageous opportunity may offer, and with the advice of the Book Committee, erect other houses on a part of the lots belonging to the Book Concern on Mulberry-street.

Selling of houses.

“3d. Resolved, That the large increase of sales and profits during the last four years over the four years preceding, is highly gratifying, and affords ample proof of the ability with which the Concern has been conducted, and grounds on which to rest the expectation that the views expressed by

Increase of sales and profits.

- May 29. the Agents will be realized at no distant day, and the sales amount to \$250,000 annually.
- Reduction of prices of books. "4th. *Resolved*, That the propriety and expediency of further reducing the prices of the books of the General Catalogue, be referred to the judgment and discretion of the Book Agents, and that they be, and hereby are, instructed to review the list of prices, and to reduce the price of such book or books as they shall think may be safely reduced.
- Christian Apologist. "5th. *Resolved*, That, with a view to extend the circulation of the Christian Apologist, published at Cincinnati, among the Germans, the Editors of our periodicals are requested to notice it favourably from time to time, and urge upon our ministry and membership to use such means as may tend to promote that end; and that our travelling preachers, also, are requested, whenever they find German people in their respective charges, or fields of labour, to order, from the Agents at Cincinnati, specimen numbers of the paper, to be shown to them—which the Agents are hereby directed to furnish without charge.
- North-Western Christian Advocate. "6th. *Resolved*, That there shall be a Publishing Committee for the North-Western Christian Advocate, consisting of one member from each of the following conferences, to be selected by the conferences respectively, to wit, Illinois, Iowa, Rock River, Michigan, North-Western Indiana, and Wisconsin, whose duty shall be similar to that of the Book Committee at New-York and Cincinnati, so far as it may be applicable to the establishment.
- St. Louis Paper. "7th. *Resolved*, That a committee of one from the Illinois, one from the Southern Illinois, one from the Iowa, one from the Arkansas, and one from the Missouri Conferences, to be selected by the Conferences respectively, be appointed to superintend the publication of the paper authorized to be published at St. Louis, Mo.; and that upon the nomination of said committee, and recommendation of the Missouri Conference, the Presiding Bishop be requested to appoint an Editor for said paper, when the Book Agents at Cincinnati shall have determined upon its publication; and that the duties of said committee shall be similar to those of the Publishing Committee at Chicago.
- Publishing Committee in California. "8th. *Resolved*, That there shall be a Publishing Committee, consisting of five members, to be selected by the California, and one for the Oregon Annual Conference, whose duties shall be similar to those of the Book Committees at New-York and Cincinnati, so far as they may be applicable to the establishment.
- Quarterly Review. "9th. *Resolved*, by the General Conference, That we are highly gratified with the large circulation of the Christian Advocate and Journal during the past four years. And also, that we regard with pleasure the estimation in which the Quarterly Review is held by its patrons, and hereby ex-

press our strong hope that its future circulation may be commensurate with its merits. May 29.

"10th. *Resolved*, That the character and usefulness of the Sunday School Advocate, and Missionary Advocate, respectively, are such as to entitle them to the continued confidence and support of the whole Church." Sunday School Advocate and Missionary Advocate.

11th Resolution read, and laid on the table.

A motion was made to take up Report, No. 1, on Sunday Schools and Tracts. Report on Sunday Schools and Tracts.

It was moved to lay the motion on the table. Lost.

The report was taken up, read item by item, and adopted. (See *Appendix*, M, pages 156, 157.)

The following motion was carried:

*Resolved*, That we now proceed to elect the Editor of the Monthly Magazine and Tracts, and Corresponding Secretary of the Tract Society. Editor of Monthly Magazine and Tracts, and Corresponding Secretary of Tract Society.

M. Raymond, A. M. Osbon, and L. Hitchcock were appointed tellers. After collecting the ballots, they retired with one of the secretaries to count.

The tellers returned, and the chair declared Abel Stevens to be elected Editor of the Monthly Magazine and Editor of the Tracts. Abel Stevens.

On motion, it was ordered that we now proceed to the election of the Editor of the California Christian Advocate, by rising and count vote. Editor of California Christian Advocate.

J. P. Durbin nominated S. D. Simonds, and, on count, he was declared duly elected Editor of the California Christian Advocate. S. D. Simonds.

*Resolved*, That we now proceed to the election of Assistant Book Agent at Cincinnati. Assistant Book Agent at Cincinnati.

Adopted.

C. Brooks, S. D. Brown, W. H. Collins, were appointed tellers.

After collecting the ballots, the tellers retired, with one of the secretaries, to count the vote.

On motion, the Conference proceeded to the election of Editor of the Ladies' Repository. Editor of Ladies' Repository.

The chair appointed E. Thomson, G. Rutledge, W. Reddy, tellers, who, with one of the secretaries, retired to count the votes.

*Resolved*, That we now proceed to the election of the men to be added to the Book Agents at Cincinnati and New-York, to act as Commissioners in attending to the Church Suit. Commissioners on Church Suit.

The chair appointed Jas. Porter, S. T. Gillett, and J. B. Morgan, tellers.

Ordered, to ballot for the New-York Commissioners first.

The tellers reported no election for Assistant Agent of the Book Concern at Cincinnati.

Another vote was taken.

May 29. The tellers reported no election for Editor of the Ladies' Repository.

Balloted again.

Editor of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate. *Resolved*, To proceed to elect an Editor for the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.

*Resolved*, That we elect said Editor by count vote.

Homer J. Clarke elected. T. M. Hudson nominated Homer J. Clarke, and, on count, he was declared duly elected Editor of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.

Report of Committee on Monument to Bishop M'Kendree. J. Young presented the report of the Committee on the monument to the memory of Bishop M'Kendree, which was read and adopted.

The following is the resolution:—

*Resolved*, That there be a committee of three members of this General Conference appointed to circulate subscription books among the ministry, membership, and friends of the Methodist Episcopal Church; and, as soon as in their judgment a sufficient amount may be secured, they shall co-operate with any Committee which may be appointed by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in the erection of such monument as the judgment of the joint-committee may approve, and the funds they may have secured will justify; and make their report to the next General Conference in 1856.

"J. YOUNG, *Chairman*."

The tellers reported a second time no choice of Assistant Book Agent for Cincinnati.

Voted again.

The tellers reported again no choice of Editor of the Ladies' Repository.

Balloted again.

W. M. Dailey moved, That when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at 3 o'clock, P. M. Laid on the table.

Commissioners at New-York. The tellers reported the result of the ballotings for Commissioners at New-York.

G. Peck and J. Davis. The chair declared George Peck and John Davis to be elected, and Conference proceeded to ballot for one more, to complete the number three.

Brother Stover. *Resolved*, To reconsider the vote fixing the case of brother Stover, who lost money sent to Agents at New-York by mail. Carried.

J. A. Collins offered the following:—

*Resolved*, That his application be placed on the same basis as was that of brother Haughwouts, by the action of the General Conference.

Adopted.

The tellers reported a third time no election of Assistant Book Agent at Cincinnati.

Balloted again.

H. Slicer offered the following:—

“Whereas the Discipline authorizes the Annual Conference, by a committee and the sanction of the Conference, to make an estimate for the support of a Bishop who resides within its bounds, and

May 29.

Bishop Scott.

“Whereas the Philadelphia Conference, within whose bounds it is understood Bishop Scott will reside, will not meet again till the spring of 1853; therefore

“Resolved, That the Philadelphia delegation be, and they hereby are, authorized to make an estimate for Bishop Scott's support for the present year; and that the Book Agents be directed to pay the same.

“H. SLICER,  
“J. DAVIS.”

J. Davis moved, That, as our Episcopacy is a unit, our Bishops have a common seal, and the Bishops be authorized to select such motto and device as they may deem appropriate. Carried.

Common Seal for  
Bishops.

The tellers reported that William C. Larrabee received a majority of all the votes cast for Editor of the Ladies' Repository. Whereupon

Editor of Ladies'  
Repository.

The chair declared that William C. Larrabee was elected Editor of the Ladies' Repository and of the books of the General Catalogue at Cincinnati.

W. C. Larrabee.

The session was prolonged to one o'clock.

Conference proceeded to vote for Commissioners for Cincinnati.

The tellers reported the result of the ballot for Assistant Book Agent at Cincinnati; and the chair announced Adam Poe elected Assistant Agent at Cincinnati.

Adam Poe.

The report of a Special Committee on a Court of Appeals, to whom the several papers on the subject were referred, reported, and presented a plan, which was read, and ordered to be printed. (See *App.* X, p. 195.)

Court of Appeal.

L. Clark asked the Conference to restore the papers presented by him on this subject. Granted.

Also, granted to other brethren to take the plans submitted by them.

C. Kingsley presented a paper touching a change in the section of the Discipline on the subject of slavery. Laid on the table under the rule.

Slavery.

The tellers reported, and the chair announced, that J. F. Wright and E. Thomson were elected Commissioners of the Church Suit at Cincinnati.

J. F. Wright and  
E. Thomson  
Commissioners  
at Cincinnati.

The Conference rescinded the vote by which it resolved to elect Commissioners of the Church Suit at New-York and Cincinnati.

Resolved, That we elect the third member of the Commissioners for Cincinnati by count vote.

- May 29. M. Marley was nominated, and, on count, the chair declared him elected the third Commissioner.
- M. Marley. The tellers reported that John S. Porter had a majority of all the votes cast.
- John S. Porter. Whereupon the chair declared John S. Porter one of the Commissioners on the Church Suit at New-York.
- Conference adjourned.
- Benediction by E. E. Griswold.

### MONDAY MORNING, MAY 31.

- May 31. Bishop Waugh in the chair.
- After the usual religious exercises, conducted by U. Heath, the journal of the preceding session was read, corrected, and approved.
- The Conference proceeded with the order of the day, viz., the reports of standing committees.
- Committee on Education. The Committee on Education reported. (Page 165.)
- The reading of the tabular portion of the report was ordered to be dispensed with, and this part of the report was ordered to be printed.
- Certain alterations were suggested by J. M'Clintock, and admitted by the Committee, and the report, the previous question having been ordered, was adopted.
- J. V. Watson. The credentials of James V. Watson, reserve delegate from Michigan Conference, were read, and brother Watson took his seat in place of D. D. Whedon, who had left the city.
- Report of the Committee on Revisals on Pews and Free Seats. The order of business was suspended for the purpose of calling up the report of the Committee on Revisals, which was read, also the substitute for the report.
- C. Elliott moved, That the whole subject be postponed till the General Conference of 1856.
- A. M. Osbon moved, that the motion of C. Elliott be laid upon the table.
- The yeas and nays were called for, and the call was sustained—and, on voting, there were, yeas 100, nays 56, as follows:—
- Yeas.*—G. Peck, P. P. Sandford, A. M. Osbon, J. C. Lyon, N. Bangs, H. Bangs, L. Clark, J. H. Perry, B. Creagh, S. Landon, E. E. Griswold, S. D. Brown, B. M. Hall, A. Witherspoon, J. Clark, T. Benedict, D. Starks, J. Frazer, R. Wescott, E. Thomas, P. E. Brown, I. Chamberlayne, M. Crow, G. Dennis, J. G. Gulick, H. N. Seaver, D. Holmes, S. Comfort, D. W. Bristol, J. Parks, W. Reddy, L. Sperry, E. B. Tenney, J. M. Snyder, C. Kingsley, W. H. Hunter, E. J. L. Baker, J. H. Whallon, G. Gary, H. Mattison, I. L. Hunt, A. J. Phelps, G. Baker, B. Holmes, L. Hitchcock, S. P. Keyes, R. Haney, W. H. Collins, E. H. Pilcher, F. B. Bangs, R. Sapp, J. V. Watson, T. M. Hudson, H. J. Clarke,



A. Magee, W. Hunter, S. Wakefield, F. Hodgson, J. P. Durbin, T. J. Thompson, W. Barnes, J. M'Clintock, D. P. Kidder, G. F. Brown, J. S. Porter, J. Lewis, J. Ayers, T. M'Carroll, L. W. Berry, J. Daniel, C. Hobart, H. Summers, H. W. Reed, J. Brooks, J. G. Dimmitt, G. Webber, J. H. Jenne, C. C. Cone, S. Allen, A. Sanderson, N. D. George, W. H. Pillsbury, A. Moore, J. C. Aspinwall, A. T. Bullard, E. Adams, E. Scott, E. Mason, J. Spaulding, D. Patten, A. Stevens, W. T. Harlow, E. Benton, D. Webb, D. Wise, M. Raymond, C. K. True, J. Hascall, J. Porter, A. Binney.

May 31.

*Nays.*—P. Rice, J. Z. Nichols, B. Griffen, W. Hosmer, H. Kinsley, W. Patterson, B. S. Hill, A. E. Phelps, J. Chandler, N. J. B. Morgan, N. Wilson, J. Davis, A. Griffith, J. A. Collins, H. Slicer, S. S. Roszell, J. Bear, B. N. Brown, J. A. Gere, A. A. Reese, J. Coil, J. Cunningham, J. M. Trimble, J. Young, C. Elliott, G. W. Walker, J. F. Wright, U. Heath, Z. Connell, C. Brooks, A. M. Lorraine, M. Marley, R. O. Spencer, E. Thomson, J. H. Power, H. Whiteman, T. Barkdull, J. Quigley, H. M. Shaffer, A. Poe, W. M. Dailey, J. Havens, E. Whitten, G. M. Beswick, J. L. Smith, S. T. Gillett, W. H. Goode, J. Hopkins, C. J. Houts, P. Akers, P. Cartwright, J. B. Corrington, G. Rutledge, S. G. J. Worthington, M. Tichnell, C. Adams.

So the motion was laid on the table.

Ordered, That when we adjourn, it be to meet this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

The acceptance of the substitute, by W. Reddy, being before the Conference,

C. K. True moved the previous question. Lost.

The Conference adjourned, J. A. Collins having the floor. Prayer by J. Daniel.

#### MONDAY AFTERNOON.

Bishop Morris in the chair.

After the usual religious exercises, led by J. V. Watson, the journal was read, corrected, and approved.

On motion, the order of the day was taken up.

A. Griffith moved to lay the order of the day upon the table, to afford him an opportunity to offer the resolution that the Book Agents at Cincinnati be directed to pay the moving expenses of J. H. Power to his future field of labour.

Expenses of J. H. Power.

The motion to lay upon the table prevailed, as also the resolution to pay the moving expenses of J. H. Power.

Brothers Berry, Hunter, and Gary, had liberty to change their votes on the question voted upon this morning by yeas and nays.

The order of the day was again taken up.

After further discussion, the previous question was moved and lost.

Report of Committee on Revisals on Pews and Free Seats.

May 31.

After further discussion, the previous question was again moved, and carried.

And the question being on the reception of the substitute, the yeas and nays were called for, and it was carried, as follows:—

*Yeas.*—G. Peck, P. P. Sandford, A. M. Osbon, J. C. Lyon, J. Z. Nichols, N. Bangs, Heman Bangs, L. Clark, B. Creagh, S. Landon, E. E. Griswold, S. D. Brown, B. M. Hall, A. Witherspoon, J. Clark, T. Benedict, D. Starks, J. Frazer, R. Wescott, P. E. Brown, I. Chamberlayne, W. Hosmer, M. Crow, J. Dennis, J. G. Gulick, H. N. Seaver, D. Holmes, S. Comfort, D. W. Bristol, J. Parks, W. Reddy, L. Sperry, E. B. Tenney, J. M. Snyder, C. Kingsley, W. H. Hunter, B. S. Hill, E. J. L. Baker, J. H. Whallon, G. Gary, H. Mattison, J. L. Hunt, A. J. Phelps, G. Baker, B. Holmes, L. Hitchcock, S. P. Keyes, R. Haney, W. H. Collins, E. H. Pilcher, F. B. Bangs, R. Sapp, J. V. Watson, T. M. Hudson, A. Magee, W. Hunter, S. Wakefield, F. Hodgson, J. P. Durbin, Thos. J. Thompson, W. Barnes, J. Cunningham, D. P. Kidder, G. F. Brown, J. S. Porter, J. Lewis, J. Ayers, W. Nast, J. Marsee, C. Hobart, H. Summers, H. W. Reed, J. Brooks, J. G. Dimmitt, G. Webber, J. H. Jenne, S. Allen, A. Sanderson, N. D. George, W. H. Pillsbury, A. Church, A. Moore, J. C. Aspinwall, E. Adams, E. Scott, R. Dearborn, J. Spaulding, D. Patten, A. Stevens, W. T. Harlow, E. Benton, D. Webb, D. Wise, M. Raymond, C. K. True, J. Hascall, C. Adams, A. Binney.

*Nays.*—P. Rice, B. Griffen, J. H. Perry, E. Thomas, C. Kingsley, H. Kinsley, W. Patterson, A. E. Phelps, J. Chandler, E. H. Pilcher, N. J. B. Morgan, N. Wilson, J. Davis, A. Griffith, J. A. Collins, H. Slicer, S. S. Roszell, J. Bear, B. N. Brown, J. A. Gere, A. A. Reese, C. B. Tippet, H. J. Clarke, J. Coil, J. M. Trimble, J. Young, C. Elliott, G. W. Walker, G. Moody, J. F. Wright, U. Heath, Z. Connell, C. Brooks, A. M. Lorraine, M. Marley, R. O. Spencer, E. Thomson, J. H. Power, H. Whiteman, T. Barkdull, J. Quigley, H. M. Shaffer, A. Poe, W. M. Dailey, J. Havens, E. Whitten, L. W. Berry, G. M. Beswick, J. L. Smith, S. T. Gillett, W. H. Goode, J. Daniel, J. H. Hopkins, C. J. Houts, P. Akers, P. Cartwright, J. B. Corrington, G. Rutledge, S. G. J. Worthington, M. Tichnell, C. Adams, A. Binney.

So the substitute was accepted.

The question being upon the adoption of the substitute, and the yeas and nays being called, there were yeas 98, nays 55.

*Yeas.*—G. Peck, P. P. Sandford, A. M. Osbon, J. C. Lyon, J. Z. Nichols, E. Adams, E. Scott, E. Mason, S. D. Brown, B. M. Hall, A. Witherspoon, J. Clark, T. Benedict, D. Starks, J. Frazer, R. Wescott, N. Bangs, H. Bangs, B.

Creagh, J. H. Perry, E. E. Griswold, S. Landon, N. D. George, W. H. Pillsbury, A. Church, A. Moore, T. M. Hudson, H. J. Clarke, A. Magee, W. Hunter, S. Wakefield, J. C. Aspinwall, C. Hobart, H. Summers, G. Gary, J. L. Hunt, H. Mattison, A. J. Phelps, G. Baker, B. Holmes, S. Allen, A. Sanderson, J. H. Jenne, B. S. Hill, W. H. Hunter, E. J. L. Baker, J. A. Whallon, L. Hitchcock, R. Haney, S. P. Keyes, D. Holmes, E. Bowen, D. W. Bristol, W. Reddy, L. Sperry, J. Parks, E. P. Tenney, J. M. Snyder, S. Comfort, H. W. Reed, J. Brooks, J. G. Dimmitt, W. Hosmer, M. Crow, J. Dennis, H. N. Seaver, J. Marsee, W. H. Collins, E. H. Pileher, E. M'Clure, F. B. Bangs, E. Thomas, I. Chamberlayne, P. E. Brown, J. V. Watson, R. Sapp, W. Nast, F. Hodgson, J. P. Durbin, W. Barnes, T. J. Thompson, J. Cunningham, G. F. Brown, D. P. Kidder, J. S. Porter, J. Lewis, J. Ayers, D. Patten, A. Stevens, E. Benton, W. H. Harlow, D. Webb, D. Wise, M. Raymond, C. K. True, J. Hascall, C. Adams, A. Binney.

May 31.

*Nays.*—P. Rice, B. Griffen, S. G. J. Worthington, M. Tichnell, J. Coil, C. Kingsley, W. Patterson, H. Kinsley, A. E. Phelps, J. Chandler, E. Thomson, J. H. Power, H. Whiteman, T. Barkdull, J. Quigley, A. Poe, H. M. Shaffer, G. M. Beswick, W. H. Goode, J. L. Smith, S. T. Gillett, J. Daniel, J. Hopkins, C. J. Houts, J. S. Trimble, J. Young, C. Elliott, G. W. Walker, G. Moody, J. F. Wright, U. Heath, Z. Connell, C. Brooks, R. O. Spencer, M. Marley, A. M. Lorraine, P. Akers, P. Cartwright, J. B. Corrington, G. Rutledge, P. Kuhl, W. M. Dailey, J. Havens, E. Whitten, L. W. Berry, N. J. B. Morgan, A. Griffith, J. Davis, H. Slicer, N. Wilson, J. Bear, J. A. Collins, J. A. Gere, S. S. Roszell, A. A. Reese, C. B. Tippett, B. M. Brown, J. Porter.

The substitute was accordingly adopted, and is as follows:—

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to strike out of the Discipline the question and answer found on page 71, in these words, to wit:

Change in the Discipline.

*Quest.* 2d. "Is there any exception to the rule, Let the men and women sit apart?"

*Ans.* There is no exception. Let them sit apart in all our churches."

Also, that they be instructed to strike out of the Discipline the 4th Answer to Question 1st, of Sec. 1, Chap. iii, Part. III, on page 158, in these words, to wit:

"As it is contrary to our economy to build houses with pews to sell or rent, it shall be the duty of the several Annual Conferences to use their influence to prevent houses from being so built in future; and, as far as possible, to make those houses free which have been already built with pews."

May 31.

Also, that answer 1 on page 156 be altered so as to read as follows:—

“Let all our churches be built plain and decent, and with free seats wherever practicable.”

Moved, That when we adjourn, it be to meet this evening at 7½ o'clock.

Court of Appeals.

The report of the Committee on an Appeal Conference was taken up.

H. Mattison presented a substitute.

A motion to adjourn was lost.

A motion was made to lay the whole business on the table for the present. Carried.

A motion to adjourn prevailed.

Benediction by G. Peck.

## MONDAY EVENING.

Bishop Simpson in the chair.

After the usual religious services, led by S. P. Keyes, the journal was read, corrected and approved.

The order of the day was suspended indefinitely.

Revision of the Catechism.

The Committee on the Revision of the Catechism reported.

The report\* was adopted, except so far as related to the alteration of the Discipline.

Committee for nominating Book Committee.

The Committee for nominating the Book Committee at Cincinnati reported their nominations:—

Cincinnati Conference,	G. W. Walker,
Ohio “	J. M. Trimble,
North Ohio “	J. H. Power,
North Indiana “	W. H. Goode,
Michigan “	R. Sapp,
Illinois “	P. Cartwright,
Indiana “	L. W. Berry.

The Committee for nominating the Book Committee at New-York reported their nominations:—

\* This document recapitulated the plan of the Catechisms, as set forth in the Report of the Editor of Sunday-school publications. (See *Appendix*, R, p. 170.)

It also stated that the Committee had carefully examined the Catechisms submitted to their inspection; and, on examination, approved both of the plan and mode of execution.

Four resolutions were appended to the Report.

The *first* gave the official sanction of the General Conference to the new Catechisms.

The *second* ordered the immediate publication of Nos. 1 and 2.

The *third* directed the completion of No. 3 by the Sunday-School Editor, under the supervision of the Committee on the Catechism as heretofore appointed by the Book Committee, Bishop Scott being added to the same.

The *fourth* related to the catechising of children, and was required to lay over one day by a rule of order. It was subsequently passed. (See p. 112.)

Maine Conference,	S. Allen,	May 31.
East Genesee "	M. Crow,	
Black River "	G. Gary,	
New-York "	G. Peck,	
New-England "	J. Porter,	
Philadelphia "	T. J. Thompson,	
Baltimore "	C. B. Tippet.	

The above nominations were accepted.

B. Griffen presented the following, which was adopted:—

"Resolved, That the dividend from the Book Concern and Chartered Fund, for the current year, that was made to the Oneida Conference, be equally divided between the Oneida and Wyoming Conferences; and that for the Illinois Conference, be divided equally between the Illinois and Southern Illinois Conferences; and that for the Indiana Conference, be equally divided between the Indiana and South-East Indiana Conferences; and that for the North Indiana [Conference be equally divided between the North Indiana and the] North-West Indiana Conferences; and that for the Ohio Conference, be equally divided between the Ohio and Cincinnati Conferences.

Division of dividend from Book Concern and Chartered Fund.

"P. RICE,

"B. GRIFFEN."

The Committee appointed to solicit funds to erect a monument at Mount Olivet to our deceased Bishops, reported that they had received \$127; and H. Slicer was directed to pay over the funds collected for the monument to the Trustees of Baltimore city stations.

Monument at Mount Olivet.

A motion to reconsider the report on the German work was carried.

German Work.

On motion of W. Nast, the Pittsburgh, North Ohio, and Cincinnati German districts were detached from the Ohio Conference, and connected with the Cincinnati Conference.

J. Young asked and obtained leave of absence.

Brother Benton presented the following, which was adopted:—

Change in the Discipline.

"Resolved, That the following be admitted in the Discipline:—

"There shall be an Editor at New-York of the Monthly Magazine and Tracts, who shall also be Corresponding Secretary of the Tract Society; and who, if chosen from the travelling preachers, shall be a member of such Conference as he may, with the approbation of the Bishop, select.

Editor of Monthly Magazine.

"E. BENTON,

"N. D. GEORGE."

A motion to take up that part of the report on Itinerancy relating to presiding eldership, was laid on the table.

A. J. Phelps presented the following, which was adopted:—

May 31.  
Change in the  
Discipline.

*Resolved*, That the Discipline, page 193, be so amended as to read as follows:—

“But in the case of the Northern Christian Advocate, the Publishing Committee shall be appointed by the Oneida, Genesee, East Genesee, Black River, and Wyoming Conferences, and shall consist of one member from each of those Conferences, to be chosen annually.”

R. O. Spencer submitted the following, which was adopted:—

Superannuated  
preachers and  
widows of de-  
ceased preach-  
ers formerly  
in Ohio Confer-  
ence.

“*Resolved*, as the sense of this General Conference, That the superannuated preachers, and widows of deceased preachers, who have been claimants on the funds of the Ohio Conference, be attached severally to the Conference (Ohio, Cincinnati, or Kentucky) in which they now reside, or to which their residence is nearest.

“R. O. SPENCER,  
“A. M. LORRAIN,  
“G. W. WALKER.”

Report of Com-  
mittee on Re-  
visals.

Moved, To take up the report of Committee on Revisals, which relates to infant baptism.

Moved, To amend, by taking up Report No. 2 of Committee on Revisals.

The motion to take up the report was laid on the table.

Report of Com-  
mittee on Tem-  
poral Economy.  
Change of Disci-  
pline.

Moved, To take up that part of the report of the Committee on Temporal Economy that proposes a change of Discipline in respect to the appointment of Circuit Stewards.

A motion to lay the motion on the table, and on the question of taking up the report, was lost.

The Report No. 5, of the Committee on Revisals, was taken up.

Motion to adjourn lost.

The first resolution of the report pending,

B. M. Hall presented the following substitute, which was laid on the table:—

Course of study  
for local preach-  
ers.

*Resolved*, That the Bishops be, and hereby are, requested to prepare and prescribe a course of study for applicants for admission into the travelling connexion, and also for local deacons and elders.

A motion to lay the first resolution on the table, was lost.

A motion to adjourn was lost.

N. Wilson submitted the following, as a substitute for the first resolution:—

*Resolved*, That the Bishops be requested to prepare a course of study, which local preachers shall be recommended to pursue previous to the reception of deacon's and elder's orders.

A motion to lay the substitute on the table was lost.

N. Bangs called for the previous question, which was sustained.

On motion, the substitute was accepted and adopted.  
Resolution 2d, of the report, was adopted.

May 31.

J. A. Collins submitted the following resolutions:—

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Conference are due, and are hereby cordially given, to the members of our Church, and other citizens of Boston and vicinity, who have so kindly and hospitably entertained the members thereof during its session.

Vote of thanks to the citizens of Boston and vicinity.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this General Conference are due, and are hereby given, to those ministers of other religious denominations, who so kindly tendered the use of their pulpits to the members thereof during its present session; and that it will be highly gratifying to us, whenever the occasion presents, to reciprocate their Christian courtesy.

Vote of thanks to ministers of denominations.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this General Conference are due, and are hereby cordially given, to the Mayor and authorities of Boston, for the attention and politeness extended by them to the members thereof at the present session; and also to the officers and principals of various institutions, for kindly and politely inviting its members to visit the same.

Vote of thanks to the authorities of Boston.

*Resolved*, That the books sent by publishers to our Editors for review and notice be disposed of in such way as, in their judgment, may be most promotive of the interests of the periodicals under their charge respectively.

Books sent to the Editors.

A vote of thanks was given to the Secretaries, for the faithful performance of their arduous duties.

Thanks to the Secretaries.

All the above resolutions, with the vote of thanks to the Secretaries, were passed by a rising vote.

J. Clark called attention to the address to the British Conference, and, on his motion, Bishop Waugh was requested to address the Conference on the subject of its business, and of our adjournment.

Address to the British Conference.

Bishop Waugh accordingly addressed the Conference.

*Resolved*, That Bishop Waugh be requested to prepare and present to the Conference such items of business as are important to be acted upon, as to subject and manner. Carried.

Moved, That when we adjourn, it be to meet at 7½ o'clock.

Amended by striking out "7½," and inserting "8." Carried.

W. M. Dailey moved, That we adjourn to-morrow at 12½ o'clock, *sine die*. Laid on the table.

Conference adjourned.

Benediction by Bishop Ames.

## TUESDAY, JUNE 1.

Bishop Janes in the chair.

June 1.

After the usual religious exercises, led by Z. Connell, the journal was read, corrected, and approved.

- June 1. On motion, the name of L. W. Berry was added to the Book Committee at Cincinnati.
- L. W. Berry added to the Book Committee. The report of the Committee on the fraternal letter to the Wesleyan Methodist Church in England, was read, a small correction made, and the report adopted. (See *Appendix, U, p. 177.*)
- Messenger to be sent to the British Conference. G. Peck offered the following:—  
*Resolved*, That the Bishops be requested to select a messenger to visit the British Conference, at farthest, in 1853, if they shall judge it expedient.
- Report of the Committee on the Pastoral Address. Carried.  
The report of the Committee on the Pastoral Address was read, and adopted. (See *App. N, p. 158.*)  
*Resolved*, That preachers in charge of circuits and stations are requested to appoint special meetings, for the purpose of having the Pastoral Address read to the members of the Church and congregation, and made the subject of suitable remarks and exhortations.  
Several alterations were admitted by the mover of the resolution.
- Report of Committee on Catechism. H. Slicer moved, as a substitute, the original, as written above. Admitted, and the substitute adopted.  
The report of the Committee on the Catechism was taken up, and the following offered:—  
“We recommend renewed and more energetic attention to the work of catechising the young; and that, as a means of securing it, we enlarge Ans. 3, Chap. vi, Part I, of the Discipline, by adding the following words:—‘Let the preachers, also, publicly catechise the children in the Sunday schools, and at special meetings appointed for that purpose.’  
“It shall also be the duty of each preacher, in connexion with reporting the Sunday-school statistics at each Quarterly Conference, to state to what extent he has publicly and privately catechised the children.”
- Report of Committee on Temporal Economy. N. Wilson moved to amend, by so altering the resolution as to say, “the preachers shall see,” &c. Laid on the table.  
A motion to divide the question failed, and,  
On motion, the resolution was adopted.  
A motion to receive the report of the Committee on Re-visals failed, and,  
On motion, the report of the Committee on Temporal Economy was taken up. (See *App. P, p. 164.*)  
*Resolved*, That it be presented item by item.  
First resolution read and adopted.
- Change of the Discipline. “*Resolved*, That the Discipline, Part III, Chap. iii, Sec. 1, Ques. 1, Ans. 1, be so altered as to read, ‘Each Annual Conference shall pay its proportional part towards the allowance for the widows and orphans of Bishops.’



“Also, that Ans. 4th of the same section be amended by the addition of these words:—‘And also for the amount of their quarterage and travelling expenses.’ Making the fourth answer to read, ‘Each Annual Conference, in which a Bishop, or Bishops, may reside, shall annually appoint a committee of three or more, whose duty it shall be to estimate the amount necessary to furnish a house, fuel and table expenses, for said Bishop, or Bishops, subject to the action of the Conference. And they are authorized to draw on the funds of the Book Concern for said amount, and also for the amount of their quarterage and travelling expenses.’”

June 1.

Expenses of the Bishops.

H. Bangs offered, as an amendment, the following:—

“The entire allowance for each Presiding Elder, shall be estimated by a committee, composed of one steward from each circuit and station in the District, to be selected from among the stewards by the Quarterly Meeting Conference, who shall meet annually, at the call of the Presiding Elder, who shall preside in such meeting; and the committee so provided shall make the estimate and apportion it among the several circuits and stations according to their respective ability; and the apportionment so made, shall be paid by the stewards of the circuits and stations, in quarterly instalments.” Laid on the table.

The second resolution was read.

J. A. Collins moved to amend by adding the resolution, “That the Discipline, part iii, chapter iii, paragraph 5, page 174, be amended so as to read thus, beginning in the second line from the top: ‘Out of the moneys so collected and brought to the respective Annual Conferences, let the various allowances agreed upon in the second section be made up; but each Annual Conference shall have full power to determine, by a vote of two-thirds of all the members present and voting, who, among the superannuated and supernumerary preachers, and the widows and orphans of deceased preachers belonging to the Conference, shall be claimants on the funds of said Conference, and what amount each claimant shall receive from year to year.’” Adopted.

Change of the Discipline.

J. A. Collins moved, That nothing contained in the foregoing action shall have a retrospective action.

The call for the yeas and nays not sustained. Amendment laid on the table.

G. Lane made a communication, in writing, to the General Conference.

Communication from G. Lane

The following resolution was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That brother Lane’s moving expenses be paid, also his salary to the time of the session of his conference, which will be the 7th of July.

G. Peck moved the following, which was adopted.

*Resolved*, That a vote of thanks be tendered to G. Lane,

June 1. for his faithful and able services as Book Agent for the last sixteen years, at New-York.

Vote of thanks to G. Lane.

E. H. Pilcher moved the following, which was adopted:—

Publishing Committee of North Western Christian Advocate, to estimate the salary of the Editor.

*Resolved*, That the Publishing Committee for the North-Western Christian Advocate, be authorized to estimate the amount of salary for the editor of that journal, and draw the same in quarterly instalments, from the time he shall enter upon his duties.

*Resolved*, That the expenses of the superintendents, in visiting the California and Oregon Conferences, be paid from the Book Concern. Laid on the table.

Expenses of the Superintendent to Liberia.

*Resolved*, That this General Conference request the managers of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church to take such measures as they may deem most proper to pay the expenses of our Superintendents, in visiting the Liberia Conference.

P. P. Sandford proposed to amend, by adding, "California and Oregon." Lost.

The resolution was adopted.

T. Carlton moved the following, which was laid on the table.

Whereas the dividends to the several Annual Conferences for the present year have been determined, and

Whereas, by the action of this Conference, an important change has been made in the manner of paying our Bishops; therefore,

*Resolved*, That during the coming year the Bishops draw their support as heretofore.

The following resolution was adopted:—

\$61 70 withheld from the Annual Conferences.

*Resolved*, That the Book Agents be instructed to withhold from those Annual Conferences, which are to meet during the present Conference year, the sum of sixty-one dollars seventy cents, that being the amount paid for the use of the Bishops of those Conferences, which have had their sessions before the meeting of the General Conference.

A motion to take up the report of the Appeal Conference failed.

Report No. 4 of Committee on Revisals.

The Conference took up the report No. 4, of the Committee on Revisals, and considered it, item by item.

*Resolved*, 1. That the phrase "in the regular itinerant work," page 45, sixth line, be stricken out.

J. C. Ayers moved, as a substitute, That instead of striking out, add after the work, "on circuit or stations." Accepted and adopted.

A motion to adjourn to meet at 3 o'clock, failed.

A motion that when we adjourn, we adjourn *sine die*. Carried.

Second resolution adopted.

*Resolved*, That paragraph 4, page 69, be amended

by inserting, after the word "resides," the following, "for his Christian character and faithful performance of his ministerial office." Also, that the same paragraph be further amended by striking out the words "or in neglect thereof," and inserting "and in neglect of the above duties."

June 1

Third resolution adopted.

*Resolved*, That the Committee to be appointed for the purpose of revising and publishing the Discipline, be directed to make such changes in the verbiage of the section on the Chartered Fund, as may be necessary to accord with the changes made in the charter of the institution.

The report of the Committee on Boundaries was adopted.

The Committee on Temperance reported. (See p. 163.)

Report of Committee on Temperance.

The report was read and adopted, and ordered to be printed in all our Church papers.

"*Resolved*, That the use of intoxicating liquors, to any extent, as a beverage, is to be deeply deplored, and deprecated as tending to the forming and maturing of pernicious habits, and leading, by natural consequence, to diversified crime, wide-spread misery and the final ruin of vast multitudes for whom Christ has died.

"2. That we rejoice greatly in the recent manifestations of public sentiment on this subject; and especially that God is putting it in the hearts of civil rulers to interpose the authority of the State for the protection of society against what we hold to be an enormous social wrong, the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks." Adopted.

"3. That the encouraging aspect of the great cause, presents no just occasion for relaxation of effort on the part of its friends, but, on the contrary, calls upon us to renew our diligence in the use of all proper means to spread and consummate those plans so obviously traceable to a propitious Providence, and so richly fraught with the blessings of peace and good will to men." Adopted.

"4. That we recommend the calm, judicious, but firm and impartial enforcement of our excellent disciplinary rules upon this subject." Adopted.

The report No. 2, on Sunday Schools, was taken up.

Report No. 2 on Sunday Schools.

"*Resolved*, 1. That the Editor of the Sunday-school Publications, be no longer required to edit Tracts, except those belonging to the Sunday-school department." Adopted.

"2. That we recommend to the Board of Managers of the Sunday-School Union of our Church, so to alter the Constitution of that society, as to provide for the election of the Corresponding Secretary by the General Conference." Adopted.

"3. That the Editor of the Sunday-school Publications be also, by appointment of the General Conference, Corresponding Secretary of the Sunday-School Union." Adopted.

June 1.

Resolutions four and five laid on the table.

"6. That male superintendents of our Sunday schools, being members of our Church, shall, by virtue of their office, have a seat in the Quarterly Conferences having supervision of their schools, with the right to speak and vote on questions relating to Sunday schools, and on such questions only." Adopted.

The following was offered as an amendment to No. 2 of Committee on Sunday Schools and Tracts, which was adopted.

"Resolved, That the Editor of the Discipline and his associates, on publishing the new edition, be instructed to incorporate in the Discipline, the resolution passed by the Conference, creating an editorship of a Monthly Magazine and Tracts; also, defining the duties of the Corresponding Secretary of our Tract Society, making the whole conform to the analogy of other editorships at New-York; that they be instructed to modify the phraseology of the Discipline, in conformity with the other resolutions passed, in connexion with the reports Nos. 1 and 2 of the Committee on Sunday Schools and Tracts, which were designed to become a part of the Discipline."

J. F. Wright moved, That the resolution be so amended as to make the Sunday-school superintendents members of the Quarterly Conference. Laid on the table.

G. Peck moved the following:—

Journal to be published.

Resolved, That the Editors at New-York be ordered to publish, in book-form, the journals of this General Conference. Adopted.

Pastoral Address to be published.

Resolved, That the pastoral addresses be published in all our Church papers, and be also appended to the volume of the journal.

N. Bangs offered the following:—

Vote of thanks to J. P. Magee.

Resolved, That a vote of thanks be given to J. P. Magee for his services to the members of this Conference. Adopted.

Resolved, That the Editors and Agents at New-York be a Committee to revise and publish the Discipline. Adopted.

The Conference gave J. A. Collins the privilege of addressing the Conference. Objections being made, a motion was made to grant him time to finish his remarks.

W. H. Goode moved, To postpone this matter indefinitely.

The previous question was called for and sustained, and the motion for indefinite postponement prevailed.

Resolved, That the Commissioners appointed to conduct the affairs of the Church Suit, in connexion with the Agents, be allowed access to the General Conference documents and records as they may find necessary. Carried.

*Resolved*, That the Editor of the daily Zion's Herald be permitted to publish all documents adopted by this Conference, which may be of public interest. Carried.

June 1.

Editor of Herald to publish documents.

*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences, in General Conference assembled, That the thanks of this General Conference are due to the trustees and congregation of Bromfield-street Church, for their kindness in furnishing their church for the session of this Conference.

Vote of thanks to Trustees and Congregation of Bromfield-street Church.

*Resolved*, That the Book Agents be authorized to pay J. H. Power his salary to the time of the session of his Conference.

Book Agents to pay J. H. Power.

The journal was read, corrected, and approved.

The Conference adjourned, *sine die*.

Prayer by N. Bangs.

Benediction by Bishop Waugh.

B. WAUGH,  
T. A. MORRIS,  
EDMUND S. JANES,  
LEVI SCOTT,  
M. SIMPSON,  
OSMON C. BAKER,  
EDWARD R. AMES.

B. GRIFFEN, *Assistant Sec'y*.



## APPENDIX.

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### A.—REPORT OF THE NEW-YORK BOOK AGENTS TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE. 1852.

FATHERS AND BRETHREN,—In presenting their report for the last four years, your Agents would, first of all, express their devout and grateful acknowledgments to Almighty God for his watchful and preserving care exercised over both themselves and their assistants, and the Institution committed to their trust.

#### REAL ESTATE.

From the increase of business, and the consequent enlargement of stock, it became, in the judgment of the Agents, “indispensably necessary, to carry on advantageously” the business of the Concern, to erect an additional building. This building being needed mainly for manufacturing purposes, it was deemed important, for convenience of machinery and motive power, that it should be connected immediately with our former premises. Instead, therefore, of building on the lots already owned by the Concern on the opposite side of Mulberry-street, a lot, twenty-five by one hundred feet, fronting on Mott-street, and connecting with our former premises in the rear, was purchased at a cost of \$4,000. On this lot a very substantial building, five stories high, with a basement, has been erected. It covers the entire lot, excepting a recess on the south side, eight by fifty feet, for light and air; and is connected at every story with the rear of the former bindery by means of strong bridges. This building is appropriated mainly to the business of the bindery, but is not yet fully occupied. The addition of this building to the Concern has enabled the agents to fit up a second depository for bound stock, which was much needed; and to make other changes, which add greatly to the convenience of the business.

Permission was given the Agents, by the last General Conference, “to dispose of the four houses in Crosby-street whenever an advantageous opportunity might offer, and, with the advice of the Book Committee, erect other houses on a part of the lots recently purchased on Mulberry-street.” No advantageous opportunity having offered to dispose of the houses on Crosby-street, nothing has been done. The Agents, however, would advise that the same permission should be continued for the next four years. All the main reasons urged for this change, in the Report to the last General Conference, still hold, and with increased force, as the accommodations for “exhibitions and balls” in the rear of the premises, mentioned in that Report, have been greatly enlarged, and the annoyance consequently increased.

## THE GENERAL BUSINESS OF THE CONCERN.

The Agents are happy to report the business of the Concern for the last four years to have been generally prosperous. The amount of sales for this period has been \$653,190 78—which shows an increase on the sales of the preceding four years of \$165,968 74, or a fraction over thirty-four per cent. The profits, too, for the same period, show an increase over those of the preceding four years of a little over thirty-two per cent., or \$38,475 79; yet for the last six months there has been a falling off in the sales, so that the entire sales for the last year have been less than those of the year before by \$12,567 45. This has been owing, it is presumed, partly, to the fact that the demand for the new Hymn-book had been generally met, but mainly to embarrassments in the monetary affairs of the country.

Flattering, however, as is the state of the Concern, according to the above showing, the amount of sales has never yet been what it ought to be. The highest point they have ever yet attained (which was in 1850) is \$202,358 27; while they ought to reach annually, as your Agents believe, at least \$250,000, or \$1,000,000 every four years.

It has been said that the profits of the Concern are greatly less than they should be, and, under other management, might be; and it has been suggested that it would be better to abandon the Concern, and to invest the capital in some more profitable stock. The Agents cannot, of course, tell what the results would be under other management, as the experiment has not yet been tried; but under the management to which the Concern has been subjected, according to the provisions and directions of the General Conference, there has been, for the last four years, an average net profit on the sales of the Concern of a fraction over twenty-seven per cent., and on the capital invested of about seven per cent. These profits are not large; and yet, were they much smaller than they are, the General Conference and the true Methodist public would be very slow to believe, as your Agents apprehend, that it would be better to strike down that noble institution, the Book Concern, and invest the capital in other and (if they could be found) more profitable stocks.

The Methodist Book Concern must not be regarded solely, or even mainly, in its relation to dollars and cents. It has a higher, holier, nobler aim—the diffusion of a sound religious literature, and the spread of Scriptural holiness over the land. Viewed in this relation, its importance cannot easily be exaggerated. (So, indeed, think our enemies—if there are any in this poor world who hold such a relation to us as makes proper the application to them of this ugly word. After our ever-moving and, to them, vexatious itinerancy, there is nothing in the arrangements and appliances of Methodism they so much dread and hate as that mammoth Book Concern, and in nothing would they rejoice more than in its destruction.) Still, though money-making is not the chief, much less the sole design of the Book Concern, it may be doubted whether there is a book-making establishment in the country which would have excelled, or even equalled it in this respect, if, instead of paying out large portions of its profits annually in dividends to the conferences and to other constitutional objects, these profits had been added to the capital for the enlargement of the business, or had been invested



in profitable stocks. In this case, instead of counting its hundreds of thousands, it would now probably count its millions. As it is, the Concern is almost a prodigy. Taking its rise, in 1789, in \$600 of borrowed capital, it has gradually risen, in despite of all its constitutional leaks and drainings, until now it presents a capital of over half a million of dollars! So much for the business tact of Methodist preachers!

It may be proper in this connexion to say, that while the increase in the sales, for the last four years, may have been owing mainly to the new Hymn-book, of which there has been a large sale, it has also been owing, in some degree, probably, to improvements in the quality and style of our publications. To these points the Agents have given special attention. They have aimed at a middle course, as best suited, in their judgment, to the character of the Concern as a religious publishing house. If they have not gone as far in ornamenting their publications as some have desired, they have gone, it is probable, quite beyond the tastes and wishes of others. Upon the whole, however, they hope that the publications of the Concern are now generally such as meet the tastes and wants of the Church.

#### THE CIRCULATION OF BOOKS.

The great importance of a more extensive circulation of our books has been felt by many; and much has been said and written on the subject, and several new plans suggested.

Some have recommended conference depositories, to be located within the bounds of the several annual conferences; others are in favour of establishing small depositories in cities and large towns; while many prefer the colporteur system.

To the first there would be the following objections:—The cost of keeping up these establishments would average about \$2000 per annum, and, in the aggregate, would amount to about \$60,000 a year; which, it is feared, would be more than the entire profits, without materially lessening the expenses at New-York. There is another objection to this plan: it will require twice or thrice the amount of stock that is now necessary. At New-York the stock could not be reduced with safety to the depositories, as their orders would frequently be large, and might, several of them, be received at the same time. It would be necessary also for the depositories to be well supplied, that they might at all times be prepared to furnish an assortment to those who would depend on them for their books. Still, it may be proper to establish a very few depositories in localities far distant, and not easily reached, especially in the winter season, from New-York or Cincinnati.

Small depositories, if they could be established in the hands of men who are already engaged in business, and on cash principles, or if ample security could be obtained, would not be so objectionable, and would, no doubt, accommodate those who might wish to purchase on a small scale. For Sabbath-school books in particular, it is believed these would operate favourably. But there are few, comparatively, who are willing to purchase our books to any considerable extent for cash; and it would be extremely difficult, and in many instances impossible, to get such security, especially at a distance, as could be relied on.

The colporteur system may do well for the circulation of small books and tracts, when some are to be given away, some sold at half price, and some at full price; and when institutions are sustained wholly, or even partly, by public collections and donations. But for large works, and books in extra binding, as many of ours are, and when institutions are dependent on their own resources, it is doubtful whether it would answer at all. If we were to adopt this system, it would be found extremely difficult to obtain the right men to be employed in this work. Those generally who are willing to engage in such enterprises are men who have failed in business, or from other causes are out of employment, and perhaps embarrassed in their circumstances. They may be good citizens, perhaps members of the Church; but how are we to know them, especially those at a distance? For if we adopt the colporteur system generally, it will be necessary to employ men from the St. John's in the east, to the Missouri in the west—a distance, perhaps, of three thousand miles; it is true that they might obtain letters of recommendation from preachers; but is it certain that preachers, changed as they are every year or two, would be sufficiently acquainted with them and their circumstances to make it safe to trust them for books to any considerable amount? To think of selling to these men for cash, is out of the question; it will be found in general that they do not belong to that class who have funds at command. Ninety out of a hundred would expect to get their books on credit, and when they wanted more, would perhaps pay \$50, and ask an additional credit of \$100; and so in this ratio increase their indebtedness, until, in many instances, a total failure would be the result. They might return a few books which they could not sell, and which had been so injured, by transportation and otherwise, that, if disposed of at all, they must be sold at great loss. On investigating the causes of these delinquencies, it would probably be found that they had appropriated the proceeds of the books sold to the payment of debts contracted previously to their engagement with the Book Concern, or to the support of their families, and they are totally unable to refund.

It may be thought by some that the above is an exaggerated view of the subject. But it is the opinion of your Agents, that if either of the above systems be adopted, and relied upon as a principal medium for the circulation of our books, their fears will be more than realized, and we shall see our error when it is too late to remedy the evil. In their opinion, the old system of sending out books on commission, under proper limitations and restrictions, would be far less objectionable than either depositories or the colporteur system.

Having carefully and thoroughly examined the several plans which have been suggested, and weighed the arguments for and against them, and compared them with the one adopted at the beginning, your Agents are confirmed in the opinion they have long entertained, that the system of circulating the books by the agency of the preachers is preferable to all others, and cannot be abandoned with safety to the Concern.

Your Agents are aware that it is thought by some that this system imposes duties which are inconsistent with the ministerial character, and burdens too grievous to be borne. But not so thought Mr. Wesley, nor

our fathers in Europe and America. Mr. Wesley thought it no disparagement to either write or *sell* books, the price of which was one penny; and there are still some among us who consider it both an appropriate and delightful employment, inasmuch as God is honoured and souls are benefitted.

Our people must in some way be supplied with our books, or suffer great, if not irreparable loss. And who is so well qualified for this good work as their pastor, who is supposed to understand the condition of his people better than any one else can, and who is required to watch over them as one "who must give account?" And while he is solemnly bound to guard them against reading such books as do not tend to the knowledge or love of God, is he not under equal obligation to see that they are supplied with such as are best calculated to increase both? In this reading age our people will read something, and if they are not supplied with good books, they will read others; and the effect, in either case, will be visible: for books will have their influence for good or for evil, and will tell, to a greater or less extent, upon the eternal destiny of those who read.

Thus far, under this head, your Agents have copied, almost verbatim, the Report made to the last General Conference. Four years' observation and experience have but confirmed them in the truth of the sentiments advanced in that Report, and they see not that they could do better than reiterate those sentiments. The active agency of the preachers is, in the judgment of your Agents, indispensable in the circulation of our books. Unite with this agency any other safe agency you may judge proper, provided it does not *conflict* with it; but to substitute it by any other your Agents believe you cannot, without serious detriment, if not utter ruin, to the Book Concern.

#### THE PRICE OF OUR BOOKS.

There is still some complaint about the price of our books, notwithstanding the average reduction on the books of the General Catalogue of fifteen per cent., made by order of the last General Conference. That this complaint is, as to our books generally, without any just ground, any one may satisfy himself who will take the trouble to compare our books, as to price, with those of the leading self-supporting publishing houses in the country.

It is a remarkable fact, that those who complain of the price of our books refer usually for proof of the justness of their complaints to the publications of the American Tract Society, apparently not knowing, or at least not considering, that that institution is not, like the Book Concern, wholly dependent on its own resources, but is largely aided annually by donations and public collections. It may, consequently, with safety put its publications at cost, or below cost, or even, if judged proper, bestow them as gratuities. This the Book Concern cannot do. If it live at all, it must live on the proceeds of its own business; and its issues, consequently, must be put at a price which will not only cover expenses and the wear and tear of machinery, but also, at least, provide for such an increase of capital and enlargement of business as may be called for by the increasing demands of the Church, to say nothing of the table expenses of our superintendents, and dividends to the confer-

ences. So that, even if these latter items were wholly left out of the question, and the books put at a price that would merely meet expenses and provide for the necessary increase of capital, these prices could not be graduated by the scale adopted, or which may be adopted, by the American Tract Society. To compete fairly with that society, the Book Concern must have a like resource in voluntary contributions.

It is the opinion of your Agents that this whole matter of prices needs to be touched with a very careful hand, especially at this time, when the Concern is probably about to pass through an exceedingly trying ordeal. If reductions are ordered at all, they should be ordered with great care, in view of all the facts and probabilities of the case, and without the least regard to the indiscreet complaints of well-disposed, perhaps, but rash and inexperienced men. There is great danger that the Concern may be embarrassed, if not fatally crippled, by hasty and excessive legislation. The largest discretion, in relation to prices, ought to be allowed to the Agents whom you may intrust with the management of the Concern. If they are at all men worthy to be intrusted with so great and delicate a charge, they must, from their position and circumstances, very soon become able to form more enlightened and safe judgment in relation to this whole matter than those can, no matter what are their abilities, whose occupation is totally different. Finally, if your agents may be allowed to give their judgment in so weighty a matter, they will say—Select and determine the objects to be provided for by the Concern, and then leave to your Agents to provide for these objects in the light of the best experience they can command, and wholly untrammelled by rules and regulations in relation to prices and discounts—the General Conference fixing only the relations of the Eastern and Western Concerns in regard to discounts. The responsibility of the Agents will, we are aware, be greatly increased by this measure; but the true interests of the Concern, and of the cause which it is intended to subserve, will, we think, be promoted.

#### PERIODICALS.

In 1849, by and with the advice of the Book Committee, the price of the *Christian Advocate and Journal* was reduced to \$1 25, and a certain space, by permission of the last General Conference, was allowed for advertisements. The subscription-list ran up, under the excitement of this measure, from about seventeen to thirty-three thousand. In 1850 it declined to about twenty-nine thousand, mainly, it is presumed, on account of the advertisements, which gave so great and so general dissatisfaction, that they were thrown out at the close of the volume for that year. The number of subscribers has since gradually increased, and now stands at about thirty thousand. This excellent periodical, so far as your Agents are able to judge, never enjoyed more generally the approval and confidence of its patrons than it now does. It is regarded as a sound and able advocate of the doctrines, general polity, and established usages of the Church.

The *Methodist Quarterly Review* has attained an eminence among the periodicals of its class, creditable alike to its editor and to the Church. In all the elements of a religious review, it is regarded as among the

first, if not the very first, in the country ; and yet it does not fully meet expenses. Its list of subscribers, though much larger, as we are assured, than that of any other Quarterly in the country, is yet greatly below what it ought to be. It stands at present at about three thousand.

The *Sunday School Advocate* not only retains the confidence so liberally extended to it in former years, but steadily increases in popularity and usefulness. It has now a circulation, East and West, of about ninety thousand. Its course is emphatically onward.

The *Missionary Advocate* is rapidly increasing in circulation and usefulness. We are now printing thirty-three thousand, and the list will probably, in the course of the year, run up to thirty-five, if not forty thousand.

A demand has been made from many quarters for a monthly journal of religion and literature ; and, in our opinion, the wants of our people imperatively demand some such publication. The Quarterly is intended to be the organ of the highest literature of the Church, and, as such, it amply fills its place ; the Ladies' Repository is admirably adapted for the class of readers indicated by its title, and its success fully shows the ability with which it has been conducted. But our people still need a *Magazine of Current Literature* ; and if we do not supply them, they will supply themselves from other sources. Such a magazine, furnishing instructive and interesting reading from every department of popular literature, science, and art, and conducted in a religious spirit and on religious principles, could not fail, we think, to find a large number of purchasers, and to be eminently useful. From the ample materials furnished in foreign journals, it could be prepared at little cost, except that of editing, printing, paper, and press-work, and could be sold at \$2 per annum, if that should be deemed the most available price.

So strongly impressed, indeed, have been your Agents with the necessity of such a publication, that they brought the matter to the attention of the Book Committee at their meeting in the early part of the last year, and also corresponded with the Agents of the Western Book Concern. The Book Committee approved of the object ; but both they and we hesitated as to the propriety of commencing the publication before the meeting of this Conference, as it might by some be regarded as inconsistent with the implied will of the last General Conference. We now commend this matter to the earnest attention of this body.

#### CHURCH PROPERTY CASE.

It will be remembered that the last General Conference, being desirous "to advance, as far as its constitutional powers would authorize, toward an amicable adjustment of the difficulty between the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in relation to the property of the Book Concern, directed that the Agents should offer to submit the claims of the Commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to the decision of disinterested arbiters, provided they should find, on taking legal counsel, that, when clothed with all the authority which the General Conference could confer, their corporate powers would warrant them in so doing ; or, that they should find, upon taking legal counsel, that they had not power to submit the case to voluntary arbitration, and should a suit at law be commenced by the Com-

missioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, they should tender to said Commissioners an adjustment of their preferred claims by a legal arbitration, under the authority of the Court; or, that in the occurrence of neither of the above contingencies, the bishops were requested to lay before the several annual conferences, for their concurrence, a resolution adopted by that General Conference, to so far suspend the sixth restrictive rule of the Discipline, as to authorize our Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati to submit said claim to arbitration."

As soon after the rise of the General Conference as the other and pressing duties of the Agents would allow, they took the advice of George Wood, Esq., an eminent legal gentleman in the city of New-York, and found that, when clothed with all the authority which the General Conference could confer, their corporate powers would not warrant them in offering to submit the case to arbitration. Of this fact they notified the Commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in a letter bearing date December 22, 1848. No suit having been commenced by the Commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at the opening of the following year, the bishops proceeded to lay the above-mentioned resolution before the annual conferences for their concurrence, commencing with the Baltimore Conference. This measure, which was proceeding with encouraging prospects of success, was broken off by the commencement of suit by the Commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, on the 19th day of June. The cause was ably argued before Judges Nelson and Betts, in May, 1851, by D. Lord, Esq., and Hon. R. Johnson, for complainants; and Hon. R. Choate and G. Wood, Esq., for defendants. At the close of the argument, His Honour, Judge Nelson, stated it as his opinion, "that it would be much better, if, after a full and fair investigation both of the facts and law of the case, the parties could amicably take it up, and, by the aid of friends and counsel, come to an amicable decision of the controversy;" assuring the parties at the same time that "there could probably be no reasonable doubt but that an amicable, an equitable, and honest adjustment, made by the representatives of the different branches of the Church, with the aid of their counsel, sanctioned by the Court, would be a binding, and valid, and final disposition of the whole controversy."

Though your Agents were aware that it belonged to the Commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, as complainants in the cause, to take the initiative in negotiations touching an amicable adjustment; yet, regardless of mere form, they, in conjunction with the Agents of the Western Book Concern, and with the aid of their counsel, proceeded at once to draw up and sign a paper, containing a proposition to adjust the claims of the Southern Commissioners by means of arbitration. But before this paper was sent off, they received a communication from Dr. Smith, as chairman of the Board of Commissioners, dated May 29th, and asking whether your Agents had any proposition to make. Having drawn up a brief reply to this communication, they sent it and the paper above-mentioned to E. L. Fancher, Esq., to be forwarded to the Commissioners. This paper was dated June 2d. A reply, dated June 19th, was received, in which the Commissioners stated that they were willing to arbitrate, provided we would admit their claim to a full share of the

property in question. As this was the very point in dispute, it could not, of course, be admitted; and so negotiations, in reference to an amicable settlement, were closed. A decision in favour of the claimants was given by His Honour, Judge Nelson, November 11th; and a decree was issued November 26th, based on this decision, adjudging and ordering that a *pro rata* share of the property of the Book Concern, including both capital and produce, should be transferred to the agents of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and referring the case to the clerk of the court, to ascertain and report the amount and value of the property, &c. (See accompanying documents.)

In making preparation for a showing before the clerk, your Agents soon found that they could not rely upon the ordinary annual Exhibits to the conferences; that while these Exhibits were perhaps sufficiently accurate for ordinary purposes, when but one interest was involved, they would not answer in view of a division of the property, as they presented certain species of stock at a valuation much too high. Your Agents, therefore, found it necessary to make out two sets of inventories of the bound and sheet stock for 1845 and 1852, and of stereotype plates for 1845—one, according to the scale of prices adopted in the annual Exhibits; and another, according to a corrected, and, as your Agents judged, true scale—and, laying both before the clerk, to insist that the latter alone could be taken as a true Exhibit of the property. All this involved, on the part of the Agents and their assistants, an amount of care and toil which no one, perhaps, who has not gone through something of the same kind, can fully appreciate. They had to go through the entire Catalogues, both General and Sunday-School, and determine the value of every book separately, and to re-examine and revise the prices of the entire list of stereotype plates; and this, besides making out the inventories according to the usual scale of prices.

Believing that a free and full conversation between themselves and the Commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, on the several points of difference which might arise between them in relation to the Exhibit of the property of the Concern, prepared to be laid before the clerk of the court, might not only facilitate a settlement of the business between them, but also lessen, if not wholly remove, the grounds of discussion and dispute before that functionary, the Agents suggested such interview to one of the Commissioners, who happened to be in New-York. The Commissioner entirely concurred with them, and stated that he and his associates had felt the propriety of such a meeting between themselves and the Agents, but had doubted whether it belonged to them to make the suggestion. This interview was had on the 31st day of March. It was of short continuance, and resulted in nothing satisfactory. The examination before the clerk commenced on the 12th ult., and was continued day after day till Saturday, the 17th, when it closed. The case is to be argued before the clerk of the United States Court, J. W. Nelson, Esq., as Master Commissioner, by Messrs. Lord and Fancher, on the 29th inst., (April,) and then, if either of the parties should be dissatisfied with the Report of the Commissioner, it will be argued again before the court before the final decree shall be ordered. This decree will not probably be issued before midsummer.

B.—REPORT OF THE NEW-YORK BOOK COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, 1852.

THE Book Committee, agreeably to the requirement in the Discipline, present the following Report to the General Conference, on the condition of the Book Concern at New-York.

The Committee have examined diligently the state of the premises and the management of the affairs, each of the four years since the last General Conference, and are happy to be able to report favourably. The premises are kept in good condition; economy of time, space, and material is observed, and business is executed with promptness and regularity. Some of the work-rooms, however, appear to the Committee inconveniently crowded; but this difficulty will be remedied when the new building, now in progress, shall be completed.

The Agents have shown a fidelity and capability in their arduous duties that entitle them to the best and most confidential regards of the Church. Their duties, during the recent period especially of their official connexion with the Book Concern, have been unusually arduous and trying, and they have richly deserved the sympathy of their brethren, as well as their gratitude and confidence.

With the manner of keeping the general accounts of the Concern, the Committee have been highly gratified. In so vast an establishment, with business so complicated and extensive, uncommon care and skill are required to avoid mistakes, and keep everything in an accurate manner, and so clear as to be readily comprehended. We think that great excellence has been exhibited in this department, and those ends successfully attained.

The Exhibit of the Agents will present the particular items of the Concern, as well as present the aggregate value. It will, therefore, not be necessary for the Committee to do more than call your attention to a few prominent facts.

The total value of the property at this time, deducting twenty per cent. for possible bad debts, is \$663,189 62. A part of this, as you perceive from the exhibit, is in real estate, consisting of houses and lots, and part in stocks. The profit or yield from the entire capital for the four years past, is as follows:—For the year ending in 1849, \$32,833 52; for 1850, \$15,239 62; for 1851 it was \$47,561 42; and for 1852, \$63,906 14. The diminution of the profit reported in 1850, was explained in the Exhibit of the Book Committee that year. It struck us as something strange that in 1850 the amount of sales was \$202,358 27, while in 1851 the amount was only \$189,343 57, being a reduction in pecuniary value of \$12,567 45; yet the profit this year excelled that of the year before by \$16,344 72. This, however, was satisfactorily explained to us by the Book Agents, as it doubtless will be to the General Conference.\*

In the judgment of the Committee, this is a very satisfactory result. It should be remembered that none of the works sold at the Book Concern are of that popular, but ephemeral character that have a sudden

\* See the Report of the Book Agents.



and universal demand, yielding an immense profit for a season, and then passing into oblivion. They are such, for the most part, as maintain a steady demand, yielding profits somewhat slow but uniform. The mode of sale, also, and the heavy discount paid to preachers, far greater than the trade ordinarily pay, greatly reduce the profit; hence, as large profits as a private bookseller would make on the same capital cannot reasonably be expected. Yet with the profits made on the actual amount of sales, we believe, after close calculation, the Conference has sufficient reason to be satisfied.

In the different departments in the establishment there are at present about two hundred persons employed. Not only are the printing and binding done here, but the stereotype plates are cast on the premises. All the works issued at present are stereotyped, except the *Christian Advocate*. The *Sunday School Advocate* is stereotyped, and duplicate plates are made for every number, and transmitted to Cincinnati for the use of the Western Book Concern.

There are eight power-presses at present employed, and one hand-press. This is a decrease on former years in regard to number, but an increase in regard to effectiveness, several of the old presses having been advantageously exchanged for one more valuable.

The Committee are pleased to observe a constant augmentation in the several catalogues. During the last four years there have been added to the General Catalogue sixty-eight volumes, of which eighteen are in 8vo. and fourteen in 12mo., the rest of smaller size. To these should be added the revised Hymn-book in the various sizes, with fresh sets of the stereotype plates. To the Sunday-school list have been added three hundred and thirty-four volumes, besides the Almanac: making a total of seven hundred and twenty-seven new books, besides the Hymn-book. To this must be added, also, eight hundred and forty-four pages of Tracts, the most meagre department of all, for which, however, neither agents nor editors are to blame. We hope to see improvement in this department hereafter.

#### DEPOSITORIES.

The attention of the Committee has been turned to the condition of the several depositories. This is always a subject of difficult management in all similar establishments. From what we can learn, the Depository at Pittsburgh is in good condition; it supplies an important want, and is doing well.

The Depository at Boston was not, at the commencement of this Committee's period of service, in as good a state as could have been desired. The Agents were therefore advised either to remove it entirely, or place it on a more satisfactory basis. The latter has been happily effected, and we rejoice that it is now in a state highly satisfactory, and rendering valuable service.

The Depository in Nassau-street, in the city of New-York, known as the Branch of the Book Concern, is a subject of some perplexity. It, in some respects, certainly affords convenience to the Concern, and to preachers and others occasionally visiting the city. It also assists in the

sale of our books in the city, but it can hardly be said to yield any profit, though it occasions no loss. On the whole, the Committee think that if it be necessary to have an establishment of the sort down town, it ought to be on a more creditable scale; and if the business will not justify that, it would be better to abandon it.

#### PERIODICALS.

Our periodicals constitute one of the most important interests of the Church, and demand our serious consideration.

##### I. THE CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE AND JOURNAL.

The subject of reducing the price of the *Christian Advocate* was laid before the last General Conference in the Report of the former Book Committee. It was one of the topics first presented to our consideration. After much inquiry, careful estimates, and earnest thought, the Committee recommended to the Book Agents to reduce the price to \$1 25, except to ministers, who were to be charged \$1. The insertion of advertisements, also, to a limited extent, under the direction of the Book Agents and Editor, was recommended. It was hoped that the number of subscribers might be raised from 19,000—the number at the time of the last General Conference—to 40,000, which, with the charges in advertisements, would have yielded a handsome profit. In these calculations we have been somewhat disappointed. The subscription-list has never reached the number anticipated, and it was found that the advertisements gave so much dissatisfaction that it was deemed best to discontinue them. This has reduced the receipts from the *Advocate* very considerably. Still, the Committee are not prepared to recommend a return to the former price. It is still hoped that, by greater exertion on the part of the preachers, the subscription-list may be greatly enlarged, and the Committee are not yet fully satisfied as to the propriety of admitting advertisements. A further consideration of the subject is recommended to the General Conference.

Under the former terms, the yield of the *Christian Advocate and Journal* was annually about \$8,000. The yield for the last year, including \$680 67 for advertisements inserted before, but not paid for till last year, was \$3,495 69. The difference appears considerable; yet when it is remembered that all subscriptions are now paid in advance, and that a great portion of the money is available from the beginning of the year, the difference in profit is not so great as it seems. Indeed, it is somewhat doubtful whether there is any actual diminution, all things being considered.

##### II. THE QUARTERLY REVIEW.

At the last General Conference, the number of subscribers to the *Quarterly Review* was about 2,100; it is now about 3,000. This is, perhaps, nearly equal to any similar publication in the country; yet it does but barely pay expenses. With its present subscription-list, some

may wonder that it does not yield considerable profit. But the price is uncommonly low,—lower than that of any similar work,—being but two dollars per annum; and of the subscribers, two-thirds are ministers, who pay but one dollar and sixty cents. No such work can be published at that price and make a profit. Considering the high character of the work, it certainly deserves a better patronage in so large a community, in which there is no other work of the kind.

Under the able management of the Editor, and sanctioned by the Book Committee, considerable modification has been made in the character of the Quarterly. Whether this accords with the purport of the resolution on this subject, passed by the last General Conference, we cannot exactly determine. One thing, however, seems clear. The character of this work is not duly appreciated by a large portion of the community under our religious instruction; yet it is too valuable a work to be discarded, nor ought it to recede in literary and intellectual character. We cannot believe the General Conference would wish such a blow to be inflicted on the character of our Church as to relinquish a publication which reflects so much honour upon us, and diffuses so much intelligence among both preachers and people; yet there is a large portion of our community who are not provided with any suitable periodical. Under these considerations this Committee recommended the Book Agents to commence the publication of a Monthly Miscellany, provided subscribers could be obtained sufficient to warrant the undertaking. Such a work, more permanent than a hebdomadal, less elevated than a quarterly, is much needed, and we cannot but think would be largely patronized. We commend this subject to the consideration of the General Conference. Should it be thought advisable to establish such a work, then we would suggest whether it would not be better to add somewhat to the size of the Quarterly, and make some addition to the price.

### III.—SUNDAY SCHOOL ADVOCATE.

This work, we are happy to say, is not only ably conducted, but is eminently successful. It now numbers 70,000 subscribers, and yields annually a handsome profit, which, however, the last year was considerably reduced by some extra expenses, which will not, probably, occur again. Its annual profit is about twelve hundred dollars.

### HYMN-BOOK.

The Committee appointed by the last General Conference to revise the Hymn-book, have very happily executed their task. When completed, the manuscript was submitted to the Book Committee and the Editors, who, in joint session, carefully examined the whole, and the result was a conviction that the work had been executed with discriminating judgment and correct taste, and that the thanks of the Church are due to the Committee for their faithful and judicious labours, and especially to the Rev. Dr. Floyd and Mr. Robert A. West, upon whom, as a sub-committee, the labour chiefly devolved. By these means our Zion has been supplied with a collection of sacred lyrics, greatly improved, and every way adapted to her wants.

## THE CATECHISM.

At the last General Conference, the Editor of Sunday School Books was directed to revise our standard Catechism, under the direction of the Book Committee at New-York. The attention of the Committee was early called to this subject, and a plan of the contemplated work submitted by the Editor, which was approved. In view of the vast importance of this work, it was the desire of the Editor that suitable assistance should be afforded him. The Committee, therefore, nominated certain brethren to be associated with him, consisting of one of the bishops, two well-known and highly-esteemed brethren, with one member of this committee. The first and second series have been prepared and approved, and the third is in an advanced state of preparation. It is hoped that all three will be in readiness to be laid before the approaching General Conference. We trust that our Church will now be adequately provided for in one of its most important and vital interests.

Lastly. The committee would call the attention of the General Conference to the decided improvement which has been made within the last four years in the style of binding at the Concern. A want in this particular began to be pressingly and injuriously felt. It was easily seen that if we wished our books to go into general circulation, they must accord in their external appearance with the general demand. This necessity, we believe, has now been met; the various tastes of the community are sufficiently provided for, so that none can reasonably complain of any deficiency in that department. With the public demand in this particular there is a disposition fully to comply on the part of the Book Agents, and those especially in charge of the bindery.

All which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed,)

D. FILLMORE, *Providence Conference.*  
 JOSEPH HOLDICH, *New-York* "  
 A. D. SARGEANT, *New-England* "  
 ZEBULON PHILLIPS, *Troy* "  
 NELSON ROUNDS, *Oneida* "  
 THOMAS CARLTON, *Genesee* "  
 JOHN A. COLLINS, *Baltimore* "

NEW-YORK, February 12, 1852.

C.—REPORT OF THE WESTERN BOOK CONCERN TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE. 1852.

DEAR BRETHREN,—In compliance with the rule of Discipline, the Agents submit their Report of the Western Book Concern at Cincinnati for the four years ending with this date.

From the accompanying Exhibit, it will be seen that the business of the Concern is in a healthy and prosperous condition. The sales for the four years have amounted to \$200,829 53, making an increase of \$75,415 88, over the preceding four years.

Most of the old claims due to the Concern have been collected; so that by far the largest proportion of the debts is of recent date, per-

haps of not more than one year's standing, except those due in the South. This we regard as a great improvement in our collections, but still there is room for greater.

Our profits for the four years are \$48,726 52, being \$23,354 55 more than the profits for the previous term. This is an increase in the net profits more than proportionate to the increase of the business of the Concern. This, we think, is mainly owing to the fact that we do more of our own publishing at Cincinnati than formerly. Nine thousand dollars of the profits we have paid over to the Agents at New-York, as the Discipline directs, and the balance we have merged into the capital stock, as formerly.

During the present term we have built two fire-proof vaults—one in connexion with the printing office, in which we have our stereotype plates deposited for safe keeping; the other is in the main building, and is occupied by our account-books and papers.

The growing demand for our books and periodicals made it indispensable for us to enlarge and improve our printing and binding facilities. We have supplied the place of our old boiler and engine by two new boilers and an engine of more power, and added a heating apparatus to the printing office. We have, since the last General Conference, added three large Adams's book-presses; so that we now can run five power-presses—four for printing books, and one for our Western Christian Advocate, Sunday School Advocate, &c. To the bindery, we have added two new embossing-presses.

The cost of all the above improvements and purchases amounts to about \$12,600.

We have issued quite a number of new works, and have found for most of them an extensive sale. We have also stereotyped some of the smaller works, printed at New-York, that were in daily demand, and a supply of which could not be kept on hand, while depending on receipts from the East.

Our periodicals are in a flourishing condition, and are all now sent out on strictly advance terms. After the reduction of the Advocate and Journal, and the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate, to \$1 25, we found it difficult to sustain our paper at \$1 50 per year, and feared that there would be a falling off. We are, however, able to say that our Western Christian Advocate has been steadily on the increase. We are now issuing about 21,000, making an increase, since the last General Conference, of 10,000. The Ladies' Repository has a subscription-list of about 13,000, which is an increase of 5,000.

Of the other periodicals we issue about as follows:—Sunday School Advocate, 25,000 copies; Missionary Advocate, 5,000 copies; Christian Apologist, 3,374 copies.

We take great pleasure in saying that the Apologist is now supporting itself.

In compliance with the resolution of the General Conference at its last session, we have greatly increased the German publications. The following new works have been issued, viz. :—

1st. 22 new Tracts, embracing 404 pages.

2d. 50 Children's Tracts, embracing 400 pages.

3d. 16 Reading-books for Sunday-School Library, embracing 1,742 pages.

4th. 1 Reward-book of 48 pages—the first of a series already prepared for the press by the editor.

5th. *The Life and Experience of Hester A. Rogers.*

6th. *The Life and Labours of John Wesley and his principal Co-labourers*, translated by Rev. Wm. Nast, 300 pages.

7th. A Sunday-School Hymn-Book, containing 184 Hymns and 160 pages.

8th. A German Almanac of 32 pages, quarto.

9th. A German Harmonist, by Rev. S. Wakefield.

10th. A Grammar of the German Language, illustrating at the same time the Laws of Thinking, by Rev. Wm. Nast.

The two works last mentioned are in press, and will be ready for sale in about two months. This would make, in all, about 3,796 pages.

When it is considered that brother Nast has not only to edit the Apologist and the above publications, and read all the proofs himself, but that he compiled, or translated, or wrote most of the books and tracts, it will appear clearly that he had no time left to undertake so great a work as the last General Conference recommended the Agents to publish; viz., a German Commentary on the Holy Scriptures. The same remark applies to the recommendation of the Western Book Committee, to publish a body of Systematic Divinity in the German language, for which the editor has made considerable preparation, but could not find time to put it to press.

All of which is respectfully submitted. As ever, yours in Christ.

LERoy SWORMSTEDT, }  
JOHN H. POWER, } *Agents.*

CINCINNATI, *March 31, 1852.*

D.—THE REPORT OF THE GENERAL MISSIONARY COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH. 1852.

THE General Missionary Committee, in conformity to the rule of the Conference, submit the following report of their doings during the four years past:—

Of the number constituting this committee, by appointment of the bishops at the last General Conference, one has been called to his reward. Our beloved brother, William H. Roper, of the Ohio Conference, met in committee, and, in great weakness of body, indicated his fidelity to God and the Church by the interest he took in all the business coming before it, at three successive meetings. His intercourse with us greatly endeared him to us as a Christian and Christian minister; and we avail ourselves of this occasion to record our appreciation of his great and many excellencies.

During an early part of our labours, too, the late respected secretary,

Dr. Pitman, was prostrated by disease, and his place supplied by Dr. Durbin, who has co-operated efficiently with the committee since his coming into office.

To the event of Dr. Pitman's physical prostration, the nature of which is known to the Conference, may be ascribed the fact that we have no record of the proceedings of our first meeting, which convened in June, 1848, and was attended by P. P. Sandford, S. Luckey, and J. T. Mitchell. Diligent search has been made, as we understand, for the record of proceedings at that meeting; but none are to be found in the office.

Of the meeting in 1849, there is a simple record of the appropriations to the different departments of the work, namely, \$99,035 :—To Domestic Missions, \$61,735; Liberia Mission, \$21,000; Oregon Mission, \$4,500; South American Mission, \$1,000; China Mission, \$7,000; California Mission, \$2,000; Mission to Germany, \$1,800. At this meeting, after much discussion, the establishment of a mission to Germany was agreed to by the committee, in conjunction with a sub-committee from the Board; and all the proceedings of the committee were concurred in by the Board at a special meeting called for that purpose, and sanctioned by the bishop. The committee having received communications from a number of brethren in different parts of the work, asking for increased appropriations to aid weak charges which gave promise of becoming strong ones, in many cases, and able in return to contribute for benevolent purposes if they could only receive a little aid for a short time; indicating, also, that such assistance to the domestic work would be very satisfactory to the people, and tend to increase their liberality in supporting the cause; by resolution, requested the bishops to make inquiry, at the several conferences they might attend, as to the amount which might be required in each to supply such claims. To this request they promptly responded at the next meeting of the committee, and have at every succeeding one, which has furnished reliable data to guide our operations in this matter; and, so far as we have been able to learn, the result has been generally satisfactory to the conferences and the people.

May 2d, 1850, the committee met at the Mission Rooms in New-York. Present, P. P. Sandford, S. Luckey, P. Cartwright, W. H. Roper; J. P. Durbin, Secretary; G. Lane, Treasurer. A sub-committee from the Board met with them.

The Treasurer, by request, reported the pecuniary results of the last year. Receipts during the year, including a balance of \$3,256 19 in the treasury May 1st, 1849, \$107,835 73. Disbursements, \$100,989 63. Leaving a balance of \$6,846 10 in the treasury at that date.

After surveying the whole field, and obtaining all the information they could as to the probable receipts of another year, they unanimously resolved to increase the appropriations to \$135,000, and to divide it by appropriating \$49,000 to Foreign Missions.

The bishops here furnished a plan of the Episcopal districts, designating the conferences assigned to each member of the committee according to the rule, to wit:—

Providence, New-England, New-Hampshire, Maine, East Maine, and Vermont,—Mark Trafton.

Baltimore, Philadelphia, New-Jersey, New-York, New-York East,—  
P. P. Sandford.

Troy, Black River, Oneida, East Genesee, Genesee, and Michigan,—  
Samuel Luckey.

Western Virginia, Pittsburgh, Erie, North Ohio, North Indiana, and  
Ohio,—W. H. Roper.

Wisconsin, Black River, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana,—Peter  
Cartwright.

This official sanction to a division of the work, when it came to be  
understood by the conferences, greatly facilitated the operations of the  
committee in regard to both correspondence and representation.

The appropriations were then made, by an addition of \$1,000 to  
Foreign Missions, thus:—

Foreign Missions, . . . . .	\$50,000
Foreign population in the United States, . . . . .	46,500
Domestic Missions, . . . . .	34,700
Contingent appropriations, . . . . .	3,425
	<hr/>
In all, . . . . .	\$134,625

And so were reported to the Board for their concurrence.

In the Board the following additional appropriations were proposed,  
viz.:—

Increase to the China Mission, . . . . .	\$2,200
Contingent for Foreign German Mission, . . . . .	3,000
Do. for Oregon and California Conference, . . . . .	10,000

Increasing the aggregate to \$150,000.

The committee concurred in these propositions, and Bishop Hedding  
gave his official sanction to the proceedings. At this meeting the follow-  
ing resolution was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the Secretary be requested to make inquiries concern-  
ing the best point for a mission in India, and report to the General Com-  
mittee next year, and in the meantime to the Board, if desirable.

May 2d, 1851, the committee met at the usual place—all the members  
present. P. P. Sandford appointed chairman, and John P. Durbin  
secretary.

The Treasurer reported receipts by conferences, which amounted in  
all to \$126,471 31, exceeding those of the preceding year \$21,891 77.

After some discussion, it was determined that we would first examine  
all the applications for aid to carry on the work, both foreign and domes-  
tic, and ascertain what was necessary to sustain it at every point, and  
then make the aggregate the basis of our general appropriation. To an  
appeal for the means to meet the claims of the work, thus carefully made  
out, it was believed that the people would promptly and cheerfully  
respond.

Following this rule, the communications from the bishops and others  
were examined, and the records of the Board and committees of the  
Board, including the correspondence of the Secretary, concerning the  
Foreign Missions, were referred to, which resulted in a general appro-  
priation of \$170,000, as follows:—



To Foreign Missions, \$69,000; German Missions, \$35,000; Foreign population, other than German, \$10,550; English domestic work, \$39,850; Border work, \$1,000; Incidental expenses, \$400.

On the 28th of April, 1852, the committee met at the Mission Rooms. Rev. J. M. Trimble, appointed by Bishop Morris to fill the place of our deceased Brother Roper, appeared and took his place. All the members in attendance. Organized as formerly.

After a patient and thorough investigation of the pressing wants in the different departments of the work, it was resolved to appropriate, for the ensuing year, the sum of \$200,000, which was divided as follows, viz. :—

To Foreign Missions, \$77,577 49; to Domestic, including the German work, and the missions to the foreign population other than Germans, \$110,050; for contingencies or current expenses, \$7,377 51; contingencies allowed by constitution, \$5,000.

The committee were greatly assisted in their estimates for the foreign work by the records of the several committees of the Board having the Foreign Missions under their charge, and the correspondence in possession of the Secretary. The practice of keeping a record for each separate mission, which we understand has been lately adopted, is entitled to our commendation, on account of the facilities it furnishes in making out the estimates necessary to sustain the foreign work; and we hope it will be continued.

In consequence of information derived from a communication made to the Board by Brother Lore, of South America, the committee resolved that a contingent appropriation for renewing the mission at Monte Video, at the discretion of the Board and bishop having the charge of Foreign Missions, be allowed to the amount of \$2,000.

The committee also concurred with the resolution of the Board appropriating \$500 towards a mission in Norway, Denmark, and Sweden.

S. Luckey was charged with preparing a Report, to be submitted to the General Conference. Adjourned, to meet in Boston at the call of the Chair.

Appendix.—The records of the first meeting of the committee after the last General Conference, which could not be found when the other papers were forwarded from New-York, have been sent on. They show that the committee, met on the 13th of June, 1848, and that the sum appropriated was \$80,000, equally divided between Foreign and Domestic Missions. All which is respectfully submitted.

P. P. SANDFORD.  
S. LUCKEY.  
P. CARTWRIGHT.  
JOSEPH M. TRIMBLE.

May 7, 1852.

E.—REPORT OF THE BOOK COMMITTEE OF THE WESTERN BOOK CONCERN. 1852.

*To the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Conference assembled.*

DEAR BRETHREN,—The Committee appointed by the last General Conference for the Western Book Concern in Cincinnati have met annually, and made such examinations of the entire state of the Concern, as their time and circumstances would allow; and it affords us great pleasure to be able to say, that on each of our visitations and investigations, we have found all things pertaining to the Concern moving on regularly, harmoniously, and prosperously. The entire establishment is in a good condition for carrying on the business—a suitable place for everything, and everything in its place.

It will be seen, from the Exhibit of the Agents, that the last four years of this Concern have been more prosperous than any previous; and there has been a gradual increase in the business each year,—the last the most prosperous of the four. We can truly say that, according to our best judgment, the business has been faithfully and ably conducted by the Agents, and that they are entitled to the entire confidence of this Conference and the Church at large.

The editorial departments have been well sustained by their respective incumbents; but we regret, however, that any cause should have occasioned so much absence of the Editors of the Ladies' Repository and Western Christian Advocate. Whether these periodicals have suffered in consequence thereof, we are not fully prepared to say.

The Western Book Concern is a powerful and increasing instrumentality for good in the great Valley of the West; and we doubt not but that the General Conference will be ever ready and forward to increase its efficiency as an important part of that common system, by which we are striving to spread our holy Christianity, in its power and purity, over all lands, from the rising to the going down of the sun.

(Signed,)      GEO. W. WALKER, *Ohio Conference.*  
                   E. H. PILCHER, *Michigan*      “  
                   L. B. GURLEY, *North Ohio*      “  
                   PETER CARTWRIGHT, *Illinois*      “  
                   E. G. WOOD, *Indiana*      “  
                   H. CREWS, *Rock River*      “

CINCINNATI, *April 22, 1852.*

I fully concur in the above report, except so much of the third paragraph as censures the Editors of the Repository and Advocate.

G. M. BOSWICK, *North Indiana Conference.*

F.—REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

*On Revision of the Chapter in the Discipline on the Support of Missions.*

THE Committee on Missions beg leave to report, for adoption by the Conference, a revision of the chapter on missions for insertion in the Discipline, instead of the one heretofore existing.

1. The support of missions is committed to the churches, congregations, and societies as such.

2. It shall be the duty of each Annual Conference, where missions have been or are to be established, to appoint a standing committee, to be denominated the Mission Committee, (which shall keep a record of its doings and report the same to its conference,) whose duty it shall be, in conjunction with the president of the conference, to make an estimate of the amount necessary for the support of each mission and mission school, in addition to the regular allowance of the Discipline to preachers and their families from year to year; for which amount the president of the conference for the time being shall draw on the Treasurer of the Society in quarterly instalments.

3. It shall be the duty of each Annual Conference to form within its bounds a Conference Missionary Society, which shall appoint its own officers, fix the terms of membership and life-membership, and otherwise regulate its own administration. But it shall pay all its funds into the Treasury of the Parent Society.

4. It shall be the duty of each Presiding Elder to bring the subject of our missions before the Quarterly Meeting Conference of each circuit and station within his district at the first Quarterly Meeting Conference in each year; and said conference shall proceed to appoint a committee of not less than *three* nor more than *nine*, (of which the preacher in charge shall be chairman,) to be called the Committee on Missions, whose duty it shall be to aid the preacher in charge in carrying into effect the disciplinary measures for the support of our missions.

5. It shall be the duty of the preacher in charge, aided by the Committee on Missions, to provide for the diffusion of missionary intelligence in the church and congregation.

6. It shall be the duty of the preacher in charge, aided by the Committee on Missions, to institute a monthly missionary prayer meeting or lecture in each society, or church and congregation, wherever practicable, for the purpose of imploring divine blessings on missions, for the diffusion of missionary intelligence, and to afford an opportunity of voluntary offerings to the missionary cause.

7. It shall be the duty of the preacher in charge, aided by the Committee on Missions, to appoint missionary collectors, and furnish them with suitable books and instructions, that they may call on each member of the society, or church and congregation, and on other persons, at their discretion, for his or her annual, semi-annual, quarterly, monthly, or weekly contributions for the support of missions. Said collectors shall make monthly returns (unless otherwise instructed by the committee) to the preacher in charge, or to the missionary treasurer of the church,

if there be such treasurer appointed by the Committee on Missions. Such returns shall be fairly entered in a book, which the committee shall provide, together with the collections and contributions received from other sources. Such entries shall set forth the name of each collector, the real or assumed names of the contributors to each collector, with the amount contributed by each.

8. Each preacher in charge shall report at conference to the Executive Committee, or Board of Managers of the Conference Missionary Society, a plain transcript of the record of the returns provided for in section seven, comprehending the name of each collector in his charge, and the name, real or assumed, of each contributor to each collector of fifty cents or upwards during the year, and the aggregate sum of all contributions under fifty cents each, that they may be, by said Executive Committee or Board of Managers, properly arranged, by districts and by charges, for publication in the Annual Report of the Conference Missionary Society, together with the contributions and collections received from other sources, unless the Conference shall by vote declare such transcript returns and such publication not to be advisable.

9. It shall be the duty of the preacher in charge, with the aid of the Committee on Missions, to present once in the year to the societies, or the churches and congregations, the cause of missions, and to ask public collections and contributions for the support of the same. The manner of asking and taking such collections and contributions shall be at the discretion of the pastor and the Committee on Missions; with this injunction, that the pastor shall preach, or cause to be preached on the occasion, one or more sermons; and with the recommendation, that one whole Sabbath day be given to the cause on this annual presentation of missions in our principal churches and congregations.

10. It is earnestly recommended that each Sunday school in our churches and congregations be organized into a missionary society, under such rules and regulations as the pastor, the superintendent, and teachers may prescribe.

11. Each Annual Conference shall designate the month or months in which the public collections and contributions for missions shall be taken within its bounds.

12. The president of the conference, at each session, shall appoint one of its members, with an alternate, to preach a missionary sermon during its next succeeding session, at such time and place as the officers of the Conference Missionary Society shall designate; and said officers shall cause timely notice of such sermon to be published abroad.

13. It will be expected, in the examination in the Annual Conference, that reference will be had to the faithful performance of the duty of preachers on this subject, in the passage of character.

14. Each Presiding Elder is charged with seeing that the foregoing provisions, so far as applicable to his district, are faithfully executed within his district.

15. The Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church shall be a member of such Annual Conference as he may, with the approbation of the bishops, select.

16. Any Annual Conference may, at its option, by a vote of two-

thirds of its members, assume the responsibility of supporting such missions already established within its own limits, as have hitherto been reported under the head of "Missions in the destitute portions of the regular work;" and for this purpose, it shall be at liberty to organize a Conference Domestic Society, with branches; *provided* such organizations shall not interfere with the collection for the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as required by the Discipline; *provided also*, that in case more funds shall be raised for such missions than are needed, the surplus shall be paid over to the Treasurer of the Parent Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at New-York, to be appropriated to such mission or missions, under the care of the Society, as may be designated by said conference.

All which is respectfully submitted, by order of the committee.

J. P. DURBIN, *Secretary*

May, 1852.

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G.—REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BIBLE CAUSE. 1852.

THE Committee appointed by this General Conference to consider and report on the condition and prospects of the Bible cause, desire to present the following as their report:—

It is not necessary in this place to dwell on the necessity of a free and ample circulation of the word of God, nor on the obligation of the Christian Church and ministry to give the Bible to the world. These things none among us doubt, nor will they be questioned by this General Conference. All admit that nothing but mischief, in various forms of error, superstition, impiety, and immorality, results from withholding the Bible from the people; while multiplied blessings, secular and religious, result from its free circulation. Where the Bible is most freely circulated and read, we find piety, morality, intelligence, and civil liberty most abounding.

Your committee rejoice to learn that the condition of the Bible cause in our land is highly encouraging. Of the various organizations for diffusing the Holy Scriptures, we may barely mention the American and Foreign Bible Society, among the Baptists, the Bible and Prayer-Book Society of the Episcopal Church, the Friends' Bible Society, and the Bible Union Society, recently established by a portion of the Baptist Church, on the principle of a new version of the Holy Scriptures. These are all doing something toward the diffusion of the Holy Scriptures, and are labouring with more or less success in the good cause.

But that Society toward which we especially look for the supply of the country with the word of God, is the American Bible Society. In this noble institution we have a deep and abiding interest. In the year 1836 the Bible Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church was disbanded, and all its interests merged in the great national Society. Since that time, we, as a denomination, have relied on this Society as the agency by which to carry into effect our purposes and desires, as well as meet our wants in

regard to the distribution of the Scriptures. It is, then, our interest to know how this Society prospers, what it is doing to meet the wants of the world, and how far it is subserving our ends.

Before proceeding to these several topics, it may not be inappropriate to remark that the American Bible Society is altogether a separate and distinct organization. As its sole business is to circulate the Holy Scriptures, according to the common version, without note or comment, and nothing else, it cannot have connexion or union with any other. While it makes no war upon other associations, and desires success to all who are labouring to diffuse Christian knowledge and virtue, and is ready to aid them in its proper sphere, and in its appropriate modes, yet it can make no entangling alliances. It stands upon its own footing, and desires to work, if we understand its policy, by its own agencies.

We are glad to be able to report that this Society is in a highly prosperous condition, and its prospects of usefulness were never more flattering. It had, in the year 1816, but a small beginning; but, sustained by the prayers and liberality of the Christian Church, and guided by wise and liberal counsels, it has attained a magnitude and importance that make it one of the glories of our land. The last year of its operations, we learn from an abstract of its Annual Report, presented at the late Anniversary, has exceeded any former year, in the amount of its receipts and the extent of its operations. The receipts were over \$308,000, being more than \$31,800 beyond those of the former year, while the number of volumes of the Holy Scriptures issued by the Society was over 666,000, being an increase of more than 73,000 over the year before. This makes the total number of volumes issued since the formation of this Society, over 8,000,000 of Bibles and Testaments. Besides this, probably an equal number have been issued by private booksellers.

The copies of the Bible thus issued have gone into all parts of our country. They are circulating now east, west, north, and south, among white and coloured, free and bond; while many have been sent to distant countries, either directly, or by supplying foreigners in our own country, or by our chaplains and missionaries in foreign countries. In this way many Bibles and Testaments have gone to South America, and Africa, and China, and to Italy, Spain, and Portugal.

Besides the extensive distribution of Bibles, we also learn that the Society has been enabled to do much the past year toward printing the Bible in foreign lands. The aggregate of its appropriations to the foreign work was nearly \$31,000.

Inquiries, we believe, in no captious spirit, have sometimes been made as to the principle or manner of the foreign appropriations. We have been led to look into this subject, and are satisfied that the utmost fairness has been and is observed by the Society on this subject. It has been said that the money raised for publishing the Bible has been paid for the support of missionaries. We believe there is not the least ground for this assertion. The missionaries, severally, are supported by their own boards, and translate the Scriptures as a part of their missionary work, the Bible Society paying nothing for translating, except, perhaps, in a few cases, where a native has been hired expressly to aid the translator or to correct the proof-sheets. The American Bible

Society pays only for printing and publishing the Scriptures when translated.

It has also been asked what security there is for an impartial rendering of the original text. Safety for this is found in the charter of the Society. The Society is shut up to this very thing. It is required to make all versions in foreign lands conform, as nearly as the nature of the language into which the version is made will allow, to the version in common use among us. At least every version must be such that all denominations can use it equally. The translation must be impartial. Nothing else accords with the spirit and language of the constitution of this Society; and on no other condition would appropriations be made by the managers of this Society.

From careful inquiry and observation we are satisfied that the American Bible Society is eminently catholic and liberal, and free from sectarian bias. Its agents are from all evangelical denominations patronizing the institution, of which our own Church furnishes its full proportion; its active committees are formed in the same liberal manner; and its gratuitous grants show equal impartiality.

In regard to grants, both of books and funds, we have just reason to be satisfied. It should be remembered that the immense circulation of the precious volume in our own country by this Society is a general blessing in which we participate in common with others. The diffusion of religious knowledge is a general good, and subserves the end for which we live and labour. It aids us in the objects of our mission. But in addition to this general and common good, we, as a Church, have been, from time to time, recipients of special grants to meet our various exigencies. Liberal appropriations have been made to us, and continue to be made, as occasion requires. The wants of our home work have been supplied by grants to our Sunday-School Union, and in various other ways. At the request of our Missionary Board, the New Testament was published in Swedish and English in parallel columns. Our missions have been supplied in California and New Mexico, and extremely liberal grants have been made to our missions in China and Germany. In these appropriations we have been most generously dealt by. Indeed, we do not know of any arrangement by which we could have been so effectually and economically supplied with Bibles and Testaments in our various departments of Christian labour.

Among the useful labours of this Society, during the past four years, may be mentioned the complete revision of the entire Bible, and expurgation of the sacred text from many inaccuracies that had crept into it in passing so repeatedly through the press. The full statement of this work would occupy too much time. A few brief remarks may not be unacceptable to the General Conference. The work of revision was performed by a committee of clergymen, of distinguished learning and ability, from different denominations—Rev. Drs. George Peck and John M'Clintock being chosen from the Methodist Episcopal Church. In the revision, the royal octavo edition of the English Bible, issued by the American Bible Society, was adopted as the basis, and was compared with the four leading British editions; namely, those of London, Oxford, Cambridge, and Edinburgh, and, also, with the original edition of 1611.

The comparison related to orthography, capital letters, words in italic, and punctuation, together with the contents of the chapters and the running heads of the columns. Where the copies consulted were uniform, no change was made; and, generally, where they differed, the uniform usage of any three was followed. In this way no unauthorized change was admitted, and, indeed, no deviation whatever from the established version, except to make it accord as nearly as possible with the minds of the original translators. It is, therefore, in no sense, a new version, but only our common version expurgated from the blemishes that had unavoidably crept into it in the various editions and impressions that had been made in Great Britain and the United States. These errors or variations were found to be about 24,000, yet among all these was not one that materially affected any point in faith or practice. It may be added that no correction or alteration was made but with the unanimous voice of the committee.

Your committee believe that in this work the American Bible Society has performed a service for which every lover of the pure word of God ought to be grateful. As yet only one new set of stereotype plates, with the last emendations, has been prepared, and that in royal octavo. Others will be prepared, we understand, with all convenient despatch.

Your committee may, likewise, remark, that, in consequence of the great increase of demand for the labours of this Society, the buildings at present in use have become entirely inadequate, having neither the space nor the convenience required. The Society have, therefore, purchased ground in a most convenient and desirable location, and are about erecting a spacious and commodious structure. The friends of the Bible cause owe it to the sagacious and liberal management of the Board of Managers, that the erection of this building will draw nothing from the ordinary funds of the Society. It will be erected by funds contributed for this special purpose, and chiefly in the city of New-York. In view of the above facts, your committee respectfully submit the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That we, the members of this delegated General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, highly appreciate the importance and value of the American Bible Society, as well as its zeal and efficiency; that we acknowledge the great blessings that we and our sister Churches are receiving from its wise and liberal exertions in scattering abroad multiplied copies of the word of God; and that we will cordially unite in its support, and encourage our ministers and people everywhere to do the same.

C. ELLIOTT,  
J. HOLDICH,  
D. W. BRISTOL,  
A. A. REESE,  
W. HUNTER.

BOSTON, MASS., May 24, 1852.



## H.—REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE GERMAN WORK.—NO. I.

THE Committee on the German Work report, That they have carefully considered the unanimous petition of their German brethren of the Illinois Conference, praying this General Conference to appoint two Editors for our German publications, one of whom they desired to compile a Commentary on the Holy Scriptures, and also, that he should *officially* visit the different Annual Conferences with which the German Missions may be connected, conduct the missionary correspondence for this department, and represent the comparative wants of the German work in the General Mission Committee.

Your committee are of opinion that, however desirable and advantageous it might be to have a German brother charged with these great interests, and clothed with such functions, yet the duties could not well be performed by an Editor, and we cannot believe that the demand at present would justify the appointment of a minister to that especial work, nor can we see how a suitable man could be spared from the regular labours of the ministry to serve in this office.

As it regards the publication of a Commentary in the German language, your committee are fully convinced that there is no publication which the German people need more, or that would promise greater usefulness. Under the same conviction, the General Conference, at its late session, advised it, and authorized the Book Agents at Cincinnati to publish such a Commentary. But the time of the Editor was wholly occupied with the enlarged Apologist, and the compilation of Sunday-school and other books.

In order that a Commentary may be prepared within the next four years, the Editor must have a regular assistant, elected by the General Conference, and other occasional help; or the Book Agents must be authorized to furnish him with such editorial assistance as he may need for his whole work. And as your committee cannot see how a suitable minister can be spared from other important departments of the work, they submit for the consideration and adoption of the General Conference the following resolutions, viz. :—

1. *Resolved*, That the German Editor be instructed to prepare for publication within the next four years a brief Commentary on the New Testament.

2. That two German ministers, and one from the English department, be appointed by the bishops a committee, and pass upon the work before it is published.

3. That the Book Agents at Cincinnati are hereby authorized and instructed to furnish the Editor with all the help he may need for his whole work to any amount not exceeding one thousand dollars annually. All of which is respectfully submitted.

[Signed,] JOHN F. WRIGHT, *Chairman*.

## I.—REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE GERMAN WORK.—NO. II.

WE find the German work in a state of great prosperity. Within the last four years our mission fields in this department have been greatly enlarged, and many new ones have been adopted and occupied. The Lord has blessed the labours of our German missionaries with most signal success; through their instrumentality thousands of German immigrants have heard the joyful sound of a free, full and present salvation, and a pure Christianity has been sent back to the fatherland, which is spreading a salutary and saving influence over the country of Luther and the birthplace of the Reformation.

This glorious work, like many other features of Methodism, has been from the beginning distinctly marked to be of God, and has expanded in accordance with the openings of Providence and the force of circumstances. Not only has a deep impression been made upon the German population out of our Church, but the conviction is forced upon many American minds, that this gracious work is so far from being ephemeral, that it is destined to spread over this and other lands where Germans live, and will continue so long as the German language is spoken.

The policy adopted at the session of the General Conference in 1848, to include the German itinerant preachers in certain specified conferences irrespective of the boundary lines within which their fields of labour may lie, has worked well, and has been crowned with the divine blessing. But the number of German preachers in the Ohio and Illinois Conferences has increased so much, that mutual convenience, as well as the future success of the German work, makes some change indispensably necessary. To meet this necessity, a great majority of the German preachers in the Ohio Conference propose and advocate in the memorial referred to your committee, the organization of an Annual Conference, to include all the German itinerant preachers and their fields of labour hitherto connected with the Ohio Conference. This conference, though consisting only of German preachers, is proposed to do its business just as every other conference in the English language. The memorialists argue in favour of this plan with considerable zeal and strength, and ought not to be suspected of any want of attachment to their brethren who speak only the English language, or any desire to be less controlled by the constituted authorities and regulations of the Church of their choice. Their only aim is, as the Methodist Episcopal Church has done so much for them, to improve the talents put into their hands in the best possible way, to become efficient Methodist preachers in every respect, and to make their members sound and well-trained American Methodists. Thinking that this could be best accomplished by the organization of a separate Annual Conference for the German travelling preachers now connected with the Ohio Conference, they propose this measure, and certainly furnish many plausible and strong reasons for such an arrangement.

Your committee, however, while they appreciate the reasoning of their German brethren and award to them the purest motives, cannot concur

with their petition, and are unanimously of the opinion, that the erection of a separate Annual Conference for German preachers is not expedient. The disadvantages arising from such a measure at present, would, in the opinion of the committee, outweigh the advantages which our German brethren expect to derive from it. It would diminish the deep interest and lively sympathy and co-operation of their American brethren for the German work, produce more or less alienation of feeling, and cause impressions which our German brethren do not wish to make.

The committee is confirmed in this view of the memorial from Ohio, by the fact that one whole German District in the Ohio Conference does not wish a separate Conference; and that the German brethren of the Illinois Conference, who are situated like those in Ohio, prefer a distribution of their number into two Conferences to a formation into a separate Conference.

The committee would, therefore, recommend that the German itinerant preachers be attached, for four years to come, to the following Conferences:—

1. The Pittsburgh, the North Ohio, and the Cincinnati District, with the exception of Lawrenceburgh, be connected with the Ohio Annual Conference.

2. The North Indiana District, as it now is, and the Indiana District, with the addition of Lawrenceburgh, be connected with the South-East Indiana Conference.

3. The St. Louis, the Missouri and the Quincy Districts, with the exception of Pekin and Peoria Missions, be connected with the Illinois Conference.

4. The Wisconsin and Iowa Districts, with the addition of Pekin and Peoria Missions, be connected with the Rock River Conference.

5. The German Missions in the east remain in connexion with the New-York Conference.

[Signed,] JOHN F. WRIGHT, *Chairman.*

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J.—REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LAY DELEGATION, TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE. 1852.

THE Committee to whom were referred the petitions and memorials on the subject of Lay Delegation, respectfully beg leave to report:—

That they have examined the memorial and address presented by the delegates from the Convention in favour of Lay Delegation, held in Philadelphia in March last; and also the address presented by the delegates from the Conference of laymen, held in Philadelphia during the present month, in opposition to that movement; and also the petitions and memorials presented to the Conference from various parts of the Church, chiefly against any alteration of the present economy of the Church.

They have also heard with pleasure the statements made before the committee by the delegates from the Convention and from the Conference, and they desire to bear testimony to the Christian spirit, and the devotion to the interests of the Church, especially as to its Itinerancy and

Episcopacy, manifested by the various speakers who represented both these bodies.

After having fully considered the petitions and arguments presented, and having examined the probable effect the introduction of Lay Delegates into the General and Annual Conferences would have upon the interests of the Church, your committee are unanimously of opinion that such a change is inexpedient. As this subject has been on various occasions in the history of our Church fully discussed, your committee deem it unnecessary to enter at present into any argument in support of their views. While they highly appreciate the spirit which characterizes the movements of those brethren who advocate a change, and while they most ardently desire the full and cordial co-operation of the laity and ministry in all our enterprises, still they are fully convinced that the proposed change would not be advantageous to the interests of the Church.

Your committee must also add that they doubt whether any other system has ever secured the co-operation of the laity with the ministry more efficiently than has the Methodist economy. Our fathers were more pre-eminently distinguished for their "works of faith and labours of love," and the same spirit is still manifested in their sons in the gospel. There is a wide field for activity presented in the various offices and agencies employed in the Church; this sphere is constantly widening, and a large discretion is already accorded to the various Annual Conferences in reference to financial arrangements.

Your committee have also ascertained, both from the petitions presented, and from the facts within their own personal knowledge, emanating as they do from all sections of the work, that there is a strong opposition in the great mass of membership to the proposed change. They therefore present the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That it is inexpedient so to alter the economy of the Church as to introduce Lay Delegation into the General and Annual Conferences.  
(Signed,) M. RAYMOND, *Secretary*.

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#### K.—REPORT ON BOUNDARIES. 1852.

The *New-York Conference* shall consist of the territory now included in the New-York, Poughkeepsie, Rhinebeck, Delaware, and Newburgh Districts.

The *New-York East Conference* shall consist of the East New-York, the New-Haven, the Hartford, and the Long Island Districts, including, in the city of New-York, all those charges lying east of a line running through the Third Avenue, Bowery, Chatham-street and Broadway.

The *Providence Conference* shall include that part of the State of Connecticut lying east of the Connecticut River, all the State of Rhode Island, with Millville and Blackstone stations in Massachusetts, and also that part of the State of Massachusetts lying south-east of a line drawn from the north-east corner of the State of Rhode Island to the

mouth of the Neponset River, which line shall so run as to leave Walpole station and Quincy Point within the bounds of the New-England Conference.

The *New-England Conference* shall include all the State of Massachusetts lying east of the Green Mountains not embraced in the New-Hampshire and Providence Conference.

The *Maine Conference*, shall include that part of the State of Maine lying west of the Kennebeck River, from the mouth to the Great Bend below Skowhegan, and of a line running from thence north to the State line, (including Skowhegan and Augusta stations in Maine Conference,) and that part of New-Hampshire lying east of the White Hills, and north of the waters of the Ossipee Lake.

The *East Maine Conference* shall include that part of the State of Maine not included in the Maine Conference.

The *New-Hampshire Conference* shall include all the State of New-Hampshire not embraced in the Maine Conference, and that part of the State of Massachusetts north-east of the Merrimack river.

The *Vermont Conference* shall include the State of Vermont, except that part lying west of the top of the Green Mountains, embraced in the Troy Conference.

The *Troy Conference* shall include the Troy, Albany, embracing Richmondville station from Oneida Conference, Saratoga, Poultney, Burlington, Plattsburgh, and St. Albans Districts.

The *Black River Conference* shall include, together with Rose circuit, that part of the State of New-York west of the Troy Conference, not embraced in the East Genesee Conference, as far south as the Erie Canal, and all the societies on the immediate banks of said canal, except Utica, Canistota, Montezuma, and Port Byron.

The *Oneida Conference* shall include that part of the State of New-York south of the Black River Conference, and east of Cayuga Lake, and north of a line running east from Newfield to Ithaca. From thence, following the Cattskill turnpike to Greene, and from thence following the same line of road through Masonville to the New-York Conference, including all the charges through which said line passes. From thence on the west line of the New-York Conference to East Worcester. From thence on the west line of the Troy Conference to the Erie Canal, including Fort Plain.

The *Wyoming Conference* shall include that part of the State of New-York not included in the Oneida, East Genesee and New-York Conferences, and the Susquehanna and Wyoming Districts in the State of Pennsylvania, including Stoddartsville circuit.

The *East Genesee Conference* shall contain all that part of the State of New-York west of Black River, Oneida and Wyoming Conferences, and east of the Genesee River, excepting Lima station, including the whole of the city of Rochester, together with so much of the State of Pennsylvania as is included in the Elmira and Corning Districts.

The *Genesee Conference* shall include all that part of the State of New-York, including Lima station, west of the East Genesee Conference, except so much as is included in the Erie Annual Conference, and also Smithport, Coudersport and Bradford circuits in Pennsylvania.

The *Erie Conference* shall be bounded on the north by Lake Erie, on the east by a line commencing at the mouth of Cattaraugus Creek, thence up said creek to the village of Lodi, leaving said village in the Genesee Conference, thence to the Alleghany River, at the mouth of Tunanquant Creek, thence up said creek, eastward to the ridge dividing between the waters of Clarion and Sinnamahoning Creeks, thence south to the head of Mahoning Creek, thence down said creek, exclusive of the Milton society, to the Alleghany River, thence across said river in a north-westerly direction to the Western Reserve line, including the north part of Butler and New-Castle circuits, and also including Petersburg, thence west to the Ohio Canal, thence along said canal to Lake Erie, including Akron and Cleveland city.

The *Ohio Conference* shall commence at the south-east corner of the North Ohio Conference, and thence south, following the course of the Muskingum River to its junction with the Ohio River, including the city of Zanesville and the town of Marietta, thence down the Ohio River to the mouth of Ohio Brush Creek, thence north to the south-east corner of Fayette County, leaving Sinking Spring circuit and Bethesda and Rapid Forge Societies in Highland County, west of this line, and Washington circuit east, except Fairfield, which shall be left west of said line, thence north-west to the western boundary of said county of Fayette, thence in a due-north direction to the southern boundary of the North Ohio Conference, leaving Vienna circuit west of said line, thence east with the southern line of the North Ohio Conference to the place of beginning.

The *Cincinnati Conference* shall commence at the mouth of Ohio Brush Creek, and shall be bounded on the south by the Ohio River, and on the west by the Indiana State line, to the southern bounds of the North Ohio Conference, at the south-west corner of Dark County, thence eastwardly along said line, so as to exclude the Sidney and Delaware Districts of the North Ohio Conference, to the boundary of the Ohio Conference at its junction with the southern line of the North Ohio Conference, thence in a south-eastwardly direction with said western line of the Ohio Conference to the place of beginning.

The *Kentucky Conference* shall include the State of Kentucky, excepting so much of said State as is included in the Western Virginia Conference.

The *North Ohio Conference* shall embrace all that part of the State of Ohio not included in the Ohio, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and Erie Conferences.

The *Pittsburgh Conference* shall be bounded on the north by the Erie Conference, on the east by a line running along the tops of the Alleghany Mountains to the southern line of the State of Pennsylvania, thence west along said line, to the south-east corner of the State of Pennsylvania, thence along the line of the Western Virginia Conference to the Ohio River, thence down said river to the mouth of the Muskingum River, thence up said river, exclusive of the towns of Marietta and Zanesville, to the Tuscarawas River, thence up said river, exclusive of the town of Massillon, to the line of the Erie Conference.

The *Western Virginia Conference* shall be bounded as follows:

Beginning at the south-west corner of the Pennsylvania line, thence along said line to the north-east corner of Ohio County, Virginia, so as to include Wheeling Creek mission and Triadelphia circuits; thence the most direct way to Short Creek, so as to include the Short Creek and Liberty circuit, thence down said creek to the Ohio River, thence down said river to the mouth of Big Sandy River, thence up said river, so as to include the Charleston District; on the south and east it shall be bounded by the Baltimore Conference to the Pennsylvania State line, thence westward by said line to the place of beginning.

The *Michigan Conference* shall include the State of Michigan.

The *Indiana Conference* shall be bounded as follows, viz.:—Beginning at the mouth of Silver Creek on the Ohio River, thence with said creek to the Jeffersonville Railroad, thence by said railroad to Rockford, thence by the East Fork of White River to Columbus, thence by the Madison and Indianapolis Railroad to Franklin, thence by the Plank Road to the Bluffs of White River, thence north by said river to the southern line of the Donation of Indianapolis, thence east by said line to Meridian-street, thence north by said street to its intersection with Market-street, thence west by Market-street to the Donation line, then south by said Donation line to the National Road, thence by the National Road west to the intersection of the Greencastle State Road, one and a half miles west of Stilesville, thence with said State Road to the town plat of Greencastle, thence due south to Seminary-street, thence by said street to College-street, including the second charge in Greencastle, together with lot No. 153, thence due south to the southern border of the college grounds, upon a line equally dividing the college campus and building, thence due west to the Walnut Fork of Eel River, thence down said river to its intersection with the National Road, thence with said road to the western line of the State, including all the towns on the National Road west of Indianapolis in Indiana Conference, except the city of Terre Haute, thence by the State line to the mouth of the Wabash River, thence by the State line to the mouth of Silver Creek, the place of beginning.

The *North-Western Indiana Conference* shall embrace all of north-western Indiana, bounded north by the State and Lake of Michigan, east by the Michigan Road and St. Joseph River, south by Indiana Conference, and west by the State of Illinois; also the city of Terre Haute, with so much of the city of Indianapolis within the Donation as lies north of Market-street, and west of Meridian-street, with all the towns on the Michigan Road except Logansport.

The *North Indiana Conference* shall include all of north-eastern Indiana, bounded north by Michigan, east by Ohio, south by the National Road, and west by the Michigan Road as far north as South Bend, thence down St. Joseph River to the Michigan State line; also the town of Logansport, all the towns on the National Road east of Indianapolis, and so much of the city of Indianapolis within the Donation as lies north of Market-street, and east of Meridian-street.

The *South-Eastern Indiana Conference* shall include all of south-eastern Indiana, bounded north by the National Road, east by Ohio, south by the Ohio River, and west by the Indiana Conference; so much

of the city of Indianapolis within the Donation as lies south of Market-street, and east of Meridian-street, and all the towns and societies on the line between Indiana and South-Eastern Indiana Conferences.

The *Rock River Conference* shall include all the State of Illinois lying north of the line of the Illinois Conference, not included in the Wisconsin Conference.

The *Wisconsin Conference* shall include the territory embraced in the State of Wisconsin, with the addition of so much of Council Hill and Monroe circuits as lies within the State of Illinois, and all the Territory of Minnesota.

The *Iowa Conference* shall include the State of Iowa, and the Territory of Nebraska; except so much as is occupied by the Indian Missions now in connexion with the Missouri Conference.

The *Illinois Conference* shall include that part of Illinois not included in South Illinois Conference, south of the following line, namely: Beginning at Warsaw on the Mississippi River, thence to Vermont, thence to the mouth of Spoon River, thence to the Indiana State line, embracing Warsaw, Vermont, Havana circuit, Bloomington station, and Danville circuit.

The *Southern Illinois Conference* shall include all the State of Illinois lying south of the following line: Beginning on the Mississippi River at Gilead, in Calhoun County, thence east to the north-west corner of Jersey County, thence with the northern line of said county, thence with the Macoussin Creek east of Carlinville, thence east to Hillsboro', in Montgomery County, to leave Hillsboro, Carrolton, Greenville, Carlinville, and Hillsboro' circuits within the Illinois Conference; thence east through Fayette and Effingham Counties, to the north-west corner of Jasper County, thence with the north line of Jasper and Crawford Counties to Wabash River and Indiana State line.

The *Missouri Conference* shall include the State of Missouri, except that part lying south of the Osage River, and west of Miller, Pulaski, and Ashley Counties, and that part of the Nebraska Territory embracing the Indian Missions in said territory.

The *Arkansas Conference* shall include the States of Arkansas, Texas, and so much of New-Mexico as lies east of the Rocky Mountains, and that part of the Indian Territory west of Arkansas, and so much of the State of Missouri as is not included in the Missouri Conference.

The *Baltimore Conference* shall include all that part of Virginia not embraced in the Western Virginia, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia Conferences, and which is bounded by a line commencing at the mouth of the Rappahannock River, running with said river to the head waters thereof, (including Fredericksburgh,) thence by the Blue Ridge to New River, taking in Floyd circuit, thence by New River to the boundary of the Western Virginia Conference; and the Western Shore of Maryland, except a small portion included in the Western Virginia Conference, and that part of Pennsylvania lying east of the Alleghany Mountains and west of the Susquehanna River, including Huntingdon and Northumberland Districts.

The *Philadelphia Conference* shall include the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia, the State of Delaware, and all that part of Pennsyl-



vania lying between the Susquehanna and Delaware Rivers, except so much as is included in Baltimore, Wyoming, and New-Jersey Conferences.

The *New-Jersey Conference* shall include the whole State of New-Jersey, Staten Island, and so much of the States of New-York and Pennsylvania as is now included in the Newton and Paterson Districts.

The *Oregon Conference* shall embrace the Territory of Oregon.

The *California Conference* shall embrace the State of California, the Territory of Utah, and so much of the Territory of New-Mexico as lies west of the Rocky Mountains.

*Liberia Conference.* There shall be an Annual Conference on the Western Coast of Africa, to be denominated the Liberia Mission Annual Conference, possessing all the rights, powers, and privileges of other Annual Conferences, except that of sending delegates to the General Conference, and of drawing its annual dividend from the avails of the Book Concern and of the Charter Fund.

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L.—MEMORIAL OF THE EDITOR OF TRACTS TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN,—A sense of duty, growing out of the relations I have for several years sustained to the Tract cause in our Church, constrains me to address you on a subject of general interest and importance.

It is probably known to you all, that we have not now, and have not had for a series of years, any formal organization of a Tract Society.

It appears in the history of our Church, that as early as 1817 a Tract Society was instituted, "with a view of furnishing the poorer classes of the community with religious reading." In this movement our people followed the example of the great and good Mr. Wesley, whose efforts to print and circulate cheap religious reading were in advance of all similar efforts and enterprises.

This Tract Society, however, was very limited in its resources and support, and, after a few years of experiment, was transferred to the book agency. Thenceforward the publication of Tracts has been a part of the business of the Book Concern.

The Book Concern was at that day very feeble; and even as late as 1828 was burdened with a heavy debt. In these circumstances, it could not from its own resources publish Sunday-school books and tracts as cheap as was necessary. Hence the contribution of a *Publishing Fund*, which was vested in the Book Concern, for the express purpose of cheapening these classes of publications.

About the same period, viz., in 1827, "the Bible, Sunday-school, and Tract Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," was formed. This society existed about nine years,—until 1836,—when the General Conference, for satisfactory reasons, dissolved our denominational Bible Society, in order to unite with the American Bible Society. This act was a virtual dissolution of the whole organization: not more than two

or three meetings of the Board of Managers were held subsequent to it.

The want of some special organization to promote the interests of Sunday schools, was so immediately and so seriously felt, that in 1840 our present Sunday-School Union was formed by action of the General Conference of that year; but down to the present time, no successful effort has been made to reorganize a General Tract Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It is true that the publication and circulation of Tracts has not been wholly neglected by us for the last sixteen years.

An Editor of Tracts has been periodically appointed by the General Conference; and Tracts have been constantly printed and sold by the Book Agents. It is a circumstance worthy of attention, that while this branch of the Book-Room business has been conducted solely on business principles, our Agents have habitually sold their Tracts at lower rates than the American Tract Society, an institution which annually receives many thousands of dollars in donations to aid its publication schemes.

During the last few years considerable improvements have been made in our list of Tracts, and in their classification and sale in packages; but there has been no fund to be expended in the production of new Tracts—otherwise the list might have been enlarged and improved still more. For the present state of our Tract publications, you are referred to the publishers' catalogues.

Although we may concede that good has been done, and will continue to be done, by our present mode of conducting this department of our operations, the question arises whether vastly more good might not be done by the organization of a Church Tract Society, specially designed to *circulate* religious reading matter, throughout the wide field of our labours and responsibilities.

We have now, as a Church, our Missionary Society and our Sunday-School Union, which, as representing two great and general interests, are conceded to be entitled to the support of all our people.

Is not the Tract enterprise as general in its character, and as closely identified with the objects of a Christian Church? Is it possible for us indeed to maintain our position, as a large and growing branch of the Church of Christ, at the present age of the world, without having an organized and well-supported Tract Society?

I will mention some special reasons why a Tract organization is called for, at the present time, in connexion with our Church:—

1. There are numerous cases in which our Methodist Tracts, in the English language, are really needed for gratuitous distribution; for example, in hospitals, in prisons, in alms-houses, in vessels going to sea, among seamen on shore, in home missions, and in weak appointments both in cities and in country places. Independent of a Tract Fund, the Church has no provision for supplying religious reading in any of these cases, or in circumstances like them. Lacking such a fund, we are prohibited at present from entering many wide doors of influence and usefulness.

2. God in his providence seems to be loudly calling on us for an enlargement of our issues in different foreign languages.

Our brethren in the German work have already felt this call to be so imperative that they have responded to it by forming an organization among themselves, which has been highly productive of good.

Especially since we have entered upon the work of Missions in German Europe, has the call for Tracts in the German language increased and become urgent. So severely has it pressed upon brother Jacoby at Bremen, that he has personally sent circulars to most of the conferences asking for aid in this particular work.

This case will illustrate others. There is also at this moment a pressing providential call for our Tracts in the Swedish and Danish languages, the latter being common to Danes and Norwegians. For lack of them, immense numbers of foreign immigrants, who, with their children, are to form our future population, are to a great degree neglected and suffered to retain prejudices against us and against the truth, which will prove serious obstacles in the way of their salvation; when, at a trifling expense, they might be put in possession of proper explanations of our doctrines and measures, as well as of vital religious truths.

Tracts are wanted, moreover, in the French language, in several missions we are now sustaining; also in the Spanish language, for our missions in New-Mexico, California and Buenos Ayres; while in China our brethren already need Christian Tracts in Chinese, as an essential agency to the accomplishment of their missionary work.

3. Having now specified several important fields, and no less than seven different languages in which our tracts are needed, I will remark that our general missionary interests demand a Tract organization to cooperate with the Missionary Society.

A wise division of labour is as essential to success in the promotion of Christianity, as in the prosecution of worldly business. It would be possible to include all our various evangelical movements in one general society, and thus, under one organization, to send out and support missionaries, and to print Bibles, Sunday-school books and Tracts for their use; but experience has shown that it is at once more convenient and more advantageous to have this complicated labour so divided that missionary societies shall support missionaries, Bible societies print Bibles, Sunday-school societies Sunday-school books, and Tract societies furnish and circulate tracts.

Among us now, good provisions are made for each of these departments except that of Tracts; and why should that be longer neglected?

4. Without attempting to enumerate all the wants that are to be supplied, and all the advantages that might be gained by the organization suggested, I may allude to the fact that some of the most prolific book-making establishments in the world commenced their career as mere Tract societies.

Reference is made in particular to the Religious Tract Society of London, and to the American Tract Society. In the constitution of the latter not a word is said about bound volumes; and yet what that society denominates the *VOLUME ENTERPRISE*, has sprung up in connexion with its Tract operations, and has become a movement of no small significance.

Without entering into any detail of plans, it is safe to suppose that a proper organization among us will, under judicious management, progress

from small beginnings to grand results. In addition to what has been said about Tracts merely, it may become a powerful auxiliary in the diffusion of our VOLUME LITERATURE.

Should these views be deemed by you weighty and just, the question will immediately arise, What ought to be done—what steps shall be taken?

It will be obvious to all, that the General Conference is the only proper body to organize such an institution as seems to be urgently called for. To your wisdom, therefore, may safely be intrusted the task of planning and organizing a Tract Society adapted to the wants of the Church and to the exigencies of the present times.

Hoping that such a society may soon be instituted and placed in active operation, as the result of your deliberations on this subject,

I subscribe myself, sincerely and respectfully,

Your brother in Christ,

DANIEL P. KIDDER, *Editor of Tracts.*

NEW-YORK, *April 22, 1852.*

M.—REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS AND TRACTS.  
NO. I.

WHEREAS the Bishops in their Address have submitted to the General Conference the propriety of a new Tract organization, that may awaken a livelier interest and give more activity to our operations in this department; and whereas several Annual Conferences have passed resolutions expressing a similar desire; and whereas the same is asked for at length in a memorial of the Editor of Tracts,—your committee, after due consideration, recommend the organization of a *Tract Society* of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with the following Constitution:—

Art. 1. This association shall be denominated the Tract Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Art. 2. Its object shall be to diffuse religious knowledge, by the circulation of the publications of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in the English and other languages, in our own and foreign countries.

Art. 3. Any person paying to this society one dollar per year, shall be a member of the same; and the payment of ten dollars at one time, shall constitute a member for life; and the payment of twenty-five dollars at one time, shall constitute a director for life.

Art. 4. Persons constituted life-members by the payment of ten dollars, not designated for any special object, shall be entitled to receive tracts to the value of fifty cents each year; and life-directors, to the value of two dollars each year: or, if they prefer, they may receive tracts at any one time to the amount of half the sum paid. All members and directors are also entitled to vote at the annual meetings of the society.

Art. 5. The annual meetings of the society shall be held during the second or third week of December. A public anniversary shall also be held each year, at such time and place as the Board of Managers shall determine.

Art. 6. The Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church shall be Presidents of this Society in the order of their seniority. A Vice-President may be appointed by each Annual Conference. There shall be appointed by the General Conference a Corresponding Secretary for this society, who shall be the Editor of the Tracts. The other officers of this society shall be a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and two elected Vice-Presidents, who shall severally be appointed by the Board of Managers.

Art. 7. The funds of this society shall be expended under the direction of the Board of Managers in payment of the necessary expenses of the institution, and in the promotion of its general objects. In all cases of gratuitous aid, books and tracts shall be given instead of money, unless the latter is strictly necessary to the accomplishment of a constitutional object.

Art. 8. The Board of Managers shall have power to enact their own by-laws, to fill vacancies in the board occurring during the year, to appoint honorary members, to provide for the translation and publication of Tracts, to print and circulate appeals to the Church in behalf of the benevolent objects of the society, to raise and disburse funds for those objects, and to establish committees of finance and appropriations wherever necessary.

Art. 9. Each Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church may form a Conference Tract Society auxiliary to this, with power to adopt such measures as in the judgment of said Conference are best calculated to promote the objects of this association, and to form sub-auxiliaries in its several circuits and stations. The presidents of the Conference Auxiliaries shall be vice-presidents of this society.

Art. 10. This Constitution cannot be altered except by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, on the recommendation of the society at a meeting called for that purpose after, at least, one month's public notice; or by the society, on the recommendation of the General Conference.

In conformity with the provisions and spirit of the foregoing Constitution, your committee submit the following resolutions:—

1. There shall be at New-York an Editor of the Monthly Magazine and of the Tracts, who shall also be the Corresponding Secretary of our Tract Society.

The Editor of Tracts shall have the charge of the publication of Tracts in our own and foreign languages; and it shall be his duty to make arrangements with the Book Agents for the cheap publication of any book or books specially adapted to the promotion of experimental and practical religion.

As Corresponding Secretary of the Tract Society, it shall be his duty to raise funds in behalf of the society, to promote the formation of Conference and other auxiliaries, and to co-operate with the auxiliary societies, and to make all proper efforts for the general diffusion of religious reading.

2. That we recommend our people everywhere to form Tract Societies auxiliary to the Tract Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

3. That it shall be the duty of preachers in charge to make annually, in their several congregations, collections in behalf of the Tract Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

N.—PASTORAL ADDRESS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH. 1852.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,—The circumstances in which we address you, furnish abundant motives for gratitude to Almighty God, and for encouragement in the prosecution of the duties we owe to him and our fellow-men. The principal reasons for encouragement may be briefly noticed, in view of calling forth expressions of thankfulness from all hearts, as well as to induce all to put forth their continued and ever-increased exertions that the interests of religion may be greatly advanced in future beyond their present standard and limits.

Since the last General Conference, there has been an increase of 90,246 members in the Church. And the increase has been progressive, as the first of the four previous years showed an increase of only seven thousand in round numbers; in the second year it was twenty-three thousand; in the third it was twenty-seven thousand; and in the last year it amounted to thirty-two thousand. As nearly, too, as can be ascertained, the number of conversions exceeded the additions. And it is humbly believed that growth in grace, as a general thing, has been in encouraging proportion to the accessions to the Church.

We acknowledge, with profound gratitude to God, the high degree of prosperity with which the Church has been favoured in the Sunday-school cause. At present there are 93,561 officers and teachers, and 473,311 scholars in our Sabbath-schools, and 1,260,558 volumes in the libraries. The increase is encouragingly progressive. The last five years present an increase of 32,741 officers and teachers, of 152,681 scholars, of 652,218 volumes in libraries. The number of conversions, during these five years, has been 47,327. Here, too, there is progression; for the five years present, respectively, in round thousands, the following steps of progress, viz.: four thousand—eight thousand—nine thousand—eleven thousand—and fourteen thousand. The number of teachers has been in proportion to the increase of scholars. Surely the Church has much encouragement to persevere in the cause of Sunday-school instruction.

The last four years have furnished an increase of missionary contributions very encouraging. The past year presents an advance of annual income of about sixty thousand dollars over the year 1848, and the next year's appropriation is put down at \$200,000, which the Church, we are persuaded, will cordially meet. When we look back on the progress of the last thirty years, the advance is encouraging. And if we may calculate on the ability of our people, and the increasing spirit of missions among them, we must conclude that the day is not far off, when a million of dollars will be our annual contribution; and this again to be increased indefinitely, to any amount needed in spreading the gospel news. Nor do we see a prospect that there will be any lack of missionaries, while the missionary spirit pervades the Church. The spirit that increases the benevolence of the Church, will also thrust out more labourers into the harvest.

The condition of our literary institutions is truly prosperous, though much yet remains to be accomplished, to place them in such a state as to secure permanency and proper efficiency. We would exhort all our brethren to continue their patronage and even increase their liberality, that our educational department may suffer no loss. Nay, that it may be extended and made much more effective than it now is; especially in diffusing more of the religious element, so as to imbue fully the literary with the religious sentiment and even feeling. While, therefore, we have much prosperity; and though this prosperity is general, rather than local or in reference to some things; there are grounds for fear lest the existing evils may gradually undermine and subvert the good, or greatly mar it. There is much need to cultivate a spirit of earnest, daily, prayerful self-examination.

In pursuance of our practical admonitions, we deem it an imperative duty to warn you against that prevailing love of mammon, and its manifold gratifications, to which you are exposed from so many quarters. St. John, in admonishing "little children," "young men," and "fathers," exhorts them, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." If such admonitions were necessary in the days of the apostles, they are more so at the present time. "Labour not to be rich; cease from thine own wisdom." "He that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent." "An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed." "They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil; which, while some have coveted after, they have erred from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." The example of Mr. Wesley is an admirable counteraction to inordinate love of the world. While, therefore, we gain all we can, and save all we can, let us give all we can, in supporting all the benevolent institutions of the Church, so as to render them much more efficient than they are, as well as to save ourselves and our children from the curse of ill-detained property due to God, and therefore incurring the sin of sacrilege in appropriating to ourselves what we owe to God or his cause.

Allow us, dear brethren, earnestly to urge the avoidance of evil surmising, strife, contention; and the cultivation of mutual love. "Endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." "Now I beseech you, brethren," says St. Paul, "mark them which cause divisions, and contentions, contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned, and avoid them." Forbearance and forgiveness are the great counteracting influences operating against strife. "Forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any."

It is proper for us to place you on your guard in reference to two injurious extremes in church-building. Very costly edifices lay heavy taxes on our pecuniary resources, and we think do not tend to edification or godliness, but rather gender pride. When durable material, decency, sufficient space, due proportions, convenience, air, light, &c., are secured, all beyond these seem to be either superfluous or of doubtful character. The extra expenses appropriated in erecting churches for the destitute,

would be a better outlay than mere ornament. On the other hand, parsimony in building churches, when convenience, good location, and sufficient room, are sacrificed, is neither praiseworthy nor profitable. We would entreat you, dear brethren, to avoid either extreme; and while you expend liberally for the Lord, consider that he doth not delight in gorgeous temples built with hands, but in the spread of truth among the masses, especially the poor and those who are neglected. In this let your moderation be known unto all men.

We would also exhort you, beloved brethren, to observe the proper and Scriptural modes of conducting public worship according to our excellent forms. Congregations should unite in praising God, as with one voice. The proper use of choirs or leaders in singing, is to aid the congregation to sing, and not to engross it entirely, or principally, to themselves. In prayer, too, the Scriptural mode of kneeling cannot be replaced by sitting, without presenting a sad unfitness between the form and the end in view, viz., ardent, agonizing prayer and supplication. We entreat all to consider these things, and endeavour to remedy these evils where they exist, in the spread of love and kindness, avoiding all severity and unkindness.

The great end in Christian attainment, is "holiness to the Lord." The final aim of Wesley and his associates was to "raise up a holy people," and to "spread holiness through these lands." Indeed, to accomplish this we have the promises of the Father, the redemption of the Son, and the operations of the Spirit. And the crowning work of the Spirit of holiness is to sanctify believers wholly—their whole spirit, soul, and body—and to preserve them blameless until death. We would therefore exhort you, dear brethren, that the doctrine of *entire sanctification*, or *entire holiness*, be not confined to our standards; but that it may be a matter of experience in our hearts, and may be constantly practised in our lives. We advise you, however, in speaking or writing of holiness, to follow the well-sustained views, and even the phraseology employed in the writings of Wesley and Fletcher, which are not superseded by the more recent writers on this subject. Avoid both new theories, new expressions, and new measures on this subject, and adhere closely to the ancient landmarks.

While we would exhort you to the pursuit of all useful knowledge, we would especially urge you to acquire religious knowledge. Especially, and first of all, read, learn, and inwardly digest the word of God. "These words," said Moses, "which I command thee this day, shall be in thy heart." Let the word of God be read daily, and let it be the great subject of meditation by day and by night. Let the books issuing from our own presses be preferred to all others; and let our standard writers, especially, be familiar to all, whether the topics be doctrines, morals, history, Church institutions, etc. May we not respectfully suggest to all our people, whether steps could not be taken in each congregation, that every family, whether Church-members, or of our congregations, could be supplied constantly with one of our weekly papers, a copy of the *Missionary Advocate*, and a copy of the *Sunday-School Advocate*? Could not steps be taken by the more wealthy to supply those who cannot meet the expense with these invaluable papers?



We would repeat our exhortation of 1848 and 1840, in reference to the instruction of children by their parents. Let our excellent catechism be used in the family for this purpose. The Sabbath school, however excellent, cannot make up for the loss of parental instruction. Remember the command of God to his ancient Church, "And ye shall teach them [the words of God] to your children; speaking of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way; when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

Among the duties obligatory on us as Methodists, is that of attending punctually and constantly to class-meetings. Remissness here has ever been observed among us as the sure forerunner of spiritual decay, or the certain mark of deficient spiritual feeling and Christian experience. We would earnestly entreat our brethren everywhere, "not to forsake the assembling of yourselves together," as members of classes; but on the other hand to maintain by your individual practice, and your influence, the observance of this leading means of grace, coeval with our existence as a people. And while we would not claim for the mere formalities of our class-meetings a formal divine authority, we must claim divine authority for the leading objects promoted by them. Among these we would mention religious experience, growth in grace, wholesome supervision, Christian discipline, to say nothing of the other important ends secured by these meetings.

Remember the myriads of emigrants who are constantly crowding to our country. Let not their differences in language, manners, religion, or condition in life, throw us at a distance from them. They and their children are destined to become component parts of this great country in common with us and our children. And such as they are, and will be, such, in some degree, this rising republic, both religiously and politically, is also destined to be. Let their ignorance be removed by the diffusion of knowledge; let their vices be corrected by the influence of our better example; let their religious errors be counteracted by our Bibles, and religious instruction and pious conduct. To our Church there is likely to be opened, through their instrumentality, access to all nations on earth. Our missions to Germany may be considered no other than specimens of what will shortly occur in reference to Swedes, Norwegians, Italians, the Chinese, Spaniards, and others. Thus we have even now a pentecost in our midst; for we hear them in their several languages uttering the wonderful works of the Lord.

The subject of lay delegation was before the Conference for consideration. A very respectable convention, which met in Philadelphia last March, presented a petition in its favour. These brethren repudiate all disaffection to the Church, and assume no antagonism to the itinerancy or the episcopacy. Indeed their subsequent conduct declares that they are as much the friends and supporters of the Church as those who differ from them. On the fifth instant, another lay convention met in Philadelphia, and memorialized the General Conference, deprecating the changes that the first convention asked, or any other changes. Petitions from various parts of the country, mostly against, and some for, the changes, were presented to Conference. The whole subject was referred to an able committee, whose report was adopted and published. It

appears that much the greater portion of our Church are averse to any such changes as are asked, believing they would not be for the better, but rather for the worse. They also fear that though the proposed changes were allowable, they would prepare the way for injurious innovations. Indeed it is doubted whether any other system has ever secured the co-operation of the laity with the ministry more efficiently than our own. There is a wide field for activity presented in the various offices and agencies of the Church, and this sphere is constantly widening. We rejoice to learn that, in regard to our great fundamental principles as a whole, there is but one voice among all our thousands, and that voice is, "Let the aggressive character of Methodism be sustained in maintaining its two great pillars—an efficient itinerancy and an untrammelled general superintendency. And the great unanimity with which this is held, furnishes a guarantee of future peace and harmony.

We would conclude, dear brethren, this our address to you, by adopting the following exhortation and prayer of St. Paul, in his First Epistle to the Thessalonians, "And be at peace among yourselves. Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves and to all men. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit, and soul, and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. Brethren, pray for us. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen."

CHARLES ELLIOTT,	} Committee.
GEORGE GARY,	
J. M'CLINTOCK,	
J. A. GERE,	
ABEL STEVENS,	

*Resolved*, That preachers in charge of circuits and stations are requested to read the Pastoral Address to the members of the Church and congregation, and make it the subject of suitable remarks and exhortations.

Signed by order and in behalf of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church,

B. WAUGH,  
T. A. MORRIS,  
E. S. JANES,  
LEVI SCOTT,  
M. SIMPSON,  
OSMON C. BAKER,  
E. R. AMES.

## O.—REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE, TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE ASSEMBLED IN BOSTON. 1852.

THE Committee to whom was committed so much of the Episcopal Address as relates to the subject of Temperance, beg leave to present the following Report:—

The position of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in relation to the cause of Temperance, is well understood, and needs not now to be particularly defined. By the restoration of Mr. Wesley's rule, the power of Church discipline has, to its fullest allowable extent, been brought to the aid of this cause; thus placing it, so far as our Church is concerned, upon a high and impregnable basis. In the opinion of your committee, the Church needs no additional rules upon the subject. But a faithful supervision of the interests of her membership does not discharge her whole duty. We cannot be indifferent to the struggle that is going on around us. The cause has reached a deeply-interesting stage of progress. For some time it has been stationary, if not retrogressive. There was a comparative relaxation of effort among its decided friends. They stood still, as if awaiting the advent of some new principle, the introduction of some new Temperance dispensation. A brighter day has dawned; the dispirited hosts of Temperance have rallied for a decisive conflict. The persuasive influences of the pulpit and the press, and the more strenuous influences of Church discipline, have been recently re-enforced by several prohibitory laws passed by the legislatures of several States. Other legislatures will, we doubt not, sooner or later, follow their example. We do not suppose that the most effectual prohibitory measures will put a full end to intemperance. Men will do wrong in despite of law. Sin is the transgression of the law. But these measures will divest the evil of legal protection, and remove temptation from thousands, and promote, upon a large scale, the temporal prosperity, the domestic comfort, and, above all, the spiritual salvation of our fellow-citizens. Deeming a lengthened and elaborate report unnecessary, your committee submit the following resolutions:—

1. *Resolved*, That the use of intoxicating liquors, to any extent, as a beverage, is deeply to be deplored and deprecated, as tending to the forming and maturing of pernicious habits, and leading, by natural consequence, to diversified crime, wide-spread misery, and the final ruin of vast multitudes for whom Christ died.

2. *Resolved*, That we greatly rejoice in the recent manifestations of public sentiment upon this subject; and especially, that God is putting it into the hearts of civil rulers to interpose the authority of the State for the protection of society against what we hold to be an enormous social wrong—the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks.

3. *Resolved*, That the encouraging aspects of this great cause present no just occasion for relaxation of effort on the part of its friends, but, on the contrary, call upon us to renew our diligence, in the use of all proper means to spread and consummate those plans so obviously traceable to a propitious Providence, and so richly fraught with the blessings of peace and good-will to men.

4. *Resolved*, That we recommend the calm, judicious, but firm and impartial enforcement of our excellent disciplinary rules upon this subject.

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P.—REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TEMPORAL ECONOMY. 1852.

THE Committee to whom was referred the Report on Temporal Economy beg leave to say, that after due consideration they deem it inexpedient to make any alterations in our Discipline on this subject. Our present system of finance has this advantage over any other that could be devised—it is generally *understood*; and having assumed different constitutional modifications, in different places, it is gradually improving our finances throughout the connexion.

To accommodate the views of many brethren, however, the committee have agreed to report in favour of two amendments proposed in the Report, and advocated by several speakers in this Conference. The first provides for our bishops drawing their whole allowance *directly* from the Book Concern; the other authorizes Annual Conferences to decide to what claimants their funds shall be appropriated. They accordingly present the following resolutions for adoption:—

1. *Resolved*, That the Discipline, part iii, chapter 3, § 1, question 1, answer 3, be so altered as to read: “Each Annual Conference shall pay its proportionate part towards the allowance of the widows and orphans of bishops.” Also that answer 4, of the same section, be amended by the addition of these words: “And also for the amount of their quarterage and travelling expenses.” Making the fourth answer to read: “Each Annual Conference, in which a bishop or bishops may reside, shall annually appoint a committee of three or more, whose duty it shall be to estimate the amount necessary to furnish a house, fuel, and table-expenses for said bishop or bishops, subject to the action of the Conference; and they are authorized to draw on the funds of the Book Concern for said amount, and also for the amount of their quarterage and travelling expenses.”

2. *Resolved*, That the Discipline, part iii, chapter 3, paragraph 5, page 174, be amended so as to read thus, beginning on the second line from the top: “Out of the moneys so collected and brought to the respective Annual Conferences, let the various allowances agreed upon in the second section be made up; but each Annual Conference shall have full power to determine, by a vote of two-thirds of all its members present and voting, who among the superannuated and supernumerary preachers, and the widows and orphans of deceased preachers, belonging to the Conference, shall be claimants on the said Conference, and what amount each claimant shall receive from year to year.”

(Signed,)

JAMES PORTER, *Chairman.*

## Q.—REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

IN surveying the entire educational field of the Methodist Episcopal Church, there are abundant grounds for congratulation and encouragement. Methodism has not had many years in which to devote herself to the work of education; but the zeal and success which has characterized her efforts, have fully proved that in the intellectual as well as in the spiritual field Methodism is in sober earnest. Our seminaries and colleges have sprung up with great rapidity under our hands. The graduates of the institutions are increasing in numbers; the standard of scientific, classical, and Biblical learning is rising; and the noble work of completing the union of science and religion is advancing to a consummation. The Church is receiving the compensation for her care in training her sons, by seeing many of the choicest of them falling into the ranks of the ministry. They are not only manning our literary faculties, but braving the toil of the itinerancy at home, or cheerfully encountering labours and martyrdoms in the fields of foreign missions. And while this youthful band are thus entering into your labours with the same zeal and greater advantages than their predecessors, no class entertains a higher gratitude for the advantages your care has provided for them,—none contemplates the scenes and events of our past history with warmer interest,—and none feels a deeper attachment to the doctrines and institutions of our Church.

Our youth are the richest capital of the Church. On no part of our work can labour and expenditure be lavished with a surer or richer return. Our fathers were skilful and faithful in drawing out the talent and promise of Methodism; and hence our ministry, it is believed, is pre-eminent for its amount of effective talent. The very schools and colleges we have established must inevitably raise the intellectual demands of our laity; and the Church will fail of its duty if it do not supply them, as far as possible, with the means of meeting that demand.

We, therefore, recognise the necessity of a general effort to impress upon the minds of our people the value of our system of college education,—to induce all the youth of our Church, where means and opportunity will allow it, to avail themselves of the training which the colleges afford.

The ministry and the Church are especially called upon to use every exertion to rescue the flower of our young men from the selfish and material spirit of our times. Such are the pecuniary and commercial excitements of the day,—so rife is the spirit of fortune-seeking and money-getting,—that it is to be feared, not only that many an intellectual talent is buried in the earth, but that many who are or might be “called of God,” really obey the voice of Mammon. Our work is not done when we have constructed a system of academies, and crowned them with colleges. We are not only to bring these advantages within reach of our young men, but we are to bring our young men into the actual use of these advantages. We must take hold of our young men, and recall them to a sense of duty to the Church and to God; they must be directed to the great importance of intellectual and moral cultivation; and if, under

proper inquiry, they give proof of being moved by the Holy Ghost, and inspired by the sense of duty, let them assume the sacred calling; and we may hope thus to possess a ministry for the times. If, however, the intimations of Providence require their occupying a secular position, they will bless the Church scarcely less by filling the ranks of a cultivated Christian laity.

We are highly pleased to observe the increasing interest and efforts of our people for the education of females. The number of institutions exclusively devoted to this purpose, with those in which both sexes are educated together, is an encouraging indication that this subject is more justly appreciated, and its importance more deeply felt.

Upon examination it will be found, we think, that our Church is not behind other denominations in this excellent work.

Yet there is demand for still more strenuous exertions. Let not this subject be lost sight of by our preachers and people; but let enlightened and vigorous efforts be put forth to provide as numerous and as great advantages for the mental culture of females as males, that both our sons and daughters may be furnished with a Christian education of a high order.

There has been laid before the committee a letter from one of our most eminent scholars—Professor A. W. Smith, of Middletown—upon a subject worthy our attention. We present the following extracts, in the professor's own words:—

“I have thought it very important that some measures should be taken to attract the attention of our people to the ‘Annual Concert of Prayer’ for colleges, and secure, if possible, an observance of the day by the entire Church. It is, I believe, very generally observed in most other evangelical Churches, but to a very limited extent, I suspect, in our Church. The direct influence of even a partial and limited observance of the day, I have witnessed too often to question the wisdom and power of the custom; and could the prayers of the whole evangelical Church be enlisted simultaneously in behalf of the unconverted in our colleges and academies, the moral power of the fact would be irresistible. Even as it has been, the manifest concern and uneasiness of the godless portion of our students at that period, is evidence of their faith in the power of prayer; and, in many instances, the commencement of revivals, in our eastern colleges at least, dates at the period of this concert.”

To the above remarks of this respected Christian layman, we may add that it is deeply to be regretted that our academies and colleges are so seldom made the subjects of prayer, especially in our Sabbath ministrations. We pray you, brethren, embrace this most momentous interest in your hearts and your prayers, and lead the Church into earnest supplication for our young men, and for those institutions by which the higher elements of their characters are to be shaped. If you wish piety to be enlightened by learning, and learning to be sanctified by piety, consecrate these to God. Then will the divine Spirit shower still more glorious baptisms upon them; and a noble generation of Christian scholars and Christian ministers will arise, thankful to us for giving them the means of excelling ourselves.

At the last General Conference there were propounded to the heads of all our literary institutions eleven queries in regard to their condition and history, and answers were requested. This committee, immediately after their appointment, at the present session, took such measures as were in their power to procure the answers, and the results of their imperfect returns are presented in the following tabular view. It is to be hoped that the same plan will be continued from session to session, so that a systematic and progressive view of our educational interests may be in permanent possession of the Church.

[*For Tabular View of Institutions and Seminaries, see pages 168,169.*]

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to all our congregations to observe the "annual concert of prayer for colleges," in accordance with the custom of other evangelical Churches; and that our ministry are earnestly requested to make our literary institutions a prominent subject of prayer in their Sabbath ministrations.

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to all our ministry to preach at least one sermon annually on the subject of education.

*Resolved*, That the heads of our colleges and other literary institutions are specially requested to report for the next General Conference a statement of their condition, suitable to be embraced in a tabular view similar to that presented in this report.

D. D. WHEDON,  
H. J. CLARKE,  
A. STEVENS,  
L. SPERRY,  
S. S. ROSZELL,  
M. CROW.





Jonesville Academy.....	1847	3	3	2,000	.....	60	57	all	.....	43,000 00	.....	1,600	.....	1,600 00
Methodist General Biblical Institute.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Maine Wesleyan Seminary.....	1848	.....	14	500	300 00	.....	270	.....	.....	20,000 00	.....	.....	.....	5 or 6000
Newark Wesleyan Institute.....	1834	7	7	600	800 00	313	647	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Newbury Seminary.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
New-Hampshire Conference Seminary.....	1850	10	14	130	216 00	370	250	100	.....	8,350 00	.....	3,383	.....	3,310 00
New-York Conference Seminary.....	1843	2	2	300	400 00	70	70	.....	.....	6,000 00	.....	950	.....	950 00
North-Western Virginia Academy.....	1845	5	5	112	.....	169	447	69	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Northfield Academy.....	1843	4	4	.....	.....	121	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Oakland Female Seminary.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ohio Conference High School.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Oneida Conference Seminary.....	1824	8	7	2,059	3,136 00	250	.....	.....	.....	38,161 00	.....	4,500	.....	3,500 00
Paris Methodist Seminary.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pennington Male Seminary.....	1840	6	4	600	500 00	85	80	50	20	15,000 00	.....	8,000	.....	7,500 00
Pennington Female Seminary.....	1844	5	5	300	.....	40	40	24	7	6,500 00	.....	3,000	.....	3,000 00
Preparatory School, Middletown.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Providence Conference Academy.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rock River Seminary.....	1840	5	4	1,000	400 00	175	140	46	20	10,000 00	.....	1,400	.....	1,400 00
Troy Conference Academy.....	1836	8	8	800	800 00	162	160	48	20	20,000 00	.....	1,500	.....	1,500 00
Wesleyan Academy, Wilbraham.....	1824	6	7	1,200	900 00	220	350	100	40	35,000 00	.....	12,000	.....	12,000 00
Wesleyan Female College.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wesleyan Female Collegiate Institute.....	1851	7	6	.....	.....	40	60	36	.....	12,000 00	.....	8,000	.....	8,000 00
Wesleyan Female Institute.....	1850	5	5	200	275 00	65	60	40	20	12,000 00	.....	5,000	.....	4,500 00
Wesleyan Seminary, Albia.....	1842	9	8	1,000	1,200 00	277	160	70	22	30,600 00	.....	3,700	.....	3,700 00
Wesleyan Seminary, Springfield, Vt.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wesleyan Seminary, Peoria, Ill.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Worthington Female Seminary.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wyoming Seminary.....	1844	7	8	1,385	.....	375	375	.....	.....	14,500 00	.....	3,475	.....	3,200 00
White Water Female College.....	1849	5	5	.....	.....	180	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

o Same as Genesee College.

## R.—REPORT ON THE REVISION OF THE CATECHISMS.

*To the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, assembled at Boston, May, 1852.*

FATHERS AND BRETHREN,—The undersigned, the Editor of Sunday-school publications by appointment of the General Conference of 1848, found himself instructed by a resolution of that body, which may be referred to on page 113 of the printed Journal, in the following words, to wit:—

“Resolved, That our standard Catechisms be revised by the Editor of our Sunday-School Books, under the supervision of the Book Committee at New-York.”

In pursuance of the duty enjoined by the above resolution, the undersigned, at the earliest opportunity, solicited the instruction of the Book Committee as to the best mode of procedure. The Book Committee, after due deliberation, resolved to nominate a “Committee on the Catechism,” consisting of Bishop Hedding, Rev. Dr. Olin, Rev. Dr. Bangs and Rev. Dr. Holdich; who, having been severally notified of their appointment, consented to serve on the committee.

After repeated notices, it was found impracticable for this committee to hold a session of sufficient length to accomplish the proposed work of revision in joint-meeting. The Editor was, therefore, instructed to bring the work to a state of forwardness, and then submit it to the assembled committee. The assigned task was found to be one of no little difficulty and labour, requiring entire abstraction from all other engagements, and constant reference to numerous catechisms, text-books of divinity, &c., &c. Amid the pressing routine and especial urgency of his official duties for the last four years, it has only been possible for your Sunday-School Editor, by efforts repeated at several different periods, to secure a sufficient amount of undivided time for the proper accomplishment of the desired revision. Fortunately for himself and the Church, Rev. Dr. M’Clintock, Editor of the Quarterly Review, consented, on invitation, to aid in the practical labour proposed. This labour was performed in the most patient and careful manner, occupying an amount of time which few would conjecture from the dimensions of the work produced.

The primary labour having been thus completed, the result was submitted to the entire committee, and analyzed, word by word, in a protracted examination; at the conclusion of which the following certificate was furnished:—

“The undersigned, appointed by the Book Committee to examine the Catechism to be revised according to the vote of the last General Conference by the Editor of Sunday-School Books, hereby report that we have, to the best of our ability, performed the duty assigned us. The manuscript, submitted by the Editor of Sunday-School Books, was carefully considered, and after mature reflection we do not hesitate to approve of it, and recommend it for general use in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

“E. HEDDING, S. OLIN,  
N. BANGS, J. HOLDICH.

“NEW-YORK, April 18, 1851.”

This certificate applied to Catechism No. 1, which is the text or basis used in each number of the series. Having thus briefly stated the successive steps by which the Catechisms now submitted for the sanction of the General Conference have been prepared, it is next in order to explain the plan and character of the Catechisms themselves.

The Catechisms heretofore in use among us were those of the Wesleyan Methodists of Great Britain, compiled and published by order of the British Conference. They were never adopted officially by the Methodist Episcopal Church, but simply republished and sold at our Book Concern, in the absence of any similar publication of our own.

They consisted of three numbers: the first "for children of tender years;" the second "for children of seven years and upwards;" the third, on the evidences of Christianity and the truth of the Holy Scriptures, "for the use of young persons."

Numbers 1 and 2 of this series were the only ones extensively used in our Sunday schools, No. 3 being regarded as too abstruse and cumbersome. One of the difficulties attaching itself to this series of catechisms grew out of the difference between the arrangement and language of the several numbers, by which the labour of instruction and acquirement was unnecessarily increased.

This consideration induced many to make no use of No. 1. No. 2, therefore, was the principal, if not the only Catechism generally and practically adopted in our Church. That Catechism is known to have been prepared by the Rev. Richard Watson at the request of the British Conference.

While it has been uniformly conceded that said Catechism possesses the excellence of presenting a fair statement of our theological views, it has long been the opinion of numbers among us, both ministers and people, that it lacks many qualities essential to the objects of catechetical instruction throughout our extended communion.

Instead of the necessary brevity and directness, many of its answers are long and complicated. Instead of stating truth in the simplest words, many of its terms are technical, and hard to be understood and memorized by children.

Besides, a critical examination shows that the work, as a whole, is a paraphrase of the Westminster Catechism, with an infusion of Arminian theology.

It was evident, therefore, that what was called for by the order of the General Conference was no mere verbal revision, no mere pruning of words and dilution of terms; but a complete reconstruction of the Catechism, adapted to the times and country in which we live. Such a reconstruction has been made upon a systematic and comprehensive plan, with scrupulous care to give short answers in simple words, and yet to express "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."

A comparison of this new Catechism with all other existing Catechisms, will show that while no one has been copied, yet that the chief excellences of all have been combined and harmonized under the great advantages growing out of the practical experience and demonstrations of the Sunday-school system for the last quarter of a century.

The first characteristic of the plan adopted is to have ONE CATECHISM—so that what is learned in childhood may be remembered through life, and not displaced from the mind by succeeding lessons, however amplified.

The second distinguishing feature of the present plan is to have the Church Catechism published in different forms in connexion with an expansive series of instructions rising in gradation and enlarging in correspondence with the years and capacities of the pupils. No. 1 is the simple Catechism. No. 2 is the same Catechism proved and illustrated by Scripture. No. 3 is the Catechism accompanied by a summary of its sections, an analysis of its doctrines, an explanation of terms, and an addition of sundry important questions and answers.

This plan will admit of indefinite enlargement; and although it is believed that the present series will answer all necessary catechetical purposes for our Sunday schools, youth and families, yet it may be in place to express the hope that in due time we shall have, as a *Church and Conference Text-Book*, a complete and systematic body of divinity written upon American soil and arranged upon this basis. Respecting the publication of the new Catechism, it will be observed that the General Conference resolution under which it has been prepared makes no provision. Some have hence inferred, that the work, having been completed, should have been published and brought into use long ago. Others have inferred that the revised work should be reported as it now is to the General Conference; and if approved, published under its explicit sanction. Without discussing the proprieties of the case, it may be sufficient to say that in all the circumstances, the latter course has been the only feasible one. That course having been adopted, the text of the revised Catechisms is herewith submitted to the General Conference to be examined, improved, or rejected at your discretion.

Should the thorough examination of a judicious committee of this body result in its approval, and should the General Conference then officially order its publication, it will go forth to the Church with the highest possible sanctions, and not fail to secure the universal use and confidence of our people. In a few weeks it may be printed and diffused to the extremities of our Zion. On the supposition that such will be the result, it is hoped that active measures will be employed to secure a more general and thorough use of our Catechisms both in our churches, our Sunday schools and our families.

It is believed that with the advantages of the new Catechisms the duty of studying Scripture truth in a systematic manner may become a delight: still, method, effort and perseverance will be required, as indispensable means of securing the desired results.

Of the vast importance of catechetical instruction, as a means of establishing and extending the Church of God, it would be superfluous here to speak. That such instruction has been, from various causes, too much neglected among us, hitherto, is a painful fact which it becomes us diligently to remedy in future.

With these brief explanations and suggestions the undersigned desires respectfully to surrender the responsibility intrusted to him with reference to the Catechisms, hoping that his labours and those of the dis-

tinguished brethren associated with him (two of whom have already passed from labour to reward) will not have been in vain.

DANIEL P. KIDDER,

*Editor of Sunday-School Publications.*

NEW-YORK, *April*, 1852.

S.—MEMORIAL OF THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1852.

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN,—Your quadrennial assemblage gives the Board of Managers of the Sunday-School Union another opportunity of laying before you some statements respecting the recent progress and the present condition of the Sunday-school enterprise in our Church. It is with unfeigned gratitude to God that we are enabled to present, as the aggregate of our official statistics, at the end of 1851, the following numbers:—

Sunday schools, 8,706; officers and teachers, 93,561; scholars, 473,311; volumes in library, 1,260,558; Bible classes, 6,034; scholars in infant classes, 38,641; expenses of schools the past year, \$66,124; amount raised for Sunday-School Union, \$6,568; conversions in 1851, 14,527.

The following is our net increase during the last four years, 1848–52:

	Schools.	Officers and Teachers.	Scholars.	Vols. in Lib.	Total Exp. of Schools.	Total Conversions.
Increase in 1848,	190	5,118	16,802	108,527	46,843	8,240
1849,	576	3,610	35,201	136,407	48,079	9,014
1850,	687	10,966	37,356	149,497	54,587	11,398
1851,	685	8,721	43,722	143,475	66,124	14,557

Total increase, 2,138    28,415    133,081    537,906    \$215,633    43,209

Our increase during the preceding four years, 1844–8, was . . . . .	} Schools.	} Officers and Teachers.	} Scholars.	2,022	21,401	79,372
Excess of increase during the last four years over the four years preceding, . . . . .				116	7,014	53,709
Total increase in eight years, . . . . .				4,160	49,816	212,453

The great and encouraging increase thus stated, is to be attributed under the blessing of God to a more complete development of our system of Sunday-school operations, and to a more general activity throughout the Church in the use of the various means by which Sunday schools are established and promoted. While facilities are rapidly increasing, so also new openings are constantly offering for the spread of this cause. The claims made upon this institution for aid were never more general nor more urgent than now, and the debt upon our treasury was never before so great as at the beginning of this year. Thus God in his providence continues to demand the liberality and the zealous efforts of all who would serve him by endeavours to sustain the cause of Sunday schools.

It is not our purpose in this communication to burden your attention with anything irrelevant to those practical interests which ought to receive your consideration, and, if you judge proper, your official action. As the publication of Sunday-school books belongs to the Book Concern, we refer you to the reports of that institution for information as to the increase of business and the amount of sales in the Sunday-school department.

During the four years preceding 1848 more than three hundred new volumes were added to our Sunday-school libraries. The last four years have witnessed an addition of four hundred more, making the handsome aggregate of one thousand bound volumes now on our Sunday-School Catalogue. During the same last-mentioned period, the Sunday School Advocate has advanced in its circulation from 80,000 to about 100,000. At this point the Board of Managers would respectfully suggest to you to inquire whether in justice to this department the editorship of Tracts should not henceforward be detached from that of Sunday-School Publications.

Eight years ago, when a distinct Sunday-school editorship was first created, there might have been room for doubt, whether a Sunday-School Editor would have enough to do to employ his time. Hence, probably, rather than because there was any special affinity between the two departments, the editorship of Sunday-school publications and tracts was combined into one office.

Our impression is, that the practical experiment of the eight years now closing, has shown that the editorial labours of the Sunday-school department alone are sufficient for one Editor; they probably not being exceeded in amount by any other editorial office in the Church.

But if this were not so, the Sunday-School Editor will always find demands upon his time and efforts as Corresponding Secretary of this Union. Between these two offices there is an obvious and a close affinity, which cannot be overlooked without prejudice to the usefulness of both. We think ourselves safe in presuming that not less than one-fourth of the time of your Sunday-School Editor, during the last eight years, has been employed in the direct service and aid of this Union.

Such services were essential to the organization of a new class of benevolent agencies, and to their introduction to the general notice and support of the Church. Hereafter, precisely the same kind of labours may not be requisite; and yet, with a field of action widening before us, and our responsibilities increasing in every direction, it is obvious that the corresponding secretaryship of this institution will make no inconsiderable drafts upon the time and energies of any incumbent. Hence, as well as in view of the multiplied labours of the editorial department alone, we feel called upon to request of you such a disposition of the Tract department as will relieve the Sunday-School Editor of all responsibilities in that direction.

The Board having attentively considered the state and prospects of the Sunday-school enterprise in our Church, its members are of the opinion that our system of operations is emphatically a good one; useful in its present workings, and destined, with the blessing of God, to produce still greater and more beneficial results in future.

Nevertheless, when we look at the benevolent or missionary department of our Sunday-school operations, and perceive how small an amount of funds is annually contributed by a Church of 700,000 members to aid in founding new and in succouring destitute Sunday schools, we are impressed with the necessity of some new arrangements or measures for arousing the Church to a larger and a more systematic liberality in behalf of this Union.

In the present state of things, that provision of our Discipline, by which an Annual Conference may appoint an agent to labour within its bounds in behalf of Sunday schools, is practically unavailable for the purposes of this Union.

Agents are rarely appointed under the provision; and when so appointed hitherto, they have usually been ministers superannuated or in feeble health.

Indeed there are good reasons why such appointments should not be made in all the conferences; e. g. :—

1. So large a number is uncalled for.
2. The amount of funds that would be required for their support would be so great as to embarrass the benevolent designs contemplated.
3. Agents acting in some thirty different conferences without a common direction, would not be likely to secure a harmonious result.

Besides, a general conviction prevails among us and our people, that it is better to depend upon the regular ministry in our several charges for Sunday-school labours and influences than to incur the expense and to form the habit of employing special agents to do a general work.

These and other similar considerations have had, and will continue to have, the effect of preventing appointments under the provision alluded to, and our Discipline contains no other provision of any kind for agents or extra labourers in behalf of the Sunday-school cause.

In this state of things we feel called upon to request such a modification of the Discipline as will allow the Bishops to appoint a travelling minister to be an agent of this Union, when, in the combined judgment of the Union and of the Bishops, such an appointment is called for.

We can imagine several cases in which such an appointment would conduce highly to the best interests of the Church. Whereas one conference seldom wishes the services of a Sunday-school agent exclusively within its bounds, it often happens that several conferences would be glad jointly to have the labours of a well-qualified Sunday-school agent.

Supposing, for example, that it should be thought desirable to employ a minister adapted to the work in some four or five of the more remote conferences, let us see what he might do for the direct promotion of the Sunday-school interests of the Church.

He might visit conferences which the Corresponding Secretary could not reach; he might attend Sunday-school conventions, and lecture on the proper qualifications of teachers and the best modes of instruction; he might take collections in behalf of the Union, preach to children, facilitate the introduction of our books and papers, and in a variety of ways arouse new zeal and activity both among our ministers and people respecting every branch of Sunday-school effort.

This work having been done faithfully for a year or two in a given

region, and the cause having received a suitable impetus, the agent might return to the regular work of the ministry, or be removed to some other field in which to exert a similar influence.

Our view is, that this class of labours need not be perpetuated, but only used as an introduction of results which would eventually be secured without it, but at a more distant period.

The Union, as a central institution, should be able to determine by its correspondence and observations where and when such labours are most wanted, and in connexion with the Episcopacy to select the proper men to undertake them.

What we request, therefore, is simply the addition of the following words in the Discipline, Part i, chap. iv, § 1, second answer to question third, following the words distributing tracts, fourth line from the end of the answer: "Also, when requested by the Sunday-School Union, to appoint an agent or agents of said Union, to labour under its direction and for the promotion of its interests and objects."

This regulation will, so far as we can see, fully provide for the contingency stated, and at the same time be fully guarded against any misapplication.

If made, it will remain at the discretion of the Board whether to act under it or not; and when action is taken by the Board, it will still be at the option of the Bishop whether to co-operate with it or not.

Thus a joint and harmonious action will be secured in every case; and if, on trial, the privilege granted should be found unnecessary or undesirable, it will fall into disuse.

Signed, in conclusion, by order of the Board,  
 B. GRIFFEN, *President*,  
 WM. TRUSLOW, *Recording Sec'y*.

NEW-YORK, *April 26, 1852.*

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#### T.—REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHARTERED FUND.

THE Committee to whom was referred the report of the "Trustees of the Chartered Fund," and the accompanying documents, beg leave to present the following report:—

The Committee have examined the exhibit of receipts and disbursements for the last four years, and find it correct. The exhibit also contains a list of securities, from which it appears that the fund now invested in bonds and mortgages, stocks and other securities, including an uninvested balance of \$3,125 23, amounts to \$41,635 29. The Committee are satisfied that the trust is managed by the Trustees with skill and fidelity.

The General Conference of 1848, held at Pittsburgh, authorized the Trustees to apply to the Legislature of Pennsylvania for an alteration in their Charter; this they did, and obtained it in February, 1849, a copy of which is sent to the General Conference, which we recommend may be read to the Conference and entered on the Journal. The Trustees ask that the General Conference will, by resolution, ratify and confirm



the Amendments to the Charter. The Committee have considered all the suggestions of the Report, and, believing them proper, present to the General Conference the following resolutions for adoption:—

1. *Resolved*, That the manner in which the Trustees of the Chartered Fund have managed the trust during the last four years, meets the cordial approval of this General Conference.

2. *Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences, in General Conference assembled, That the Amendments to the Charter of the Chartered Fund of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, passed by the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania, February, 1849—a copy of which has been presented to this General Conference—be, and they are hereby, ratified and confirmed.

3. *Resolved*, That the action of the Trustees in relation to the legal proceedings which have been commenced against them, as set forth in their report, meets the entire approval of the General Conference.

4. *Resolved*, That the election of William P. Hacker, by the Trustees of the Chartered Fund, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of George Ireland, be approved.

5. *Resolved*, That the thanks of the General Conference be tendered to the Trustees of the Chartered Fund for their care and fidelity in the discharge of their duties.

6. *Resolved*, That the apportionment of the funds in hand, which is made by the Trustees on the first of January in each year, among the existing Annual Conferences, shall not be altered by the formation of any new Annual Conference or Conferences during the current year; but the amount which any Conference would have drawn, had it remained undivided, shall be equitably divided between the two for the current year, after it shall have been divided.

7. *Resolved*, That the Secretary be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing report and resolutions to the Trustees of the Chartered Fund.

T. J. THOMPSON, *Chairman.*

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#### U.—ADDRESS TO THE BRITISH CONFERENCE.

*To the British Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.*

REVEREND AND DEAR BRETHREN,—It has caused us deep regret that we have received no communication from your venerable body in reply to our letter, transmitted through Dr. Dixon, who, four years since, so ably and acceptably performed the duty of a representative from your Conference to ours. But, as we cannot believe that your failure to write to us arose from any diminution of fraternal regard on your part, and must attribute it only to accident, we cannot allow the opportunity afforded by our assembly in General Conference to pass without renewing to you our assurances of Christian affection and brotherly sympathy. We rejoice to believe, and we account it one of the distinguishing marks of the divine favour, that Methodists throughout the world are one in heart and feeling; and we wish especially to cherish and preserve the most intimate relations with your body, and with the Wesleyan Methodists of

the British Empire, whom you represent. We greet you, then, again, in the name of our common Lord, as brethren beloved.

The want of a letter from you has been, to some extent, supplied by the visit of the Rev. Anson Green, delegate from the Canada Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, whose ample and lucid statements of the affairs of the connexion in Canada have been received by our body with lively satisfaction. Mr. Green also gave us some informal statements with regard to your Conference and Church, and assured us that your affection for us remains unabated.

It is with unfeigned gratitude to the great Head of the Church that we have to report to you continued growth and prosperity within our borders. The last four years of our history have been signally marked with the divine favour. "The Lord hath been our stay; HE hath brought us forth also into a large place." HIS "wonderful works which HE hath done unto us cannot be reckoned up in order; if we would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered." There are, however, a few points of special interest to which we can briefly and thankfully advert. You will rejoice to learn that the peace of our Church has been unbroken for the last four years; and that the labours of our ministry have been abundantly honoured with the divine blessing. The increase in our membership during the period named has been ninety thousand two hundred and forty-six, and that increase has been progressive, as follows: namely, in the first year, about seven thousand; in the second year, about twenty-three thousand; in the third year, about twenty-seven thousand; and, in the last year, about thirty-two thousand. We are happy to say, also, that we believe that, throughout the Church, there has been a growth in spiritual life and Christian zeal, and, especially, in many quarters there has been awakened a new interest in the doctrine and practice of Christian holiness. Our enterprises of Christian benevolence have also been more amply and generally sustained by our people during the last four years than ever before. There has been a progressive advance in our missionary contributions, far more than proportionate to the growth in our numbers; the amount raised in 1848-9 being about \$87,000; in 1849-50, about \$105,000; in 1850-51, about \$133,000; and in 1851-52, about \$155,000. And our Committee has anticipated a further growth of missionary zeal among the people, by appropriating \$200,000 for the outlays of the next year.

In the Sunday school department we have a similarly gratifying prosperity to record. We have now enrolled ninety-three thousand five hundred and sixty-one officers and teachers of Sunday schools, four hundred and seventy-three thousand three hundred and eleven scholars, and one million two hundred and sixty thousand five hundred and fifty-eight volumes in Sunday-school libraries. In the circulation of religious books and periodicals, there has also been a marked improvement, and with our large means for preparing and circulating a wholesome literature throughout our country, we hope for still greater results in the future.

Our home-work is extending with unparalleled rapidity on this continent. On our Western or Pacific Coast, a vast empire has been opened to our labours, and we have endeavoured, as far as our means would allow, to enter it and cultivate it. Two conferences have been formed—

the Oregon Conference and the California Conference—and we have already within the bounds of those conferences nearly sixty ministers in active service. We have also just directed the establishment of a Book Room and of a weekly religious Journal in San Francisco.

We take great pleasure in calling your attention to the success which has attended our work among the German population of our country. We have now nearly one hundred and fifty ministers and ten thousand members among them, many of whom are converts from Romanism. Some of the ministers converted here, have been sent back to their father-land as missionaries, and we have great encouragement in the present state and prospects of work there.

Within the last year, our senior Bishop, the Rev. Elijah Hedding, D. D., has been removed by death. He closed a long life of devoted and acceptable service to the Church by a happy and triumphant death. His name is held among us as a synonym for all that is pure in virtue, lofty in intellect, and complete in Christian character and life.

At the present session of our Conference our Episcopal Board has been strengthened by the election of four brethren, high in the esteem and confidence of the Church—the Rev. Drs. Levi Scott, Matthew Simpson, and Revs. O. C. Baker and E. R. Ames.

We have heard, informally, with great regret, of the agitations that have existed in your body for some years past, and sympathize fully with you. We rejoice in the confident belief that Methodism in England is so strongly rooted in the affections of the people, and, what is more, so surely protected by Divine Providence, that it will only flourish the more after these storms are over. We have no doubt that in this, as in all things, you “commit your ways unto the Lord, and trust also in him;” and, therefore, we are assured that “HE will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your judgment as the noonday.”

The Lord, who “loveth judgment,” may he “uphold you in your integrity, and set you before his face forever.”

We are, dear brethren, in behalf of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church,

B. WAUGH,  
T. A. MORRIS,  
EDMUND S. JANES,  
LEVI SCOTT,  
M. SIMPSON,  
OSMON C. BAKER,  
EDWARD R. AMES.

BOSTON, *May 29, 1852.*

The above letter is respectfully submitted as the report of the Committee appointed to prepare a communication to the British Conference.

JOHN M'CLINTOCK,  
GEORGE PECK,  
ALFRED GRIFFITH,  
G. WEBBER,  
L. W. BERRY, } *Committee.*

V.—ADDRESS OF THE BISHOPS TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

*To the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.*

REV. BRETHREN, AND FELLOW-LABOURERS.—Assembled in the eleventh quadrennial session of the chief council of the Methodist Episcopal Church, it is deemed suitable, on the part of the General Superintendents, to make an official communication to you, embracing various subjects of interest coming under their general oversight. They are aware that there is no rule of Discipline requiring them to present such a document, nor has there been established a uniform custom in favour of the course now pursued by them; but they cannot doubt the readiness of the representatives of the ministers and members of the Methodist Episcopal Church to receive their address, and to give to it the consideration which, in your judgment, it may deserve.

The occasion of your convening to enter upon the appropriate duties of your delegation, admits of, if it does not invite, brotherly salutations and ministerial greetings. We avail ourselves of it to say to you, from our hearts, that we greet, most cordially, this Conference of grave and godly men, who are here in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to consult on the best plans and regulations for the promotion of the interests of Christianity. We hail you as brethren beloved, and salute you in the Lord. But while we thus indulge in delightful effusions of brotherly love, let us be reminded of the propriety of commencing the arduous and responsible duties of the session in the spirit of deep, abiding, and controlling piety, and throughout its continuance, from day to day, let prayer and praise ascend from our midst to God, “the God of all grace,” through Jesus Christ, the Redeemer and Mediator, by the heavenly assistance of the Holy Spirit.

In view of the manifold blessings of providence and grace to the Church, and to our country, we ought to feel ourselves especially called on to praise God with glad hearts and joyful tongues, each saying with the ardent Psalmist: “Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.” During your deliberations, in the emphatic language of our fathers, “Let us have an especial care to set God always before us. And in the intermediate hours, let us redeem all the time we can for private exercises. Therein let us give ourselves to prayer for one another, and for a blessing on our labour.” We should always remember these words of our Divine Master, “Without me you can do nothing.”

Although we recognise, with pleasurable emotions, the well-known faces of brethren of previous sessions of the General Conference, yet, in looking over the reverend body now before us, we can but exclaim in the language of the Holy Scriptures: “The fathers—where are they? And the prophets—do they live forever?” Few, and only a few, of the elder class of Methodist preachers are left in our midst. Most of them have gone from the sight and service of the Church. Noble men! how much did they suffer, and how much did they accomplish, in planting and cultivating the fields of Methodism, on which their successors are

now reaping glorious harvests. Honoured be the few who are left with us. Cherished be the memory of the many who have finished their "course with joy, and the ministry which they received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God."

We here reach a point in this address, at which we must introduce a topic of great tenderness. A venerable father, whose spirit, example, labours, and counsels, have so often and so long blessed the Church of his early choice, and of his unwavering devotion, has fallen asleep in Christ. Bishop Hedding, after half a century of active and laborious service in the itinerant ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church, has been taken from toil to rest. The demise of this great and good minister of the Lord Jesus Christ occurred at his own dwelling, in Poughkeepsie, New-York, on the ninth day of April, A. D. 1852. His end was peaceful, happy, and triumphant. He sustained the highly responsible office of General Superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Church for nearly twenty-eight years. With a strong and discriminating mind, busily engaged for so many years in acquiring knowledge and wisdom from various sources of literature and science, of philosophy and religion, we shall not be regarded as extravagant eulogists when we say, that he has left few equals in the Church, and, take him all in all, no superior survives him. With all his greatness he had the simplicity of a child. His amiability, gentleness, and kindness, endeared him to all with whom he had intercourse—from the prattling child to the youth, to the middle-aged, and to those of old age and declining years. All felt at ease in the society of this truly good man, and were delighted with his unpretending and attractive manners. As a preacher, he had many and great excellences. As an administrative officer, he was justly esteemed unrivalled in the soundness of his opinions, the correctness of his constitutional views and legal decisions, and the dignity and urbanity of his manner. His precious memory, and his bright example, are with the Church, and they will, we doubt not, prove beneficial to his colleagues and successors in office, to his ministerial brethren, and to the membership of the Church generally.

Although, in accordance with the doctrine of the supreme headship of Christ, from "whom all rule and all authority" proceed, your functions, as a delegated body, are not strictly, in the common acceptation of the term, legislative, yet the duties you have met to perform, for the purpose of carrying into effect the commands of the great Master for the regulation of "the household of faith," are most sacred and responsible. The preservation of the unity of that branch of the Christian Church with which we are so intimately connected, its soundness in doctrine and discipline, its spirituality and morals, and especially its enlargement and extension throughout the world, will give full scope for the exercise of the warmest zeal and most expanded love which can inspire the hearts of ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ. These great and good objects are sufficient to call us together for counsel, deliberation, and action, for carrying into effect the laws of "the kingdom," without aspiring to legislative powers in our General Conference, except in due subordination to the authority of "One who is our Master," and strictly within the limits which have been assigned to us. Disclaiming,

therefore, that high-sounding appellation of "the supreme legislative body" of the Church, we prefer to contemplate its functions as administrative and judicial, rather than as being strictly legislative.

Methodism had its origin in England a little more than a century ago; and from thence was introduced into America, somewhat more than eighty years since. Small in its commencement, and without any design or expectation, on the part of its illustrious founder, of its assuming the distinctive character of an independent Church, it has in both countries become two among the best organized, and most effective branches of the Church of Christ, having been blessed with a success which finds no parallel in modern times. As such events were not anticipated as have been developed by its operation, no arrangements were adopted for the formation of a distinct Church among the Wesleyan Methodists in Great Britain. But in America it was soon found to be necessary to have a regular, distinct, and independent ecclesiastical organization. After consultation with the Rev. John Wesley, and in accordance with his advice, the Methodists in America were organized under the name and style of the Methodist Episcopal Church, whose polity is now what it was at its organization, modified in some of its features, without changing any of its fundamental principles. The Wesleyan Methodists of Great Britain have subsequently taken on the essential features of an independent and distinct Church organization, but without any specific or formal announcement thereof. A vital element has been in both organizations from the beginning, and has operated with unimpaired vigour. This principle is found in the itinerant character of the ministry, an attribute which has been regarded with strong attachment by both the ministry and laity from the beginning until now. It rests on mutual surrender and confidence; and while these remain, this element will continue to operate, by the blessing of God, the happiest results. To apply and direct this principle, the General Conference have selected from the Eldership, from time to time, men in whom they have reposed confidence, have invested them with the office, and clothed them with the powers of General Superintendents; having thus constituted them, they are held responsible for the proper performance of the duties of their office. In carrying into practical effect an itinerant ministry, it has been wisely determined that the Bishops shall be themselves itinerants, in their relation and services. They are, consequently, required "to travel through the connexion at large," and exercise a personal oversight. So important did our fathers consider this feature in the economy of Methodism, as to guard it by constitutional provision, and put it beyond the exercise of the legitimate powers of the General Conference by a restriction, which declares that "they shall not change or alter any part or rule of our government, so as to do away Episcopacy, or destroy the plan of our itinerant general superintendency." With such views of our system, derived from the Discipline, and illustrated by our predecessors, it will not surprise you that we call your attention particularly to this subject, and admonish you of the necessity of guarding against any such modification of the General Superintendency as would be likely to result in the introduction of Diocesan Episcopacy, and thus infract the constitutional restriction here brought to view. We cannot

but fear that any such modification of the plan of our itinerant General Superintendency as would be involved in restricting Episcopal labours to a definite and limited sphere, would, at no distant period, lead to the introduction of Diocesan Episcopacy, than which, in our judgment, nothing would be more likely to destroy the itinerant General Superintendency, and in this way change the essential character of our economy. This consideration alone is sufficient to awaken apprehensions of danger to the itinerancy at a point where it should operate with untrammelled vigour, to say nothing of the liability of a comparatively local superintendency, for a period, say, of four years, to introduce an administration not in exact harmony with our general plan, which, having been once introduced, would, by the same administrator, be apt to be repeated annually, until the expiration of the term of his appointment to his diocese, or district; thus not only giving rise to variant administrative acts, which would acquire the force of law in the same degree in which they would be carried into practice without being called in question, which in our present system would be counteracted by his colleagues in succeeding years. It will, without doubt, strike you with great force, that uniformity and harmony are essential to the unity and success of a joint superintendency. These, in our judgment, can be best secured by an annual change of presidents in the several Annual Conferences—thus not allowing the peculiarities in the administration of any of them to become local and permanent, and, consequently, controlling and incurable. Such peculiarities, strengthened by the growth of several years, would be found very embarrassing to a successor. Either he must conform to the usages of his predecessor, or the conferences would be required to take new forms of business, and new or modified principles of administration. This would be unpleasant, and liable to lead to collision and disaster. Also, at every conference, some worthy brethren are disappointed in their appointments. They feel that the Bishop has not properly appreciated their merits as ministers, and has, therefore, not assigned them their proper allotment in the work. In this state of disappointment it is a relieving consideration that another Bishop will preside at the next session of the conference, and may more correctly understand their character, and more fully meet their claims. But if it was understood by them that the same Bishop was to fix their appointments for several years successively, their hearts would sink within them. Much of their comfort and satisfaction in the work assigned them, and probably more of their efficiency, would be sacrificed. To the Superintendent, who must, year after year, meet these disappointed brethren and hear their complaints, and witness their affliction, the circumstance would be most painful. Thus, preachers and Superintendents would be subjected to much suffering, which in our present arrangement is happily avoided. We admit there would be an advantage in the more intimate knowledge the Superintendents might acquire of the work and the ministers. We are also sensible that it would be a relief to the Superintendents, by lessening the extent of their journeys, and of their long absences from their families. But so strong are our convictions of the embarrassments involved in a change, and of the pre-eminent advantages of our present system, that no personal considerations could

induce us to favour its modification. We would also call attention to the fact, that since the different sections of the work have their own literary institutions, and several of them their sectional presses, the Episcopacy is one of the few connexional bonds yet left to the Church.

It has often been said that the organization of Methodism was never systematically designed, but should rather be regarded as an aggregation of such arrangements as were, from time to time, indicated by Divine Providence. This is true in part, but not in whole. There are evidences of deep thoughtfulness and careful arrangement pervading the entire system, and although, as previously remarked, Mr. Wesley did not design the formation of a separate and distinct Church in his own land, but only a religious society for the promotion of the spiritual and moral improvement of its members, yet it is not perceived how he could more formally have arranged his system if he had commenced to build up an independent ecclesiastical association, to be called, strictly and technically, a branch of the Christian Church. It does not, therefore, follow, that Methodism has never had any definite or settled character and polity, but with the utmost readiness adapts itself to all the varieties of circumstances which may arise in its operations and history. It is not thus changeful and unsettled. It is indeed true, that every clear indication of Providence, in its onward course, has been heeded, and made tributary to the great purpose of reforming the world and spreading Scriptural holiness over all lands. But it is not less true that our economy is not that shapeless mass of incongruous materials which not only admits of, but requires, continual modifications, and such frequent changes, as to keep things in an unsettled and fluctuating condition—a state of transition in which we are “ever learning, but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” No: this is not true of our well-balanced and thoroughly-tested ecclesiastical system, which has been in such vigorous and successful operation for so long a period, without scarcely the alteration or addition of one essential principle. A love of novelty is innate in man, whose nature constantly tends, without salutary restraint, to push principles and measures to their extremes. If we have correctly estimated this “age of progress” and change, there never was a period fraught with more danger to the soundness and stability of first principles, and their legitimate application in domestic, civil, and religious governments, than the present. Again we must urge, even at the risk of being regarded as being behind the times, that you should be thoroughly cautious of the errors into which you may so easily be conducted by the prevalence of an opinion, true only in a qualified sense, that Methodism is, and has always been, so much under the modification of occurring circumstances, as to be, at this remote day from its commencement, in so imperfect a state of organization, as to call forth numerous speculations in regard to changes which are supposed to be required by the new circumstances in which it is now found. In the state of the times, as General Superintendents, we have regarded it to be our duty to awaken in you a more than ordinary vigilance to preserve from radical change the excellent system which began with our fathers, and from them has come under our guardianship. Having said thus much, we leave the suggestions to your judgment and



conscience, in view of your responsibility to the Supreme Head of the Church.

We avail ourselves of the occasion to present a brief view of the condition and prospects of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In doing this, the past, the present, and the future may be glanced at with propriety. Of Methodism in the past, let us not be charged with a fulsome egotism in the application to it of the definition of a recently departed servant of God, whose reputation for talent, learning, and piety, will hereafter, as indeed it now does, place him in the front rank of the wise and the good. Doctor Chalmers termed Methodism "Christianity in earnest." If we watch its movements from the beginning until now, in the Old and in the New World, we perceive an incessant and tireless activity, which, although rewarded with large and continued success, pauses not to repose in triumph while there remains any additional conquests to be won, or further victories to be gained. Hundreds, thousands, millions of immortal souls have been brought to God and to glory, by the divine blessing on its institutions and labours. The work was wrought by God, who put this high honour of instrumentality on Methodism. "Not unto us, O Lord," said our fathers, "not unto us, but to thy name give glory, for thy truth's sake." Thus felt and thus said our fathers. Thus let us feel and say. A question of deep and thrilling interest here arises, as we divert our attention from the past to the present period of our ecclesiastical history. It is this: "Does Methodism now operate with the same earnestness and success that it did in the past?" This is a difficult question to answer satisfactorily. The difficulty arises, in part, out of the many elements of prosperity which are seen operating in various departments of the Church; and in part from the aversion which is instinctively felt to admit a deterioration in that which we love or esteem. Not that we are prepared to admit that there is any evidence of a decisive declension in the energy of our branch of the Christian Church now, in comparison with any former period. Externally, there is decided improvement. If our outward prosperity were a safe criterion on which to form a correct opinion, we should unhesitatingly conclude that our cause was gloriously in the ascendant. Look at the rapid increase in the number of our houses of worship, their commodiousness, their architectural proportions, their neatness and beautiful finish, and the taste and comfort of their furniture. These all tell, that whatever else may be said of Methodism, it cannot be pronounced a failure. Neither can it be said that it has accomplished its mission. The increase of its ministers, in numbers, in learning, in gifts, and in effectiveness; the constant addition to the membership; their relative position in the community; the extent to which the public ear is turned to Methodist instruction, in our churches and Sunday schools: in all these respects we see conclusive evidences that there are yet vitality and aggression in its operations. The extent to which the press is employed in the maintenance and extension of its theology and economy; the rapid increase of the Missionary interests, foreign and domestic; and the growing educational power, in all the gradations of literature, from Infant and Sunday schools, to Colleges and Universities,—these all show that Methodism has not yet reached its culminating point, but is

in vigorous action for further conquests and more extended triumphs. We cannot, however, regard external prosperity as a certain test of the maintenance of primitive zeal and power. The internal state of the Church, if correctly apprehended, will more certainly give its true character and condition. The power of a Church is found in its faith, spirituality, deep communion with God, and enlightened benevolent activity. It is, therefore, possible that while enjoying all this outward prosperity, there may be inward decay. The fact is a fearful one. It should lead every member of the Church to the most prayerful heart-searching self-examination, and every watchman of Zion to the most thorough and frequent investigation of the state and condition of his charge. Preëminently is it the duty of the General Conference to look into this subject. In our observations on this point our fears have been excited by the following considerations: 1. There appears to be more worldly-mindedness now than formerly. This is exhibited in conformity to the world, in costly dwellings, splendidly furnished—in gay and fashionable dress in which we can see little or no difference between professing Christians and those who make no profession of religion—fashionable parties, in some instances associated with vain and sinful amusements. Some of our people manifest a want of relish for prayer and class-meetings, and are too seldom found at those places of spiritual enjoyment and edification. We consider the neglect to attend class-meetings regularly among the clearest indications of decline in vital godliness. Its existence has given us great pain. We have been urging our brethren to do whatever is practicable to secure a more general and constant attendance at class-meetings. We believe that these efforts have not been without some success. Still we have fears that this delinquency is being but slowly overcome. We commend this subject to your special notice, and invoke remedial action thereon, by such measures as you may deem proper and practicable. Another unfavourable omen, which awakens apprehension, is found in the neglect of many of our ministers to execute, with wholesome strictness, our excellent Discipline, each thinking that he finds extenuation, if not justification, in the neglect of his predecessor, and thus the delinquency is not only perpetuated, but becomes annually more and more extended and injurious. What can be done to correct this evil? We earnestly commend this inquiry to your consideration.

In looking forward to the destiny of Methodism, we are not despondent. It has a great work to do, and great capabilities, under God, for its performance. Sadly recreant must he be, whether minister or layman, who does not arouse to the full measure of his duty and responsibility. Behold the multitudes of our fellow-citizens who must be brought to repentance, or perish—who must be saved, or lost. Behold the rapidly-increasing number of the children of our country, who must be gathered into our Sunday schools, or in a great measure grow up without religious instruction and moral training on the part of the Church. Behold the ceaseless tide of immigrants who are thrown upon our shores, annually, from various portions of the eastern hemisphere, who need to be taught the way of salvation. Lift up your eyes on the foreign fields of missionary labour in Asia, Africa, and other portions of

the globe—fields already “white to harvest.” See the great educational interests which require to be fostered and more fully developed. Behold the extensive wielding of the power of the press for combating error, and sustaining truth, especially in multiplying copies of the Holy Scriptures. Look at those points of interest, and to the great duties thence arising, and if we are worthy of our spiritual lineage, we shall rejoice to see spreading out a vastness of theatre, and an amount of labour, which will give full scope to all our powers, and to those who shall come after us, as long as both we and they shall live. “The field is the world.” Shall not the sons of him who said, “The world is my parish,” be among its most active and industrious cultivators? O for the spirit of our venerated fathers! then, by the blessing of God, Methodism would be “Christianity in earnest” until the end of time.

So many objects have passed before us, in this rapid survey of the past, the present, and the future, that we hesitate to ask your attention to many details in the further continuance of this communication. What, therefore, remains to be said must be briefly told, and in general terms.

A great distinguishing feature of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as before intimated, is its itinerancy. Watch over it with the greatest vigilance and care, for its preservation and effective operation. Let no modification come into collision with its stirring element. Keep it free from all tendency to localization, from the General Superintendent to the preacher on probation; especially in regard to the extension of the time for which a minister may be continued consecutively in the same charge, or in the same city. Familiarize and nourish local habits, under the appellation of itinerancy, and there will, at no distant period, be nothing more than the name left, if even that shall be retained. In connexion with itinerancy, there is one special view which we judge ought to be presented to your consideration more at large than any other topic which may be hereinafter introduced. We allude to the term of probation which must elapse before one can be received into full connexion, or admitted into membership in the conference. This period of probation is now what it has always been—two years. The propriety of extending this probationary term to four years, has been, for several years, more or less brought to notice and discussed. At the General Conference of 1848 this important change was made, and, by a considerable majority, the period of probation was extended so as to make it of four years’ duration. Near the close of the session, however, a motion was made to reconsider the vote, which was adopted, and the resolution was laid on the table. This subject will come again before the General Conference at this session, as many of the delegates have been instructed by their annual conferences to vote in favour of the extension of the period of probation. We believe the change would be highly conducive to the general welfare. While there are many and strong reasons in favour of the alteration, we have heard of but one or two against it. It is said by its opponents that it will operate unjustly to probationers by deferring their ordination as deacons for two years, if ordination be given as it now is, only after admission into full connexion; and if two years shall pass after ordination to the diaconry, before graduation to elder’s orders can take place, it would be too long to defer the full

powers of the ministry. It is further objected that the Church would suffer by not having a sufficiency of ordained men to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's supper. There would be force in these objections if they could not be removed by making ordination to deaconship a part of the process of probation; but we see not why this cannot be done, as we are in the practice of ordaining local preachers. Let probationers be eligible at the end of two years to deacon's orders, as heretofore, provided the conference shall be satisfied with their proficiency in their studies, and general qualifications for the office; and at the end of four years' probation be eligible, at one and the same time, to admission into full connexion and ordination as elders. We do not think it necessary, even if it were expedient, for us, in a communication like this, to enter into an argumentation of the question; otherwise there would be no lack of strong reasons in favour of the extended term of probation. We may, however, be allowed simply to refer to some of them, without detaining you with their application and results. 1. The time of probation, as it now exists, is too short to allow such a development of candidates as to enable the conferences to judge soundly of their suitability for the itinerant ministry. Neither mental, nor religious, nor moral qualifications, can be so fully exhibited, especially in the case of a travelling preacher, as to furnish reasonable data for an enlightened judgment on the part of an annual conference, as to his fitness to be received into the regular pastorate of the Church. 2. But if this were not so, the period is too brief to admit of physical developments so fully as to show that the candidate for the ministry has constitutional energies adequate to the work which is to be performed. We need only remind you of the case of a preacher who, the very first or second year after his admission into full connexion, is found to be physically unable to do the work of a Methodist pastor. He has, however, acquired membership, after a very limited probation, and he, together with the family which he most probably will have brought with him, will remain, to find, as he may be able, some pecuniary support from a Church that has received little or no service from him. 3. It will be in harmony with the established usage of our elder brethren, the Wesleyan Methodist Church, than whom, perhaps, no Christian Church has a more efficient organization, and well-adjusted system of operation. Having said thus much on the subject, we submit it to your enlightened judgment, and await your action.

While on the subject of maintaining the efficiency of our well-trying itinerancy, we take the liberty of calling your attention to the rule authorizing the location of unacceptable travelling ministers, without their consent. As this rule is somewhat complex, and difficult to be administered, so as to accomplish the important object intended by its adoption, we respectfully inquire whether it could not be so modified, with safety to all concerned, as to authorize an annual conference to locate an unacceptable member by a majority vote of two-thirds, or three-fourths, without putting him upon a formal trial? If such amendment should be deemed safe and proper, it would relieve the conferences of much embarrassment and loss of time, experienced under the operations of the rule in its present form. We commend this subject to your careful consideration.

Among other matters of grave interest which may be expected to claim your special attention, will be our Missionary operations, at home and abroad, or, as they are technically termed, Domestic and Foreign. The fields, which in each division are numerous and extensive, will long continue to call for the untiring attention and support of the Church. Domestic missions greatly conduce to the enlargement of the work at home, and, comparatively, with little pecuniary outlay. Our oldest missions are those established for the benefit of the Indians. We review, with gratitude, the good that has resulted from their operations. They have, however, in some instances been greatly embarrassed by the changes that have occurred in their frequent removals to various and distant localities. For this reason, at present, these do not give indications of proving beneficial to the extent of our desires or expectations; but in some fields of labour among them there is prosperity, which authorizes and encourages their prosecution with unwearied perseverance. The largest expenditures for home missions is among German and other foreign emigrants, who, with a tide that has never yet ebbed, are flowing by thousands to our shores—who find on our wide domain ample space for a home, and abundant facilities for the supply of their physical wants. Let the Church see in these crowds of immortal souls the measure of its duty. Not only does Christianity loudly call to continued and increased action in behalf of their religious interests, but patriotism admonishes the thoughtful to lose no time in bringing to bear on them the most effectual element to make them good citizens, by making them good Christians. Our success among German emigrants continues to be most cheering. The societies formed among them, and the ministers who serve them in gospel labours, are fast rising into importance, and they exert a growing influence for good. You may possibly be invoked for an organization of the German work differing somewhat from its present position. We have nothing to suggest at present but the propriety of avoiding hasty action. The cause is now gloriously succeeding among our German population. Let us be careful lest, by the introduction of new measures, we should receive a check in our onward course among them. For ourselves we are well satisfied that the true line of policy to be pursued by our German emigrants is, to become denationalized as soon as possible, and as soon to take on Americanism, and hold fast to the unity of Methodism.

Of our Foreign missions, we have only to remind you of their extent and importance, to secure for them all that you can devise or accomplish for their enlargement and prosperity. In this department we have but made a commencement. The success, and the indications of success, cheer us on. In Africa the foundation has been laid for an independent republic, civilized and Christianized, from which are to go forth the influences and appliances for the civilization and Christianization of its benighted, degraded, and superstitious millions. We rejoice in the belief that our missionary labours have, by the divine blessing, contributed, in no small degree, to the hopeful state of things now existing on the western shores of that distant continent. Let your wisdom and energy, brethren and fellow-labourers, be brought to bear on this great enterprise of Christian philanthropy. We will only add, that it is becoming

more and more apparent that Africa's destiny, as well in ecclesiastical affairs as in civil matters, must be wrought out by the instrumentality of persons of colour. But let it not be forgotten that active sympathy from philanthropic and Christian white men will long be required in behalf of the coloured race.

China, with its hundreds of millions of immortal souls, is a mission field of immense interest, of unsurveyed vastness. Its difficulties are manifold and great; yet, shall the work be neglected or abandoned because of its gigantic proportions, or the apparently insurmountable obstacles? If reliance for success rested on human sagacity and power, it were an attempt as foolish as it would be fruitless. But we are divinely taught, that "It is not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord;" therefore, let the China mission be prosecuted with patience and hope.

In Germany the harvest has been nearly simultaneous with the seed-time. The cause is onward, and its success is full of cheering inspirings. Let the faithful brethren who are there be sustained, and such reinforcements be sent to their aid as may be practicable and needed.

Our missionary work on the Pacific coast is constantly, and even rapidly enlarging. Everything in the circumstances of the Oregon and California Missionary Conference strongly urges us to push on the moral enterprise, until the zeal of Christians for the salvation of souls shall at least be equal to that of men who abandon all the comforts of home, and brave all dangers on a distant shore, in quest of golden sands. We consider the selection of our pioneer missionaries in Oregon and California as most fortunate for the interests of our cause in these distant fields of labour. We hope that those who have been detailed to aid them may not be less faithful, or less useful.

The mission at Buenos Ayres is, without doubt, useful to the Protestants who sojourn in that Roman Catholic city, and it ought not to be abandoned. Indeed, we commend to your consideration the practicability of extending our missionary operations in South America. The fruit may not for years to come be abundant, but let us not be discouraged. Let it be the work of faith. In time there will be happy results from missionary labours in South America.

We commend to your best efforts the cause of temperance, connected with which are the interests of humanity, and the welfare of Church and State. We recommend decisive action on this subject.

The cause of education, second only to that of religion in importance, will claim, and doubtless receive, your attention. Liberal education among us, is comparatively in its infancy. Our oldest colleges date back less than the third of a century. On the score of their numerical increase there is no cause for regret. Indeed, it appears to us the cause of literary and scientific education would have been better subserved with fewer collegiate institutions better endowed, and with the strongest faculties that could be obtained. However, it is gratifying to perceive that Methodism promises to do its full share of the work of educating the youth of the country, especially in the department of female education, in which, perhaps, we are second to no other Christian denomination in our country. Let all such literary institutions receive the countenance and co-operation of the General Conference.

Our Sunday-school department is in great prosperity, with constant growth in all the elements of success hereafter to a much greater extent. It deserves, and will, we doubt not, receive all the attention and aid you can bring to bear on one of the most available instrumentalities of our organization. The supply of books for Sunday schools is constantly and even rapidly increasing, by most happy selections, and most tasteful preparations in regard to paper, printing, and binding. A resort elsewhere for books for our Sunday schools, other than our own depository, savours more of fastidiousness than wisdom. In this connexion allow us to call your attention to the Sunday-School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the objects of which are most important and useful. Let its interests be prosecuted to the extent of their practicability.

It is feared that our Tract cause fails, in a great degree, to accomplish the object of its institution. We submit to you the propriety of a new organization of it that may awaken a livelier interest, and give more activity to its operations.

We also commend to your special favour, that great Protestant enterprise which is being so extensively prosecuted by the American Bible Society, one of the noblest charities of the age, promising a vast amount of good to the world at large. It is gratifying in a high degree to behold the interest taken in this Society by our ministers, members, and friends. But it is hoped that you will be able to give an impetus to its spreading influences until they shall have pervaded not only our whole land, but, in connexion with those of kindred associations, the whole earth, until every man shall hear or read in his own tongue the life-giving truths of divine revelation.

Our publishing department is one of great power and effectiveness. It has long been extensively useful in explaining, defending, and impressing the great features of our doctrines, experience, morals, institutions, discipline, and polity, on the minds and hearts of successive generations. We are persuaded that only eternity will disclose the extent of benefit which has accrued from the publication and sale of our books and periodicals. Much of the religious literature of this country, in theology, experimental and practical religion, biography, and hymnology, will be found in connexion with the publications of the Methodist Book Concern. It may, however, be due to candour to qualify this commendatory allusion to our press, by remarking, that we have seen with regret at various periods, in the columns of our weekly journals, speculations, controversies, and disputations on various subjects, some of which resulted in unpleasant personalities, which, however gratifying at the time to those directly engaged in them, were not, we are persuaded, pleasing or edifying to the mass of readers. Aware, to some extent, of the difficult and delicate position of our brethren, the editors, we make this qualification not to reflect on them, but to deplore what may be an incidental evil, which is, doubtless, of much more ready perception than of easy or effectual remedy. The Book Concern of the Methodist Episcopal Church commenced in a small way, and without capital, save a few hundred dollars of borrowed money. It enlarged in its progress from year to year, until it reached its present commanding eminence. Nor

has it been one of the less interesting results, that it has, for the last half century, disbursed annually from its profits, to each conference, a sum varying from one hundred to one thousand dollars, which have been appropriated to the claimants on the conference, embracing superannuated preachers, their wives and their children, or their widows and orphans, together with the effective ministers who laboured where they could not obtain their disciplinary allowance. From various movements, and from articles frequently appearing in our weekly journals, we have cause to apprehend danger to this institution, by so reducing the price of books as only to cover the cost of their production. In regard to Sunday-school books and tracts, it is, doubtless, proper to put them at cost-prices, but it is by no means clear that books of the general catalogue should be so reduced. It is indeed desirable that our books should go into the market as cheap as works of similar style are sold in the regular operations of the trade; it is even necessary that this should be so, or they would be supplanted by a cheaper supply; but this object being gained, why should not the profits accruing from their sales be reserved and appropriated as heretofore, or for extending the operations of the concern under the direction of the Agents? But our apprehensions are mainly from another quarter; we mean the speculative theories of men whose profession and employments taking them out of the range and knowledge of the complications of such a business operation, in the very nature of the case, cannot be competent judges. The Methodist Book Concern has been long and gradually approaching its present position. It cost many a consuming thought and wearing effort on the part of its Agents. They, and only they, can fully appreciate the dangerous bearing on its resources, credit, and successful operations, which would be likely to result from so radical a change in its long-established policy, as that of restricting prices to the mere cost of production.

The state of the General Superintendency will, as a matter of course, claim and receive the attention of the General Conference. The oversight has suffered for the last two years by the failure of the physical health of two of the Superintendents. The health of the surviving one, by long and increasing pressure of painful disease, is such as to disable him at present from attending to official duties, and calls for the sympathy and prayers of the Church. In view of these facts, the necessity of strengthening the Episcopacy is fully apparent. It may be expected that we should express an opinion in regard to the number necessary to give the requisite efficiency to the Episcopacy. After the best consideration we have been able to give to the subject, we are unanimously of the opinion that the present state of the work will require at least six effective Superintendents, including those who may remain effective of the present number, in order to the practical oversight of the vast and increasing work which spreads out before us. Of the men who may be selected for this responsible station and arduous labour, although none can be more deeply interested than ourselves, yet all that we can venture to say on this point is this, Let them be men who have given indubitable proof that, in addition to deep piety and burning zeal, they both know and love Methodist doctrine and Methodist Discipline—brethren who will give themselves “wholly to this office.” In concluding this communication,



it may be admissible for us to express the high degree of satisfaction that we have, in reviewing the past, to find unbroken unity, and undisturbed harmony in the joint Superintendency.

And now, dear brethren and fellow-labourers, suffer the word of exhortation. Let all you may do during this session of the General Conference, and the manner of doing it, conduce to the harmony, unity, and advancement of the Church. May divine wisdom guide you, and heavenly love govern you, so that in all your doings God may be glorified, and his Church be edified through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We are, reverend and dear brethren, your fellow-servants in Christ,

B. WAUGH,  
T. A. MORRIS,  
EDMUND S. JANES.

The illness of our beloved colleague, Bishop Hamline, prevented him from attending our late meeting at which this communication was prepared; consequently his signature does not appear appended to it.

BOSTON, May 1, 1852.

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W.—REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS—BISHOP OF LIBERIA.

THE Committee on Missions, to whom was referred the petition of the Liberia Mission Annual Conference to this General Conference, "to take some measure to furnish the Church in the Republic of Liberia with Episcopal powers," beg leave to report:—

That the Committee have patiently and carefully considered the request of the Liberia Conference, and weighed the reasons which are assigned in their petition, and also other reasons which were assigned in committee, and have unanimously come to the conclusion that the petition ought to be granted. The committee then proceeded to inquire in what way this, their conclusion, could be best carried out, having due respect to the wants of the Liberia Conference, and to the powers of this General Conference. In the judgment of the committee, only three ways were possible.

*First.*—Regular annual visitations of one of our own Bishops, in the same manner that each of our annual conferences is visited. Owing to the unhealthiness of the climate, in reference to white men, this plan was deemed impracticable.

*Secondly.*—To ordain a Missionary Bishop for the Liberia Mission Conference, whose jurisdiction should be confined to Africa, or to the African race. Many members of the committee, perhaps a large majority, judged that this could not be done without infracting one of our restrictive rules, which says: "We shall not do away with our general itinerant superintendency." The committee was aware that this restrictive rule might be altered by the concurrent action of the General and Annual Conferences, as provided for in the Discipline; and in this way authority might be obtained to appoint a Missionary Bishop, with limited

jurisdiction, if the General Conference should judge that it was restrained under the constitution of the Church. The prevailing feeling in the committee seemed to be in favour of a missionary bishop, as this would still retain the Church in Africa in connexion with the Methodist Episcopal Church; but the committee deemed it scarcely expedient to introduce into the General Conference the discussion of a measure which looked to the alteration of one of the restrictive rules, and it was judged very doubtful whether such a measure could be perfected.

*Thirdly.* Under these circumstances, the committee turned to the only measure which appeared to be left, viz., to wait until the Liberia Annual Mission Conference should think proper to erect themselves into an independent Church, and then to ordain them a bishop, to be designated or elected by this General Conference. The committee accepted this conclusion, for the following reasons:—

1. The Liberia Conference is within the limits of a foreign government, and composed of a people of a race wholly different from ourselves. Those circumstances render the application of our Episcopal administration scarcely practicable.

2. The petitioners themselves, in the conclusion of their petition, suggest this mode of meeting their case, if a missionary bishop cannot be provided for them.

3. The prosperity of the Republic of Liberia, compared with its prosperity as a colony under the administration of the American Colonization Society, affords, by analogy, a good ground to conclude that the independence, or at least the independent action and administration of the Church in Liberia, would be greatly conducive to its prosperity and permanency.

The conclusions which the committee have reached are embodied in the following resolutions, which the committee recommend for adoption by the General Conference:—

1. *Resolved*, That measures be taken to insure the due exercise of Episcopal functions in the Liberia Annual Mission Conference.

2. *Resolved*, That, in the event the Mission Conference in Liberia shall think proper to organize as an independent Church, under the title of The Methodist Episcopal Church in Africa, and shall accept the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America as its form of discipline and government, except in so far as said discipline may be peculiarly applicable to circumstances in America, we will ordain them a bishop whom this General Conference shall elect, which election shall be duly certified to the Liberia Mission Conference at its next annual session.

3. *Resolved*, That upon due authentication being made to the bishop having charge of foreign missions, and to the Corresponding Secretary, by the Liberia Mission Conference, that said conference has organized as an independent Church, then proper measures shall be taken for the speedy ordination of the bishop elect for Africa.

4. *Resolved*, That we recommend the Rev. Francis Burns, at present the Superintendent of the Liberia Mission Conference, as the proper person to be elected bishop for Africa.

5. *Resolved*, That the execution of the above resolutions be com-

mitted to the bishops having charge of foreign missions, and to the Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church for the time being.

6. *Resolved*, That we advise and authorize the General Missionary Committee, and the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to continue their missionary appropriations to the Liberia Annual Conference as heretofore, at their discretion, in view of the work and wants of said conference.

All which is respectfully submitted, by order of the committee.

J. P. DURBIN, *Secretary*.

#### X.—REPORT ON THE COURT OF APPEALS.

The Committee, to whom was referred the communication of the Episcopacy, to the General Conference at Pittsburgh, in 1848, on the subject of "Providing for a Constitutional Test and Conference of Appeals," beg leave to report:—

That they have had the subject under consideration, and are fully of the opinion that provision should be made at this time for such department in the general administration of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The necessity of some conservative power to guard the constitutional acts of the General Conference, and preserve the limitations and restrictive rules by which it is to be governed, has been seen and felt by a large portion of the Church ever since the General Conference was made a representative body.

There are but two organized departments now existing in our Church to which a suitable check can be referred, other than the General Conference itself; these are, first, the bishops collectively, as the joint superintendents, or to the several annual conferences respectively. We could not consent to give the contemplated power to the Episcopacy, and thereby form a bench of bishops, with supreme judicial power; nor can we believe that our bishops would willingly have their already weighty responsibilities so increased. But we do believe, that, as the joint superintendents of the Church, they stand properly connected with, and in some way should be associated with this department of our ecclesiastical jurisprudence. The second is, to refer the right to the several annual conferences, to pronounce on the constitutionality of the acts and doings of the General Conference, which, in the opinion of your committee, would produce confusion, and cause divisions and sectional differences; and which, instead of settling the difficulty and harmonizing the interests of the Church, would, in the final result, dissolve its union. Bishop Asbury, in his posthumous address, which was read in the General Conference a few weeks after his death, (1816,) recommended a *Committee of Safety*, to guard the restrictive rules, which was construed by some as forming an upper house, to which there were strong objections, and the matter was dismissed, leaving the General Conference to judge of its own constitutional powers. The committee are of opinion that a constitutional test can only exist in coördinate branches of govern-

ment, or by judicial proceedings, and therefore we would refer it to the Conference of Appeals on actions of complaint.

The attention of your committee was first called to provide, Who shall compose the Conference of Appeals? We are aware that different views are entertained on this subject. Some have thought that there should be one from each annual conference, and chosen in the same manner as the delegates to the General Conference. But against this there are weighty objections. First, the number would be too great for the convenient and patient investigation of judicial proceedings, and too expensive, both to themselves and to the Church. Second, it would in a great measure defeat the intended object of forming a proper judiciary to hear and try appeals, as it would more properly constitute an upper house, or Senate, being more numerous than most of our State Senates, and nearly equal to the Senate of the United States. Third, their appointment would be identified with the election of delegates to the General Conference.

It is the deliberate opinion of the committee, that the number should be so restricted as never to exceed double the number of our general superintendents, to act in connexion with them. We therefore recommend that the Conference of Appeals be composed of the bishops and twelve elders, to be chosen by the General Conference within the first week of its session. And we further recommend that the whole number of annual conferences be apportioned into districts, as nearly equal as practicable by conference bounds; and the elders so appointed should be taken in equal number from the respective districts, by nomination of the delegate of the several districts and appointment of the General Conference. The next subject that has occupied our attention is, What powers shall the conference, thus formed, possess? And here, also, we find a difference of opinion. We, however, recommend that its powers should be strictly appellate, and not possess original jurisdiction. This would give to this conference its marked and distinguishing character of Conference of Appeals.

We, therefore, submit to the General Conference, for their consideration and adoption, the following bill, in form, to take place in the Discipline as section iii, chapter iii, part i.—(See page 76, *Journal*.)

Very respectfully,

LABAN CLARK, *Chairman,*

BOSTON, May 26, 1852.

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#### Y.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES OF DELEGATES.

The Committee on the Expenses of the Delegates ask leave to make their final report, and to be relieved from any further attention to the subject. The whole amount of expenses is \$7,533 65; receipts, \$5,275 50; leaving a net deficit of \$2,258 15. To meet this great and unexpected deficiency, a draft was ordered upon the Book Concern for \$2,200; also sums to the amount of \$67 15 have been received from places

unknown, leaving a surplus in the hands of the committee of \$11. By authority of the General Conference, this surplus was given to the assistant secretary, in payment of his travelling expenses. The above aggregates are reached by the following particulars, viz. :—

	Expenses.	Receipts.	Deficiency.	Surplus.
Baltimore .....	\$470 43	\$214 69	\$255 74	.....
Philadelphia .....	198 00	465 78	.....	\$267 78
Providence .....	18 30	64 14	.....	45 84
New-Jersey .....	116 75	324 01	.....	207 26
New-England .....	17 00	81 51	.....	64 51
New-York .....	71 56	239 86	.....	168 30
New-Hampshire.....	25 07	55 60	.....	30 53
Troy .....	132 36	194 76	.....	62 40
Vermont.....	28 28	38 38	.....	10 10
Black River .....	162 13	138 02	24 11	.....
Pittsburgh .....	415 39	265 94	149 45	.....
Oneida .....	242 87	192 84	50 03	.....
Maine .....	34 80	66 97	.....	32 17
Erie .....	371 35	253 24	118 11	.....
Rock River.....	397 50	247 16	150 34	.....
North Ohio.....	490 52	204 34	286 18	.....
Genesee.....	145 00	121 80	23 20	.....
Ohio.....	879 48	553 03	326 45	.....
North Indiana .....	586 93	287 84	299 09	.....
Michigan .....	301 00	105 40	195 60	.....
Illinois .....	518 60	292 28	226 32	.....
Iowa .....	372 40	55 35	317 05	.....
Indiana .....	576 70	304 90	271 80	.....
New-York, East.....	92 27	223 20	.....	130 93
Western Virginia.....	138 82	74 06	64 76	.....
East Maine .....	37 40	46 22	.....	8 82
Wisconsin .....	268 92	66 70	202 22	.....
East Genesee.....	178 48	43 22	135 26	.....
Missouri .....	245 34	54 26	191 08	.....
	<u>\$7,533 65</u>	<u>\$5,275 50</u>	<u>\$3,286 79</u>	<u>\$1,028 44</u>
	5,275 50	.....	1,028 64	.....
	<u>\$2,258 15</u>	.....	<u>\$2,258 15</u>	
Dft. on Book Concern	\$2,200 00			
Places unknown.....	67 15	2,267 15		
Surplus paid B. Griffen.....	\$11 00			

Since the above was made out, the Rev. N. Fellows, of the East Genesee Conference, has paid to the committee (after deducting his travelling expenses) a balance of \$5, which they have handed over to the Book Agents.

Respectfully submitted,

C. B. TIPPETT, *Chairman.*

## Z.—REPORT ON LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE.

THE Committee, to whom was referred the subject of promoting the same liberty of conscience for Protestants in Roman Catholic countries, that Roman Catholics enjoy under the government of the United States, present the following as their report :—

It is freely admitted by every American citizen, that liberty of conscience, or the free exercise of religion, is an inalienable right of every man under any government. We cannot suppose any case in which the right of private worship by individuals can be restrained, much less hindered, in any respect. And surely there can be few cases, if any, in which the public exercise of religion ought to be restrained or suppressed.

At present, there is a general intercourse between all civilized nations : trade, commerce, the arts, sciences, &c., have now mingled to a great extent ; the nations of the earth, the citizens of one country, either as temporary visitors, or as permanent inhabitants, take up their abodes in other countries ; and as this seems to be freely allowed, it is reasonable and just that the new citizens, or even visitors, should enjoy the privilege of worshipping God, whether in public or private, according to the dictates of their conscience.

Indeed, the law of nations, as laid down by Kent and Blackstone, seems to require this much. These able jurists maintain that the *principles*, or *standard*, which should govern nations are right reason, the principles of good morals, and Holy Scripture ; and all principles contrary to reason, good morals, and Scripture, are as dangerous to the government of nations towards each other as they are to individuals ; and the *duties* which nations owe to each other are benevolence, justice, humanity, liberality, impartiality, good faith.

As the rights of conscience are sacred, according to the principles of morality and religion, it is, in our opinion, the duty of the government of the United States to employ its influence to secure for Protestants the same religious privileges in Roman Catholic countries which Roman Catholics enjoy in the United States. We do not ask the government to use any means which would involve war, bloodshed, injustice, or any unchristian principle or measure. We ask only that the government, in all its departments, should employ its influence to secure the rights of conscience to every American citizen wherever he may sojourn or reside, as well as to promote in all lands the rights of conscience to every human being.

The different Protestant Churches, whether in their Church capacity or as individuals, are surely entitled to protection in this matter. They can with propriety ask the government of the United States to use its influence on the side of liberty ; and it is to be hoped they will turn their attention to this subject, and consider what duties and responsibilities they incur in reference to it.

As citizens of the United States, Protestants possess the greater part of the controlling influence of the government, as voters and office-holders, as well as the principal share of the intelligence, moral power, social ed-

ucation, and business of the country. These are facts well known. How proper, then, is it for them to speak and act in behalf of liberty of conscience throughout the world; as it is the want of this which prevents a large portion of the human race from enjoying the same elevation which we, by the providence of God, enjoy. Yet, when Protestants reside in Roman Catholic countries, whether as permanent inhabitants or temporary visitors, they are deprived altogether of the right of both public and private worship in most cases; and where there is tolerance there are vexatious restraints interposed, which show that the *right* of worship is denied them even where some toleration exists.

Nor do Protestants ask too much when they ask the Roman Catholics of the United States to unite with them in securing liberty of conscience in Italy and in other Roman Catholic countries; and that they should, if necessary, petition, remonstrate and protest, in order to secure it. In many respects, Protestants and Roman Catholics have lived unfamiliarly with each other. At this time it need not be asked who is more in fault, the Protestant or Roman Catholic. Our present object is, to ask our Roman Catholic neighbours and fellow-citizens to accord to Protestants the same religious privileges in Roman Catholic countries which Protestant citizens of the United States have guaranteed to Roman Catholics, and have pledged, and do now pledge, their lives, fortunes, and sacred honour to continue this to Roman Catholics, as well as to others. Protestants were the founders of this government, under God, and liberty of conscience is one of its most glorious and fundamental principles. Now we would ask our Roman Catholic fellow-citizens a few questions, trusting that they will consider them in a spirit of reciprocal good-will.

We ask them to adopt or recognize the principles of liberty of conscience, of equal rights, and of benevolence towards all.

We ask them to take the side of equal religious rights in Roman Catholic countries, as well as in Protestant Britain and America. Let them have one rule for both Roman Catholic and Protestant countries—one rule for Italy and England—one rule for Scotland and Spain—one for Portugal and Ireland—one for the United States and all the governments on the American continent. Let our Roman Catholic neighbours shake hands with their Protestant neighbours on this principle, and this will go far towards making them more friendly than they ever have been.

We ask our Roman Catholic friends to consider the equal rights they enjoy here, under the influence of Protestantism. Here they exercise all that appertain to their religion—not merely by tolerance, but by *right*. Does not this call for a noble, generous, and fraternal response?

We affectionately inquire of our Roman Catholic friends, How can you receive these great blessings from the hands of Protestants, and then approve of treating them as they are treated in Italy and other Roman Catholic countries?

If Protestants are restrained from social and public worship in Roman Catholic countries, why should not Roman Catholics be restrained in Protestant countries? and this question will constantly be put to Roman Catholics, not only in the United States, but in every Roman Catholic country. It must also be answered, not evaded; and if Roman Catholics will not answer it, others will answer it, but to their disadvantage.

Well may we call upon Roman Catholics to coöperate with Protestants in the United States in order to secure liberty of conscience, first in Italy, and then throughout all Roman Catholic countries. We ask them to *petition* the Pope for liberty of conscience for Protestants in Rome, and then *remonstrate* by renewed petitions and arguments, if it be demanded; and should remonstrance fail, to carry it forward in *protest* to the utmost limits of this right, and the Roman Catholic archbishops, bishops, and clergy of the United States would do well to take the lead in petition, remonstrance, and protest. They do so in other matters, and the citizens of the United States will look for them to do this. A refusal to do it must be interpreted as saying that they are willing to receive equal rights, but not to grant them to others.

We may reasonably expect, too, that the Christians of Great Britain would unite with the Christians of the United States, and petition their government to use its great influence with the court of Rome, and other Roman Catholic courts, in favour of religious freedom. The Church of England would surely not refuse to act in this noble cause, and the Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, and other dissenters, would undoubtedly do their full shares in this divine work. The Roman Catholics of England, Ireland, and Scotland could not, with any show of reason, refuse. The Christian world will confidently expect that the Roman Catholic prelates and clergy of Great Britain and Ireland will go before their flocks and petition His Holiness to grant religious freedom to Protestants in his temporal dominions, and also use his influence and authority with all Roman Catholic princes and powers to do the same. This much is the least that we may reasonably expect to be done by British Roman Catholics, on the score of sheer justice and reciprocity.

In order, however, that this great object of religious freedom in Roman Catholic countries should be enjoyed, it seems necessary that certain competent persons should be selected to present and keep this subject before the public. Perhaps a COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES might be appointed, consisting of clergymen and laymen, who would take the pains to present the subject to the American government, plead its cause before the public, coöperate with similar committees or associations, and adopt such measures, and carry them out, as would best secure, or tend to secure, the great object in view.

It is proper here to remark, that no political object is in view in this whole plan, except that good must result to any government that will acknowledge the free use of religious worship. We have no intention to change, or interfere with, the governments of the countries in which the right of free worship is asked, whether they be monarchies, republics, or democracies. With the mere political affairs of Roman Catholics we wish not to interfere; nay, we refuse positively to interfere, leaving this entirely with those to whom it belongs, according to the laws of each country respectively.

In view, therefore, of promoting the free exercise of religious worship in Italy and all Roman Catholic countries, the following resolutions are presented for the adoption of this conference:—

*Resolved*, That the free exercise of religion is an inalienable right of every man, under whatever government he may reside.



*Resolved*, That it is the duty of British and American Christians to use their best lawful endeavours with their respective governments that they would employ their diplomatic influence to obtain from Roman Catholic governments, without war, bloodshed, or any unjust or unchristian means, the same religious privileges for Protestants in Roman Catholic countries, that Roman Catholics enjoy in Britain and the United States.

*Resolved*, That it is the duty of the Roman Catholic clergy of Great Britain and the United States to unite in the foregoing petition with Protestants, and also to petition the Pope, as a temporal prince, and all other Roman Catholic powers, to grant to Protestants the same religious privileges in their several countries, that Roman Catholics enjoy under the British and United States governments.

*Resolved*, That a committee, consisting of — laymen and — clergymen of the Methodist Episcopal Church, shall be appointed, to whom it shall be intrusted to take such proper measures as may best answer the end, either by themselves, or associated with similar committees or associations which may be appointed by other bodies.

*Resolved*, That copies of this report be transmitted to the presidents, moderators, or clerks of the several Christian Churches, whether Roman Catholic or Protestant, in the United States, England, Ireland, and Scotland, and on the continent of Europe, as far as practicable.

CHARLES ELLIOTT,  
J. P. DURBIN,  
W. T. HARLOW.

Boston, Mass., May 20, 1852.

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AA.—REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE MEMORIAL FROM  
WASHINGTON CITY.

THE Committee, to whom was referred the memorial of sundry brethren (lay and ministerial) from the City of Washington, touching the erection of a house of worship in some central location in the metropolis of the nation, beg leave to report:—

That this subject, as set forth in the memorial, is one of no ordinary importance to the interests of American Methodism. The enterprise in which our brethren, the memorialists, have embarked with such commendable liberality and zeal, is entitled to the gravest consideration; and the aid and encouragement which they respectfully solicit at our hands, should be accordingly bestowed. That a great denominational want, as specified in the memorial, does exist, is not only evident from the reasoning of the memorialists, but also from other and various sources of information on the subject. That our membership and friends from all portions of our Union, who visit the seat of our national government, have for many years been subjected to painful inconveniences in attending upon our ordinances and ministry, is a deplorable fact—one which has often excited surprise and called forth expressions of regret from many of our most distinguished ministers, both in talent, influence, and offices, from every section of our country. Every one who feels a just and jeal-

ous concern for the respectability and success of our fondly-cherished Methodism, must see and regret the same deficiency, and desire to supply it by every justifiable means at his disposal.

The resident members and friends of our Church in said city are amply supplied with every facility for the worship of God, but are by no means able to meet fully this public exigency. They are, indeed, less directly and personally interested in the success of this undertaking than those of our communion who live elsewhere, whose friends and families, when visiting Washington, are almost entirely deprived of the means of grace peculiar to our economy. They have, nevertheless, in addition to the obligations devolving upon them for the support of the stations to which they are attached, voluntarily assumed a debt of eight thousand dollars in the purchase of a lot, proverbial for its eligibility, as a site for a large, commodious, and central church.

If, therefore, a similar devotion to the general interests of Methodism should be exhibited by our friends in every part of our wide-spread work, this enterprise would soon be crowned with success and thus our common Zion be creditably and appropriately represented in the very heart of our metropolis.

In view, therefore, of the urgency of this demand upon our attention and aid, we beg leave respectfully to submit the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, 1st, That we cordially approve of the erection of a new house of worship for the Methodist Episcopal Church in the city of Washington, as contemplated by our brethren in their memorial.

*Resolved*, 2d, That, regarding the success of this enterprise as of high importance to the interests of Methodism throughout the country, we will give it our individual influence in our respective annual conferences, and by all appropriate means aid in its promotion.

JOHN BEAR,  
E. E. GRISWOLD,  
E. THOMSON.

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JOURNAL

OF THE

GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

HELD IN INDIANAPOLIS, IND.,

1856.





## LIST OF DELEGATES BY CONFERENCES.

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NEW-HAMPSHIRE.—Richard S. Rust, Warren F. Evans, Newel Culver, Charles N. Smith, James Thurston.

*Reserves.*—Lewis Howard, Silas Green.

NEW-YORK.—Davis W. Clark, Phineas Rice, Abiathar M. Osbon, Seymour Van Deusen, Morris D'C. Crawford, Benjamin Griffen, John B. Beach, Lucius H. King, Jarvis Z. Nichols.

*Reserves.*—Joseph Holdich, Davis Stocking, William H. Ferris.

TROY.—William Griffin, David P. Hulburd, Stephen D. Brown, Henry L. Starks, Andrew Witherspoon, Zebulon Phillips, Barnes M. Hall, Stephen Parks, Sandford Washburn.

*Reserves.*—Lewis Potter, C. R. Morris.

NEW-YORK EAST.—Edwin E. Griswold, James Floy, James H. Perry, John Kennaday, Heman Bangs, John M. Reid, John B. Merwin, William C. Hoyt.

*Reserves.*—Seymour Landon, William H. Norris.

CALIFORNIA.—John D. Blain, Isaac Owens.

*Reserves.*—Samuel D. Simonds, William Taylor.

MAINE.—Stephen Allen, Daniel B. Randall, Aaron Sanderson, William F. Farrington.

*Reserves.*—Joseph H. Jenne, Charles C. Cone, Howard B. Abbott.

VERMONT.—Asa G. Button, William J. Kidder, P. P. Ray, Alonzo Webster.

*Reserves.*—Joseph E. King, A. T. Bullard.

BLACK RIVER.—Arza J. Phelps, Hiram Mattison, Isaac S. Bingham, Gardner Baker, James Erwin, Freeman H. Stanton, Peter D. Gorrie.

*Reserves.*—B. Holmes, H. Chapin.

WESTERN VIRGINIA.—Gideon Martin, James Drummond, Gordon Battelle.

*Reserves.*—William Lynch, William Hunter.

EAST MAINE.—Loren L. Knox, Caleb D. Pillsbury, George Pratt, Luther P. French.

PITTSBURGH.—Isaac N. Baird, William Cox, James Henderson, John Moffatt, William F. Lauck, Robert Boyd, Samuel Wakefield.

*Reserves.*—James G. Sansom, Thomas M. Hudson.

WYOMING.—George Peck, G. P. Porter, William H. Pearne, Horatio R. Clark.

*Reserves.*—D. A. Shepard, A. Barker.

ERIE.—Calvin Kingsley, Samuel Gregg, Josiah Flower, Hiram Kinsley, Moses Hill, William F. Wilson, Gaylord B. Hawkins.

*Reserves.*—E. J. Kinney, E. J. L. Baker.

ONEIDA.—Charles Blakeslee, Daniel W. Bristol, William Reddy, Charles Starr, Elias Bowen, Asa J. Dana, Isaac Parks.

*Reserves.*—Daniel A. Whedon, Silas Comfort.

EAST GENESEE.—William Hosmer, Calvin S. Coats, Freeborn G. Hibbard, Jonathan Watts, John Dennis, Jonas Dodge, Daniel D. Buck.

*Reserves.*—William H. Goodwin, Sevelen W. Alden.

OREGON.—William Roberts, Thomas H. Pearne.

NORTHWESTERN INDIANA.—Jacob M. Stallard, George M. Boyd, James L. Thompson, William Graham.

*Reserves.*—J. L. Smith, B. Winans.

GENESEE.—Thomas Carlton, Richard L. Waite, Isaac C. Kingsley, Charles D. Burlingham, Israel Chamberlayne.

*Reserves.*—A. P. Ripley, E. E. Chambers.

MICHIGAN.—James V. Watson, Elijah H. Pilcher, John K. Gillet, Wellington H. Collins, Resin Sapp, William H. Brockway, David Burns.

*Reserves.*—George Bradley, Erastus O. Haven.

OHIO.—Zechariah Connell, Joseph M. Trimble, Solomon Howard, James M. Jamison, Jacob Young, Uriah Heath.

*Reserves.*—Andrew Carrol, Frederic Merrick.

INDIANA.—Benjamin F. Crary, William C. Smith, James Hill, Henry S. Talbot.

*Reserves.*—Charles B. Davidson, William M. Daily.

NORTH INDIANA.—Samuel C. Cooper, Orange V. Lemon, George W. Bowers, Horatio N. Barnes.

*Reserves.*—Joseph H. Hull, J. Colclazer.

WISCONSIN.—Philo S. Bennett, Isaac M. Leihy, Edward Cooke, Chauncey Hobart, Elmore Yocum.

*Reserves.*—Henry Requa, Alfred Brunson.

ROCK RIVER.—George L. Mulfinger, Luke Hitchcock, John Luccock, Hooper Crews, S. P. Keyes, Henry Summers, Richard Haney, John Morey.

*Reserves.*—John Dempster, Philo Judson.

NORTH OHIO.—William L. Harris, Edward Thomson, John H. Power, James Wheeler, William B. Disbro, Adam Poe, Henry E. Pilcher, George W. Breckenridge.

*Reserves.*—Leonard B. Gurley, Hiram M. Shaffer.

CINCINNATI.—William Young, James B. Finley, William Nast, John W. Fowble, George W. Walker, Arza Brown, Cyrus Brooks, Asbury Lowrey, Mighil Dustin.

*Reserves.*—John T. Mitchell, Charles Elliott, William Ahrens.

IOWA.—Joseph Brooks, Henry W. Reed, Jacob G. Dimmitt, Lucien W. Berry, David Worthington.

*Reserves.*—William Simpson, M. H. Hare.

SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA.—Fernando C. Holliday, Enoch G. Wood, John A. Brouse, John Kisling, Calvin W. Ruter.

*Reserves.*—W. Terrell, J. W. Sullivan, J. Barth.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.—John Van Cleve, James Leaton, James B. Corrington.

*Reserves.*—Norman Allyn, W. Cliffe.

ILLINOIS.—Peter Cartwright, George Rutledge, Peter Kuhl, William D. R. Trotter, Hardin Wallace, Hiram Buck.

*Reserves.*—J. F. Jaquess, W. H. H. More.

KENTUCKY.—Stephen F. Conrey, Ajax H. Triplett.

*Reserve.*—William H. Black.

MISSOURI.—Joseph H. Hopkins, John M. Chivington.

*Reserves.*—B. F. Northcutt, N. Shumate.

ARKANSAS.—Anthony Bewley, Mark Robertson.

*Reserves.*—J. Harrar, S. H. Carlisle.

BALTIMORE.—John A. Collins, Henry Slicer, Samuel V. Blake, Nicholas J. B. Morgan, John S. Martin, Norval Wilson, Alfred Griffith, Thomas B. Sargent, Aquila A. Reese, John Lanahan, William Hamilton, John Poisal, Maberry Goheen, William Hirst, Benjamin N. Brown.

*Reserves.*—T. W. H. Monroe, George Hildt, Isaac Collins.

PHILADELPHIA.—John P. Durbin, Thomas J. Thompson, William Cooper, James Cunningham, Pennell Coombe, William M'Coombs, Francis Hodgson, George R. Crooks, Thomas J. Quigley.

*Reserves.*—J. A. Roche, J. T. Hazzard.

NEW-ENGLAND.—Minor Raymond, William Rice, James Porter, Lorenzo R. Thayer, Loranus Crowell, Thomas Marcy, Daniel K. Banister.

*Reserves.*—J. D. Bridge, J. H. Twombly, W. H. Hatch, M. Dwight.

PROVIDENCE.—Abel Stevens, Samuel W. Coggeshall, Daniel Wise, Pardon T. Kenny, Elisha B. Bradford, George M. Carpenter.

*Reserves.*—William Livesey, D. Patten, J. D. Butler.

NEW-JERSEY.—George F. Brown, John M'Clintock, Samuel Y. Monroe, Jefferson Lewis, John S. Porter, Isaac N. Felch, John S. Swaim, John L. Lenhart, William A. Wilmer.

*Reserves.*—James M. Tuttle, Samuel Vansant.

# JOURNAL

OF THE

## GENERAL CONFERENCE, 1856.

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### THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 1.

THE TWELFTH DELEGATED GENERAL CONFERENCE of the METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH assembled at the State House in the city of Indianapolis, Indiana, on the first day of May, eighteen hundred and fifty-six.

May 1, 1856.

*Present*—Bishops WAUGH, MORRIS, JANES, SCOTT, SIMPSON, BAKER, and AMES.

At nine o'clock A. M., Bishop Waugh called the Conference to order, and conducted the opening religious services, consisting of reading the 46th, 47th, and 48th Psalms, singing the 218th hymn, and prayer. Bishop Morris continued the services by reading the fourth chapter of 1 Timothy, and the 219th hymn. After singing, James Porter, of New-England, and Jacob Young, of Ohio, again led the devotions of the Conference in prayer.

Opening of the Session.

On motion, Joseph M. Trimble was elected Secretary *pro tem.*, and Benjamin Griffen, Assistant Secretary *pro tem.*

Secretaries appointed *pro tempore*.  
Call of Conferences.  
Credentials presented.

The Conferences were then called in order, and certificates of election were presented by the following delegates :

#### NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

Richard S. Rust,                      Newel Culver,  
Warren F. Evans,                      Charles N. Smith,  
James Thurston.

New Hampshire Delegates.

#### NEW-YORK.

Davis W. Clark,                      Morris D'C. Crawford,  
Phineas Rice,                          Benjamin Griffen,  
Abiathar M. Osbon,                      John B. Beach,  
Seymour Van Deusen,                      Lucius H. King,  
Jarvis Z. Nichols.

New-York Delegates.

May 1, 1856.  
Troy Delegates.

## TROY.

William Griffin,	Andrew Witherspoon,
David P. Hulburd,	Zebulon Phillips,
Stephen D. Brown,	Barnes M. Hall,
Henry L. Starks,	Stephen Parks,
Sandford Washburn.	

New-York East  
Delegates.

## NEW-YORK EAST.

Edwin E. Griswold,	Heman Bangs,
James Floy,	John M. Reid,
James H. Perry,	John B. Merwin,
John Kennaday,	William C. Hoyt.

California Dele-  
gates.

## CALIFORNIA.

John D. Blain,	Samuel D. Simonds.
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Maine Dele-  
gates.

## MAINE.

Stephen Allen,	Aaron Sanderson,
Daniel B. Randall,	William F. Farrington.

Vermont Dele-  
gates.

## VERMONT.

Asa G. Button,	Alonzo Webster,
William J. Kidder,	Joseph E. King.

Black River  
Delegates.

## BLACK RIVER.

Arza J. Phelps,	Gardner Baker,
Hiram Mattison,	James Erwin,
Isaac S. Bingham,	Freeman H. Stanton.

Western Virgin-  
ia Delegates.

## WESTERN VIRGINIA.

Gideon Martin,	James Drummond,
Gordon Battelle.	

East Maine Del-  
egates.

## EAST MAINE.

Loren L. Knox,	George Pratt,
Caleb D. Pillsbury,	Luther P. French.

Pittsburgh Del-  
egates.

## PITTSBURGH.

Isaac N. Baird,	John Moffatt,
William Cox,	William F. Lauck,
James Henderson,	Robert Boyd,
Samuel Wakefield.	

Wyoming Dele-  
gates.

## WYOMING.

George Peck,	William H. Pearne,
Horatio R. Clark.	

ERIE.

Calvin Kingsley, Hiram Kinsley,  
Samuel Gregg, Moses Hill,  
Josiah Flower, William F. Wilson,  
Gaylord B. Hawkins.

May 1, 1856.  
Erie Delegates.

ONEIDA.

Charles Blakeslee, Charles Starr,  
Daniel W. Bristol, Elias Bowen,  
William Reddy, Asa J. Dana,  
Isaac Parks.

Oneida Delegates.

EAST GENESEE.

William Hosmer, Jonathan Watts,  
Calvin S. Coats, John Dennis,  
Freeborn G. Hibbard, Jonas Dodge,  
Daniel D. Buck.

East Genesee Delegates.

OREGON.

William Roberts, Thomas H. Pearne.

Oregon Delegates.

NORTHWESTERN INDIANA.

Jacob M. Stallard, James L. Thompson,  
George M. Boyd, William Graham.

Northwestern Indiana Delegates.

GENESEE.

Thomas Carlton, Isaac C. Kingsley,  
Richard L. Waite, Charles D. Burlingham,  
Israel Chamberlayne.

Genesee Delegates.

MICHIGAN.

James V. Watson, Wellington H. Collins,  
Elijah H. Pilcher, William H. Brockway,  
John K. Gillet, Resin Sapp,  
David Burns.

Michigan Delegates.

OHIO.

Zechariah Cunnell, James M. Jamison,  
Joseph M. Trimble, Jacob Young,  
Solomon Howard, Uriah Heath.

Ohio Delegates.

INDIANA.

Benjamin F. Crary, James Hill,  
William C. Smith, Henry S. Talbot.

Indiana Delegates.

May 1, 1856.  
North Indiana  
Delegates.

## NORTH INDIANA.

Samuel C. Cooper,	George W. Bowers,
Orange V. Lemon,	Horatio N. Barnes.

Wisconsin Dele-  
gates.

## WISCONSIN.

Philo S. Bennett,	Isaac M. Leihy,
	Elmore Yocum.

Rock River  
Delegates.

## ROCK RIVER.

George L. Mulfinger,	Henry Summers,
Luke Hitchcock,	Richard Haney,
John Luccock,	John Morey,
Hooper Crews,	John Dempster.

North Ohio Del-  
egates.

## NORTH OHIO.

William L. Harris,	William B. Disbro,
Edward Thomson,	Adam Poe,
John H. Power,	Henry E. Pilcher,
James Wheeler,	Leonard B. Gurley.

Cincinnati Dele-  
gates.

## CINCINNATI.

William Young,	George W. Walker,
James B. Finley,	Arza Brown,
William Nast,	Cyrus Brooks,
John W. Fowble,	Asbury Lowrey.

Iowa Delegates.

## IOWA.

Joseph Brooks,	Jacob G. Dimmitt,
Henry W. Reed,	Lucien W. Berry,
	David Worthington.

Southeastern  
Indiana Dele-  
gates.

## SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA.

Fernando C. Holliday,	John A. Brouse,
Enoch G. Wood,	John Kisting,
	Calvin W. Ruter.

Southern Illi-  
nois Delegates

## SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.

John Van Cleve,	James B. Corrington,
	Norman Allyn.

Illinois Dele-  
gates.

## ILLINOIS.

Peter Cartwright,	William D. R. Trotter,
George Rutledge,	Hardin Wallace,
Peter Kuhl,	Hiram Buck.



KENTUCKY.

Stephen F. Conrey, Ajax H. Triplett.

May 1, 1856.  
Kentucky Delegates.

MISSOURI.

Joseph H. Hopkins, John M. Chivington.

Missouri Delegates.

ARKANSAS.

Anthony Bewley, Mark Robertson.

Arkansas Delegates.

BALTIMORE.

John A. Collins, Thomas B. Sargent,  
Henry Slicer, Aquila A. Reese,  
Samuel V. Blake, John Lanahan,  
Nicholas J. B. Morgan, William Hamilton,  
John S. Martin, John Poisal,  
Norval Wilson, Maberry Goheen,  
Alfred Griffith, William Hirst.  
Benjamin N. Brown.

Baltimore Delegates.

PHILADELPHIA.

John P. Durbin, Pennell Coombe,  
Thomas J. Thompson, William M'Combs,  
William Cooper, Francis Hodgson,  
James Cunningham, George R. Crooks,  
Thomas J. Quigley.

Philadelphia Delegates.

NEW-ENGLAND.

Minor Raymond, Lorenzo R. Thayer,  
William Rice, Loranus Crowell,  
James Porter, Thomas Marcy,  
Daniel K. Bannister.

New-England Delegates.

PROVIDENCE.

Samuel W. Coggeshall, Elisha B. Bradford,  
Daniel Wise, George M. Carpenter,  
Pardon T. Kenney, William Livesey.

Providence Delegates.

NEW-JERSEY.

George F. Brown, John S. Porter,  
John M'Clintock, Isaac N. Felch,  
Samuel Y. Munroe, John S. Swaim.  
Jefferson Lewis, John L. Lenhart.  
William A. Wilmer.

New-Jersey Delegates.

- May, 1, 1856. On calling the list of delegates, two hundred and six members answered to their names; whereupon the chair announced that a quorum was present, and the Conference proceeded to business.
- Quorum present.
- Secretary to be elected by ballot. On motion, the Conference resolved to elect a Secretary by ballot.
- Tellers appointed. On motion, the chair was requested to appoint three Tellers to collect the ballots, canvass the votes, and report.
- Election of Secretary. Elijah H. Pilcher, Zebulon Phillips, and William D. R. Trotter were accordingly appointed.
- The tellers reported that the whole number of votes cast was two hundred and six; and that William L. Harris had received one hundred and thirteen; whereupon the President announced that William L. Harris, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was elected Secretary of this Conference.
- Afternoon session. On motion, *Resolved*, That when the Conference adjourn, it adjourn to meet at three o'clock this afternoon.
- Time of opening and closing the sessions. It was moved that the Conference meet daily at eight o'clock in the morning.
- A motion was made to amend, by substituting half past eight instead of eight o'clock; but the motion to amend did not prevail, and the original motion was carried.
- On motion, *Resolved*, That hereafter the Conference adjourn at twelve o'clock.
- On motion of Davis W. Clark, the following resolutions were adopted, namely:
- Resolved*, 1, That this Conference approve the proposed publication of the Daily Western Christian Advocate, during the session of the Conference, by the Western Book Agents; and that the said agents be authorized to take such measures as may be necessary to carry out the proposed publication.
- Resolved*, 2, That the Agents of the Western Book Concern be, and they are hereby requested to furnish each delegate with a copy of the Daily Christian Advocate, gratuitously.
- Leroy Swarmstedt addressed the Conference on the subject of the Daily Christian Advocate; after which, a motion was made that the Agents furnish the delegates at their residences with a copy of the paper; but the motion did not prevail.
- Adjournment. Conference adjourned with the benediction by Heman Bangs.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met, pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Morris in the chair. Religious services, consisting of reading the Scripture, singing, and prayer, were conducted by Heman Bangs, of the New-York East Conference.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

Chauncey Hobart presented his certificate of election as a delegate from the Wisconsin Conference, and took his seat.

Heman Bangs moved that Benjamin Griffen be elected first Assistant Secretary. John A. Collins moved as a substitute that the Conference proceed to choose, by ballot, three Assistant Secretaries, who shall take precedence respectively, in the order of the number of votes each may receive; and the substitute was adopted.

On motion, the tellers who acted in the election of Secretary, were requested to serve also in the election of Assistant Secretaries. A ballot was cast, and the Conference directed the tellers to retire, count the votes, and report the result.

James Porter offered a resolution providing for the appointment of several standing committees. Pending its consideration, Heman Bangs proposed a substitute, which was accepted by the mover of the resolution, and was adopted, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the following standing committees be appointed, viz.:

1. A committee to consist of one member from each annual conference, to be called the Committee on the Episcopacy.
2. A committee to consist of one member from each annual conference, to be called the Committee on the Itinerancy.
3. A committee to consist of one member from each annual conference, to be called the Committee on Boundaries.
4. A committee to consist of one member from each annual conference, to be called the Committee on Slavery.
5. A committee to consist of one member from each annual conference, to be called the Committee on the Book Concern.
6. A committee to consist of one member from each annual conference, to be called the Committee on Missions.
7. A committee to consist of one member from each annual conference, to be called the Committee on Education.
8. A committee to consist of one member from each annual conference, to be called the Committee on the Tract Cause.
9. A committee to consist of one member from each annual conference, to be called the Committee on Sunday Schools.
10. A committee to consist of one member from each annual conference, to be called the Committee on Revisals and Unfinished Business.

*Resolved*, That the above committees be chosen by the delegates of each annual conference from among themselves, and that each committee, when chosen, have power to appoint its own chairman.

May 1, 1856.  
Afternoon session.

Journal approved.  
Chauncey Hobart takes his seat as delegate.  
Election of three Assistant Secretaries.

Standing committees ordered.

- Episcopacy.
- Itinerancy.
- Boundaries.
- Slavery.
- Book Concern.
- Missions.
- Education.
- Tract Cause.
- Sunday Schools.
- Revisals and Unfinished Business.
- Committees to be chosen by the Delegations severally.

- May 1, 1856. *Resolved*, That a committee of seven be appointed, to be called the Committee on Temperance.
- Committee on Temperance. *Resolved*, That a committee of seven be appointed, to be called the Committee on the Bible Cause.
- Committee on Bible Cause. *Resolved*, That a committee of seven be appointed, to be called the Committee on Temporal Economy.
- Committee on Temporal Economy. *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed, to be called the Committee on the Expenses of Delegates; whose duty it shall be to receive all moneys raised to defray the expenses of the delegates to this Conference, ascertain the amount of expenses, and settle with the delegates.
- Committee on Expenses of Delegates.
- A German Delegate to be added to certain committees. On motion of William Nast, it was ordered that a German brother, to be nominated by the German delegates, be added to committees, severally, on Boundaries, on the Book Concern, and on Missions.
- Nine members of a committee to constitute a quorum. On motion it was *Resolved*, That nine members of such committees as consist of a delegate from each annual conference, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- Committee on Public Worship. On motion of Calvin W. Ruter, the presiding elders of the Indianapolis districts, and the preachers stationed in the city, were appointed a committee to make all necessary arrangements for conducting public worship during the session of this Conference.
- Assistant Secretaries elected. The tellers reported, as the result of the ballot, that there were 196 votes cast; that Benjamin Griffen received 178; Samuel D. Simonds, 125; and John S. Martin, 115; and they were declared duly elected Assistant Secretaries.
- Committee to report rules. A committee of three was ordered, whose duty it shall be to report, to-morrow morning, rules of order for the government of the Conference during its session; and the chair announced Isaac Parks, James H. Perry, and Calvin W. Ruter said committee.
- Committee on Pastoral Address ordered. On motion it was *Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed by the chair to draw up and report a suitable Pastoral Address, to be issued by this General Conference to the membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
- Committee on Colored Members ordered. On motion of John A. Collins, it was ordered that a committee of seven be appointed, to be called the Committee on our Colored Members.
- Adjournment. Conference adjourned. Benediction by Bishop Morris.

May 2, 1856.

FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 2, 1856.

Conference met this morning : Bishop Janes in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by John Van Cleve, of the Southern Illinois Conference ; after which the roll of members was called.

Mighil Dustin presented his certificate of election as a delegate from the Cincinnati Conference, and took his seat.

Mighil Dustin takes his seat as delegate.

The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.

John S. Porter offered a preamble and resolutions, fixing the bar of the Conference, inviting officers of the General Conference, such as book agents and editors, not members of the Conference, to seats within the bar, and providing for such a distribution of seats within the Conference room, as will secure to each delegation an opportunity of having its members seated near each other.

J. S. Porter's preamble and resolution.

On motion, the preamble and resolutions were laid on the table.

Laid on the table.

On motion, the Secretary was directed to return to such members as may desire them, their certificates of election as delegates to this body.

Certificates of delegates to be returned.

The committee appointed for that purpose, reported rules of order for the government of the Conference during its present session.

Rules of order for the government of the General Conference reported.

After the report was read, the Conference resolved to take up the rules *seriatim*.

The first, second, and third rules were read and adopted.

The fourth rule was read, and a motion was made to strike out the words " at the same time."

A further amendment was offered to strike out the words, " but any member may decline serving on more than one committee at the same time," which latter amendment prevailed, and the rule as amended was then adopted.

The fifth rule was read and adopted.

The sixth rule was read, and a motion was made to amend it by inserting, after the word "*mover*," the words, " with the consent of the second."

A motion was made to substitute for this amendment, the words " with the consent of the conference."

On motion, both the amendment and substitute were laid on the table, and the rule as reported was adopted.

The seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thir-

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teenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth rules were read and adopted.

After the eighteenth rule was read, it was on motion amended, by inserting after the word "Conference" the words, "except in cases in which character is involved."

After a motion to strike the whole rule out of the report was lost, the rule as amended was adopted.

The nineteenth rule was read, after which, a motion was made so to amend it, that it shall read thus, "a substitute may be amended before being accepted by the Conference."

A motion was made to strike out the whole rule, but the motion was laid on the table.

The amendment prevailed, and the rule as amended was adopted.

Rules of order  
as adopted.

On motion, the rules as a whole were then adopted as follows, viz.:

#### RULES.

1. The Conference shall meet at eight o'clock A. M., and adjourn at twelve M., but may alter their time of meeting, and adjourn at their discretion.
2. The President shall take the chair precisely at the hour to which the Conference stood adjourned, and cause the same to be opened by the reading of the Scriptures, singing, and prayer; and on the appearance of a quorum, shall have the Journals of the preceding day read and approved, when the business of the Conference shall proceed in the following order, namely:
  - 1st. *Reports*, first of the standing, and then of the select committees.
  - 2d. *Petitions, memorials, and appeals.*
3. The President shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Conference; but in case of such appeal, the question shall be taken without debate.
4. He shall appoint all committees, not otherwise specially ordered by the Conference.
5. All motions or resolutions introduced by any member shall be reduced to writing, if the President, Secretary, or any two members request it.
6. When a motion or resolution is made and seconded, or a report presented, and is read by the Secretary, or stated by the President, it shall be deemed in possession of the Conference, but any motion or resolution may be withdrawn by the mover at any time before decision or amendment.
7. No new motion or resolution shall be made until the one under consideration is disposed of; which may be done by adoption or rejection, unless one of the following motions should intervene, which motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are placed, namely: indefinite postponement; laying on the table; reference to a committee; postponement to a given time; amendment, or a substitute, which also may be amended.
8. No member shall be interrupted when speaking, except by the President, to call him to order, when he departs from the question, or uses personalities or disrespectful language; but any

May 2, 1856.

member may call the attention of the President to the subject, when he deems a speaker out of order; and any member may explain, if he thinks himself misrepresented.

9. When any member is about to speak in debate, or to deliver any matter to the Conference, he shall rise in his seat, and respectfully address himself to the President.

10. No person shall speak more than twice on the same question, nor more than fifteen minutes at one time, without leave of the Conference; nor shall any person speak more than once until every member choosing to speak shall have spoken.

11. When any motion or resolution shall have passed, it shall be in order for any member who voted in the majority, to move a reconsideration.

12. No member shall absent himself from the service of the Conference, without leave, unless he is sick, or unable to attend.

13. No member shall be allowed to vote on any question, who is not within the bar at the time when such question is put by the President, except by leave of the Conference, when such member has been necessarily absent.

14. Every member who shall be within the bar at the time the question is put, shall give his vote, unless the Conference for special reasons excuse him.

15. No resolution altering or rescinding any rule of Discipline, shall be adopted until it shall have been at least one day in the possession of the Conference.

16. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, and shall be decided without debate.

17. It shall be in order for any member to call for the yeas and nays upon any question before the Conference; and if the call be sustained by twenty-five of the members present, the vote thereon shall be taken by yeas and nays.

18. It shall be in order to move that the question be taken without further debate, on any measure pending before the General Conference, except in cases in which character is involved, and if sustained by a vote of two thirds, the question shall be so taken.

19. A substitute may be amended before being accepted by the Conference.

The following resolution, offered by John Kennaday, was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That we gratefully appreciate the courtesy of the Legislature of this state, by which the use of this hall was appropriated for the session of this Conference, and reciprocating this courtesy, we invite his Excellency the Governor, the Lieutenant-Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to take seats within the bar of the Conference.

Resolution appreciating the courtesy of the Indiana Legislature.

Hiram Mattison offered the following resolutions, and they were adopted by the Conference, namely :

*Resolved*, That the editors of the several General Conference papers, with the editor of Zion's Herald, be a Committee on Printing.

Committee on printing.

*Resolved*, That they be instructed to publish in pamphlet form the rules of the Conference, together with the standing and other principal committees, and, if practicable, the boarding places of the delegates, for the use of this body.

Rules of Conference and standing committees to be published.

May 2, 1856.

On motion of Calvin W. Ruter, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Superintendents requested to deliver their address.

*Resolved*, That the Superintendents be and they are hereby respectfully requested to deliver their quadrennial address, should it suit their convenience, on to-morrow, Saturday, at 10 o'clock A. M.

On motion of Heman Bangs, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Resolution on referring petitions, &c.

*Resolved*, That every brother, on presenting any petition, or memorial, or other paper, which is to go to some one of the standing committees, shall designate to which committee he would have it referred ; and if there be no objection made, it shall be so referred without any vote being taken thereon.

Bar of Conference.

The space in this hall within the front pillars was designated as the bar of the Conference.

British Delegates introduced to the Conference.

The Bishops having received information of the arrival in the city of the Rev. Dr. Hannah, representative of the British Wesleyan Conference, and also of the Rev. Frederic James Jobson, his companion and assistant, Bishops Baker and Ames waited upon them, and accompanied them to the conference room ; whereupon Bishop Waugh took the chair, and in a brief address, introduced them to the Conference.

Address from British Conference presented.

An address from the British Wesleyan Conference was presented and read ; after which Dr. Hannah and the Rev. Mr. Jobson addressed the Conference. [For the address, see *Appendix B.*]

John A. Collins submitted the following resolution, which was adopted, namely :

Cordial greetings extended to the representatives of the British Wesleyan Conference.

*Resolved*, by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in Conference assembled, That we hereby extend to the distinguished representative of the British Wesleyan Conference, the Rev. Dr. Hannah, and to his companion and assistant, the Rev. Frederic James Jobson, our cordial and fraternal greetings ; that we respond to the kind and affectionate expressions they convey to us from the venerable body they represent ; and that we unite with them in their prayer that the union between the Wesleyan connection in Great Britain and the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, may continue unbroken, and that peace may remain undisturbed perpetually between the two great countries ; and in further token of our regard and confidence, we invite them to take seats upon the platform, and express their opinions and counsel on any question which may be under discussion in this body, at their discretion.

A committee to reply to the address of the British Conference.

On motion of James Porter, Conference ordered that the address presented by the representative of the Wesleyan Connection, be referred to a committee of five, to prepare an address in reply thereto.

Standing committees announced.

Bishop Janes resumed the chair, and the following standing committees were announced, to wit :



ON EPISCOPACY.

May 2, 1856.  
Committee on  
Episcopacy.

Richard S. Rust,	Henry S. Talbot,
Phineas Rice,	Samuel C. Cooper,
Barnes M. Hall,	Isaac M. Leihy,
John Kennaday,	John Dempster,
Samuel D. Simonds,	John H. Power,
Daniel B. Randall,	James B. Finley,
Amasa G. Button,	Joseph Brooks,
Gardner Baker,	Calvin W. Ruter,
William Cox,	James B. Corrington,
George Peck,	Peter Cartwright,
Calvin Kingsley,	Stephen F. Conrey,
Gideon Martin,	Joseph H. Hopkins,
Elias Bowen,	Anthony Bewley,
Jonas Dodge,	Alfred Griffith,
James L. Thompson,	Thomas J. Thompson,
William Roberts,	Daniel K. Bannister,
Israel Chamberlayne,	William Livesey,
Elijah H. Pilcher,	George F. Brown,
Jacob Young,	Caleb B. Pillsbury.

ON ITINERANCY.

Committee on  
Itinerancy.

James Thurston,	Zechariah Connell,
Davis W. Clark,	William C. Smith,
Zebulon Phillips,	George W. Bowers,
James Floy,	Elmore Yocum,
John D. Blain,	John Luccock,
Daniel B. Randall,	Adam Poe,
William J. Kidder,	George W. Walker,
James Erwin,	Jacob G. Dimmitt,
Gordon Battelle,	John A. Brouse,
Luther P. French,	Norman Allyn,
James Henderson,	Hiram Buck,
Horatio R. Clark,	Ajax H. Triplett,
William F. Wilson,	John M. Chivington,
William Reddy,	Mark Robinson,
Freeborn G. Hibbard,	Norval Wilson,
Thomas H. Pearne,	Francis Hodgson,
Jacob M. Stallard,	Thomas Marcy,
Isaac C. Kingsley,	George M. Carpenter,
John K. Gillet,	William A. Wilmer.

May 2, 1856.  
Committee on  
Boundaries.

## ON BOUNDARIES.

Warren F. Evans,	Uriah Heath,
Benjamin Griffen,	James Hill,
David P. Hulburt,	Orange V. Lemon,
Samuel D. Simonds,	Chauncey Hobart,
Aaron Sanderson,	Richard Haney,
Joseph E. King,	Henry E. Pilcher,
Heman Bangs,	Cyrus Brooks,
Freeman H. Stanton,	David Worthington,
James Druimond,	Fernando C. Holliday,
George Pratt,	John Van Cleve,
John Moffatt,	Peter Cartwright,
William H. Pearne,	Stephen F. Conrey,
Hiram Kinsley,	Joseph H. Hopkins,
Charles Starr,	Mark Robertson,
Calvin S. Coats,	N. J. B. Morgan,
William Roberts,	William M'Combs,
George M. Boyd,	Loranus Crowell,
Thomas Carlton,	Pardon T. Kinney,
David Burns,	John L. Lenhart,
	George L. Mulfinger.

Committee on  
Slavery.

## ON SLAVERY.

Warren F. Evans,	Zechariah Connell,
Morris D'C. Crawford,	Henry S. Talbot,
Andrew Witherspoon,	Horatio N. Barnes,
Edwin E. Griswold,	Philo S. Bennett,
John D. Blain.	Luke Hitchcock,
William F. Farrington,	William B. Disbro,
Alonzo Webster,	Asbury Lowry,
Isaac S. Bingham,	Henry W. Reed,
James Drummond,	John Kisling,
Loren L. Knox,	John Van Cleve,
Robert Boyd,	Peter Cartwright,
Horatio R. Clark,	Ajax H. Triplett,
Calvin Kingsley,	Joseph H. Hopkins,
Elias Bowen,	Mark Robertson,
William Hosmer,	John A. Collins,
Thomas H. Pearne,	John P. Durbin,
George M. Boyd,	Minor Raymond,
Isaac C. Kingsley,	Daniel Wise,
Resin Sapp,	Jefferson Lewis.

ON THE BOOK CONCERN.

May 2, 1856.  
Committee on  
Book Con-  
cern.

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| James Thurston,     | William Young,         |
| Abiathar M. Osbon,  | James M. Trimble,      |
| Stephen D. Brown,   | Benjamin F. Crary,     |
| James H. Perry,     | George W. Bowers,      |
| Samuel D. Simonds,  | Edward Cook,           |
| Stephen Allen,      | Hooper Crews,          |
| Amasa G. Button,    | Leonard B. Gurley,     |
| Arza J. Phelps,     | Lucien W. Berry,       |
| James Drummond,     | Fernando C. Holliday,  |
| Caleb D. Pillsbury, | Norman Allyn,          |
| Isaac N. Baird,     | William D. R. Trotter. |
| George Peck,        | Ajax H. Triplett,      |
| Gaylord B. Hawkins, | John M. Chivington,    |
| Daniel W. Bristol,  | Anthony Bewley,        |
| John Dennis,        | Henry Slicer,          |
| Thomas H. Pearne,   | Pennell Coombe,        |
| William Graham,     | James Porter,          |
| Richard L. Waite,   | Daniel Wise,           |
| James V. Watson,    | John S. Porter,        |
|                     | William Nast.          |

On motion, the session was prolonged to complete the announcement of the large committees. Session prolonged.

ON MISSIONS.

Committee on  
Missions.

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Charles N. Smith,   | Thomas H. Pearne,      |
| Jarvis Z. Nichols,  | William Graham,        |
| William Griffin,    | Charles D. Burlingham, |
| William C. Hoyt,    | William H. Brockway,   |
| John D. Blain,      | Solomon Howard,        |
| Daniel B. Randall,  | William C. Smith,      |
| William J. Kidder,  | Orange V. Lemon,       |
| Freeman H. Stanton, | Isaac M. Leihy,        |
| Gideon Martin,      | Henry Summers,         |
| George Pratt,       | James Wheeler,         |
| William F. Lauck,   | William Nast,          |
| William H. Pearne,  | Henry W. Reed,         |
| Josiah Flower,      | Enoch G. Wood,         |
| Asa J. Dana,        | James B. Corrington,   |
| Jonathan Watts,     | Hiram Buck,            |

May 2, 1856.

Stephen F. Conrey,	John P. Durbin,
Joseph H. Hopkins,	Lorenzo R. Thayer,
Anthony Bewley,	Samuel W. Coggeshall,
William Hamilton,	John S. Swaim,
Philip Kuhl.	

Committee on  
Education.

## ON EDUCATION.

Richard S. Rust,	Solomon Howard,
D. W. Clark,	Benjamin F. Crary,
William Griffin,	Horatio N. Barnes,
John B. Merwin,	Edward Cook,
Samuel D. Simonds,	John Dempster,
Stephen Allen,	Edward Thomson,
Joseph E. King,	Asbury Lowry,
Hiram Mattison,	Lucien W. Berry,
Gordon Battelle,	Calvin W. Ruter,
Loren L. Knox,	John Van Cleve,
John Barker,	William D. R. Trotter,
Horatio R. Clark,	Ajax H. Triplett,
Moses Hill,	John M. Chivington,
Charles Blakeslee,	Anthony Bewley,
Daniel D. Buck,	Thomas B. Sargent,
William Roberts,	George R. Crooks,
George M. Boyd,	William Rice,
Richard L. Waite,	William Livesey,
David Burns,	John M'Clintock.

Committee on  
Tract cause.

## ON THE TRACT CAUSE.

Charles N. Smith,	Jonas Dodge,
John B. Beach,	Thomas H. Pearne,
Henry L. Starks,	James L. Thompson,
James Floy,	Charles D. Burlingham,
John D. Blain,	William H. Brockway,
William F. Farrington,	Uriah Heath,
Alonzo Webster,	James Hill,
Arza J. Phelps,	George W. Bowers,
Gordon Battelle,	Chauncey Hobart,
George Pratt,	Henry Summers,
Isaac N. Baird,	John H. Power,
William H. Pearne,	John W. Fowble,
Moses Hill,	Joseph Brooks,
Daniel W. Bristol,	John A. Brouse,

Norman Allyn,  
Philip Kuhl,  
Ajax A. Triplett,  
Joseph H. Hopkins,  
Mark Robertson,

Samuel V. Blake,  
James Cunningham,  
Minor Raymond,  
Elisha B. Bradford,  
Isaac N. Felch.

May 2, 1856.

ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Newell Culver,  
Seymour Van Deusen,  
Stephen Parks,  
John M. Reid,  
Samuel D. Simonds,  
Aaron Sanderson,  
William J. Kidder,  
James Erwin,  
Gideon Martin,  
Luther P. French,  
William Cox,  
George Peck,  
Samuel Gregg,  
Charles Blakeslee,  
Jonathan Watts,  
William Roberts,  
William Graham,  
Thomas Carlton,  
John K. Gillet,

Joseph M. Trimble,  
William C. Smith,  
Orange V. Lemon,  
Elmore Yocum,  
Luke Hitchcock,  
James Wheeler,  
Arza Brown,  
David Worthington,  
John Kissing,  
Norman Allyn,  
Hardin Wallace,  
Stephen F. Conrey,  
John M. Chivington,  
Anthony Bewley,  
William Hirst,  
William Cooper,  
William Rice,  
Pardon S. Kenney,  
Samuel Y. Munroe.

Committee on  
Sunday  
Schools.

ON REVISALS.

Newell Culver,  
Lucius H. King,  
Sandford Washburn,  
Heman Bangs,  
John D. Blain,  
Aaron Sanderson,  
Amasa G. Button,  
Hiram Mattison,  
Gordon Battelle,  
Caleb D. Pillsbury,  
Samuel Wakefield,  
William H. Pearne,  
Hiram Kinsley,  
Isaac Parks,

Freeborn G. Hibbard,  
William Roberts,  
Jacob M. Stallard,  
Israel Chamberlayne,  
Wellington H. Collins,  
James M. Jamison,  
Benjamin F. Crary,  
Horatio N. Barnes,  
Philo S. Bennett,  
John Morey,  
Edward Thomson,  
Mighil Dustin,  
Jacob G. Dimmitt,  
Enoch G. Wood,

Committee on  
Revisals.

- May 2, 1856. James B. Corrington, John Poisal,  
George Rutledge, Thomas J. Quigley,  
Stephen F. Conrey, Lorenzo R. Thayer,  
John M. Chivington, Samuel W. Coggeshall,  
Mark Robertson, John M'Clintock.
- Adjournment. These committees being filled, Conference adjourned.  
Benediction by Rev. Dr. Hannah.

## SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 3, 1856.

- May 3, 1856. Conference met this morning; Bishop Scott in the chair.  
The usual religious services were conducted by George Peck, of the Wyoming Conference.
- Calling of roll dispensed with. On motion, it was agreed to dispense with calling the roll for the remainder of the session.  
Journals of yesterday were read and approved.  
The President, in conformity to the rule, called for the reports of committees, but none were presented.
- Call for petitions and memorials. Petitions and memorials were called for, and Richard S. Rust presented a memorial from Concord Station, New-Hampshire Conference, on Slavery, and it was referred to the committee on that subject.
- N. HAMPSHIRE. Slavery. Concord. James Floy presented two memorials on the subject of the Presiding Eldership; one from official members of Allen-street Church, and the other from official members of the Thirty-seventh-street Church, New-York East Conference, and they were referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.
- N. YORK EAST. Presiding Eldership. Allen-street. Thirty-seventh-street. A motion was made by Norval Wilson to print the memorial from Allen-street Church in the *Daily Western Christian Advocate*. Henry Slicer moved to amend by adding, "with the names of the signers." Peter Cartwright moved to lay the whole subject of printing the memorial on the table, but the motion was lost.
- Motion to print Allen-street memorial. On motion of James Drummond, the previous question was ordered; 125 voting for it and 60 against it.
- Previous question ordered. A point of order was raised by John A. Collins, as to whether the previous question applies to the original motion as well as to the amendment. The chair decided that it applied to both the amendment and the original motion.
- Previous question applies to all substitutes and amendments, as well as to the original motion.
- Appeal from decision of the chair. Chair sustained. John P. Durbin appealed from the decision of the chair. The question was then put, "Shall the decision of the chair

stand as the judgment of the Conference?" and it was answered affirmatively.

The amendment prevailed; and the motion as amended was carried; 113 voting in favor of it, and 99 against it.

On motion of John S. Porter, who voted in the affirmative, the action of the Conference ordering the printing of the memorial with the names of signers, was reconsidered, 130 voting in favor of reconsideration.

On motion of Adam Poe, the amendment offered by Henry Slicer, ordering the printing of names, was stricken out, and the original motion was carried.

Edward Cook, of the Wisconsin Conference, and Anthony Bewley, of the Arkansas Conference, presented their certificates of election as delegates to this body, and took their seats.

Appointments for preaching on Sabbath were announced by B. F. Crary.

The hour of ten o'clock having arrived, the Conference proceeded to the order of the day, as indicated by resolution of yesterday; and Bishop Janes read the Quadrennial Address of the General Superintendents to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. [For Address, see *Appendix A.*]

On motion of John A. Collins, so much of the Episcopal Address as relates to the Episcopacy was referred to the Committee on the Episcopacy; so much as relates to the Itinerancy was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy; so much as relates to our Publications was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern; so much as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery; so much as relates to the subject of Missions was referred to the Committee on Missions; so much as relates to the subject of Education was referred to the Committee on Education; so much as relates to the Tract Cause was referred to the Committee on the Tract Cause; so much as relates to Sunday Schools was referred to the Committee on Sunday Schools; so much as relates to a Court of Trials and Appeals was referred to a select committee of seven.

A motion was made by John A. Collins, to refer so much of the Episcopal Address as relates to Biblical Institutes, to the Committee on Education. Norval Wilson moved as a substitute, that it be referred to a select committee of seven. The substitute was lost, 88 voting for it, and 103 against it. William Cox moved to amend, so as

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Vote to print reconsidered.

Motion to print amended and adopted.

Edward Cook and Anthony Bewley take their seats.

Quadrennial Address of the Bishops read.

Referred to Committee on Episcopacy.

Itinerancy.

Book Concern. Slavery.

Missions. Education.

Tract cause.

Sunday schools. Trials and appeals to a select committee of seven.

Biblical institutes to Committee on Education.

May 3, 1856.

to refer the subject to a committee consisting of one from each conference, but the motion to amend did not prevail, after which the matter was referred to the Committee on Education.

Revisals.

On motion of John A. Collins, so much of the Episcopal Address as relates to the subject of Revisals was referred to the Committee on Revisals; and so much as relates to Africa was referred to the Committee on Missions.

Africa, to Com-  
mittee on  
Missions.  
Session pro-  
longed.

Conference agreed to prolong to-day's session till adjourned on motion.

Bishops' Ad-  
dress to be  
printed.

On motion of John A. Collins, the Committee on Printing was instructed to print one thousand copies of the Bishops' Address, in pamphlet form, for the use of this body, and that the pamphlets, when printed, shall be delivered at the Secretary's table, and by him distributed to the delegations pro rata. Also, it was ordered, that the Episcopal Address be printed in the General Conference papers.

Place for Con-  
ference ses-  
sions.

On motion of Freeborn G. Hibbard, a committee of three was ordered, whose duty it shall be to seek a more convenient place for the Conference to hold its sessions, and report on Monday morning. The chair announced F. G. Hibbard, J. A. Brouse, and Andrew Witherspoon, said committee.

Leave of ab-  
sence granted  
to D. B. Ran-  
dall.

Daniel B. Randall asked, and obtained leave of absence, till next Thursday.

Duplicate cop-  
ies of papers  
for publication  
to be prepared.

On motion, it was ordered that all parties presenting papers, which they desire published in the Daily Western Christian Advocate, shall furnish duplicate copies.

Roll of mem-  
bers for yeas  
and nays, &c.

On motion, the Secretary was directed to prepare rolls for taking the yeas and nays, and make all other arrangements necessary to the duties of his office.

Adjournment.

Notices were given, and Conference adjourned at 12½ o'clock, with the benediction by Bishop Waugh.

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### MONDAY MORNING, MAY 5th, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Baker in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by William F. Farrington, of the Maine Conference.

Journals of Saturday morning were read and approved.

S. D. Simonds  
declines serv-  
ing as Assis-  
tant Secretary.

The order of business was suspended to proceed to the election of an Assistant Secretary in the place of S. D. Simonds,



who declined serving, and also to the election of a fourth Assistant Secretary.

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After a motion to elect by ballot was laid on the table, the Conference proceeded to elect on nomination. Jefferson Lewis, W. H. Pearne, and James Hill were severally nominated, and Conference acted on the names in the order of nominations, and Jefferson Lewis and James Hill were elected.

A third and fourth Assistant Secretaries elected.

Peter D. Gorrie presented his certificate of election as a delegate from the Black River Conference, and took his seat.

P. D. Gorrie takes his seat.

On motion of John Kennaday, the following resolution was adopted :

*Resolved*, That Rev. Dr. Hannah and the Rev. Mr. Jobson, the representatives in this body of our beloved brethren of the Wesleyan Conference in Great Britain; be respectfully and affectionately requested to preach before the Conference at such periods as they may respectively designate, on consultation with the bishops.

Rev. Dr. Hannah and Rev. F. J. Jobson requested to preach.

The order of business was resumed, and the Committee on Rules of Order further reported, and the report was adopted as follows, namely :

Rule XX. All motions to postpone or to lay on the table shall be taken without debate.

Rule XX adopted.

The call for memorials and petitions was resumed. James Floy, of the New-York East Conference, presented sundry memorials on the subject of the Presiding Eldership, as follows, viz.: one from Greene-street; one from Second-street; one from Sullivan-street; one from Ninth-street; one from Willett-street, and one from the official members of Asbury, New-York city; one from Cook-street, Brooklyn; one from First Church, in Williamsburgh, N. Y.; and they were referred to the Committee on Itinerancy. Also a memorial from the New-York East Conference, in relation to the Smith Arnold Fund, and it was referred to a select committee of seven. Also a memorial on the Tract cause, and it was referred to the Committee on the Tract Cause.

Call for memorials, &c.  
NEW-YORK EAST.  
Presiding Eldership.  
Greene-street.  
Second-street.  
Sullivan-street.  
Ninth-street.  
Willett-street.  
Asbury.  
Cook-street,  
Brooklyn.  
First Church,  
Williamsburgh.  
Referred.  
Smith Arnold Fund.  
Referred.  
Tract Cause.  
Referred.

On motion of John M. Reid, so much of the Journal of the New-York East Conference as relates to the extension of the time of ministerial service on circuits and stations, was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

Journal relating to extension of time of ministerial service.  
Referred.

Bishop Janes presented a memorial, with accompanying documents, from the Local Preachers' Association of New-York and Brooklyn, and it was read and referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Local Preachers' Association of New-York and Brooklyn.  
Referred.

VERMONT CONFERENCE.—A. Webster presented memori-

VERMONT.

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Slavery.  
Pomfret.  
St. Johnsbury.  
Northfield.  
Referred.

BLACK RIVER.  
Presiding El-  
dership.  
Van Buren.  
Cato.

Syracuse.

Adams.  
Referred.  
Extension of  
time of minis-  
terial service.  
Adams.  
Referred.  
Slavery.  
Adams.  
Referred.

EAST MAINE.  
Slavery.  
Orleans.  
Dexter.  
Kilmarnock.  
Corinna.  
Referred.

VERMONT.  
Slavery.  
Waitsfield.  
Moretown.  
Randolph.  
Referred.

PITTSBURGH.  
Slavery.  
Summerfield.  
McConnellsville.  
McKendree.  
Sharon.  
Newport.  
Cumberland.

Referred.

Bolivar and  
Massillon ask  
to be set  
off from North  
Ohio to Pitts-  
burgh Confer-  
ence.  
Referred.

WYOMING.  
Boundaries.  
Bloomingdale.  
Referred.

als on Slavery; one from East Corinth Circuit; one from Worcester Station; one from Pomfret and East Pomfret Circuits; one from St. Johnsbury Station, and one from Northfield; and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE.—A. J. Phelps presented sundry petitions relating to the Presiding Eldership, as follows, viz.: one from Van Buren, and one from Cato Circuit, and they were referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

J. Erwin presented a petition from Syracuse relating to the Presiding Eldership, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

Isaac S. Bingham presented a memorial from Adams, in relation to the Presiding Eldership, and one on removing the restrictions on the appointing power, and they were referred to the Committee on Itinerancy; also one from Adams on Slavery, which was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

EAST MAINE CONFERENCE.—C. D. Pillsbury presented sundry memorials on Slavery, namely: one from Orleans; one from Dexter; one from Kilmarnock and Lagrange; one from Corinth; one from Corinna; and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

VERMONT CONFERENCE.—W. J. Kidder presented memorials on Slavery: one from Waitsfield; one from Moretown; one from Randolph; and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

PITTSBURGH CONFERENCE.—A memorial on Slavery from the Quarterly Conference of Summerfield Circuit, concurred in by M'Connellsville, M'Kendree, Sharon, Newport, and Cumberland Quarterly Conferences, and non-concurred in by Morgan, Salem, and Senecaville, was presented by James Henderson, and referred to the Committee on Slavery.

A memorial from members of the Church in Bolivar, Shanesville Circuit, North Ohio Conference, and one from Massillon, North Ohio Conference, asking that the foregoing appointments respectively be set off to the Pittsburgh Conference, were presented by William Cox, and referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

WYOMING CONFERENCE.—George Peck presented a petition from Bloomingdale Circuit, Baltimore Conference, on the subject of boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

ERIE.

ERIE CONFERENCE.—G. B. Hawkins presented a memo-

rial from the Quarterly Conference of Cuyahoga Falls Station, and Northampton Mission, in relation to extending the time of ministerial service, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals. Moses Hill presented a memorial from the Quarterly Conference of Wilmington Circuit, on the Ritual of Baptism, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

ONEIDA CONFERENCE.—Isaac Parks, presented a memorial from Utica Welsh Mission, and it was referred to the Committee on Missions.

Elias Bowen presented a memorial from official members of Lisle Circuit, asking a transfer of said circuit from the Oneida to the Wyoming Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

D. W. Bristol presented a memorial from sixty-four ladies, members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, on Lenox Circuit, on Slavery, which was referred to the Committee on Slavery; and one from forty-three male members of the same circuit, on the same subject, which was referred to the same committee.

W. Reddy presented a memorial from Ames on the Presiding Eldership, which was read, and referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

OREGON CONFERENCE.—On motion of Thos. H. Pearne, so much of the Journal of Oregon Conference as relates to a Book and Tract Depository was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern, and so much as refers to a change in the method of taking our numerical statistics was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

William Roberts presented a memorial of the Publishing Committee of the Pacific Christian Advocate, which was read, and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

GENESEE CONFERENCE.—R. L. Waite presented a memorial from Warsaw on Slavery, and I. Chamberlayne presented one on Slavery from Knowlesville, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

OHIO CONFERENCE.—J. M. Trimble presented the report of a committee made to the Ohio Conference, on finance, and it was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy; and one on the education of colored youth was referred to a select committee of seven.

INDIANA CONFERENCE.—B. F. Crary presented a memorial in relation to Conrad Muth, from Indiana Conference,

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Extension of time of ministerial service. Cuyahoga Falls. Northampton. Referred.  
Ritual of Baptism. Wilmington. Referred.  
ONEIDA. Utica Welsh Mission. Referred.

Lisle Circuit asks a transfer to Wyoming Conference. Referred.

Slavery.

Lenox. Referred.

Presiding Eldership. Ames. Referred.

OREGON. Journal on Tract Cause. Book Concern. Statistics. Referred.

GENESEE. Slavery. Warsaw. Knowlesville. Referred.

OHIO. Finance. Referred. Education of colored youth. Referred.

INDIANA. Conrad Muth.

May 5, 1856.  
Journal of South  
eastern Indi-  
ana.  
Referred.  
Journal relating  
to the German  
work.  
Referred.

Journal on  
boundaries.  
Referred.

NORTHWESTERN  
INDIANA.  
Class-meetings.  
Referred.  
Slavery.  
Referred.

Publishing  
house in Chi-  
cago.  
Referred.

NORTH INDIANA  
Journal on  
Slavery.  
Referred.

WISCONSIN.  
Slavery.  
Council Hill  
Referred.  
Division of Con-  
ference.  
Referred.

ROCK RIVER.  
W. J. Smith on  
lost money.  
Referred.  
Journal on  
boundaries.  
Referred.

NORTH OHIO.  
Journal on  
boundaries.  
Referred.  
Slavery.  
Referred.

Finance.  
Referred.

CINCINNATI.  
Journal on the  
increase of sala-  
ry of preachers.

which, together with so much of the Journal of the South-eastern Indiana Conference as relates to the same matter, was referred to the Committee on Missions. Also, on motion of B. F. Crary, so much of the Journal of the Indiana Conference as relates to the German work was referred to the same committee.

On motion of W. C. Smith, so much of the Journal of the Indiana Conference as relates to boundaries was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

**NORTHWESTERN INDIANA CONFERENCE.**—G. M. Boyd presented a memorial from the Northwestern Indiana Conference on the subject of Class-meetings, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals; also, a report on Slavery from the Northwestern Indiana Conference, which was referred to the Committee on Slavery. William Graham presented a memorial from the Northwestern Indiana Conference in relation to a Publishing House in Chicago, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

**NORTH INDIANA CONFERENCE.**—On motion of O. V. Lemon, so much of the Journal of the North Indiana Conference as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

**WISCONSIN CONFERENCE.**—P. S. Bennett presented a memorial on Slavery from Council Hill Circuit, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery; also, a memorial presented by C. Hobart on Division of Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

**ROCK RIVER CONFERENCE.**—A memorial from W. J. Smith, relating to loss of moneys belonging to the Book Concern, was presented by John Morey, and was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. On motion of R. Haney, so much of the Journal of Rock River Conference as relates to Boundaries, was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

**NORTH OHIO CONFERENCE.**—On motion of W. B. Disbro, so much of the Journal as relates to Boundaries was referred to the Committee on Boundaries and so much as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

On motion of John H. Power, so much of the Journal as refers to Finance was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

**CINCINNATI CONFERENCE.**—On motion of William Young, so much of the Journal as relates to increase of the Salary

of Preachers was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy, and so much as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

May 5, 1856.  
Referred.  
Slavery.  
Referred.

On motion of A. Lowry, so much of the Journal as relates to the Discipline, in regard to Quarterage Claims, was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy; also, so much as relates to the Sabbath-school paper was referred to the Committee on Sabbath Schools; also, so much as relates to a College for Colored People was referred to the Committee on Education.

Quarterage claims.  
Referred.  
Sunday-school paper.  
Referred.  
College for Colored youth.  
Referred.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE.—On motion of E. H. Pilcher, so much of the Journal as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery, and so much as relates to Boundaries was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

MICHIGAN.  
Journal on Slavery.  
Referred.  
Boundaries.  
Referred.

On motion of J. M. Trimble, the appeal of L. D. Harlan was made the order of the day for Thursday morning after the reading of the Journal.

Appeal of L. D. Harlan made the order of the day for Thursday morning.

The committee appointed to provide a more commodious place for our daily sessions, made their report, which was, on motion, postponed for the present.

Report of committee to secure a more commodious place for Conference sessions.  
Postponed.

On motion, C. Hobart, of Wisconsin Conference, was excused from serving as a delegate for the remainder of the session, and H. Requa presented his credentials as a reserve delegate, which were read; and he took his seat, and was, on motion, appointed to the several committees instead of C. Hobart.

C. Hobart excused for the remainder of the session, and H. Requa admitted in his stead.

IOWA CONFERENCE.—On motion of Joseph Brooks, so much of the Journals as relates to the subject of Boundaries was referred to the Committee on Boundaries, and so much as relates to the subject of Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

IOWA.  
Journal on Boundaries and Slavery.  
Referred.

SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA CONFERENCE.—On motion of C. W. Ruter, so much of the Journal as relates to the subject of Boundaries was referred to the Committee on Boundaries, and so much of the Journal as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA.  
Journal on Boundaries and Slavery.  
Referred.

F. C. Holliday presented a memorial from Lawrenceburgh Station, on constituting Sabbath-school Superintendents members of quarterly conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals; also, a memorial from preachers of Lawrenceburgh District Association, on the subject of Ministerial Support; and it was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

Sunday-school Superintendents.  
Referred.  
Ministerial Support.  
Memorial from Lawrenceburgh.  
Referred.

May 5, 1856.  
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.  
Sunday-school Superintendents.  
Memorial from the Sunday-school Convention of Alton District.  
Referred.

Slavery.  
Pulaski Mission.  
Journal of conference.  
Referred.

ILLINOIS.  
Journal on Slavery.  
Referred.

Appeal of D. J. Snow made the order of the day for Wednesday morning.

MISSOURI.  
Journal on a Kansas and Nebraska Conference, and on Boundaries and the German work.  
Referred.  
Governor Wright introduced.

BALTIMORE.  
Journal on Boundaries.  
Referred.

PHILADELPHIA.  
Revised Constitution of the Missionary Society.  
Referred.

Conference reports on the Tract Cause.  
Referred.

Changes of the Discipline.  
Referred.  
Publishing agency in Germany.  
Referred.  
Letter accrediting the Rev. L. S. Jacoby.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE.—J. B. Corrington presented a memorial from the Sabbath-school Convention of Alton District, on the subject of making Sabbath-school Superintendents members of quarterly meeting conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals. Also, a memorial from Pulaski Mission, on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery, and so much of the Journal as relates to the subject of Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE.—On motion of Peter Cartwright, so much of the Journal as relates to Slavery was referred to the committee on that subject.

On motion of Peter Cartwright, the appeal of D. J. Snow was made the order of the day for Wednesday morning immediately after the reading of the Journal.

On motion of W. D. R. Trotter, so much of the Illinois Conference Journal as relates to the Central Christian Advocate was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

MISSOURI CONFERENCE.—On motion of J. H. Hopkins, so much of the Journal of the Missouri Conference as relates to a Kansas and Nebraska Conference, and to the German work, and to the Missouri Conference Boundary, was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Bishop Baker introduced to the Conference his Excellency Joseph A. Wright, the Governor of the State of Indiana.

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE.—On motion of H. Slicer, so much of the Journal of the Baltimore Conference as relates to the subject of Boundaries was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE.—J. P. Durbin presented a revised Constitution of the Missionary Society, from the Board of Managers of said society, and it was referred to the Committee on Missions. Also, a majority and a minority report of the Committee on the Tract Cause of the Philadelphia Conference, and they were referred to the Committee on the Tract Cause. Also, a memorial from the Philadelphia Conference on changes in the Discipline, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals. Also, a memorial from the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society, relating to the publishing agency in Germany, and it was referred to the Committee on Missions. Also, a letter accrediting Rev. L. S. Jacoby to this body. Also, a peti-

tion from the missionaries in Germany, praying for the organization of a Mission Annual Conference in Germany, and also for aid from the Book Concern, to publish books in Germany; and it was referred to the Committee on Missions.

Bishop Baker introduced L. S. Jacoby, Superintendent of Missions in Germany, to the Conference.

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE.—Henry Slicer presented a memorial from members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, East Baltimore Station, in relation to boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

NEW-ENGLAND CONFERENCE.—A memorial on Slavery from Ipswich, New-England Conference, was presented by L. H. Thayer; and it was read and referred to the Committee on Slavery. Also, a memorial on the same subject from Whittonsville Station. Also, one on the same subject from Weston; and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Minor Raymond presented a memorial from Greenfield; also, one from Princeton Station; also, one from Townsend Station; all relating to Slavery, and they were referred to the committee on that subject. Also, sundry memorials from the New-England Conference, asking various changes in the Discipline; and they were referred to the Committee on Revisals. Also, a memorial from the New-England Conference, in relation to dividing the missionary work, so that there shall be a Foreign and a Home Department, and it was referred to the Committee on Missions. Also, a memorial from the New-England Conference on Slavery and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

James Porter presented a memorial on Slavery from Roxbury, New-England Conference; also, one on the same subject from Hubbardston Station, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

PROVIDENCE CONFERENCE.—Daniel Wise presented a memorial from Duxbury, Providence Conference, on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

P. T. Kenney presented a memorial on Slavery from Mansfield Station, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

On motion of S. W. Coggeshall, so much of the Journal of the Providence Conference as relates to Slavery was re-

May 5, 1856.  
German Annual Conference.  
Referred.  
Aid from the Book Concern.  
Referred.

Rev. L. S. Jacoby introduced.

BALTIMORE.  
Memorial on boundaries, from East Baltimore.  
Referred.

NEW-ENGLAND Memorials on Slavery from Ipswich.

Whittonsville.  
Weston.  
Referred.

Memorials on Slavery from Greenfield.  
Princeton.  
Townsend.  
Referred.  
Conference memorials on the changes in the Discipline.  
Dividing the mission work into Home and Foreign Departments, and on Slavery.  
Referred.

Memorials on Slavery, from Roxbury and Hubbardston.  
Referred.

PROVIDENCE.  
Memorial on Slavery from Duxbury.  
Referred.

Memorial from Mansfield on Slavery.  
Referred.

Journal on Slavery and Tract cause.  
Referred.

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ferred to the Committee on Slavery; and so much as relates to the Tract cause was referred to the Committee on the Tract Cause.

Memorials on Slavery from Fisherville, Pawtucket, and Scituate. Referred.

George M. Carpenter presented memorials on the subject of Slavery from Fisherville, from Pawtucket, and from Scituate, severally, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

NEW-JERSEY. Journal on division of Conference.

On irregularities at Hoboken, and on the relation of baptized children to the Church. Referred.

NEW-JERSEY CONFERENCE.—John M'Clintock presented the action of the New-Jersey Conference on the subject of division of the Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries. Also, a memorial from the New-Jersey Conference, relating to certain irregularities existing at Hoboken, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy. Also, a memorial from New-Jersey Conference on the relation of baptized children to the Church, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Appeal of N. Stokeley made the order of the day for Friday morning.

On motion of J. M'Clintock, the appeal of Nehemiah Stokeley, of the New-Jersey Conference, was made the order of the day for Friday morning.

Memorial from the Trustees of the Metropolitan Church. Referred.

John M'Clintock presented a memorial from the Trustees of the proposed Metropolitan Church, and it was referred to a special committee of five.

Memorial on the Presiding Eldership. Referred.

Samuel Y. Monroe presented a memorial from W. R. Freeman, and eight others, on the subject of the Presiding Eldership, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

Memorial on Slavery from Claremont District Preachers' Association, Keene, North Charlestown, and Lebanon. Referred.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE.—Newel Culver presented a memorial from Claremont District Preachers' Association; also one from Keene Station; also one from North Charlestown Station; and one from Lebanon Station, all on the subject of Slavery; and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Memorials on the Presiding Eldership, from Claremont District Preachers' Association, and Winchester. Referred.

Newel Culver also presented a memorial from Claremont District Preachers' Association, and one from Winchester, both on the subject of the Presiding Eldership; and they were referred to the Committee on the Itinerancy.

NEW-YORK. Journal relating to the Smith Arnold Fund. Referred.

Journal relating to the extension of time of ministerial service. Referred.

Memorial on the use of tobacco. Referred.

NEW-YORK CONFERENCE.—On motion of Phineas Rice, so much of the Journal as relates to the Smith Arnold Fund was referred to a special committee of seven; also so much of the Journal as relates to the extension of the time of ministerial service on Circuits and Stations, was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy; also a memorial from Brooklyn, Long Island, from J. T. Hildreth, on the use of tobacco, which was, at the instance of P. Rice, referred to the Committee on Slavery.



On motion of Phineas Rice, the appeal of Eli Denniston, of the New-York Conference, was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning, after the reading of the Journal.

TROY CONFERENCE.—On motion of Andrew Witherspoon, so much of the Journal of the Troy Conference as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery; so much as relates to changes in the Discipline, to the Committee on Revisals, and so much of the Journal as relates to boundaries was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Barnes M. Hall presented a memorial from East Chatham, on Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

D. P. Hulburd presented a memorial on Slavery from Monkton, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE.—William H. Brockway presented a memorial from members of the Church in the counties of Jackson and Eaton Rapids, one from Parma Circuit, and one from Tompkins and Spring Port, all on the subject of Slavery; and they were referred to the committee on that subject.

On motion, it was agreed to hold an afternoon session, commencing at 3 o'clock.

J. M. Jamison, of the Ohio Conference, asked and obtained leave of absence till Thursday morning, on account of sickness in his family.

The Book Agents at New-York presented their quadrennial report, which was read and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. [For Report, see *Appendix L.*]

At five minutes before 12 A. M., it was agreed that the present session be prolonged till adjourned on motion.

On motion of S. D. Simonds, the original documents referred to in the Report of the New-York Book Agents, relating to the California Advocate, were referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

The Chairmen and Secretaries of the Standing Committees were announced as follows, namely:

*On Episcopacy.*

JOHN KENNADAY, N. Y. East Conference, Chairman.

ELIJAH H. PILCHER, Michigan Conference, Secretary.

*On Itinerancy.*

NORVAL WILSON, Baltimore Conference, Chairman.

WILLIAM F. WILSON, Erie Conference, Secretary.

May 5, 1856.  
Appeal of Eli Denniston made the order of the day for to-morrow morning.

TROY.  
Journal on Slavery.  
Changes in the Discipline and Boundaries.  
Referred.

Memorial on Boundaries from Chatham.  
Referred.

Memorial on Slavery from Monkton.  
Referred.

MICHIGAN.  
Memorials on Slavery from Jackson, Eaton Rapids, Tompkins, and Spring Port.  
Referred.

Afternoon session.

J. M. Jamison has leave of absence till Thursday morning.

Report of the Book Agents at New-York.  
Read and referred.

Session prolonged.

Documents relating to the California Christian Advocate.  
Referred.

Chairmen and Secretaries of the Standing Committees.

May 5, 1856.

*On Boundaries.*

THOMAS CARLTON, Genesee Conference, Chairman.

WILLIAM H. PEARNE, Wyoming Conference, Secretary.

*On Slavery.*

MINOR RAYMOND, New-England Conference, Chairman.

DANIEL WISE, Providence Conference, Secretary.

*On the Book Concern.*

GEORGE PECK, Wyoming Conference, Chairman.

JOSEPH M. TRIMBLE, Ohio Conference, Secretary.

*On Missions.*

WILLIAM HAMILTON, Baltimore Conference, Chairman.

WILLIAM C. HOYT, N. Y. East Conference, Secretary.

*On Education.*

EDWARD THOMSON, North Ohio Conference, Chairman.

JOSEPH E. KING, Vermont Conference, Secretary.

*On the Tract Cause.*

JAMES FLOY, New-York East Conference, Chairman.

CHARLES N. SMITH, New-Hampshire Conf., Secretary.

*On Sunday Schools.*

SEYMOUR VAN DUSEN, New-York Conference, Chairman.

JOHN M. REID, New-York East Conference, Secretary.

*On Revisals and Unfinished Business.*

JOHN MCCLINTOCK, New-Jersey Conference, Chairman.

WELLINGTON H. COLLINS, Michigan Conf., Secretary.

Adjournment.

On motion, Conference adjourned at twenty minutes past 12 o'clock.

Benediction by Bishop Baker.

## MONDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Ames in the chair. The usual religious exercises were conducted by Henry W. Reed, of the Iowa Conference.

On motion, the reading of the Journal of the forenoon was postponed till to-morrow morning.

Memorial of  
Publishing  
Committee of  
the Central  
Christian Ad-  
vocate.  
Referred.

W. D. R. Trotter asked permission to refer an unfinished memorial of the Publishing Committee of the *Central Christian Advocate* to the Committee on the Book Concern, when finished, and on motion, permission was granted.

On motion of Davis W. Clark, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Book Agents, ed-  
itors, &c., in-  
vited to seats  
within the bar.

*Resolved*, That such of the Book Agents, editors of General Conference papers, and representatives of the American Bible Society, as are not delegates, be invited to take seats within the bar of the Conference.

The Report of the Agents of the Western Book Concern, with an accompanying exhibit, was read, and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. [For Report and Exhibit, see *Appendix M.*]

The Report of the Book Committee at Cincinnati was read, and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. [For Report, see *Appendix N.*]

John H. Power, as a member of the Book Committee of the Western Book Concern, presented a minority report, which was read, and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. [For Report, see *Appendix O.*]

Bishop Ames introduced to the Conference Squire Grey Eyes, who was among the first fruits of the Wyandot Mission.

The Report of the Book Committee at New-York was read, and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern; except so much as refers to the Tract cause, which, together with so much of the report of the Western Book Concern as relates to the same subject, was referred to the Committee on the Tract Cause. [For Report, see *Appendix P.*]

NEW-YORK EAST CONFERENCE.—A memorial from the First Church, New-Haven, New-York East Conference, on extending the time of ministerial service, was presented by John Kennaday, with a request that it be read; and a motion was made that it be not read, but the motion did not prevail, and the memorial was read, and referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE.—A memorial from the Publishing Committee of the *California Christian Advocate*, with accompanying documents, was presented by J. D. Blain, and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

On motion of J. D. Blain, so much of the Journal of the California Conference as relates to the *California Christian Advocate* was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern; and so much as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

MAINE CONFERENCE.—A memorial on the Presiding Eldership, from Augusta, was presented by Stephen Allen, and referred to the Committee on Itinerancy; also by the same, a memorial from Buxton, and one from Augusta, and one from Bridgeton and Naples Circuit, on Slavery, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

May 5, 1856.

Report of the Agents of the Western Book Concern. Read and referred.

Report of the Book Committee of the Western Book Concern. Read and referred.

Report of a minority of Book Committee of the Western Book Concern. Read and referred.

Report of a minority of Book Committee of the Western Book Concern. Read and referred.

Squire Grey Eyes introduced.

Report of the Book Committee at New-York. Read and referred.

N. YORK EAST.

Memorial from the First Church, New-Haven, on extending the time of ministerial service. Referred.

CALIFORNIA.

Memorial from the Publishing Committee of the *California Christian Advocate*. Referred.

Journal relating to California Christian Advocate and to Slavery. Referred.

MAINE.

A memorial on the Presiding Eldership from Augusta. Referred.

Memorials on Slavery from Buxton, Augusta, Bridgeton, and Naples. Referred.

May 5, 1856.

VERMONT.  
Memorial from  
Middlesex on  
Slavery.  
Referred.

BLACK RIVER.  
Memorial from  
Weedsport on  
the Presiding  
Eldership.  
Referred.  
Journal on Slav-  
ery.  
Referred.

Memorials from  
Watertown re-  
lating to Stew-  
ards and to  
Slavery.  
Referred.

EAST MAINE.  
Journal on Slav-  
ery.  
Referred.

PITTSBURGH.  
Journal relating  
to a division of  
conference, to  
a German mis-  
sion district,  
and to Slavery,  
is referred.

Memorial from  
Pittsburgh  
Conference on  
Boundaries.  
Referred.

WYOMING.  
Journal relating  
to Slavery.  
Referred.

ERIE.  
Journal relating  
to Boundaries  
and Slavery.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Ravenna Dis-  
trict on divi-  
sion of Confer-  
ence.

Referred.  
ONEIDA.  
Journal relating  
to Slavery.  
Referred.  
Memorial from  
Columbus on  
Slavery.

VERMONT CONFERENCE.—W. J. Kidder presented a memorial on Slavery from Middlesex Station, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE.—A. J. Phelps presented a petition relating to the Presiding Eldership from Weedsport, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy. On motion of A. J. Phelps, so much of the Journal as relates to Slavery was referred to the committee on that subject.

F. H. Stanton presented a memorial from the Quarterly Conference of the Arsenal-street Church, Watertown, relating to Stewards, which was referred to the Committee on Revisals. From the same Quarterly Meeting Conference, a memorial on Slavery, and one also from the lay members of Watertown on Slavery, and they were referred to the committee on that subject.

EAST MAINE CONFERENCE.—On motion of L. L. Knox, so much of the Journal as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

PITTSBURGH CONFERENCE.—On motion of I. N. Baird, so much of the Journal as relates to the division of the Conference was referred to the Committee on Boundaries; so much as relates to a German mission district was referred to the Committee on Boundaries; and so much as relates to the subject of Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Samuel Wakefield presented a memorial from the Pittsburgh Conference, relating to a division of the Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

WYOMING CONFERENCE.—On motion of William H. Pearne, so much of the Journal as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

ERIE CONFERENCE.—On motion of Hiram Kinsley, so much of the Journal as relates to Boundaries was referred to the Committee on Boundaries; and so much as relates to the subject of Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

G. B. Hawkins presented a memorial from Ravenna District on a division of the Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

ONEIDA CONFERENCE.—On motion of Isaac Parks, so much of the Journal as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Charles Starr presented a memorial from Columbus on

Slavery, and it was referred to the committee on that subject.

May 5, 1856.  
Referred.

EAST GENESEE CONFERENCE.—On motion of Jonas Dodge, so much of the Journal as relates to the subject of Slavery was referred to the committee on that subject.

EAST GENESEE.  
Journal relating to Slavery.  
Referred.

Calviu S. Coats presented a memorial from Troy District on Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Memorial from Troy District on Boundaries.  
Referred.

A memorial on Lay Representation was presented by F. G. Hibbard, read, and referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Memorial on Lay Representation.  
Referred.

OREGON CONFERENCE.—On motion of William Roberts, so much of the Journal as relates to the publishing of a Paper was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern; and so much as relates to Slavery, was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

OREGON.  
Journal on publishing a Paper, and on Slavery.  
Referred.

OHIO CONFERENCE.—On motion of J. M. Trimble, the resolutions of the Ohio Conference on Slavery were referred to the Committee on Slavery, and so much of the Journal as relates to boundaries was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

OHIO.  
Journal on Slavery and Boundaries.  
Referred.

INDIANA CONFERENCE.—On motion of H. S. Talbot, so much of the Journal as relates to the office of Presiding Elder, was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy, and so much of the Journal as relates to Class-meetings was referred to the Committee on Revisals; and, on motion of W. C. Smith, so much of the Journal as remonstrates against extending the term of ministerial service on circuits and stations, was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

INDIANA.  
Journal relating to the Presiding Eldership, and to Class-meetings.  
Referred.  
Journal remonstrating against extending the term of ministerial services.  
Referred.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE.—On motion of I. M. Leihy, so much of the Journal as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

WISCONSIN.  
Journal relating to Slavery.  
Referred.

The appeal of Jonathan M. Snow was made the order of the day for next Wednesday week, in the morning.

Appeal of J. M. Snow made the order of the day for next Wednesday week.

ROCK RIVER CONFERENCE.—On motion of L. Hitchcock, so much of the Journal as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

ROCK RIVER.  
Journal relating to Slavery.  
Referred.

NORTH OHIO CONFERENCE.—On motion of W. B. Disbro, so much of the Journal as relates to an annual election of Stewards was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

NORTH OHIO.  
Journal relating to the annual election of Stewards.  
Referred.

James Wheeler presented a memorial from J. S. Kalb and others on the subject of Baptism; and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Memorial on the subject of baptism.  
Referred.

Henry E. Pilcher presented remonstrances from the Quar-

Remonstrances

May 5, 1856.  
on the subject  
of Boundaries,  
from Delaware  
and South Del-  
aware.  
Referred.

CINCINNATI.  
Memorial from  
West Liberty  
on Boundaries.  
Referred.

PITTSBURGH.  
Appeal of I. N.  
McAbee made  
the order of the  
day for next  
Tuesday week.

CINCINNATI.  
Journal relating  
to Finance.  
Referred.

BALTIMORE.  
Memorial from  
colored mem-  
bers of Sharp-  
street and As-  
bury Stations.  
Referred.

Members mov-  
ing a reference  
of any part of  
the Journal of  
an annual con-  
ference, to fur-  
nish a copy to  
the committee.

PHILADELPHIA.  
Memorial of Jo-  
seph Castle on  
Boundaries.  
Referred.

NEW-ENGLAND.  
Memorials from  
the several  
charges on Spring-  
field  
District.  
Referred.

Special commit-  
tees announced.

Committee to  
respond to the  
Address of the  
British Confer-  
ence.

Committee on  
Trials and Ap-  
peals.

Committee on  
Pastoral Ad-  
dress.

terly Conferences of Delaware Station, and South Delaware Circuits, against any change of conference lines, by which those two charges shall be thrown into different conferences; and they were referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

CINCINNATI CONFERENCE.—George W. Walker presented a petition from members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of West Liberty, North Ohio Conference, on Boundaries; and it was referred to the committee on that subject.

PITTSBURGH CONFERENCE.—On motion of I. N. Baird, the appeal of I. N. McAbee, was made the order of the day for next Tuesday week, in the morning.

CINCINNATI CONFERENCE.—On motion of William Young, so much of the Journal of the Cincinnati Conference as relates to finance was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE.—John A. Collins presented a memorial from the colored members of Sharp-street and Asbury Stations, Baltimore, asking to be permitted to form a Conference among themselves; and it was referred to the Committee on the Colored Membership of our Church.

On motion, it was made the duty of a member moving the reference of any item of the Journal of his Conference to a committee, to furnish a copy of the item to the chairman of the said committee.

PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE.—William McCombs presented a communication from Joseph Castle, presiding elder of the North Philadelphia District, Philadelphia Conference, on Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

NEW-ENGLAND CONFERENCE.—T. Marcy presented memorials on Slavery from the several charges on Springfield District, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

The following special committees were announced by the chair, namely:

Committee to respond to the Address of the British Conference: John P. Durbin, J. M. Trimble, F. G. Hibbard, Stephen Allen, Thomas B. Sargent.

Committee on Trials and Appeals: James Porter, T. J. Thompson, William Reddy, J. M. Jamison, H. W. Reed, S. D. Brown.

Committee on Pastoral Address: Alfred Griffith, E. G. Wood, L. W. Berry, R. S. Rust, I. N. Baird.

- Committee on Expenses of Delegates: John S. Porter, William Cox, and I. M. Leihy. May 5, 1856.  
Committee on Expenses of Delegates.
- Committee on Temperance: Henry Slicer, A. A. Reese, L. Hitchcock, J. B. Merwin, William Rice, William Young, Thomas H. Pearne. Committee on Temperance.
- Committee on Temporal Economy: Heman Bangs, Elmore Yocum, T. Carlton, A. Poe, J. Van Cleve, P. T. Kenney, C. D. Pillsbury. Committee on Temporal Economy.
- Committee on the Bible Cause: Elias Bowen, Wellington H. Collins, Alonzo Webster, Lorenzo R. Thayer, George R. Crooks, Hooper Crews, and John M. Reid. Committee on the Bible Cause.
- Committee on the Smith Arnold Fund: Zebulon Phillips, A. M. Osbon, J. Floy, William A. Wilmer, J. Cunningham, I. N. Felch, John Dennis. Committee on the Smith Arnold Fund.
- Committee on the Education of Colored Youth: Cyrus Brooks, Z. Connell, Moses Hill, H. E. Pilcher, M. Dustin, F. C. Holliday, R. Boyd. Committee on the Education of Colored Youth.
- Committee on Colored Membership: George F. Brown, L. B. Gurley, T. J. Quigley, S. V. Blake, J. Drummond, E. E. Griswold, George M. Carpenter. Committee on Colored Membership.
- Committee on Metropolitan Church: John McClintock, M. Raymond, J. P. Durbin, J. V. Watson, E. Thomson. Committee on the Metropolitan Church.

The following resolution was submitted by Heman Bangs and adopted, namely:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Temporal Economy inquire into the propriety of the widows of deceased bishops being paid their allowance in the same way that the bishops are now paid. Resolution relating to the manner of paying widows and orphans of deceased bishops.

On motion, Conference adjourned at three quarters past five o'clock. Benediction by William L. Harris. Adjournment.

TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 6th, 1856.

May 6, 1856.

Conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened in the usual order by Robert Boyd, of the Pittsburgh Conference.

Bishop Simpson in the chair.

The Journal of yesterday, both morning and afternoon sessions, was read, amended, and approved.

Brother Lowry moved to suspend the order of the day, to admit a motion for a change of reference of the paper relating to the establishing of the college for colored people; which prevailed, and it was referred to a special committee on that subject. College for colored youth. Reference of a paper changed.

- May 6, 1856.  
John Barker takes his seat. John Barker, of Pittsburgh Conference, presented his certificate of election, and took his seat as a member of this General Conference.
- Appeal of Eli Denniston taken up and entertained. The order of the day was taken up, and the appeal of Eli Denniston, an expelled member of the New-York Conference, was, on motion of Z. Phillips, entertained.
- Motion to have the grounds of the appeal stated. A motion was made to have the grounds of the appeal stated. Brother G. W. Walker moved as a substitute that the Journals of the New-York Conference touching the case be read ; and the substitute was adopted.
- Journal of the New-York Conference read. Charges, specifications, and testimony read. The Journal of the New-York Conference in the case was then read, setting forth the several actions of the Conference relating thereto. The charges and specifications were read, after which the testimony taken before the New-York Conference was read.
- J. H. Perry appears for the appellant. J. H. Perry appeared and addressed the Conference in behalf of the appellant.
- Afternoon session. On motion of John A. Collins, it was resolved, that when we adjourn we adjourn to meet at three o'clock P. M.
- Adjournment. On motion of B. M. Hall, Conference adjourned at five minutes before twelve o'clock.  
Benediction by Dr. Hannah.

## TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Simpson in the chair.

The usual religious exercises were conducted by George Peck, of the Wyoming Conference.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

- J. H. Perry resumes his argument. J. H. Perry resumed his argument on the behalf of the appellant, whose case was before the Conference at the time of adjournment. A. M. Osbon, as the representative of the New-York delegation, defended the action of the Conference, after which J. H. Perry responded, and the pleadings closed.
- A. M. Osbon responds for the New-York Conference.
- J. H. Perry closes the pleadings.

Delegates of the New-York Conference excused from voting. On motion of Heman Bangs, the delegates of the New-York Conference were, at their own request, excused from voting in the final determination of this case.

The following resolution was then submitted by Heman Bangs, and adopted, namely :

Decision of the New-York Conference reversed.

*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several annual conferences in General Conference assembled, That the decision of the New-York



Conference, expelling Eli Denniston, be and the same is hereby reversed.

May 6, 1856.

On motion, Conference adjourned.  
Benediction by Israel Chamberlayne.

Adjournment.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 7, 1856.

May 7, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Waugh in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by William Cooper, of the Philadelphia Conference.

The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.

The President presented a communication, signed by two of the preachers of the California Conference, relating to one of the delegates in this body from that Conference, and, on motion of J. D. Blain, it was referred to a committee of five.

A communication relating to a member of the General Conference. Referred.

The special order of the day for this morning, the appeal of D. J. Snow, an expelled member of the Illinois Conference, was called, when a motion was made by J. P. Durbin to lay the special order of the day on the table for the present; but the motion did not prevail.

Appeal of D. J. Snow called. Motion to lay it on the table. Lost.

On motion of S. Van Deusen, the appeal was taken up.

Appeal taken up. Motion to refer to a committee.

A motion was made by F. C. Holliday, to refer this case to a committee of five, to prepare it for Conference action. J. Z. Nichols moved to lay the motion to refer on the table; and the motion prevailed.

Laid on the table.

On motion of Hiram Kinsley, the appeal was admitted; and the appellant then stated the grounds of his appeal.

Appeal admitted, and grounds of appeal stated. Journal of Illinois Conference read.

The Journal of the Illinois Conference, touching this case, was read; after which James Floy submitted the following preamble and resolution, and they were adopted, namely:

Inasmuch as the records of the trial in the case of D. J. Snow are imperfect; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the case be referred back to the Illinois Conference for a new trial.

Case referred back for a new trial.

Bishop Waugh introduced Rev. Dr. Ryerson and Rev. Richard Jones, representatives of the Wesleyan Conference in Canada. Dr. Ryerson presented the Address of the Canada Conference to this body. The Address was read, after which Dr. Ryerson and Rev. Mr. Jones addressed the Conference in relation to the interests of Methodism in Canada. [For Address of the Canada Conference, see *Appendix D.*]

Rev. Dr. Ryerson and Rev. Richard Jones introduced. Address of the Canada Conference presented and read. Delegates from Canada address the Conference.

May 7, 1856.  
Resolutions  
greeting the  
Canadian  
brethren, and  
providing for a  
delegation  
from this body.  
Amendment to  
elect three, in-  
stead of one.

C. W. Ruter submitted a series of resolutions, greeting the Canadian brethren, and providing for a delegation from this body to attend the session of the Canada Conference in 1857.

A motion was made by W. H. Brockway, to so amend the resolution providing for a delegation, as to elect three instead of one. H. Bangs moved, as a substitute to this amendment, that two delegates, instead of three, be elected. The substitute was laid on the table, and the amendment was adopted. The resolutions, as amended, were then adopted as follows, namely:

Resolution  
greeting the  
Delegates from  
Canada.

*Resolved*, 1. That we greet most cordially, and with true brotherly affection, Rev. Brethren Ryerson and Jones, representatives of the Canada Conference, and welcome them as brethren beloved from that branch of the great Methodist family.

Address to be  
published.

2. *Resolved*, That the Address of the Canada Conference be published in the several General Conference papers.

Committee to  
reply to the ad-  
dress.

3. *Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to prepare a suitable address in behalf of this to the Canada Conference.

Three delegates  
to be elected.

4. *Resolved*, That this Conference, some time during its present session, elect three delegates to attend the session of the Canada Conference in A. D. 1857, as our representatives, and bear our friendly greetings to that body.

Resolution to  
provide for a  
committee to  
nominate can-  
didates for ele-  
ction as dele-  
gates to the  
Canada Confer-  
ence.

B. M. Hall submitted a resolution, providing for a committee of *five* to nominate nine persons to be voted for as delegates to the Canada Conference.

M. Dustin moved to amend, by striking out *five*, and inserting "one from each Conference;" but the amendment was laid on the table.

Proposed  
amendment  
laid on the  
table.

F. C. Holliday moved to lay the resolution on the table, and the motion was lost.

Motion to lay  
the resolution  
on the table.

The original resolution was adopted as follows, namely:

Lost.

Resolution  
adopted.

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to nominate nine persons to be voted for by the General Conference, as delegates to the Canada Wesleyan Connection, and the three having the highest number of votes to be the delegates.

Courtesies and  
privileges ex-  
tended to the  
delegates from  
Canada.

John Luccock moved that the same courtesies and privileges that were extended to the Wesleyan delegates, be extended also to the delegates of the Canada Conference.

Rev. Brethren  
Scott and Ca-  
ther of the Irish  
Conference in-  
troduced.

Bishop Waugh introduced Rev. Brethren Scott and Cather, deputies from the Irish Conference.

Address of the  
Irish Confer-  
ence presented  
and read.

Mr. Scott presented an Address from the Irish Conference. The Address was read, after which the deputies addressed the Conference. [For Address, see *Appendix F.*]

On motion of John A. Collins, the following resolutions were adopted, namely:

*Resolved*, That we extend a most cordial greeting and welcome to our brethren the deputies from the Irish Conference to this body, and also the same courtesies and privileges as were extended to the representatives of the British and Canada Conferences.

*Resolved*, That a committee of seven be appointed to respond to the Address of the Irish Conference, presented to this body by the delegates thereof; and that said committee also report to this Conference a plan for the furtherance of the object of the Irish delegation to the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States.

On motion of James Porter, the papers before the last General Conference, in relation to an Appeal Conference, were referred to the Committee on Trials and Appeals.

John A. Collins presented the following resolutions, namely :

1. *Resolved*, by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in General Conference assembled, That the Committee on Slavery and the Committee on Itinerancy be, and they are hereby instructed, to mature their action on Slavery, the Presiding Elder question, and the proposition to continue preachers on circuits and stations for a longer period than two years, and report the same at as early a period as practicable during its session.

2. *Resolved*, By the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in General Conference assembled, That when the report comes in, either on Slavery, the Presiding Elder question, or extension of time of preacher in an appointment, as the case may be, it shall be the special order of the day, immediately after the call for petitions, memorials, appeals, etc., and shall remain so each successive day, as a standing order until disposed of: that is to say, whichever of the above subjects is first reported on to this Conference, shall be under the control of this order, until action is had thereon: and so of the two others, taking precedence as the reports respectively come in: Provided, that nothing in this resolution shall be so understood or construed, as to conflict with the 15th rule for the government of this body.

3. *Resolved*, By the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in Conference assembled, That said Committees shall include in their respective reports the number and sex of the signers of the various memorials and petitions presented to the Conference in relation to the subjects referred to.

The first resolution was read and adopted. The second resolution was read, and a motion was made to lay it on the table, but the motion was lost.

A motion was made to extend the time of the session, but the motion did not prevail.

On motion, the second resolution was adopted.

The chair announced the following committee, ordered this morning, in relation to the communication from two preachers of the California Conference, namely :

N. J. B. Morgan, Gardner Baker, Jarvis Z. Nichols, Wellington H. Collins, and William Roberts.

The time of adjournment having come, Conference closed with the benediction by Dr. Ryerson.

May 7, 1856.

Resolution greeting the Irish deputation.

Committee ordered to respond to the Address of the Irish Conference, &c.

Documents before the last General Conference on an appeal Conference.

Referred.

Committees on Slavery and Itinerancy to hasten their reports.

Reports on Slavery, the Presiding Elder question, and on extending the time of ministerial service, to be under a special order, till the final action shall be had.

Committee on the communication relating to members of the California Conference.

Adjournment.

May 8, 1856,

## THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 8, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Morris in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by W. H. Brockway of the Michigan Conference.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

On motion of W. L. Harris, the special order of the day was suspended.

L. B. Gurley  
and J. H. Power  
changed on  
committees.

On motion of W. L. Harris, in pursuance of instruction from the North Ohio Delegation, Leonard B. Gurley was changed from the Committee on the Book Concern to the Committee on Episcopacy; and John H. Power was changed from the Committee on Episcopacy to the Committee on the Book Concern.

Report of the  
Commissioners  
of the Church  
suit against the  
Western Book  
Concern.  
Read and refer-  
red.

Edward Thomson presented and read the report of the Commissioners on the Church suit of the Western Book Concern, and it, with accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. [For Report, see *Appendix Q.*]

Dr. Hannah re-  
quests that dele-  
gates be sent  
to the British  
Conference.

Dr. Hannah expressed to the Conference the earnest desire of the British Conference to receive a delegation from this body, at their session, either next year, or at the earliest convenient period thereafter.

Statement of  
agents relating  
to book deposi-  
tory at St.  
Louis.

On motion of Adam Poe, a Statement of the agents of Western Book Concern, concerning a book depository and a paper at St. Louis, was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. [For Statement, see *Appendix R.*]

Motion to take  
up the resolu-  
tion laid on the  
table by ad-  
journment,  
lost.

John A. Collins moved to take up the resolution under consideration at the time of adjournment; but the motion was laid on the table by a vote of 104 to 56.

Communication  
from Liberia  
Annual Confer-  
ence.

Bishop Waugh presented a communication from the Liberia Annual Conference, and on motion of Isaac Parks, it was referred to the Committee on Missions, without reading.

NEW-YORK  
EAST.

Communication  
relating to the  
support of min-  
isters whose  
health fail in  
foreign fields.  
Referred.  
Memorial on  
Boundaries.  
Referred.

NEW-YORK EAST CONFERENCE.—E. E. Griswold presented a communication from the New-York East Conference, in relation to the support of ministers who shall lose their health in foreign fields of labor, &c., and it was referred to the Committee on Missions: also a communication from the New-York East Conference, in relation to Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

N. J. B. Morgan, chairman of the committee to whom was referred the communication from two of the preachers

of the California Conference, in relation to a member of this body, reported as follows, and the report was adopted :

May 8, 1856.

The committee to whom was referred the communication from California, respecting S. D. Simonds, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to present the following as our report.

Report of committee relating to the letter from California.

The communication refers to affairs in which Brother Simonds appears to have acted with the knowledge and advice of his presiding elder, and other ministerial brethren, and over which it is our opinion this General Conference has no jurisdiction.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

N. J. B. MORGAN,

W. H. COLLINS,

G. BAKER,

WILLIAM ROBERTS.

J. Z. NICHOLS,

On motion of George W. Walker, the special order of the day, the appeal of L. D. Harlan, was taken up.

Appeal of L. D. Harlan taken up.

On motion of John H. Power, Conference determined to sit with closed doors during the investigation of this case, excepting, however, from the force of this requirement, traveling ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Conference to sit with closed doors.

Brothers Noble and Johnson were appointed doorkeepers.

Doorkeepers.

On motion of George W. Walker, Moses Brooks, Esq., the father of the late Mrs. Sears, whose character is implicated in this case, was permitted to be present during the trial of the appeal.

Moses Brooks permitted to be present during the trial of the appeal.

Bishop Morris stated an order of proceedings in cases of appeal, agreed upon by the bishops, and after it was read by Bishop Baker, it was adopted by the Conference as the order to be observed in all cases of appeal to this body.

Order of conducting appeals.

The order is as follows, namely :

1. Motion to take up.
2. Motion to admit.
3. Appellant state the grounds of his appeal.
4. Read the charges, specifications, and findings of the case.
5. Reading of the testimony.
6. Defense of the appellant.
7. Reply of the delegates.
8. Final reply of the appellant.
9. Decision by the General Conference.

On motion of James Porter, the appeal was admitted.

Appeal admitted.

The appellant then stated the grounds of his appeal.

Grounds of appeal stated.

The charges, specifications, and finding of the Conference, together with a notice of appeal, were read from the Journal of the Cincinnati Conference.

Charges, specifications, and finding read.

The testimony in behalf of the prosecution was read, and the testimony of the defense was read in part, when, on motion, Conference adjourned to meet at half past two o'clock this afternoon.

Testimony for the prosecution read.

Testimony for the defense read in part.

Afternoon session.

May 8, 1856.  
British dele-  
gates to preach  
on Wednesday  
afternoon.  
Dr. Hannah at  
8 o'clock.

Rev. Mr. Job-  
son at seven  
o'clock.

Adjournment.

Bishop Waugh announced that, in pursuance of a resolution of this body, the representatives of the Wesleyan Connection in Great Britain, on consultation with the bishops, had designated Wednesday afternoon at three o'clock, as the time for a sermon from Dr. Hannah before the Conference, and Wednesday evening at half past seven o'clock, as the hour when Rev. Mr. Jobson would preach before the Conference. The services on both these occasions to be in Wesley Chapel.

Conference closed with singing the doxology, and the benediction by Israel Chamberlayne.

#### THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Janes in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by Elias Bowen of the Oneida Conference. The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

Appeal of L. D.  
Harlan resum-  
ed.  
Testimony read  
till adjourn-  
ment.

On motion of George W. Walker, the case under consideration at the time of adjournment this morning was taken up, and the reading of testimony continued till it was arrested by the adjournment of Conference.

Special Com-  
mittees an-  
nounced.

Bishop Baker announced the following committees, namely:

Committee to  
prepare a reply  
to the Address  
of the Canada  
Conference.

Committee to prepare a reply to the Address of the Canada Conference: Calvin Kingsley, H. Mattison, E. H. Pilcher, D. Wise, and George Rutledge.

Committee to  
answer the Ad-  
dress of the  
Irish Confer-  
ence.

Committee to answer the Address of the Irish Conference, and to devise means to carry out the object of their mission: E. Thomson, J. M'Clintock, L. Crowell, F. Hodgson, H. Crews, G. Battelle, and L. H. King.

Committee to  
nominate candi-  
dates to visit  
the Canada  
Conference.

Committee to nominate candidates to visit the Canada Conference: B. M. Hall, C. W. Ruter, W. F. Farrington, H. Summers, and J. Lewis.

Adjournment.

Conference closed with singing the Doxology, and with the benediction by George Peck.

May 9, 1856.

#### FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 9, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Scott in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by John S. Porter of the New-Jersey Conference.

The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.

On motion of W. L. Harris, the unfinished business of yesterday was taken up, and the reading of testimony in the matter of L. D. Harlan was completed.

Thomas H. Pearne said that he had been requested to report the arguments of the parties in this case, and he desired to know the will of the Conference in relation to reporting.

Whereupon, M. Raymond moved that he be left to his own discretion; but the motion was laid on the table.

The appellant, L. D. Harlan, addressed the Conference till near the hour of adjournment, when, on motion of John A. Collins, the case was laid on the table for the present.

On motion, the session was prolonged till the Conferences can be called for the presentation of memorials and petitions.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE.—James Thurston presented four memorials on Slavery, to wit: one from South New Market; one from Garretton-street Station; one from Greenland Station; one from Dover; and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Newel Culver presented a memorial on Slavery from Unity Station, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

TROY CONFERENCE.—A. Witherspoon presented a memorial on Slavery from Union Village, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

S. D. Brown presented a memorial relating to Law Questions, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

NEW YORK EAST CONFERENCE.—J. B. Merwin presented a letter from Rev. L. Clark, in relation to a Court of Trials and Appeals, and it was referred to the committee on that subject.

CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE.—On motion of J. D. Blain, so much of the Journal of the California Conference as relates to Missions was referred to the Committee on Missions.

MAINE CONFERENCE.—D. B. Randall presented five memorials on Slavery; one from Industry Circuit; one from Wilton and Temple Circuit; one from Skowhegan; one from Solon, and one from Mercer, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery. He also presented a remonstrance from Fayette Circuit, against any change in the system of Presiding Eldership, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

May 9, 1856.

Appeal of L. D. Harlan resumed, and the reading of the testimony completed.

T. H. Pearne having been requested to report this case, wishes to know the pleasure of the Conference. Motion to leave the matter to his discretion. Laid on the table.

Appellant addressed the Conference.

Case laid on the table for the present.

Session prolonged.

Memorials and petitions presented.

N. HAMPSHIRE. Memorials on Slavery from South New Market, Garretton-street, Greenland, and Dover. Referred.

Memorial on Slavery from Unity. Referred.

TROY. Memorial on Slavery from Union Village. Referred.

Memorial on Law Questions. Referred.

N. YORK EAST. Letter from Rev. L. Clark relating to a Court of Trials and Appeals. Referred.

CALIFORNIA. Journal relating to Missions. Referred.

MAINE. Memorials on Slavery from Industry, Wilton, and Temple, Skowhegan, Solon, and Mercer. Referred.

Remonstrance against any change in the system of the Presiding Eldership, from Fayette. Referred.

May 9, 1856.

**VERMONT.**

Memorials on Slavery from Corinth and Pittsfield. Referred.

Memorial on Boundaries referred.

Journal relating to Boundaries. Referred.

Journal relating to Slavery. Referred.

Memorials on Slavery from Derby and Lyndon. Referred.

Memorial on Slavery from Bethel. Referred.

Memorial for relief—lost Tract money. Referred.

**BLACK RIVER.**

Memorials on Slavery from Champion; and on the Presiding Eldership from Marcy. Referred.

Memorials on the Presiding Eldership from Rome, Geddis, and East Oswego. Referred.

Memorials on the Presiding Eldership from York-street, Fleet-street, Pacific-street, and Centenary Church, Brooklyn; from Bedford-street, Duane-street, and Trinity Church, New-York. Referred.

**WESTERN VIRGINIA.**

Memorial from Wheeling on Church Insurance. Referred.

**EAST MAINE.**  
Memorial on Extension of Time of Minis-

**VERMONT CONFERENCE.**—Alonzo Webster presented two memorials on Slavery; one from Corinth, and one from Pittsfield, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery. He also presented a memorial from Vermont Conference on Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries. Also, on motion of A. Webster, so much of the Journal of the Vermont Conference as relates to the subject of Boundaries, was referred to the Committee on Boundaries, and so much of the Journal as relates to the subject of Slavery, was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

A. G. Button presented two memorials on Slavery; one from Derby, and one from Lyndon, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Joseph E. King presented a memorial on Slavery from Bethel Station, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Also a memorial from W. J. Kidder for relief, he having lost Tract money on his way hither, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

**BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE.**—Gardner Baker presented two memorials from Champion on the subject of Slavery, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery. He also presented a memorial on the Presiding Eldership from Marcy Station, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

J. Erwin presented a memorial from East Oswego, one from Rome, and one from Geddis, on the Presiding Eldership, and they were referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

H. Mattison presented memorials on the subject of the Presiding Eldership, one from York-street, Brooklyn, one from Fleet-street, Brooklyn, one from Pacific-street, Brooklyn, and one from Centenary Church, Brooklyn, all in New-York East Conference; also one from Bedford-street, New-York, one from Duane-street, New-York, and one on both the Presiding Eldership and on extending the Time of Ministerial Service on Circuits and Stations, from Trinity Church, New-York, all in New-York Conference, and they were referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

**WESTERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.**—James Drummond presented a memorial from Wheeling on the subject of Church Insurance, and it was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

**EAST MAINE CONFERENCE.**—George Pratt presented a memorial on Extension of Time of Ministerial Service from



Newcastle, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy. He also presented three memorials on the subject of Slavery, one from Rockland, one from Newcastle, and one from Southport, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

ERIE CONFERENCE.—G. B. Hawkins presented a memorial from Akron on the Extension of Time of Ministerial Service, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

ONEIDA CONFERENCE.—E. Bowen presented a memorial from Dryden on Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

D. W. Bristol presented a memorial from Lenox on Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

EAST GENESEE CONFERENCE.—John Dennis presented a memorial from Rochester District on Boundaries, which was referred to the Committee on Boundaries; also one from Rochester District Ministerial Association on Extending the Time of Ministerial Service, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy; also one from Rochester District Ministerial Association on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

GENESEE CONFERENCE.—On motion of I. Chamberlayne, so much of the Journal as relates to Church Insurance was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy; and so much as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE.—J. K. Gillet presented two memorials on Slavery from Oakville, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

W. H. Collins presented a memorial on Slavery, from South Albion, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

David Burns presented a memorial on Slavery from Kalamazoo Station, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

NORTH INDIANA CONFERENCE.—S. C. Cooper presented a memorial on Slavery from Orland Circuit, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

INDIANA CONFERENCE.—B. F. Crary presented a petition from E. Whitten, in relation to his indebtedness to the Book Concern, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE.—P. S. Bennett presented a

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 terial Service from Newcastle.  
 Referred.  
 Memorials on Slavery from Rockland, Newcastle, and Southport.  
 Referred.  
 ERIE.  
 Memorial from Akron on Extension of Time of Ministerial Service.  
 Referred.  
 ONEIDA.  
 Memorials on Slavery from Dryden and Lenox.  
 Referred.  
 EAST GENESEE.  
 Memorial from Rochester District on Boundaries.  
 Referred.  
 Memorials from Rochester District Ministerial Association on Extending the Time of Ministerial Service, and on Slavery.  
 Referred.  
 GENESEE.  
 Journal relating to Church Insurance and Slavery.  
 Referred.  
 MICHIGAN.  
 Memorials on Slavery from Oakville.  
 Referred.  
 Memorial on Slavery from South Albion.  
 Referred.  
 Memorial on Slavery from Kalamazoo.  
 Referred.  
 NORTH INDIANA.  
 Memorial on Slavery from Orland.  
 Referred.  
 INDIANA.  
 Memorial from E. Whitten relating to indebtedness to the Book Concern.  
 Referred.  
 WISCONSIN.

May 9, 1856.

Memorial on Slavery from West Bend.

Referred.  
Journal relating to the Presiding Eldership and to Ministerial Support.

Referred.  
NORTH OHIO.  
Memorial from South Delaware on Boundaries.

Referred.  
Journal relating to People of Color.

Referred.  
Memorial from Jeromeville on the Ritual of Baptism.

Referred.  
Petitions from W. C. Peirce and J. F. Kennedy on Boundaries.

Referred.  
CINCINNATI.  
Memorial from Greenville on Boundaries.

Referred.  
Memorial from W. Herr on Sunday-school Superintendents.

Referred.  
Memorial from W. Herr on Table Expenses, &c.

Referred.  
Memorial relating to a note on page 210 of the Discipline.

Referred.  
SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA.

Memorial relating to Conrad Muth.

Referred.  
Memorial on Sunday-school Superintendents.

Referred.  
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.

Memorial relating to Book Depository and Paper at St. Louis, and the Journal on the same subject.

Referred.  
KENTUCKY.

memorial from West Bend on Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

On motion of Henry Requa, so much of the Journal as relates to the Presiding Eldership was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy; and so much as relates to Ministerial Support was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

NORTH OHIO CONFERENCE.—W. L. Harris presented a memorial from South Delaware on Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

On motion of Adam Poe, so much of the Journal as relates to People of Color, was referred to the committee on that subject. He also presented a memorial from Jeromeville Circuit, on the Ritual on Baptism, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals; also a petition on Boundaries from W. C. Peirce, Presiding Elder of Sandusky District, and J. F. Kennedy, pastor of the Church in Mansfield, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

CINCINNATI CONFERENCE.—J. B. Finley presented a memorial from Greenville, North Ohio Conference, on Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

George W. Walker presented a memorial from W. Herr on the subject of Sunday-school Superintendents, and it was referred to the Committee on Sunday Schools; also, a memorial from W. Herr on Table Expenses, &c., and it was referred to Committee on Temporal Economy.

William Young presented a memorial from Cincinnati relating to a note on page 210 of the Cincinnati edition of the Discipline, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA CONFERENCE.—Enoch G. Wood presented a memorial from J. Kisling, in relation to the case of Conrad Muth, and it was referred to the Committee on Missions; also, a memorial from Indianapolis District Sunday-School Association on Sunday-school Superintendents, and it was referred to the Committee on Sunday Schools.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE.—J. Van Cleve presented a memorial on the subject of a Book Depository and Paper at St. Louis, and it, together with so much of the Journal of the Conference as relates to the same subject, was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

KENTUCKY CONFERENCE.—On motion of A. H. Triplett, so much of the Journal of the Kentucky Conference as re-

lates to the Perpetuity of the Conference, was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

MISSOURI CONFERENCE.—John H. Hopkins presented a memorial from Hannibal on Book Depository at St. Louis; also one from A. J. Gaither and others, asking the establishment of a Paper at St. Louis, and they were referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

ARKANSAS CONFERENCE.—On motion of M. Robertson, so much of the Journal as relates to the subject of Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE.—William Hamilton presented a memorial from Baltimore city, and one from Summerfield Circuit, on Boundaries, and they were referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

John A. Collins presented a remonstrance from Frederic City Station, against the line of division of the Baltimore Conference, indicated by its action at its last session, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

On motion of John A. Collins, so much of the Journal as relates to the Wisconsin and North Ohio resolutions on Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

NEW-ENGLAND CONFERENCE.—William Rice presented two memorials on Slavery from Park-street Station, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

PROVIDENCE CONFERENCE.—On motion of S. W. Coggeshall, so much of the Journal as relates to the Suppression of Anti-slavery Tracts was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

P. T. Kenney presented a memorial on Slavery from Holmes's Hole, and one from North Manchester, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

NEW-JERSEY CONFERENCE.—On motion of G. F. Brown, so much of the Journal as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

MAINE CONFERENCE.—D. B. Randall presented a memorial from Fairfield, on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

On motion of J. M'Clintock, the papers presented by the Committee on Revisals in 1852 were referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Conference adjourned, with benediction by John P. Durbin.

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Journal relating to the Perpetuity of the Conference.

MISSOURI.  
Memorial from Hannibal on Book Depository at St. Louis.

Referred.  
Memorial on a Paper at St. Louis.

Referred.  
ARKANSAS.  
Journal relating to Slavery.

Referred.  
BALTIMORE.  
Memorials from Summerfield and Baltimore city, on Boundaries.

Referred.  
Remonstrance from Frederic City against the line of division.

Referred.

Journal on Slavery.  
Referred.

NEW-ENGLAND.  
Memorials on Slavery from Park-street.

Referred.  
PROVIDENCE.  
Journal relating to the Suppression of Anti-slavery Tracts.

Referred.  
Memorial on Slavery from Holmes's Hole, and North Manchester.

Referred.  
NEW JERSEY.  
Journal on Slavery.  
Referred.

MAINE.  
Memorial on Slavery from Fairfield.  
Referred.

Papers presented by Committee on Revisals in 1852.  
Referred.

Adjournment.

May 9, 1856.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Simpson in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by William Reddy, of the Oneida Conference.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

Memorial of David Cassady in relation to Books Burned. Referred.

H. Crews presented a memorial from David Cassady, of the Rock River Conference, in relation to Books Burned, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

Memorial on Slavery from Eagle Harbor. Referred.

Isaac C. Kingsley presented two memorials, one on Slavery, from Eagle Harbor, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery; and one on a Church Insurance Company, from Niagara District Preachers' Association, and it was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

Memorial on Church Insurance, from Niagara District Preachers' Association. Referred.

On motion of W. L. Harris, the case of L. D. Harlan was taken up, and he finished his plea before the Conference.

Appeal of L. D. Harlan resumed, and plea of appellant finished.

George W. Walker, who had been designated by the Cincinnati delegation to defend the action of that Conference, submitted the matter to the Conference without further argument, and the pleadings closed.

The case submitted by G. W. Walker. Pleadings closed. Delegates of the Cincinnati Conference excused from voting.

On motion of M. Dustin, the delegates of the Cincinnati Conference were, at their own request, excused from voting; as was also James M. Jamison, for the reason that necessary absence had prevented him from hearing all the testimony.

Charges and action of Conference read.

The charges and action of the Cincinnati Conference in the case were read, whereupon Jacob Young submitted the following resolution; and it was adopted by the Conference, 139 voting for it, and 6 against it. The resolution is in the words following, to wit:

Decision of Cincinnati Conference affirmed.

*Resolved* by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the decision of the Cincinnati Annual Conference, of said Church, in the case of L. D. Harlan, be, and the same is hereby affirmed.

Appeal of Nehemiah Stokeley taken up.

On motion of J. S. Porter, the appeal of Nehemiah Stokeley, an expelled member of the New-Jersey Conference, was taken up.

Appeal admitted.

On motion of Pennell Coombe, the appeal was admitted.

Grounds of appeal stated.

P. Coombe then, as the representative of the appellant, stated the grounds of the appeal.

Journal of New-Jersey Conference read.

The Journal of the New-Jersey Conference in the case, setting forth the charges and specifications, together with the findings of the Conference, was read.

The testimony was then read; after which the counsel for the defense proposed to submit the case without argument. This S. Y. Monroe, who represented the New-Jersey Conference in the case, did not feel at liberty to do, without first consulting his co-delegates: whereupon Conference adjourned.

Benediction by Heman Bangs.

May 9, 1856.  
Testimony read.

S. Y. Monroe declines to submit the case without argument.  
Adjournment.

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 10, 1856.

May 10, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Baker in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by S. W. Coggeshall, of the Providence Conference.

The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.

By consent of Conference, Minor Raymond was, at his own request, excused from serving on the Committee on the Tract Cause, and William Rice was appointed in his stead.

On motion of John S. Porter, the unfinished business of yesterday was taken up, and P. Coombe, representative of the defendant, addressed the Conference on behalf of the defense.

S. Y. Monroe then defended the action of the New-Jersey Conference, after which Pennell Coombe responded, and the pleadings closed.

The Journal of the New-Jersey Conference, setting forth the charges and the action of the Conference in the case, was read.

On motion of John S. Swaim, the delegates of the New-Jersey Conference were, at their own request, excused from voting.

S. W. Coggeshall offered a resolution, which was adopted by a vote of 124 to 27, in words following, to wit:

Resolved by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in General Conference assembled, That the decision of the New-Jersey Annual Conference, expelling Nehemiah Stokeley from the Methodist Episcopal Church, be and the same is hereby reversed.

On motion of Peter Cartwright, the regular order of the day was taken up, and reports of committees were called for; when Heman Bangs, Chairman of the Committee on Temporal Economy, reported as follows, namely:

The Committee on Temporal Economy having considered the subject before them, beg leave to present the following resolution:

M. Raymond excused from Committee on the Tract Cause, and W. Rice appointed in his stead.

Appeal of N. Stokeley resumed.

P. Coombe addresses the Conference for the appellant.

S. Y. Monroe defends the action of the Conference.

P. Coombe responds. Pleadings closed. Journal of New Jersey Conference read.

New-Jersey delegates excused from voting.

Decision of the New-Jersey Conference reversed.

Reports of Committees in order. Committee on Temporal Economy reports.

Report on the allowance of effective traveling preachers.

May 10, 1856.

*Resolved*, That the Discipline on the allowance of effective traveling preachers be so amended, as to leave the entire amount of their allowance to the Estimating Committee and Quarterly Conference of the circuits and stations to which they may be appointed.

H. BANGS, *Chairman*.

Lies on the table under the rule.

This report lies on the table one day under the rule of Conference.

Committee on Missions report in relation to Episcopal authority in Africa.

William Hamilton, Chairman of the Committee on Missions, reported in part as follows, namely :

The Missionary Committee beg leave to report in part, namely : the following resolutions in reference to so much of the Bishops' Address as refers to the subject of Episcopal authority in our Liberia Mission Conference in Africa.

1. *Resolved*, That we recommend the appointment of a Missionary Bishop, who shall reside in Liberia, on the western coast of Africa, or in its vicinity, and have episcopal jurisdiction in Africa only. The said Bishop and Churches in Africa shall still be under the supervision of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States.

2. *Resolved*, That in case a suitable man cannot be found during the present session of the General Conference, who is willing to go to Liberia and reside, we recommend and authorize the Liberia Annual Conference, under the direction of the Bishop having charge of said Conference at present, assisted by the Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society, to elect an elder in good standing in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and present him for episcopal ordination to the Bishops, or any of them, who are hereby authorized to ordain such person so elected, certifying in the parchment of ordination that his episcopal jurisdiction is expressly limited to Africa.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 6, 1856.

W. HAMILTON, *Chairman*.

Missionary Seminary.

The Missionary Committee beg leave to report further, in reference to so much of the Bishops' Address as refers to a Missionary Seminary, that they have carefully considered this very weighty matter, and deem its accomplishment of great importance to the future progress of our missions, particularly in foreign lands. But we are of opinion that it is not practicable for this General Conference to devise a plan in detail, and we therefore recommend that the subject be referred to the discretion of the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in conjunction with the Bishops, or a majority of them, with an expression of our approbation of the subject-matter suggested in the Address of the Bishops, as already mentioned above. Provided they should be able to do so without making use of our regular Missionary Collections to accomplish the object.

W. HAMILTON, *Chairman*.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 7, 1856.

Laid on the table to be printed.

These reports were, on motion of John A. Collins, laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

Z. Connell added to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

On motion of A. Lowry, the order of the day was suspended, in order to add Zechariah Connell to the Committee on Temporal Economy ; and he was, on motion of A. Lowry, appointed accordingly.

William Hamilton, Chairman of the Committee on Missions, presented a revised Constitution of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as recommended by the Board at New-York, and it was agreed to strike out that provision of the Second Article, by which persons pay- two dollars annually become members of the Missionary Society.

On motion of John A. Collins, this report, in part, from the Committee on Missions, was laid on the table to be printed.

John M'Clintock, Chairman of the Committee on Revisals and Unfinished Business, reported, in part, as follows, namely :

The Committee on Revisals and Unfinished Business beg leave to report, in part :

1. That having duly considered that part of the Bishops' Address which relates to the Representation of the General Conference, the Committee recommend the insertion of the words "twenty-seven," in place of "twenty-one," in Part i, ch. iii, § 2, Ans. 1, of the Book of Discipline.

The Committee also recommend the alteration of the second Restrictive Rule, (on p. 33,) so as to insert "one for every forty-five," in place of "one for every thirty."

2. The Committee having duly considered the Memorial of the New-England Conference referred to them in respect to Part I, ch. v, § 4, (p. 81,) of the Discipline, entitled, "Of the Band Societies," recommend that the said section iv (p. 81) be struck out, and also that the word "band," or "bands," and all allusions thereto be struck out from every other part of the Discipline.

3. The committee having duly considered that part of the Bishops' Address which relates to the call of an extra session of the General Conference, recommend the insertion of the following, Part I, ch. iii, sec. ii, Ans. 2, in place of our present provision for calling an extra session of the General Conference : "But the general superintendents, or a majority of them, with the advice of two thirds of all the Annual Conferences; or, if there be no general superintendent, two thirds of all the Annual Conferences, shall have power to call an extra session of the General Conference, to be constituted in the usual way."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN M'CLINTOCK, Chairman.

This report lies on the table under the rule.

John M'Clintock, Chairman of the Select Committee on the Metropolitan Church, submitted a report as follows, namely :

The committee to whom was referred a memorial from the trustees of the proposed Metropolitan Church beg leave to report, That in the opinion of the committee, the enterprise was undertaken for a worthy object and in good faith ; that it was proposed to erect a large and attractive "denominational Church edifice" in the metropolis of our nation, which should be regarded as a connectinal monument to our beloved Methodism, expressive of our gratitude to God for the honor he has vouchsafed to confer on us in making us the instruments of spreading Scriptural holiness

May 10, 1856.

Committee on Missions report a revised Constitution of the Missionary Society.

Second Article so changed as to strike out the provision by which persons become members by the payment of two dollars annually.

Report laid on the table to be printed.

Report of Committee on Revisals.

Change of the ratio of Representation recommended.

Alteration of Restrictive Rule relating to the limit of the ratio of Representation recommended.

"Band Societies" and "Bands" to be struck out.

Change recommended in the mode of calling an extra session of the General Conference.

Report lies on the table under the rule.

Report relating to the Metropolitan Church.

May 10, 1856.

so extensively through these lands; that the enterprise received the approbation and sanction of the General Conference of 1852, and that nearly all the Annual Conferences in the connection have pledged assistance for its accomplishment. The committee find that, on application of the trustees, the Baltimore Annual Conference appointed the Rev. Henry Slicer agent to solicit funds in its behalf; that he served in this office two years; and that on a second application to the same conference, the Rev. W. M. D. Ryan was appointed to the same agency; that he has served one year, and is still employed as the agent of the trustees. The result of these agencies up to this date is as follows:

Amount collected in cash.....	\$13,600
Amount now due on subscription.....	23,400
	\$37,000
Making in all.....	\$37,000

Of the funds collected, \$8,000 have been expended in the purchase of a lot, and the remaining \$5,600 have been expended in laying the foundation.

In this state of things, your committee are of opinion that the honor of the Church is pledged to the accomplishment of this enterprise; and so pledged, that its failure would subject the Church to merited reproach. They further agree, that to complete the edifice in such a style of architecture, of such dimensions, and of such materials as the case demands, will require, in addition to the resources now in the hands of the trustees, at least \$40,000.

The committee therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That this General Conference recommend that a collection be taken for the purpose of raising the sum of \$40,000, in behalf of the Metropolitan Church, in all the congregations of our connection, between this and the first of July, 1857.

2. *Resolved*, That the Bishops be, and they are hereby requested, in all the Conferences in which they preside severally, to take the special supervision of this enterprise, urging the collections contemplated, and engaging the preachers to take a practical and efficient interest in the completion of the object proposed.

3. *Resolved*, That in view of the connective character of the Metropolitan Church, it is the judgment of this General Conference, that the Bishops, in making appointments, should by transfer supply said church with pastors successively from all parts of our work.

The committee further suggest the inquiry, whether this matter may not be referred to in the Pastoral Address to be issued by this body at its present session.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. M'CLINTOCK,  
M. RAYMOND,  
J. P. DURBIN,  
J. V. WATSON,  
E. THOMSON.

Report laid on the table to be printed.  
Communication from A. Leggett, Esq., relating to a bequest by Noble Melvin, presented and referred.

On motion of Z. Phillips, this report was laid on the table to be printed.

Leroy Swormstedt, Agent of the Western Book Concern, presented a communication from A. Leggett, Esq., in relation to a bequest of \$750, by Noble Melvin, to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to be applied



to the circulating of the Holy Scriptures. The communication having been read, on motion of J. Lewis, it was referred to a special committee of five.

On motion of John M'Clintock, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to inquire whether any, and what verbal alterations or change of arrangement in the Book of Discipline be necessary; and to report to the Conference.

The list of conferences was called for the presentation of petitions and memorials, and the following were presented and referred, namely: from

**NEW-YORK CONFERENCE.**—L. H. King presented a memorial from a majority of the official members of Duane-street Church, New-York, remonstrating against a change of the Discipline relating to the Presiding Eldership; and one from James B. Oakley, requesting that his name be withdrawn from the memorial sent to General Conference from the Duane-street Church, on the subject of a change in the system of Presiding Eldership, and after the first memorial was read, they were both referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

M. D'C. Crawford presented a memorial from Eighteenth-street Church, New-York, on the Presiding Eldership, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

**TROY CONFERENCE.**—S. D. Brown presented a memorial from the Preachers' Meeting of Albany, asking that the Discipline be so amended that the allowance to preachers be made by the Quarterly Conference in one sum under the head of Salary, and it was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

**NEW-YORK EAST CONFERENCE.**—Heman Bangs presented a memorial from the Quarterly Meeting Conference of John-street Church, New-York, on Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

**CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE.**—On motion of J. D. Blain, the memorial presented to the General Conference of 1852, from Isaac Owen and others, preachers in California, in relation to the establishing of a Paper and Book Depository in California, was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

**MAINE CONFERENCE.**—On motion of D. B. Randall, so much of the Journal as relates to a change of the General Rule on Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

May 10, 1856.

Resolution concerning verbal changes in the Discipline.

Call for petitions and memorials.

**NEW-YORK.**

Remonstrance from Duane-street on the Presiding Eldership. Referred.

Memorial from James B. Oakley on the Presiding Eldership. Referred.

Memorial from Eighteenth-street, on the Presiding Eldership. Referred.

**TROY.**

Memorial from the preachers' Meeting of Albany, relating to the allowance made to preachers by way of Salary. Referred.

**NEW-YORK EAST.**

Memorial from John-street Church on Boundaries. Referred.

**CALIFORNIA.**

Memorial from preachers presented in 1852. Referred.

**MAINE.**

Journal on Slavery. Referred.

May 10, 1856.  
BLACK RIVER.  
Letter from J.  
W. Oliver.  
Referred.

BLACK RIVER.—H. Mattison presented a letter which he had received from J. W. Oliver, in relation to the memorial from Duane-street, presented by him yesterday, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Syracuse.  
Referred.

A. J. Phelps presented a memorial on Slavery from official members of the Methodist Episcopal Church on Syracuse District, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

WESTERN VIR-  
GINIA, on  
Journal of  
Slavery.  
Referred.

WESTERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.—On motion of James Drummond, so much of the Journal of the Western Virginia Conference as relates to the Erie, Troy, Wisconsin, and North Ohio resolutions on Slavery, was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

PITTSBURGH.  
Memorial from  
Pittsburgh re-  
lating to Sun-  
day-school Ad-  
vocate.  
Referred.

PITTSBURGH CONFERENCE.—I. N. Baird presented a memorial from Pittsburgh, asking a Sunday-school Advocate much cheaper than the present one, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

ERIE.  
Motion to re-re-  
fer matters re-  
lating to the  
religious in-  
struction of  
children.  
Lost.

ERIE CONFERENCE.—S. Gregg moved that so much of the Bishops' Address as relates to the religious instruction of children, together with all papers pertaining to that subject, which have hitherto been referred to the Committee on Sunday Schools, be withdrawn from that committee and referred to the Committee on Revisals; but the motion did not prevail. S. Gregg then moved that the papers of the character described in the former motion, now in the hands of the Committee on Revisals, be referred to the Committee on Sunday Schools. This motion was laid on the table.

Memorial from  
J. Howe.  
Referred.

Moses Hill presented a memorial from J. Howe in relation to lost money, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

MICHIGAN.  
Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Jonesville.  
Referred.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE.—J. K. Gillet presented a memorial on Slavery from Jonesville, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Session prolong-  
ed.

On motion of John A. Collins, Conference agreed to prolong the session to finish the call for memorials and petitions.

ROCK RIVER.  
Memorial relat-  
ing to the  
course of  
Church period-  
icals, and re-  
sponsibility of  
editors.  
Referred.

ROCK RIVER CONFERENCE.—Bishop Morris presented a memorial from John Chandler and others, in relation to the course of our Church periodicals, and the responsibility of their editors; and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

IOWA.  
Memorial from  
Mt. Pleasant,  
asking the re-  
turn of J. V.  
Watson as ed-  
itor.  
Referred.

IOWA CONFERENCE.—L. W. Berry presented a memorial from Mt. Pleasant Station, asking the return of J. V. Watson as editor of the Northwestern Christian Advocate, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE.—George Rutledge presented a memorial from D. J. Snow in relation to his claim upon the funds of the Illinois Conference during the period of his illegal suspension and his illegal expulsion, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

H. Buck presented a memorial from Hudson Circuit, Rock River Conference, on the subject of Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE.—William Hamilton presented a memorial from Baltimore City Station on the subject of Boundaries. After a motion to have the memorial read was lost, it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

John A. Collins presented a memorial from Westminster Circuit, asking that, in the division of the Conference, the Westminster Circuit may be placed in the Baltimore Conference; also one from Cumberland Station, remonstrating against the division of Baltimore Conference by the line indicated at its late session; also one from Alleghany Circuit, praying that the line of division may be so run as to include said circuit in the Baltimore Conference, and they were referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Henry Slicer presented two memorials: one from Exeter-street Station, and the other from Jefferson-street Station, Baltimore, both praying that the Conference may be divided by the line indicated at its late session, and they were referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE.—T. J. Thompson presented a memorial from Joseph Cook on the subject of the arrangements for traveling circuits, and it was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

EAST GENESEE CONFERENCE.—D. D. Buck presented a memorial on Slavery from Wayne Circuit, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Conference closed with the benediction by Peter Cartwright.

May 10, 1856.

ILLINOIS.  
Memorial of D. J. Snow.  
Referred.

Memorial from Hudson Circuit on Boundaries.  
Referred.

BALTIMORE.  
Memorial from Baltimore City Station on Boundaries.  
Referred.

Memorial from Westminster Circuit on Boundaries.  
Referred.

Memorial from Cumberland Station on Boundaries.  
Referred.

Memorial from Alleghany Circuit on Boundaries.  
Referred.

Memorials on Boundaries from Exeter-street and Jefferson-street Stations.  
Referred.

PHILADELPHIA.  
Memorial from Joseph Cook on arrangements for traveling circuits.  
Referred.

EAST GENESEE.  
Memorial on Slavery from Wayne Circuit.  
Referred.

Adjournment.

MONDAY MORNING, MAY 12, 1856.

May 12, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Ames in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by I. N. Baird, of the Pittsburgh Conference.

The Journal of Saturday was read and approved.

The chair announced the following committee ordered on Saturday, on the bequest of Noble Melvin, namely: Thomas

Committee on the bequest of Noble Melvin.

May 12, 1856.

Carlton, Joseph M. Trimble, Adam Poe, F. C. Holliday, and John Barker.

Report of the Committee on the Book Concern on the memorial of E. Whitten.

The order of the day, namely, reports from committees, was taken up, and George Peck, Chairman of the Committee on the Book Concern, reported in part, recommending that the matter set forth in the memorial of Elijah Whitten, asking to be released from a debt to the Western Book Concern, contracted for the Union Tract Society, while he was acting as agent for the Tract Society of the Conferences in the State of Indiana, be referred to the Agents of the Book Concern at Cincinnati, to be settled at their discretion; and the recommendation was on motion adopted.

Case referred to the Agents of the Western Book Concern, to be settled at their discretion.

Call of conferences for memorials and petitions.

Conferences were called for the presentation of memorials and petitions, and the following were presented.

NEW-YORK. Journal relating to supplying stations in one Conference with superannuated preachers from another Conference.

NEW-YORK CONFERENCE.—On motion of L. H. King, so much of the Journal of the New-York Conference as relates to supplying stations in one Conference with superannuated preachers of another Conference, was referred to the Committee on Episcopacy.

INDIANA. Memorial from B. F. Cray and others, relating to superannuated preachers residing out of their own Conference.

INDIANA CONFERENCE.—B. F. Cray presented a memorial from himself and others, in relation to Superannuated Preachers residing out of the bounds of their own Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Address from the French Methodist Conference.

J. P. Durbin presented an Address from the French Methodist Conference in France and Switzerland, which was read and referred to the Committee on Missions, with instructions to report a Reply to the French Conference. [For Address, see *Appendix H.*]

A Reply to be reported.

The following preamble and resolution, presented by H. E. Pilcher, were adopted, namely:

Preamble and resolution providing for a delegation to the British Wesleyan Conference.

Whereas, it is very desirable to perpetuate the friendly relations that now exist between the British Wesleyan Connection and the Methodist Episcopal Church in these United States; therefore,

*Resolved*, That, in compliance with the request of Dr. Hannah, the representative of the British Conference, this General Conference elect two delegates to attend the British Conference in 1857, for the purpose of bearing to them our fraternal salutations.

Committee on the Book Concern to inquire into the expedience of disconnecting our weekly Church periodicals from the Book Concern.

On motion of Stephen Allen, seconded by George Pratt, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Book Concern be, and they hereby are instructed to consider the expedience of disconnecting all our weekly Church periodicals from the Book Concern, and devolving their management and support upon those Conferences that mainly patronize them.

James Drummond moved the following resolution, seconded by Gordon Battelle, namely :

May 12, 1856.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be, and they hereby are instructed to consider the expedience of striking out the words "or schools," found in paragraph 4 of chap. iii, Part III, page 177, of our Discipline.

Shall persons not members of the Church be trustees of our schools?

D. D. Buck moved an amendment to include among the words to be struck from the paragraph alluded to in the resolution, the word "churches." On motion of H. Kinsley, the amendment was laid on the table, after which the resolution as submitted was adopted.

Amendment to strike out "churches." Laid on the table.

On motion of H. Mattison, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to consider the propriety of making the following emendations in the Discipline: To expunge from the list of exceptions to the rule limiting the term of ministerial service in the same charge to two years, on page 41 of the Discipline, the words, "also the preacher or preachers that may be stationed in New-Orleans."

Resolution for Committee on Revisals on striking out the exception in favor of preachers stationed in New-Orleans.

On motion of Hiram Kinsley, seconded by J. Flower, the following resolutions were adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be, and they hereby are instructed to consider the expedience of striking out the words "bishop, elder, deacon, or preacher," on page 98 of the Discipline, in section four, answer first, and inserting "preacher in charge," and report thereon.

Committee on Revisals instructed to inquire whether accused members shall not be tried before a preacher in charge only.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be, and they hereby are instructed to consider the expedience of inserting the word "annually" in the Discipline on page 181, answer 2, after the words "there shall be," and report thereon.

Committee on Revisals to inquire whether District Stewards shall meet annually?

On motion of T. J. Thompson, seconded by J. Cunningham, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to inquire into the expedience of so altering the Discipline, Part I, chap. iv, sec. 11, Answer 9 to question first, as to insert after the words "properly distinguished," the following clause: "The number of churches or houses of worship in his charge," so that the entire answer may read thus: "To take an exact account of the members in society, and of the probationers in their respective circuits and stations, keeping the names of all Local Elders, Deacons, and Preachers, properly distinguished; the number of churches or houses of worship in his charge, and deliver in such account to the Annual Conference, that their number may be printed in the Minutes."

Committee on Revisals to inquire whether the number of churches or houses of worship shall be included in the Annual Statistical Report.

On motion of T. J. Thompson, seconded by G. R. Crooks, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to inquire into the expedience of striking out that part of Section 1 of chap. iv, Part I, of the Discipline, which reads as follows :

Committee on Revisals to inquire whether preachers may not be appointed in the same city more than four successive years.

May 12, 1856

“Nor in the same city more than four years in succession; nor return him to it after such term of service till he shall have been absent four years.”

On motion of F. Hodgson, seconded by G. R. Crooks, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Committee on Itinerary to inquire whether accepting civil office shall disqualify for membership of the General Conference.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Itinerary be, and they hereby are instructed to inquire into the expedience of adding to the answer to the question, Who shall compose the General Conference? p. 32, these words, namely: “Nevertheless, should one thus qualified accept of civil office, he shall thereby be disqualified for a seat in the General Conference, and the disqualification thus incurred shall remain until removed by a vote of the Annual Conference of which he is a member.”

On motion of L. L. Knox, seconded by Stephen Allen, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Chairmen of committees to confer as to time of meeting.

*Resolved*, That the chairmen of the several standing committees be requested to consult together, and, so far as they shall find it practicable, fix the times for those committees to meet, so that they shall not conflict with each other; and to publish those times of meeting in the Daily Christian Advocate.

On motion of E. Thomson, seconded by James Porter, the following resolution was adopted, by a vote of 68 to 32 :

Committee on Revisals instructed to inquire into the expedience of districting the work of the Superintendents every four years.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to inquire into the expedience of so altering the Discipline as to provide for the districting of the work of the Superintendents every four years in such mode as not to interfere with the Itinerant General Superintendency.

On motion of Heman Bangs, seconded by J. M. Reid, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Committee on Revisals to inquire whether Presiding Elders should be elected by the Annual Conferences severally, &c.

1. *Resolved*, That the Committee on the Itinerancy be directed to inquire into the expedience of having the Presiding Elders elected by the several Annual Conferences.
2. Inquire whether the Presiding Elders should not be made a *legal council* to the bishops in stationing the preachers.
3. That should they find the above alterations expedient, they report a plan complete, to be inserted in the Discipline.

Report of the General Mission Committee. Read and referred.

H. W. Reed presented the Quadrennial Report of the General Mission Committee, and after it was read it was referred to the Committee on Missions. [For Report, see *Appendix S.*]

Closed doors.

On motion of W. Cox, Conference determined to sit with closed doors on to-morrow, to try the appeal of Isaac N. M'Abbee.

Committee on Revisals to inquire whether the men and women shall be still met apart in large societies.

On motion of B. M. Hall, seconded by H. L. Starks, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to inquire into the expedience of the expunging from Discipline the following words on page 59: “To meet the men and women apart, in the large societies, once a quarter, wherever it is practicable.”

On motion of Heman Bangs, the Report of the Committee on Temporal Economy, submitted on Saturday, was taken up.

May 12, 1856.  
Report of Committee on Temporal Economy taken up.

After some discussion Henry Slicer moved to lay the report on the table, but the motion was lost by a vote of 59 to 64.

Motion to lay the Report on the table.  
Lost.

On motion of E. Thompson, a call of Conference was ordered, when 137 members answered to their names, whereupon the chair decided that there was not a quorum present, and that he could entertain no motion except to adjourn. A motion was then made by Henry Slicer, that we do now adjourn, but the motion did not prevail. A second motion to adjourn was made by E. Thompson, and was lost by a vote of 52 to 60.

Call of Conference.

Not a quorum present.

Motion to adjourn.  
Lost.

Motion to adjourn.  
Lost.

On motion, Conference adjourned, because there was not a quorum present.

Adjourned for want of a quorum.

Benediction by Dr. Ryerson.

TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 13, 1856.

May 13, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Waugh in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by Israel Chamberlayne, of the Genesee Conference.

It appearing on count that a quorum was present, the Journal of yesterday was read.

At this stage of the proceedings, John A. Collins, seconded by James B. Finley, submitted the following preamble and resolution, namely:

Whereas, the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church provides that "at all times when the General Conference is met it shall take two thirds of the representatives of all the Annual Conferences to make a quorum for transacting business;" and whereas no quorum was present during the session of yesterday; therefore,

Preamble and resolution, declaring the proceedings of yesterday morning to be null and void.

Resolved by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the proceedings of the members of the General Conference on yesterday morning be, and the same are hereby declared null and void, and that they be not entered on the Journal.

On motion of I. N. Baird the foregoing preamble and resolution were laid on the table.

Preamble and resolution laid on the table.

On motion of Z. Phillips, the Journal as read was then approved.

Journal approved.

May 13, 1856.  
Special order of  
the day sus-  
pended.

Joint communi-  
cation from the  
Book Agents  
at New-York  
and Cincinnati.  
Read and re-  
ferred.

Communication  
from the Cong-  
regational  
Union of Eng-  
land and  
Wales.  
Read.

Resolution ex-  
pressing frater-  
nal reciprocity.  
Committee or-  
dered to pre-  
pare a reply.

N. Wilson's sub-  
stitute for the  
foregoing.  
Laid on the ta-  
ble.

H. Mattison's  
substitute.

Laid on the ta-  
ble and the  
original resolu-  
tion adopted.  
Communication  
from the Board  
of Managers of  
the Sunday-  
School Union.  
Referred.

L. S. Jacoby  
has leave to  
address the  
Conference.

Ministers resid-  
ing in Indian-  
apolis invited  
to seats within  
the bar of the  
Conference.

On motion of John S. Porter, the special order of the day was suspended for the present.

Z. Phillips presented a joint communication from the Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati. The communication was read, and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

The chair presented a communication from the Congregational Union of England and Wales, which was read. [For Address, see *Appendix J.*] After which John Kennaday, seconded by James B. Finley, moved the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That most fraternally reciprocating the Christian sentiments expressed in the communication from the Congregational Union of England and Wales, this communication be published in our Church papers, and that a committee of five be appointed to prepare a suitable response thereto.

Norval Wilson moved as a substitute that the communication be referred to the bishops, with a request that they respond in a communication with their signatures attached.

On motion of H. Bangs, the substitute was laid on the table.

H. Mattison presented the following substitute, namely :

*Resolved*, That we most cordially reciprocate the fraternal and Christian sentiments of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, as expressed in the communication to this body ; and that a committee of      be appointed to report a suitable response to the same.

On motion, this substitute was also laid on the table ; after which the original resolution was adopted.

The chair presented a communication from a Committee of the Board of Managers of the Sunday School Union.

On motion of James Floy, it was referred to the Committee on Sunday Schools.

The chair announced that L. S. Jacoby, superintendent of our missions in Germany, wished to leave the seat of the Conference at an early period, and that, before leaving, he desired to address the Conference. Leave was given, and he addressed the Conference briefly in relation to Methodism in Germany.

On motion of J. Kennaday, the following resolution was adopted.

*Resolved*, That the ministers of the different denominations of Christians in this city be invited to take seats within the bar of the Conference.



D. W. Bristol presented a memorial from Danby on Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

May 13, 1856.  
Memorial from Danby on Boundaries. Referred.  
Special order of the day taken up.

On motion of William Cox, the special order of the day, to wit, the appeal of Isaac N. M'Abree, an expelled member of the Pittsburgh Conference, was taken up.

On motion of I. N. Baird, Daniel De Motte and Levi Johnson were appointed doorkeepers during the consideration of this case.

Doorkeepers appointed.

On motion of Pennell Coombe, the appeal was taken up; and on further motion of P. Coombe, the appeal was admitted.

Appeal of I. N. M'Abree taken up and admitted.

George W. Walker then stated, in behalf of the appellant, the ground of the appeal, namely :

Grounds of Appeal stated.

That the testimony is insufficient to sustain the action of the Pittsburgh Conference in this case.

The Journal of the Pittsburgh Conference, setting forth the charges and specifications, together with the findings of the Conference, was then read. After which, the testimony adduced before the Annual Conference was read.

Journal of Pittsburgh Conference read.  
Testimony read.

The appellant in person then addressed the Conference. Pending his argument, on motion of William Cox, Conference agreed to meet this afternoon at two and a half o'clock.

Appellant addresses the Conference.  
Afternoon session.

At five minutes before twelve o'clock A. M., Conference adjourned, with the benediction by Rev. Mr. Scott, of Ireland.

Adjournment.

## TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Morris in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by E. H. Pilcher, of the Michigan Conference. On motion, Conference ordered a call of the roll, when it appeared that a quorum was present.

Call of Conference. A quorum present.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

On motion of A. M. Osbon, the case under consideration when the Conference adjourned was suspended for the present.

A. M. Osbon presented a communication from the Board of Managers, of the Tract Society, and it was referred to the Committee on the Tract Cause.

Appeal of I. N. M'Abree suspended for the present.  
Communication from the Board of Managers of the Tract Cause.  
Referred.

On motion of Isaac Parks, the appeal of I. N. M'Abree was taken up, and the appellant resumed his defense. At the

Appeal of I. N. M'Abree resumed.

May 18, 1856.

close of his plea, a motion was made that Conference take a recess for ten minutes; but the motion did not prevail.

S. Wakefield replies in defense of the action of his conference.

S. Wakefield, having been designated for that purpose by his co-delegates, replied in defense of the action of the Pittsburgh Conference.

George W. Walker closes the pleadings.

George W. Walker responded in behalf of the appellant, and the pleadings closed.

Delegates of Pittsburgh Conference excused from voting.

On motion of S. Wakefield, the delegates of the Pittsburgh Conference were, at their own request, excused from voting.

A. Griffith excused from voting.

On motion of W. L. Harris, A. Griffith was, at his own request, excused from voting, inasmuch as he had been necessarily absent during the reading of the greater part of the testimony.

On motion of James B. Finley, seconded by Thomas B. Sargent, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Action of the Pittsburgh Conference reversed.

*Resolved* by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the action of the Pittsburgh Conference, in the case of Isaac N. M'Abbee, by which he was expelled from the Methodist Episcopal Church, be, and the same is hereby reversed.

This resolution was adopted by a vote of 138 to 16.

Motion instructing Committee on Trials and Appeals to report.

Henry Slicer moved that the Committee on Trials and Appeals be instructed to report on Friday morning next.

Motion laid on the table.

On motion of W. H. Brockway, the motion of Henry Slicer was laid on the table.

The following resolutions, presented by Asa J. Dana, and seconded by Charles Blakeslee, were, on motion of John Kennaday, referred to the Committee on Slavery:

Resolutions declaratory of the meaning of the General Rule on Slavery.

*Resolved* by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That, as the highest judicial authority of the Church, we do hereby declare that the true meaning of the item in the General Rules concerning the buying and selling of men, women, &c., is to *prohibit* not only the trade in slaves in numbers together, as some interpret it, but the buying or selling of any individual.

*Resolved* by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the following note be appended in the margin of the page to the said item in the General Rules, namely: The intent and purpose of this rule is fully to forbid the purchase or sale of any slave or slaves, except it be for immediate liberation; and whoever buys or sells any slave, except for this purpose, violates the rule.

The following resolution was submitted by M. D'C. Crawford, seconded by E. Cooke, namely:

Resolution fixing the time for the election.

*Resolved*, That the election of General Conference officers, namely, Corresponding Secretaries, Editors, and Book Agents, be the order of the day for Thursday the 15th inst., immediately after the reading of the Journal.

On motion of William Cooper, the foregoing resolution was laid on the table.

Peter Cartwright presented two memorials in relation to Book Depository and Church paper at St. Louis, and they were referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

S. Van Deusen, Chairman of the Committee on Sunday Schools, presented a report in part, and it was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Conference adjourned with singing the Doxology, and the benediction by Bishop Waugh.

May 13, 1856.  
Resolution laid on the table.

Memorial on Book Depository and Paper at St. Louis. Referred. -

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools. Laid on the table to be printed.

Adjournment.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 14, 1856.

May 14, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Janes in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by James B. Finley, of the Cincinnati Conference.

The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.

The reports of standing committees were called for.

Heman Bangs, Chairman of the Committee on Temporal Economy, presented a further report in part, and it was adopted in words following, to wit:

Report of standing committees.

Report of the Committee on Temporal Economy.

The Committee on Temporal Economy beg leave to report in part:

1. On the communication from J. Jepson, and also a memorial from Niagara District Preachers' Meeting, respecting the Insurance of Church Property, they report the adoption of the proposed plan inexpedient.

On Church Insurance.

2. On the memorial of William Herr, asking the General Conference to establish an official meeting, with authority to fix and apportion the amount of Preachers' Claims, they report action on the subject unnecessary.

On Memorial of W. Herr, relating to Preachers' Claims.

3. On the memorial of Joseph Cook, asking action requiring charges to furnish horses and traveling apparatus for the use of stationed preachers, they report that we deem the proposed plan inexpedient to be adopted in the present state of our work.

On Memorial of Joseph Cook in relation to facilities for traveling circuits.

May 13th.

H. BANGS, *Chairman.*

Norval Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, presented a report, in part, in words following, to wit:

The Committee on the Itinerancy beg leave to report, that they have received memorials from Newcastle, East Maine Conference; from Akron Quarterly Conference; from Adams, Black River Conference; from the First Methodist Episcopal Church, New-Haven, New-York East Conference; all asking for an Extension of Ministerial Term of Service, but scarce any two of them agreeing as to the precise limit; some of the petitioners asking an extension to three years, others to five, and yet others to an indefinite term. All these petitioners collectively make scarcely an aggregate of one hundred names. We have also had referred to us the resolutions of the New-York Conference, remonstrating against any extension of time; and likewise a memorial from the majority of the

Report of the Committee on Itinerancy on Extension of Time of Ministerial Service.

May 14, 1856.

official members of the Duane-street Church, New-York, adverse to the proposed change. The committee have given these papers a proper measure of consideration, and have arrived at the conclusion, that the interests of the Church do not demand, neither will be promoted by making provision for, further extension of ministerial service. The discussions had in committee have elicited, among many others, the following views :

The memorialists in favor of the change proposed are too few in number to authorize such a vital modification in our economy ; and only induce the belief, that after an extended discussion of this question through the press, and by other means, the great mass both of preachers and people give a decided preference for the two years' rule. The committee have likewise been led to the conclusion, that the arguments usually adduced in favor of an extension of ministerial service, such as the greater probable mental improvement of the ministry, the more thorough acquaintance with and consequent influence over the congregation, &c., are arguments that go more directly to the advocacy of a settled ministry in the stead of our itinerancy, than to the extension of the term of service from two to three years.

The committee, therefore, governed by these and many other considerations, not now necessary to name, strongly as they desire to meet the wishes of the people, whether few or many, find themselves unable to coincide in sentiment with the prayer of the petitioners, and conclude with recommending the following resolution for adoption :

*Resolved, &c.,* That it is inexpedient at this time to extend the term of ministerial service beyond the present assigned limits of two years.

Motion to re-commit, with instructions.

After the report was read, John P. Durbin moved to recommit the report, with instruction to the committee to report in favor of extending the time of ministerial service on circuits and stations to three years, at the discretion of the Annual Conferences severally.

Call for the previous question not sustained.

James Drummond moved the previous question, but the motion was not sustained. Thomas H. Pearne, seconded by John B. Merwin, presented the following substitute for the motion of J. P. Durbin, namely :

Substitute for motion to re-commit.

*Resolved,* That we recommit the report, with instructions to report in favor of extending the time to not more than three years, by the consent of the Annual Conference, at the request of the bishop presiding.

The subject of debate was here stayed, the chair stating that the delegates from the Wesleyan Connection in Canada were about to leave for home, and that they desired to address the Conference before their departure.

Delegates from Canada address the Conference.

Dr. Ryerson and Rev. Mr. Jones then addressed the Conference in relation to the Itinerancy in Canada, and especially concerning the extension of time of ministerial service on circuits and stations in Canada ; first, from two to three years, and then from three to five years. At the conclusion

of their remarks, the matter under consideration was resumed. May 14, 1856.

On motion of H. Bangs, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet in Wesley Chapel this afternoon at half past two o'clock, to hear a sermon from the Rev. Dr. Hannah, the representative of the Wesleyan Conference in Great Britain.

Afternoon session to be in Wesley Chapel to hear a sermon from Dr. Hannah.

The chair announced the following committee to reply to the Address of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, namely : John Kennaday, Francis Hodgson, Solomon Howard, Joseph Brooks, and S. W. Coggeshall.

Committee to reply to the Address from the Congregational Union of England and Wales.

On motion Conference adjourned.

Adjournment.

Benediction by William Reddy.

#### WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met at Wesley Chapel pursuant to adjournment ; Bishop Scott in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by John H. Power, of the North Ohio Conference.

Afternoon session in Wesley Chapel.

The Journal of the forenoon was read and approved.

Conference then proceeded to the order of the day, and Rev. Dr. Hannah introduced the religious services preliminary to his sermon by reading the 219th hymn, commencing,

Religious services preliminary to preaching.

“Jesus, the name high over all,  
In hell, or earth, or sky,” &c.

1 Hymn.

After the hymn was sung, Dr. Hannah led the devotions of the Conference in an earnest prayer to the throne of Grace.

Prayer.

He then read the sixty-third chapter of the Prophecy of Isaiah, and also the hymn, commencing,

Scripture lesson

“Lord, if at thy command,  
The word of life we sow,” &c.

2 Hymn.

After this hymn was sung, Dr. Hannah announced as his text, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” 2 Cor. v, 21. From this text he delivered a deeply interesting and impressive sermon on “The Method of Man’s Reconciliation with God.”

Text.

Subject of sermon.

At the close of his discourse, he read the 140th hymn ; and after it was sung, P. Cartwright, of the Illinois Conference, closed the services with prayer.

May 14, 1856.

On motion of John A. Collins, seconded by George Peck, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by a rising vote, namely :

Resolution of thanks to Dr. Hannah, and a request for a copy of the sermon for publication.

*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That we hereby tender our cordial thanks to Rev. Dr. Hannah for his truly evangelical and able discourse, delivered before this body, and that we respectfully request a copy for publication, to be included in the catalogue of books published by authority of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

On motion of John A. Collins, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Evening session to hear a sermon from Rev. Mr. Jobson.

*Resolved*, That when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at half past seven o'clock, to hear a sermon from Rev. Mr. Jobson, of the Wesleyan Conference in Great Britain.

Adjournment.

Conference adjourned with singing the Doxology, and the benediction by Bishop Morris.

### WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Evening session in Wesley Chapel.

Conference met at Wesley Chapel pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Simpson in the chair.

Religious services preliminary to preaching.

The usual religious services were conducted by Dr. Ryerson, of the Canada Conference.

The Journal of this afternoon was read and approved.

Scripture lesson.

The Conference then proceeded to the order of the day, and Rev. Mr. Jobson introduced the services by reading the thirteenth chapter of 1st Corinthians. He then read the 529th hymn, commencing,

1 Hymn.

"I thirst, thou wounded Lamb of God,  
To wash me in thy cleansing blood," &c.

Prayer.

After singing and prayer, he gave out the 533d hymn, commencing :

2 Hymn.

"O God, what offering shall I give  
To thee, the Lord of earth and skies?" &c.

Text.

Rev. Mr. Jobson then announced as his text, Ephesians the third chapter, 14-21 verses, inclusive.

Subject of the sermon.

His discourse was on the "Fullness of Christian Privilege." At the conclusion of the sermon the 520th hymn

Closing services.

was sung, and the services closed with prayer by Mr. Jobson.

On motion of Davis W. Clark, seconded by Henry Slicer,

the following resolution was unanimously adopted by a rising vote, namely : May 14, 1856.

*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That we tender to the Rev. Mr. Jobson our cordial thanks for his eloquent and able sermon, and that we respectfully request a copy for publication. Resolution of thanks and a request for a copy for publication.

On motion of D. W. Clark, it was ordered that the copies of both Dr. Hannah's sermon and that of the Rev. Mr. Jobson be given to the editors at the Western Book Concern for publication. Copies to be given to the editors at the Western Book Concern.

Conference adjourned with singing the Doxology, and the benediction by Charles Elliott. Adjournment.

THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 15, 1856. May 15, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Baker in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by James Thurston, of the New-Hampshire Conference.

The Journal of last evening was read and approved.

O. V. Lemon informed the Conference that Samuel C. Cooper, a delegate from the North Indiana Conference, had, in consequence of ill health, been compelled to return home, with no prospect of being able to resume his duties again during the session; and that J. H. Hull, the first reserve delegate, was present, and ought to be admitted to a seat in this body. S. C. Cooper excused.

J. H. Hull then presented his credentials, and was admitted to a seat as a member of the General Conference. J. H. Hull took his seat.

On motion of O. V. Lemon, J. H. Hull was appointed to the Committee on Episcopacy instead of S. C. Cooper. Change in Committee on Episcopacy.

On motion of O. V. Lemon, J. H. Hull, at the request of H. N. Barnes, was placed on the Committee on Revisals. in his stead. Change in Committee on Revisals.

Heman Bangs moved the following preamble and resolution, namely :

Whereas the Discipline requires two thirds of all the delegates to form a quorum; therefore,

*Resolved*, That no delegate be sent out to preach at such a distance that he cannot return on Monday morning in sufficient time to meet the Conference at its morning session. Resolution not to send preachers abroad on the Sabbath.

John Kennaday moved, as a substitute, That the session on Mondays commence at half past 2 o'clock P. M., instead of 8 o'clock A. M. On motion of James Drummond, the substitute was laid on the table by a vote of 70 to 66. Substitute to commence Monday's session at half past 2 o'clock P. M. Substitute laid on the table.

May 15, 1856.  
Resolution laid  
on the table.

On motion of Asbury Lowrey, the original resolution was laid on the table.

Appeal of J. M.  
Snow taken up.

On motion of James H. Perry, the appeal of Jonathan M. Snow was taken up.

By consent, W. H. Pearne, seconded by F. Hodgson, presented the following resolution :

Resolution re-  
quiring that  
the subject of  
resolutions be  
announced  
when offered.  
Laid on the  
table.

*Resolved*, That hereafter, during the progress of this Conference, no miscellaneous resolution or resolutions shall be received, unless the subject of the same be named by the mover.

On motion of Hiram Kinsley, this resolution was laid on the table.

Call for memo-  
rials and peti-  
tions.

By consent, the roll of Conference was called for memorials and petitions, and they were presented as follows, namely :

N. HAMPSHIRE.

Memorial on  
Slavery from  
First Church,  
Great Falls.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE.—Richard S. Rust presented a memorial on Slavery from the First Church, Great Falls, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Referred.  
Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Main-street,  
Great Falls.

James Thurston presented a memorial on Slavery from Main-street Church, Great Falls, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Referred.

TROY.

Memorial on  
Extension of  
Time, from  
Pittsfield.

TROY CONFERENCE.—Henry L. Starks presented a memorial on Extension of Time of Ministerial Service from Pittsfield Quarterly Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy. He also presented a memorial from the

Referred.  
Memorial on  
Lay Represent-  
ation.

same Quarterly Meeting Conference on the subject of Lay Representation, both in the Annual and General Conferences, and it was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

Referred.

N. YORK EAST.  
Memorial on  
Extension of  
Time, from  
First Place,  
Brooklyn.

NEW-YORK EAST CONFERENCE.—James Floy presented a memorial from the Quarterly Meeting Conference of the First Place Methodist Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, Long Island, on Extending the Time of Ministerial Service, and it was referred to the Committee on the Itinerancy.

Referred.

CALIFORNIA.  
Memorial from  
Lorenzo  
Waugh.

CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE.—John D. Blain presented a memorial from Lorenzo Waugh, relating to Compensation for Missionary services, and it was referred to the Committee on Missions.

Referred.

BLACK RIVER.  
Memorial from  
Lysander on  
Presiding El-  
dership.

BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE.—James Erwin presented a memorial from Lysander on the subject of the Presiding Eldership, and it was referred to the Committee on the Itinerancy.

Referred.  
Memorial from  
Henderson on  
the Presiding  
Eldership.

Isaac S. Bingham presented a memorial from official members at Henderson on the subject of the Presiding Eldership, and it was referred to the Committee on the Itiner-

Referred.



ancy. He also presented a memorial on Slavery from Lorraine, and one from Rome District Preachers' Convention, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

ONEIDA CONFERENCE.—Daniel W. Bristol presented a memorial on Slavery from Ludlowville, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Elias Bowen presented a petition from Morris Chapel, Wyoming Conference, relating to Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

GENESEE CONFERENCE.—Israel Chamberlayne presented an attested copy of the Report on Slavery adopted by the Genesee Conference at its last session, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE.—W. H. Brockway presented a memorial from Marengo Circuit, praying that no slaveholder may hereafter be eligible to membership in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

OHIO CONFERENCE.—James M. Jamison presented a memorial from John Andry in relation to Compensation for Services, and it was referred to the Committee on Missions.

Joseph M. Trimble presented a memorial from the Ohio Conference, asking that a course of study may be prescribed for those who may apply for admission on trial in the traveling connection, and upon which course the candidate must be examined before getting his recommendation; and the memorial was referred to the Committee on the Itinerancy.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE.—P. S. Bennett presented a memorial from Waupun Circuit on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery. He also presented a memorial from Reeder Smith, of Appleton, complaining of certain matters of administration, and it was referred to the Committee on the Episcopacy.

I. M. Leihy presented a memorial from Fon du Lac, south ward, on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

ROCK RIVER CONFERENCE.—Luke Hitchcock presented a memorial asking a modification of the Presiding Eldership, from the Crete Quarterly Meeting Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on the Itinerancy. He also presented a memorial from the same Quarterly Conference on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

May 15, 1856.  
Memorial from Rome District on Slavery.  
Referred.

ONEIDA.  
Memorial on Slavery from Ludlowville.  
Referred.

Memorial from Morris Chapel on Boundaries.  
Referred.

GENESEE.  
Copy of the Report on Slavery.  
Referred.

MICHIGAN.  
Memorial on Slavery from Marengo.  
Referred.

OHIO.  
Memorial from John Andry.  
Referred.

Memorial on a course of study for candidates for admission on trial in the traveling connection.  
Referred.

WISCONSIN.  
Memorial on Slavery from Waupun.  
Referred.

Memorial of Reeder Smith.  
Referred.

Memorial on Slavery from Fon du Lac.  
Referred.

ROCK RIVER.  
Memorial from Crete on the Presiding Eldership.  
Referred.

Memorial from Crete on Slavery.  
Referred.

May 15, 1856.

CINCINNATI.  
Memorial from  
Cincinnati on  
Extension of  
Time.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
J. B. Finley  
and others on  
Church Insur-  
ance.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Washington  
Circuit on  
Boundaries.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Ninth-street  
on the Presid-  
ing Eldership.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Ninth-street  
on Extension  
of Time.  
Referred.  
Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Ninth-street  
Church.  
Referred.

SOUTHEASTERN  
INDIANA.  
Memorial on  
releasing Mrs.  
Eliza Smith  
from a debt  
due from the  
estate of her  
husband to the  
Book Concern.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
J. W. Sullivan  
to be released  
from liability  
to pay for S. S.  
Advocate.  
Referred.

BALTIMORE.  
Memorial on  
Boundaries  
from Frost-  
burg.  
Referred.

Protest from  
Bloomington  
Circuit.  
Referred.

Copy of petition  
from Bloom-  
ington in 1852.  
Referred.

NEW-ENGLAND.  
Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Dedham.  
Referred.

CINCINNATI CONFERENCE.—William Young presented a memorial from Cincinnati, praying for an Extension of the Time of Ministerial Service, and it was referred to the Committee on the Itinerancy. He also presented a memorial from James B. Finley and others in relation to the Insurance of Church Property, and it was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

George W. Walker presented a memorial from members of the Church on Washington Circuit in relation to Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

J. W. Fowble presented a memorial from the Quarterly Conference and trustees of the Ninth-street Church, Cincinnati, on the subject of the Presiding Eldership, and it was referred to the Committee on the Itinerancy. He also presented a memorial from the same source on the subject of Extending the Time of Ministerial Service, and it was referred to the Committee on the Itinerancy. He likewise presented a memorial on Slavery from the same Quarterly Conference and trustees, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA CONFERENCE.—E. G. Wood presented a memorial from Thomas M. Eddy, Presiding Elder of Indianapolis District, and W. W. Snyder, Pastor of the Shelbyville Station, praying that Mrs. Eliza Smith, widow of the late Rev. Seth Smith, be released from the debt due from the estate of her late husband to the Western Book Concern, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

F. C. Holliday presented a memorial from Rev. John W. Sullivan, praying to be released from his liability to pay for certain Sunday School Advocates, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE.—John A. Collins presented a memorial from Frostburg Circuit, praying that, in the division of Conference, said circuit may be included in the Baltimore Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Thomas B. Sargent presented a protest from members of the Church on Bloomington Circuit, against being set off to the Wyoming Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries. He also presented a copy of a petition from the same circuit in 1852, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

NEW-ENGLAND CONFERENCE.—L. R. Thayer presented a memorial on Slavery from Dedham, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

On motion of F. G. Hibbard, seconded by Jonas Dodge, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

May 15, 1856.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals of the Discipline be, and they hereby are, instructed to report some method of Revising the Rituals of our Church.

Resolution relating to the Revision of the Rituals of the Church.

On motion of A. J. Phelps, seconded by L. W. Berry, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to inquire into the propriety of amending the formula on Baptism in our Discipline, page 110, by striking out "Holy Catholic Church," and substituting instead thereof something which will not require a note of explanation.

Resolution in relation to striking out "Holy Catholic Church."

A. J. Phelps, at his own request, was excused from serving on the Committee on the Tract Cause, and P. D. Gorrie was appointed in his stead.

Change in Committee on the Tract Cause.

H. Mattison, at his own request, was excused from serving on the Committee on Education, and P. D. Gorrie was appointed in his stead.

Change in Committee on Education.

On motion of Norval Wilson, seconded by N. J. B. Morgan, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to inquire into the expedience of so altering the Discipline in regard to the Trustees of our Churches, as to constitute them members of the Quarterly Meeting Conference by virtue of their office.

Committee on Revisals to inquire whether Trustees of Churches should be members of Quarterly Conference.

On motion of J. H. Perry, the appeal of Jonathan M. Snow was admitted.

Appeal of J. M. Snow admitted

James H. Perry submitted the following resolution, namely :

*Resolved* by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That in all cases of appeal from the action of an Annual Conference, the papers to be used in evidence, and the charges and specifications upon which the appellant was tried in the Annual Conference, should be specifically referred to, and definitely identified by the Journal of the Conference, and signed by the presiding Bishop and Secretary of the Conference; and that no paper not so identified shall be read in evidence without the consent of the parties.

Resolution in relation to documents to be used in an appeal case.

On motion of James B. Finley, the foregoing resolution was laid on the table by a vote of 84 to 45.

Laid on the table.

On proceeding to read the charges, specifications, and findings of the Conference, it was found that the document containing the charges was not so connected with the Journal as to be certainly identified by the Record; whereupon, on motion of John Kennaday, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Documents not identified by the Record.

*Resolved*, That in consequence of informality in the Records of the Wisconsin Conference, in the case of J. M. Snow, the case be remanded to the Wisconsin Conference for a new trial.

Case remanded for a new trial.

May 15, 1856.

Consideration of Report of Committee on Itinerancy relating to the Extension of Time was resumed.

On motion of Isaac Parks, the Report of the Committee on Itinerancy, in relation to an Extension of the Time of Ministerial Service on circuits and stations, which was under consideration at the close of the forenoon's session yesterday, was taken up.

Substitute amended.

The substitute offered yesterday morning by T. H. Pearne being before the Conference, on motion of Hiram Kinsley, the substitute was amended by striking out the words "by the consent of the Annual Conference at the request of the bishop presiding," leaving the substitute to read thus :

Substitute as amended.

*Resolved*, That we recommit the report, with instructions to report in favor of extending the time to not more than three years.

Vote to be taken by yeas and nays.

On motion of John A. Collins, Conference resolved that the vote on the question be taken by yeas and nays.

Call for the previous question sustained.

John S. Porter moved that the question be now taken without further debate, and 164 members voting for the motion, the call for the previous question was sustained. The roll of Conference was then called, and the vote was given as follows, namely :

Ayes.

*Ayes*.—Baker, Barnes, Bennett, Bingham, Blain, Boyd of Northwestern Indiana, Bradford, Bristol, Brockway, Brooks of Cincinnati, Brown of Troy, Buck of East Genesee, Burns, Britton, Carlton, Chamberlayne, Coggeshall, Cooke, Coombe, Cox, Crews, Crooks, Culver, Dempster, Dennis, Disbro, Dodge, Durbin, Dustin, Erwin, Evans, Farrington, Floy, Fowble, Gillet, Gorrie, Gregg, Griswold, Gurley, Hall, Harris, Hawkins, Hibbard, Hill of Erie, Hitchcock, Hosmer, Hoyt, Hulburd, Hull, Kennaday, Kidder, King of Vermont, Kingsley of Erie, Kinsley, Leihy, Lemon, Livesey, Lowrey, Mattison, Merwin, Moffitt, Morey, Nast, Parks of Troy, Pearne of Oregon, Perry, Phelps, Phillips, Pilcher of Michigan, Raymond, Reddy, Reid of New-York East, Requa, Rice of New-England, Roberts, Rust, Sapp, Simonds, Starks, Stanton, Thayer, Thompson of Northwestern Indiana, Thomson of North Ohio, Thurston, Waite, Watson, Watts, Webster, Wise, Witherspoon, Young of Cincinnati —91.

Nays.

*Nays*.—Allen of Maine, Allyn of Southern Illinois, Baird, Bannister, Barker, Battelle, Beach, Berry, Bewley, Blake, Blakeslee, Bowen, Bowers, Boyd of Pittsburgh, Brooks of Iowa, Brouse, Brown of Cincinnati, Brown of Baltimore, Brown of New-Jersey, Buck of Illinois, Bur-

lingham, Carpenter, Cartwright, Chivington, Clark of New-York, Clark of Wyoming, Coats, Collins of Baltimore, Collius of Michigan, Connell, Conrey, Cooper, Corrington, Crary, Crawford, Crowell, Cunningham, Dana, Dimmitt, Drummond, Felch, Finley, Flower, French, Goheen, Graham, Griffen of New-York, Griffin of Troy, Griffith, Hamilton, Haney, Heath, Henderson, Hill of Indiana, Hirst, Hodgson, Holliday, Hopkins, Howard, Jamison, Kenney, King of New-York, Kingsley of Genesee, Kisling, Knox, Kuhl, Lanahan, Lauck, Lenhart, Lewis, Luccock, M'Coombs, Marcy, Martin of Northwestern Virginia, Martin of Baltimore, Monroe, Morgan, Mulfinger, Nichols, Osbon, Parks of Oneida, Pearne of Wyoming, Peck, Pilcher of North Ohio, Pillsbury, Poe, Poisal, Porter of New-England, Porter of New-Jersey, Power, Pratt, Quigley, Randall, Reed of Iowa, Reese, Rice of New-York, Robertson, Ruter, Rutledge, Sanderson, Sargent, Slicer, Smith of New-Hampshire, Smith of Indiana, Summers, Stallard, Starr, Swaim, Talbot, Thompson of Philadelphia, Trimble, Triplett, Trotter, Van Cleve, Van Deusen, Wakefield, Walker, Wallace, Washburn, Wheeler, Wilmer, Wilson of Baltimore, Wilson of Erie, Wood, Worthington, Yocum, and Young of Ohio—127.

*Declined voting.*—Bangs—1.

*Absent.*—J. M'Clintock, in consequence of sickness in his family, 1.

Pending the call of ayes and noes, a motion was made by John A. Collins, that the session be prolonged till final action upon the report, and the motion was carried.

The vote on the substitute stands, Yeas, 91; Nays, 127; and the substitute was lost.

J. P. Durbin, with consent of Conference, withdrew his motion to recommit with instructions.

On motion of John A. Collins, the resolution contained in the report of the committee, as originally submitted, was adopted in words following, namely:

*Resolved*, That it is inexpedient at this time to extend the Term of Ministerial Service beyond the present assigned limits of two years.

On motion of John P. Durbin, the whole report, except the foregoing resolution, was laid on the table.

Conference closed with the benediction by Phineas Rice.

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H. Bangs did not vote.  
M'Clintock absent.

Session prolonged.

Motion to recommit with instructions withdrawn.

Resolution of the Report adopted.

Report, except the resolution, laid on the table.  
Adjournment.

May 16, 1856.

## FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 16, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Ames in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by Edward Thomson, of North Ohio Conference.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Session next  
Monday to  
commence at  
2 o'clock.

On motion of John A. Collins, it was resolved that the session on Monday next commence at two o'clock in the afternoon, instead of eight o'clock in the morning.

Norval Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, presented a report, and it was adopted in words following, namely :

Report on the  
Memorial of  
D. J. Snow.  
Adopted.

The Committee on Itinerancy beg leave to report on the memorial of D. J. Snow, of Illinois Conference, who complains, first, that he was located in an illegal and informal manner by said Conference, in the year 1848, and thereby compelled to engage in secular business; second, that by an equally illegal process he, the said memorialist, was expelled from the Conference and the Church in 1853, which action ruined his business and involved him in a loss of several thousand dollars.

The above-named memorialist prays that the General Conference will take measures to ascertain whether, under the constitution of the Church, an annual conference can legally suspend the claim of a traveling elder upon the funds of the Church, and then determine that said suspension cancels the obligation.

The committee are of opinion that the disposition of the case belongs to the Annual Conference of which the memorialist is a member, and would express their conviction that the brethren of that Conference will do ample justice in the case. The committee request to be released from the further consideration of the memorial.

On motion of W. Hamilton, the report of the Committee on Missions was taken up.

Episcopal au-  
thority in  
Africa con-  
sidered.

Isaac Parks moved, that so much of the report as relates to Episcopal authority in Africa be adopted. Pending this motion, the first resolution was read, when John A. Collins moved to amend it by striking out the words, "and have episcopal jurisdiction in Africa only."

Motion to  
amend by  
striking out.

Pending the discussion, John S. Porter, seconded by H. Mattison, moved the following resolutions, as a substitute for both the resolution and amendment under consideration, namely :

Substitute of-  
fered.

*Resolved*, That in case the Liberia Annual Conference shall elect some person to exercise the office of a bishop among them, this General Conference authorize our bishops, or any one of them, to ordain such person for that purpose.

*Resolved*, That should the Church in Africa organize an independent Church, as contemplated in the preceding resolution, it

does not follow that we shall cease to foster and help them by our missionary funds, but that we shall still be at liberty to make appropriations for that work, so long as they shall maintain the doctrines of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

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When this substitute was submitted, John A. Collins withdrew his amendment to strike out a certain portion of the first resolution of the report.

Amendment to strike out withdrawn.

Minor Raymond moved to lay both the substitute and the original resolution on the table. A division of the question being called for, the vote was first taken on laying the substitute on the table, and the motion was carried by a vote of 108 to 75, after which the first resolution of the report was laid on the table by a vote of 112 to 67.

Resolution and substitute both laid on the table.

On motion of Henry Slicer, the report, so far as it relates to Episcopal authority in Africa, was taken up and recommended.

Francis Hodgson moved to take the substitute offered by J. S. Porter from the table, in order to refer it to the Committee on Missions.

Motion to take up and refer the substitute.

Barnes M. Hall moved to lay this motion on the table, but the motion did not prevail; after which, the substitute was taken up, and referred.

Motion to lay on the table. Lost. Substitute taken up and referred.

F. G. Hibbard, seconded by A. Lowrey, submitted the following preamble and resolution, to wit:

*Whereas*, in the opinion of this Conference, a bishop should be elected to preside over the Church in Africa, who shall reside in that country;

Preamble relating to a change of the 3d Restrictive Rule.

And, *Whereas*, the present rule of our Discipline requires that our General Superintendents shall travel at large through our work; therefore,

*Resolved*, That we so far alter the 3d Restrictive Rule of sec. 2, ans. 5 to question 1, page 38, as to add, "nevertheless, the Bishop of Africa shall not be subject to this rule, but shall be restricted in his jurisdiction to Africa.

This preamble and resolution were, on motion of J. P. Durbin, referred to the Committee on Missions.

Preamble and resolution referred.

On motion of S. Van Deusen, the residue of the report of the committee was laid on the table.

Residue of the report laid on the table.

On motion of S. Van Deusen, the time of the session was extended till Conference shall adjourn on motion.

Session prolonged.

The appointments for preaching on the coming Sabbath were announced by the Committee on Public Worship.

Appointments for preaching announced.

Seymour Van Deusen, Chairman of the Committee on Sunday Schools, presented a report, and it was adopted in words following, to wit:

May 16, 1856.  
Report of Com-  
mittee on Sun-  
day Schools.  
Adopted.

The Committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to report further in part:

That they have had before them the subject of a Sunday-school demonstration some time during the session of this body, and, after consultation with several of the pastors and Sunday-school superintendents in this city, believe that such demonstration is both desirable and practicable, and therefore,

Two Sunday-  
school meet-  
ings to be held.

1. *Resolved*, That two meetings be held on Wednesday, 21st inst., one for children at 3 o'clock P. M., and another for adults at 7½ o'clock in the evening.

Committee to  
make arrange-  
ments.

2. *Resolved*, That the Committee on Sunday Schools be authorized to make all suitable arrangements for such meetings.

Memorial from  
Samuel Wil-  
liams relating  
to a Cheap  
Commentary.

Bishop Simpson presented a memorial from Samuel Williams, of Cincinnati, on the subject of a Cheap Commentary on the Holy Scriptures; and it was laid on the table in order that it may be read in Conference before it is referred to a committee.

Laid on the  
table to be read  
before referring  
it.

Memorial from  
Philadelphia  
on Lay Repre-  
sentation.  
Referred.

John P. Durbin presented a memorial from members of the Church in Philadelphia in relation to Lay Representation, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy, and ordered to be printed.

Memoria's from  
Geneva on the  
Presiding Eld-  
ership and on  
Lay Represent-  
ation.  
Referred.

F. G. Hibbard presented two memorials, one from Geneva Quarterly Conference, on the subject of the Presiding Eldership, and one from ministers and official members of the Church in Geneva, on Lay Representation, and they were both referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

Memorial on  
Lay Delega-  
tion.  
Re-referred.

H. Bangs presented a memorial on Lay Delegation, which was on yesterday presented by H. L. Starks, and referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy; and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

Adjournment.

Conference adjourned with the benediction by Bishop Ames.

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## SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 17, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Waugh in the chair. The usual religious exercises were conducted by Pennell Coombe, of the Philadelphia Conference.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Regular order  
suspended.

On motion of Peter Cartwright, the regular order of business was suspended for the present.

Secretary to fur-  
nish copy of  
the action, &c.,  
in the case of  
D. J. Snow.

On motion of Peter Cartwright, the Secretary was instructed to furnish him with a copy of the action of this body on the appeal from the decision of the Illinois Conference in the case of D. J. Snow, together with a copy of the me-



morial of the said Snow, and of the report of the committee thereon adopted by the Conference.

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On motion of S. Van Deusen, the vote adopting the report of the Committee on Sunday Schools, relating to a public demonstration in this city during the session of Conference yesterday, was reconsidered. The report was then amended, by striking out from the first resolution the words "Wednesday the 21st instant," and inserting "Thursday, the 22d instant;" after which the report, as amended, was adopted.

Reconsideration, amendment, and adoption of the Report of the Committee on Sunday Schools.

J. Porter, seconded by J. P. Durbin, submitted the following preamble and resolution, and they were adopted, namely :

Whereas many hundreds, if not thousands, of our members are annually lost from our Church by not presenting their notes of recommendation when they remove from one circuit to another; therefore,

Preamble and resolution concerning members removing from one charge to another.

Resolved, That the Committee on Revisals be, and hereby are, instructed to inquire if some measure may not be devised by which this evil may be remedied.

The following resolution, submitted by J. Porter, and seconded by Thomas H. Pearne, was referred to the Committee on Revisals, namely :

Resolved, That the Discipline be amended by striking out the word "up," page 29, in the sentence, "By running with patience the race which is set up before them." Also, by striking out, "and worn-out preachers," page 41, fifth line from top.

Proposition to strike out "up" from a certain phrase in the Discipline. Referred.

J. Porter, seconded by E. Thomson, submitted the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Discipline, Part I, ch. iv, sec. 1, Ques. 3, Ans. 3, page 41, immediately following the words, "Seminaries of learning which are, or may be, under our superintendence," be amended by the insertion of these words: "Except also, in special cases, where he shall judge that the interests of the work require it, he may continue a preacher in the same circuit or station the third year, provided that an annual conference, voting on the case by his request, shall recommend it."

Resolution to remove the restriction on the appointing power in special cases.

On motion of G. W. Walker, this resolution was laid on the table by a vote of 80 to 65.

Laid on the table.

John P. Durbin, seconded by James Porter, submitted the following resolution, namely :

Resolved, That the following be incorporated in the Discipline as indicated:

3d. "It shall be the duty of each Annual Conference annually to appoint a committee to audit the accounts of each Superintendent of Missions within its bounds, and report to the Conference." (See Discipline, ch. iv, p. 190.)

Committee to audit the accounts of Superintendents of Missions. Referred to Committee on Revisals.

This resolution was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

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On motion of Peter Cartwright, the regular order of business was resumed.

Report relating to Bishop for Liberia.

Annual Conference in Germany.

Book Concern in Germany.

Laid on the table under the rule.

William Hamilton, Chairman of the Committee on Missions, presented a report in relation to a Missionary Bishop for Liberia; also a report in relation to an Annual Conference in Germany; also a report relating to a Book Concern in Germany; and they were laid on the table one day, under the rule, and ordered to be printed.

William Hamilton, Chairman of the Committee on Missions, presented a further report, as follows, namely :

Report of the Committee on Missions relating to a division of the missionary organization into Home and Foreign Departments.

Report relating to Conrad Muth.

Report relating to superannuated men in foreign missions.

Liberia Conference to have books at the same prices as our own Depositories.

Action of the Missionary Board in appropriating funds to Methodist bodies, in fraternal correspondence with our Church.

Report considered by item.

Call for the previous question sustained.

First item adopted.

Second item adopted.

The Committee on Missions beg leave to report further :

1. We have considered the memorial from the New-England Conference as to a division of the missionary organization into Foreign and Domestic Missionary Societies, and recommend that the suggestion in the memorial be not adopted, for the reason that, in our opinion, it would reduce the aggregate receipts, and make an undue division of the receipts between the foreign and domestic work, in favor of foreign missions.

2. FURTHER.—We have carefully considered the papers referring to Conrad Muth, presented by Brother Crary, and find no case on which a report can be made, as no case is stated. But if the papers are to be supervised at all, they belong to the Annual Conference.

3. FURTHER.—We have duly considered the communication from the New-York East Conference, in reference to the superannuated men whose health failed in foreign missions, and beg leave to report that, in the judgment of the committee, the Constitution of the Missionary Society, in article FIFTH, makes sufficient provision for such cases.

4. FURTHER.—We have duly considered the request of the Liberia Annual Conference, asking aid for their infant Book Concern, and recommend that the Agents of the Book Concern furnish them with books for cash, at such prices as they furnish them to our own Depositories.

5. FURTHER.—We have duly considered the recommendation of the General Missionary Committee at its session in 1855, that the Board obtain the formal sanction of the General Conference to their construction of the Constitution, by virtue of which they make appropriations to aid missions of other Methodist bodies which are in fraternal correspondence with the General Conference, and recommend that we approve of the action of the General Committee and Board in the premises.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

On motion of F. C. Holliday, Conference proceeded to consider this report item by item. Pending the discussion of the first item, Thomas H. Pearne moved that the vote be taken without further debate; and this motion being sustained by a vote of more than two thirds, the vote was taken accordingly, and the item was adopted.

The second item was read, and, on motion of F. C. Holliday, it was adopted.

After the third item had been read, William Graham moved its adoption. Pending this motion, J. Z. Nichols moved that the item be laid on the table, and the motion prevailed.

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Third item laid on the table.

The fourth item was read, and on motion of F. C. Holliday it was adopted.

Fourth item adopted.

The fifth item was read, and on motion of F. C. Holliday it was adopted.

Fifth item adopted.

F. G. Hibbard, Chairman of the Committee on Revisals, presented a report relating to the following matters, to wit: changing the place of holding an annual conference; the note on page 110 of the Discipline; and the chapter on Dress. The report was read, and lies over under the rule.

Minor Raymond, Chairman of the Committee on Slavery, presented a report in part, and it was adopted as follows, to wit:

Report in part of the Committee on Slavery. Adopted.

The Committee on Slavery beg leave to report in part:

That certain papers relating to the Tract Cause have been referred to the Committee on Slavery; that they consider themselves sufficiently employed in considering the main question committed to them; that the same subject contained in said papers has been referred to the Committee on the Tract Cause; and they therefore ask that all papers relating to the Tract Cause be referred to the Tract Committee.

Elias Bowen, Chairman of the Committee on the Bible Cause, presented a report on that subject. After it was read, the resolutions were taken up in order and acted upon severally.

Report of the Committee on the Bible Cause.

The first and second resolutions were read and adopted. Pending the consideration of the third resolution, Hiram Kinsley moved to amend it by adding these words: "but we do not desire special agents to be sent among us to raise collections." On motion of J. Z. Nichols the amendment was laid on the table. The third, fourth, and fifth resolutions were then adopted.

First and second resolutions adopted.

Proposition to amend the third resolution.

Amendment laid on the table.

Third, fourth, and fifth resolutions adopted.

On motion of H. Bangs the report was adopted as a whole.

Report as a whole adopted.

The following are the resolutions included in the report on the Bible Cause, and adopted by the Conference, namely:

Resolutions on the Bible Cause. Adopted.

1. *Resolved*, That this General Conference cherishes the most cordial and undiminished confidence in the American Bible Society, and hereby recommends the ministers and members of the Methodist Episcopal Church to coöperate with it, and exert themselves to carry out its noble and benevolent designs.

2. *Resolved*, That we highly approve of the intention and effort of the Board of Managers to secure a systematic and thorough

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reexploration and re-supply of the entire country, and that we recommend our ministers and members everywhere to cooperate in this work, and help to carry the plan into effect in their several fields of labor.

3. *Resolved*, That inasmuch as the successful carrying out of the designs of the American Bible Society depends on the efficiency of its auxiliaries, we recommend all under our charge to cooperate with those auxiliaries, to encourage, strengthen, and assist them.

4. *Resolved*, That in declining all attempts or movements toward a new translation of the Bible, the Society is entitled to our warmest thanks, and for its pains to furnish an entirely pure and correct edition of the Bible in our commonly received English version.

5. *Resolved*, In view of the importance of this whole subject, we hereby recommend to each minister in the connection to preach at least once a year on this subject, and generally at the time when he makes his annual collection for the Bible cause.

[For the Report in full, see *Appendix S.*]

Joseph Holdich addresses the Conference.

While the foregoing report was under consideration, Joseph Holdich, one of the Secretaries of the American Bible Society, on motion of Thomas H. Pearne, was invited to address the Conference on the subject-matter of the report; whereupon, in a brief but pertinent address, he urged the claims of the American Bible Society upon the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

On motion of H. Bangs, the Secretary was instructed to furnish a copy of the foregoing report to the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society.

Temperance report presented, read, and laid on the table.

Henry Slicer, Chairman of the Committee on Temperance, submitted a report, which was read, and, on motion of M. D'C. Crawford, was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

H. Mattison, seconded by A. J. Dana, moved the following resolution, namely:

General Delegate of the American Bible Society.

*Resolved*, That, in the opinion of this General Conference, it is not necessary, so far as our Annual Conferences are concerned, that a special General Delegate should be employed by the American Bible Society to visit us at our annual sessions.

Exceptions to the introduction of the resolution.

H. Bangs took exceptions to the introduction of this resolution as an infraction of the rules of order governing the Conference, whereupon Benjamin Griffen moved that the order of business be suspended, in order to act on the foregoing resolution, and the motion prevailed; after which a call for the previous question, on motion of William Cooper, having been sustained, the vote was taken on the resolution, and it was adopted.

Order suspended. Call for the previous question sustained.

Resolution adopted. Memorial from

The chair presented a memorial from the Trustees of the

Garrett Biblical Institute, and it was referred to the Committee on Education. He also presented a memorial from Milo Chamberlain on Emancipation, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

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Garrett Biblical Institute.  
Referred.  
Memorial on Emancipation from Milo Chamberlain.  
Referred.  
Call for memorial and petitions.

The conferences were called in order for the presentation of memorials, petitions, and appeals; and they were presented as follows, namely:

**NEW-HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE.**—Newel Culver presented a memorial, signed by himself and Charles N. Smith, in relation to more complete Quarterly Reports from the preacher in charge, concerning persons received into the Church or dismissed from it, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

N. HAMPSHIRE.  
Memorial relating to Quarterly Reports.  
Referred.

**NEW-YORK CONFERENCE.**—Benjamin Griffen presented a memorial from George Coles, on the subject of publishing a Condensed Commentary on the Holy Scriptures, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

NEW-YORK.  
Memorial from George Coles on Cheap Commentary.  
Referred.

**TROY CONFERENCE.**—H. L. Starks presented a memorial from members of the Church at Fort Plain, praying that the said appointment may be transferred from the Oneida Conference to the Troy Conference; and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

TROY.  
Memorial from Fort Plain on Boundaries.  
Referred.

**NEW-YORK EAST CONFERENCE.**—John M. Reid presented a memorial from members of the Summerfield Chapel, Brooklyn, praying that the General Conference take no action on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

N. YORK EAST.  
Memorial on Slavery from Summerfield Chapel, Brooklyn.  
Referred.

Heman Bangs presented a memorial from members of Allen-street Church, New-York, requesting that no change should be made in the rule of Discipline on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Memorial on Slavery from Allen-street.  
Referred.

John B. Merwin presented five memorials, to wit: one from members of the Forsyth-street Church, New-York; one from members of the Carlton Avenue Church, Brooklyn; one from members of the Pacific-street Church, Brooklyn; one from members of the Dean-street Church, Brooklyn; and one from members of the Fleet-street Church, Brooklyn; all requesting that no change be made in the rule of Discipline on the subject of Slavery; and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Memorials on Slavery from Forsyth-street, Carlton Avenue, Pacific-street, Dean-street, and Fleet-street.  
Referred.

**VERMONT CONFERENCE.**—A. Webster presented a memorial on Slavery from Danville, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

VERMONT.  
Memorial from Danville on Slavery.  
Referred.

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**BLACK RIVER.**  
Memorial from  
Syracuse on  
Extension of  
Time.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Rome Quar-  
terly Confer-  
ences on sundry  
alterations of  
the Discipline.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
West Winsted  
on Presiding  
Eldership and  
Extension of  
Time.  
Referred.

**EAST MAINE.**  
Memorial from  
Penobscot on  
Slavery.  
Referred.

**ERIE.**  
Memorial from  
Cleveland on  
Extension of  
Time.  
Referred.

Memorial relat-  
ing to a change  
concerning  
Ministerial  
Supply.  
Referred.

**EAST GENESEE.**  
Memorial from  
Ovid and Shel-  
drake on the  
Presiding Eld-  
ership.  
Referred.

Memorial on  
Extension of  
Time.  
Referred.

**MICHIGAN.**  
Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Duplain.  
Referred.

**ROCK RIVER.**  
Memorial from  
Council Hill on  
Boundaries.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Chicago on  
Church Exten-  
sion.  
Referred.

Session pro-  
longed.

**NORTH OHIO.**  
Appeal of Oliver  
Burgess made

**BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE.**—J. Erwin presented a memorial from the First Methodist Episcopal Church, Syracuse, on the Extension of Time of Ministerial Service, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Isaac S. Bingham presented a memorial from the Quarterly Meeting Conferences of Rome District, requesting sundry alterations in the Discipline, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

H. Mattison presented a memorial on the Presiding Eldership and Extension of Time from West Winsted, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

**EAST MAINE CONFERENCE.**—C. D. Pillsbury presented a memorial on Slavery from Penobscot Station, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

**ERIE CONFERENCE.**—G. B. Hawkins presented a memorial from the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Cleveland on Extension of Time, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy. Also, on motion of G. B. Hawkins, so much of the memorial from Akron, now in the hands of the Committee on Itinerancy, as relates to a preacher's not serving more than two years in six, in the same station or circuit, be referred to the Committee on Revisals.

**EAST GENESEE CONFERENCE.**—F. G. Hibbard presented a memorial on the Presiding Eldership from Ovid and Sheldrake, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy. He also presented a memorial from the same source, relating to an Extension of Time of Ministerial Service on circuits and stations, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

**MICHIGAN CONFERENCE.**—R. Sapp presented a memorial on Slavery from Du Plain Circuit, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

**ROCK RIVER CONFERENCE.**—H. Crews presented a memorial from Council Hill on Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries. He also presented a memorial from ministers and members of the Church in Chicago in relation to "The Northwestern Church Extension Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," and it was referred to a special committee of five.

On motion of W. B. Disbro, the time of the session was extended till we adjourn on motion.

**NORTH OHIO CONFERENCE.**—W. L. Harris presented the Appeal of Oliver Burgess from the decision of the North

Ohio Conference, by which it convicted him of maladministration, and refused to pass his character, and on motion the Appeal was made the special order of the day for Wednesday morning next, immediately after reading the Journal.

W. B. Disbro presented a memorial from several Quarterly Conferences in Cleveland District, praying for the erection of a Western Reserve Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

CINCINNATI CONFERENCE.—William Young presented a memorial from Edward Conkling on the subject of Lay Representation, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

J. W. Fowble presented a memorial on the Presiding Eldership from members of the Church in Cincinnati, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

The memorial from Samuel Williams, relating to a cheap Commentary on the Holy Scriptures, presented by Bishop Simpson yesterday, was taken from the table, read, and referred to a special committee of five.

IOWA CONFERENCE.—H. W. Reed presented a memorial on Boundaries from Muscatine, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

PROVIDENCE CONFERENCE.—Daniel Wise presented three memorials on Slavery, one from Cochesset Station, one from Osterville, and one from East Weymouth, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

William Livesey presented three memorials on Slavery, one from Wapping Station, one from Stoughton Station, and one from West Thompson Station, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

A. H. Triplett, seconded by John Morey, presented the following resolution, and it was referred to the Committee on Trials and Appeals.

*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the Committee on the Court of Trials and Appeals be instructed to inquire into the expedience of having some rule inserted to arrest manifest errors in application of law by Appellate Courts, in taking advantage by legal technicalities, or technical construction, in doing violence to the spirit and intention of rule in Discipline.

On motion of Thomas H. Pearne, seconded by S. W. Coggeshall, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to consider the expedience of striking out the latter clause of the an-

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the order of the day for Wednesday morning next.

Memorial from Cleveland District, asking the erection of a Western Reserve Conference.

Referred.  
CINCINNATI.

Memorial from Edward Conkling on Lay Representation.

Referred.  
Memorial from Cincinnati on the Presiding Eldership.

Referred.  
Memorial of Samuel Williams, relating to a cheap Commentary.

Referred.  
IOWA.  
Memorial from Muscatine on Boundaries.

Referred.  
PROVIDENCE.  
Memorials on Slavery from Cochesset, Osterville, and E. Weymouth.

Referred.  
Memorials on Slavery from Wapping, Stoughton, and West Thompson.

Referred.  
Resolution relating to errors in the application of law.  
Instructions to the Committee on Trials and Appeals.

Resolution instructing the Committee on Revisals to inquire whether

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the restrictions relating to the return of a Presiding Elder and Preacher ought not to be struck out.

answer to question 3, section 2, page 43 of the Discipline; also of amending the Discipline by striking out the following clause, in answer 3, of question 3, section 1, chapter iv, page 41, namely: "Provided also that, with the exceptions above named, he shall not continue a preacher in the same appointment more than two years in six, nor in the same city more than four years in succession."

On motion of H. Bangs, seconded by E. E. Griswold, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Resolution for the Committee on Revisals relating to Superannuated Missionaries.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Missions be instructed to inquire whether, when any member of an Annual Conference is employed on a foreign mission, and shall lose his health while so employed, the Society should not make such provision for his support as the Board of Managers shall judge necessary.

On motion of Samuel Wakefield, seconded by John Mofatt, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Resolution relating to authority to order a new trial.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be, and they are hereby instructed to inquire into the expedience of amending the Discipline, answer 4 to question 1, sec. 4, chap. ix, Part I, page 100, by adding, "*which shall have authority to order a new trial.*"

On motion of H. Mattison, seconded by M. D'C. Crawford, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Secretary to furnish J. Holdich a copy of the resolution concerning a General Delegate of the Bible Society.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of this body be instructed to furnish to Rev. Joseph Holdich a copy of our action this morning in relation to the office of General Delegate of the American Bible Society.

Barnes M. Hall, seconded by E. B. Bradford, moved the following resolution, namely:

Motion to amend the tenth rule.

*Resolved*, That the *tenth* rule of the Conference be amended by substituting the word "*subject*" for the word "*question.*"

Adjournment.

Pending the consideration of this resolution, Conference adjourned.

Benediction by Norval Wilson.

May 19, 1856.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 19th, 1856.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Morris in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by I. M. Leihy, of the Wisconsin Conference.

The Journal of Saturday was read and approved.

The British delegates take leave of the Conference.

The chair having announced that the honored representatives of the British Wesleyan Conference were about to depart, business was suspended, and Rev. Dr. Hannah and Rev. Mr. Jobson in a brief manner tendered their thanks to the Confer-



ence for the Christian kindness and consideration with which they had been received, as Methodist preachers, both by the General Conference as a body, and by its members severally, and after most earnestly imploring the blessing of Almighty God upon the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church, praying that he would preserve her in her unity and spirituality, they bade the Conference an affectionate farewell.

May 19, 1856.

Bishop Waugh, for himself and his colleagues, and on behalf of the General Conference, responded to the British delegates, after which the Conference, by a rising vote and silent prayer, bade them adieu.

The Conference bid the British delegates adieu.

Reports from standing committees being in order,

Norval Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, submitted a report relating to matters at Hoboken, New-Jersey, and it was adopted in words following, to wit:

The Committee on Itinerancy, to whom was referred the memorial of the New-Jersey Conference concerning certain irregularities at Hoboken, on Paterson District, of that Conference, beg leave to recommend for adoption the following resolution, namely:

Report of the Committee on Itinerancy relating to matters at Hoboken, New-Jersey. Adopted.

Resolved, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the irregularities complained of in Hoboken are within the jurisdiction of the authorities, to whom the persons are respectively amenable.

Norval Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, submitted a report on the subject of the Presiding Eldership.

Barnes M. Hall, seconded by H. Mattison, moved the following as a substitute for the report, namely:

Add the following to sec. 11, page 45, of Discipline:

"12. Whenever an Annual Conference shall request the Bishop to give the Presiding Elder of one or more of the districts regular pastoral work, it shall be his duty to comply with such request, and such Presiding Elders so appointed shall retain all the powers and discharge all the duties of other Presiding Elders, only they shall not be required to travel through their districts, except to hold the first and fourth Quarterly Conferences in each year, and to attend to all exigences that may arise in their districts.

Substitute for the report submitted.

"The District Stewards shall estimate the necessary traveling expenses of such Presiding Elder, and also the compensation that shall be allowed him for his services as Presiding Elder, and shall assess the same upon the several charges, according to their respective ability.

On motion of Peter Cartwright, this substitute was laid on the table by a vote of 88 to 78.

Substitute on the table.

L. R. Thayer moved that the report lie on the table and be printed, but the motion did not prevail.

Motion to lay the report on the table. Lost.

May 19, 1856.  
Motion to postpone till to-morrow.  
Lost.

Asbury Lowrey moved to postpone the further consideration of the report till to-morrow. This motion was lost by a vote of 80 to 87.

Adjournment.

On motion, Conference adjourned.  
Benediction by William Hamilton.

May 20, 1856.

## TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 20.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Janes in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by Arza Brown, of the Cincinnati Conference.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Elias Bowen has leave of absence.

On motion of D. W. Bristol, Elias Bowen had leave of absence for the remainder of the session on account of ill health.

Order of the day suspended.

On motion of J. Floy, the order of the day was suspended, and the unfinished business of yesterday was taken up.

Consideration of the report on the Presiding Eldership resumed.

The report of the Committee on Itinerancy, which was laid on the table by adjournment yesterday, was taken up and read, and the discussion was resumed. Pending the

Call for the previous question not sustained.

consideration of the report, the previous question was moved, but was not sustained.

Motion to allow the committee to correct inaccuracies in the report.

J. Z. Nichols moved that the Committee on Itinerancy have leave to correct certain inaccuracies found in the report.

Motion to recommit.

W. B. Disbro moved, as a substitute, that the report be recommitted.

Question of order.

During the discussion a question of order was submitted, as to whether it is proper, on a motion to recommit, to discuss

The merits of a question cannot be discussed on a motion to recommit.

the merits of the question; whereupon the chair decided that it was not proper to enter into the *merits* of a question on a simple motion to recommit. No appeal was

No appeal taken, and the decision of the chair is the judgment of the Conference.

taken from this decision, yet on motion of J. S. Porter, it was resolved that the decision of the chair stand as the judgment of this Conference.

Motion to amend the substitute.

H. Bangs submitted the following amendment of the substitute, namely:

“That the Committee be instructed so to alter their report as to allow the Bishop to appoint the Presiding Elder to the pastoral office when he shall judge the work may demand it.”

Call for the previous question sustained.

Thomas H. Pearne moved that the vote be taken without further debate, and the motion was sustained, 157 voting in the affirmative.

The vote was then taken on the amendment submitted by H. Bangs, and it was lost, 58 voting for it, and 128 voting against it.

The motion to recommit was lost by a vote of 98 to 102, after which the motion to allow the committee to correct inaccuracies in their report prevailed.

The committee then made a change in the clause, which as reported read as follows, namely :

“There was also referred to us five (5) remonstrances against all such changes, two from Annual Conferences, namely: Maine and New-York; and three (3) from Quarterly Conferences.”

This clause was so modified as to read thus :

“There were also referred to us five (5) remonstrances from Quarterly Conferences against all such changes.”

The ayes and nays having been ordered, the report, as modified by the committee, was adopted by the following vote :

*Ayes.*—Allen of Southern Illinois, Baird, Bangs, Barker, Barnes, Battelle, Beach, Berry, Bewley, Blain, Blake, Blakeslee, Bowers, Boyd of Northwestern Indiana, Boyd of Pittsburgh, Brooks of Cincinnati, Brooks of Iowa, Brouse, Brown of Cincinnati, Brown of Baltimore, Brown of New-Jersey, Brown of Troy, Buck of Illinois, Burlingham, Burns, Cartwright, Chivington, Clark of New-York, Coats, Collins of Baltimore, Connell, Conrey, Cooper, Corrington, Cox, Crary, Crawford, Crooks, Cunningham, Dana, Dimmitt, Drummond, Durbin, Felch, Finley, Flower, Floy, French, Goheen, Gorrie, Graham, Gregg, Griffen of New-York, Griffin of Troy, Griffith, Gurley, Hamilton, Haney, Harris, Hawkins, Heath, Henderson, Hill of Indiana, Hill of Erie, Hirst, Hodgson, Holliday, Hopkins, Howard, Hull, Jamison, King of New-York, Kingsley of Erie, Kingsley of Genesee, Kinsley, Kisling, Kuhl, Lanahan, Lauck, Lemon, Lenhart, Lewis, Luccock, M'Combs, Martin of West Virginia, Martin of Baltimore, Monroe, Morey, Morgan, Mulfinger, Nast, Nichols, Osbon, Parks of Oneida, Pearne of Oregon, Pearne of Wyoming, Peck, Perry, Phillips, Pilcher of Michigan, Pilcher of North Ohio, Poe, Poisal, Porter of New-Jersey, Power, Pratt, Quigley, Reddy, Reed of Iowa, Reese, Roberts, Robertson, Ruter, Rutledge, Sanderson, Sapp, Sargent, Slicer, Smith of Indiana, Summers, Stallard, Starr, Stanton, Swaim, Talbott, Thompson of Philadelphia,

May 20, 1856.  
Motion to amend the substitute lost.

Motion to recommit lost.

Motion to correct inaccuracies prevails.

Ayes and nays ordered.

*Ayes.*

May 20, 1856. Trimble, Triplett, Trotter, Van Cleve, Van Deusen, Waite, Wakefield, Walker, Wallace, Washburn, Watson, Wheeler, Wilmer, Wilson of Baltimore, Wilson of Erie, Wood, Worthington, Yocum, and Young of Ohio.—145.

Nays.—Allen of Maine, Baker, Bannister, Bennett, Bingham, Bradford, Bristol, Brockway, Buck of East Genesee, Button, Carlton, Carpenter, Chamberlayne, Clark of Wyoming, Coggeshall, Collins of Michigan, Cook, Coombe, Crews, Crowell, Culver, Dempster, Dennis, Disbro, Dodge, Dustin, Erwin, Evans, Farrington, Fowble, Gillet, Griswold, Hall, Hibbard, Hitchcock, Hosmer, Hoyt, Hulburd, Kennaday, Kenney, Kidder, King of Vermont, Knox, Leihy, Livesey, Lowrey, Marcy, Mattison, Merwin, Moffatt, Parks of Troy, Phelps, Pillsbury, Porter of New-England, Randall, Raymond, Reid of New-York East, Requa, Rice of New-England, Rust, Simonds, Smith of New-Hampshire, Starks, Thayer, Thompson of Northwestern Indiana, Thomson of North Ohio, Thurston, Watts, Webster, Wise, Witherspoon, and Young of Cincinnati.—72.

M'Clintock not voting: Bowen and Rice of New-York absent.

The Report, as adopted by the foregoing vote, is in language following, to wit:

The Committee on Itinerancy beg leave to report:

That they have had under consideration various memorials, proposing certain modifications of the rule of Discipline relating to Presiding Elders.

They have examined and duly considered these memorials. Twenty-nine (29) of them were printed, and six (6) were written, representing about four hundred (400) private and official members of the Church.

They ask *first* that the Presiding Elder be appointed to a station within the bounds of the district; from which station he shall receive his salary; his traveling expenses to be borne by the circuit or station, over whose Quarterly Conference he may be called to preside.

If this be not granted, then *second*, that each Annual Conference be left to regulate its own economy in regard to this office.

If this be not granted, then *third*, that New-York, Brooklyn, and other large cities, be excepted from the rule as it now stands.

If this be not granted, then *fourth*, that such modifications be made as shall best meet the ends proposed by the petitioners.

There were also referred to us five (5) remonstrances from Quarterly Conferences against all such changes.

Also resolutions from the Wisconsin Annual Conference, first praying that the office of Presiding Elder be elective; second, that the Bishop be requested not to appoint any brother to this office who may have served four consecutive years, until an interval of two years shall have elapsed.

After due deliberation, we unanimously propose for adoption the following preamble and resolution, namely:

Whereas it seems impracticable to modify the Presiding Eldership, as at present constituted, without impairing its usefulness and endangering the permanence of our itinerancy; therefore,

Resolved, That we recommend no change at present in that feature of our economy; relying upon the wisdom of the episcopacy in selecting such incumbents for the office as shall give it the greatest possible efficiency.

The Committee on Itinerancy reported further; and the Report was adopted as follows, namely:

The Committee on Itinerancy beg leave further to report: That they have had under consideration certain resolutions referred to them, and signed by H. Bangs and J. M. Reid: First, proposing to have the Presiding Elders elected by the several Annual Conferences; second, that the Presiding Elders be made a legal council to the Bishops in stationing the preachers; third, that they report a plan complete, to be inserted in the Discipline.

The committee recommend for adoption the following, namely:

Resolved, It is not expedient that the changes proposed in the afore-named resolutions shall be made.

W. Reddy having voted with the majority on the call of the ayes and nays, moved to reconsider that vote, so that the report might be amended by striking out the word "unanimously," found in the next line but one preceding the preamble, as it was claimed by some members of the committee that they did not agree to the report; but the motion to reconsider was, on motion of F. C. Holliday, laid on the table by a vote of 100 to 64.

William Livesey announced that Abel Stevens, a delegate from the Providence Conference, and in whose stead he had been serving, had arrived, and that he, therefore, wished to be excused from further attendance on General Conference.

Whereupon, on motion of John A. Collins, Abel Stevens presented his credentials as a delegate, and was admitted to a seat in this body, and appointed to the Committee on Episcopacy and the Committee on Education, instead of William Livesey.

On motion of Peter Cartwright, the regular order of business was suspended to hear a communication from L. S. Jacoby, Superintendent of Methodist Missions in Germany, most respectfully and earnestly requesting the General Conference to act with all convenient dispatch on the report of the Committee on Missions, in relation to the interests of Methodism in Germany.

The report of the committee was, thereupon, taken up, and so much of it as relates to the organization of a Mission

May 20, 1856.

Report on electing Presiding Elders, and on making them a legal council for the Bishops. Adopted.

The change proposed inexpedient.

Motion to reconsider the report, adopted by ayes and nays, to strike out the word "unanimously"

Motion to reconsider laid on the table.

Abel Stevens announced.

Abel Stevens admitted to a seat.

Order of business suspended to receive a communication from L. S. Jacoby.

Report of Committee on Missions relating to Germany.

May 20, 1856. Annual Conference in Germany was adopted as follows, namely:

The Committee on Missions beg leave further to report,

German Mission Conference organized.

After examining the grounds of the request of our brethren in Germany for being organized into a Mission Annual Conference, we are satisfied that in order to train up properly the young men whom the Lord has raised up, and may raise up in Germany for the ministry, to regularly receive them on trial and into full connection, to elect candidates to deacon's and elder's orders, and in order that the superintendent might have the benefit of authorized advice from his co-laborers, our mission work ought to be organized as a Mission Annual Conference. We recommend this the more cheerfully, as it will not necessarily involve the expense of regular episcopal visitations. Therefore,

1. *Resolved*, That the German Missionaries of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Germany, and in that part of France and Switzerland where the German language is spoken, be organized as a Mission Annual Conference.

Bishop requested to visit Germany, if necessary.

2. *Resolved*, That one of our bishops be requested to hold the Mission Conference in Germany, when it is deemed necessary by the Episcopal Board.

Report relating to a Book Concern in Germany. Referred to Committee on the Book Concern.

The report of the Committee on Missions, in relation to a Book Concern in Germany, was read, and on motion of Thomas Carlton, was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern, with instructions to consider it at the first meeting hereafter, and to report upon it as early as practicable.

Report relating to Episcopal authority in Africa.

The report of the Committee on Missions, in relation to Episcopal authority in Liberia, was read; and C. W. Ruter moved that it be adopted.

Resolutions to be considered in their order.

George W. Walker moved that the resolutions be considered and acted upon *seriatim*, and the motion prevailed.

Motion to amend the first resolution.

The first resolution having been read, M. Dustin moved to amend the article, by adding "or Superintendent" after the word Bishop.

Substitute for the motion to amend offered.

S. D. Simonds proposed a substitute for the proposed amendment, to be inserted after the word "Superintendent," as follows: But may appoint a Missionary Superintendent, who shall exercise the office of Bishop in his particular mission field for eight years, or for such time as the General Conference may direct.

Substitute laid on the table.

On motion of William Hamilton, the substitute was laid on the table.

Call for the previous question not sustained.

M. Raymond moved that the question be taken without further debate, but the motion did not prevail.

Motion to adjourn lost.

A motion was made to adjourn, but the motion was lost.

On motion of W. H. Pearne, the time of the session was prolonged.

On motion of W. H. Brockway, the order of the day was laid on the table; and the conferences were called in order for petitions and memorials, and to receive resolutions.

NEW-YORK CONFERENCE.—Benjamin Griffen presented a remonstrance from Morrisania against being transferred from the New-York to the New-York East Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

NEW-YORK EAST CONFERENCE.—John B. Merwin presented a memorial from members of the Church in Williamsburgh, requesting that no action be taken on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

MAINE.—D. B. Randall presented a memorial on Slavery from Gardiner Station, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE.—On motion of A. J. Phelps, so much of the Journal of Black River Conference as contains resolutions praying General Conference not to make such appropriations of missionary money as in any wise to promote Slavery, was referred to the Committee on Missions. He also presented the quadrennial report of the Publishing Committee of the Northern Christian Advocate, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. [For Report, see *Appendix T.*]

ONEIDA CONFERENCE.—D. W. Bristol presented a memorial on the Presiding Eldership from Ithaca Station, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

Charles Starr presented two memorials: one from Smyrna and one from New-Berlin, both relating to Slavery, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

EAST GENESEE CONFERENCE.—D. D. Buck presented a memorial on the Presiding Eldership from the First M. E. Church, Elmira, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

GENESEE CONFERENCE.—I. C. Kingsley presented a memorial on Slavery from West Carlton Circuit, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE.—E. Cooke presented a memorial on Slavery from Madison, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery. He also presented a memorial from Madison, asking for some changes in the Discipline, and it

May 20, 1856.  
Session prolonged.  
Order of the day laid on the table to call for petitions and memorials, and receive resolutions.

NEW-YORK.  
Remonstrance from Morrisania against being transferred to the New-York East Conference.  
Referred.

N. YORK EAST.  
Memorial from Williamsburgh against any action on Slavery.  
Referred.

MAINE.  
Memorial on Slavery from Gardiner.  
Referred.

BLACK RIVER.  
Journal on appropriations of missionary money.  
Referred.

Report of the Publishing Committee of the Northern Christian Advocate.  
Referred.

ONEIDA.  
Memorial from Ithaca on the Presiding Eldership.  
Referred.

Memorials on Slavery from Smyrna and New-Berlin.  
Referred.

EAST GENESEE.  
Memorial from Elmira on the Presiding Eldership.  
Referred.

GENESEE.  
Memorial on Slavery from West Carlton.  
Referred.

WISCONSIN.  
Memorial on Slavery from Madison.  
Referred.

Memorial from Madison on changes of the Discipline.

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Referred.  
Memorial from  
M. Himebaugh  
on Boundaries.

Referred.  
ROCK RIVER.  
Memorial from  
J. J. Hedstrom  
on a Paper in  
the Swedish  
language.

Referred.  
NORTH OHIO.  
Memorial from  
Delaware Dis-  
trict on Re-  
baptism.

Referred.  
Memorial on  
Bethel cause  
from Maumee  
District.

Referred.  
Memorial from  
Chesterville  
on Periodicals.

Referred.  
Memorial from  
H. M. Shaffer  
on the claims  
of Superannu-  
ated Preachers.

Referred.  
SOUTHERN ILLI-  
NOIS.

Memorial from  
Mount Carmel  
on Book De-  
pository at St.  
Louis.

Referred.  
MISSOURI.  
Memorial from  
Selma on Book  
Depository,  
&c., at St.  
Louis.

Referred.  
PHILADELPHIA.  
Memorial on  
Lay Represent-  
ation.

Referred.

NEW-ENGLAND.  
Memorial from  
Hedding  
Church, Bos-  
ton, on Slav-  
ery.

Referred.  
PROVIDENCE.  
Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Mystic Bridge.

Referred.  
Communication  
from W. Sim-  
mons.

Referred.

Invitation to the  
privileges of  
the Reading  
Rooms of the  
Young Men's  
Christian As-  
sociation.

was referred to the Committee on Revisals; also a memorial on Boundaries from M. Himebaugh, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

ROCK RIVER CONFERENCE.—R. Haney presented a memorial from J. J. Hedstrom in relation to a religious Paper in the Swedish language, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

NORTH OHIO CONFERENCE.—Henry E. Pilcher presented a memorial from the charges within Delaware District on the subject of Re-baptism; also a memorial on the Bethel cause from the Maumee District Ministerial Association, and they were both referred to the Committee on Revisals. He also presented a memorial from Chesterville Circuit on the subject of Periodicals, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

E. Thomson presented a memorial from H. M. Shaffer in relation to the claims of Superannuated Preachers, &c., and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE.—J. Van Cleve presented a memorial from preachers and members of Mount Carmel District, relating to a Book Depository and Paper at St. Louis, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

MISSOURI CONFERENCE.—J. H. Hopkins presented a memorial from Selma Circuit, relating to a Book Depository and Paper at St. Louis, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE.—J. P. Durbin presented a memorial from Philadelphia on the subject of Lay Representation, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

NEW-ENGLAND CONFERENCE.—L. R. Thayer presented a memorial from Hedding Church, Boston, on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

PROVIDENCE CONFERENCE.—S. W. Coggeshall presented a memorial from Mystic Bridge on Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Bishop Janes presented a communication from William Simmons, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

A communication was received from Noyes Spicer, Secretary of the Board of Managers of the Young Men's Christian Association, inviting the members of the Conference to the privileges of the *Reading Rooms* of the Association.



On motion of J. P. Durbin, the thanks of this body were tendered to the Board of Managers for their courtesy, and their invitation was accepted.

May 20, 1856.  
Invitation accepted.

On motion of W. H. Brockway, seconded by J. M. Jamison, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That hereafter during the present session of the General Conference, the Committee on Public Worship be instructed not to appoint more than twenty-five members of this Conference to preach out of this city, or its immediate vicinity.

Committee on Public Worship instructed.

J. S. Porter, seconded by L. H. King, presented the following, and it was referred to the Committee on the Episcopacy.

Page 41, Part I, chapter iv, answer 3 to question 3, 6 lines from the bottom. Nor shall he appoint any member of an Annual Conference to the pastoral charge of a circuit or station within the bounds of another conference, without constituting him a member of the Conference within which he has his field of labor.

Resolution providing that a preacher may not be stationed out of his own conference.

On motion of C. Kingsley, seconded by M. Hill, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be directed to consider the propriety of so amending the Discipline, Part I, chapter ix, section 4, question 1, answer 1, page 98, as to provide for a record of the minutes in case of the trial of our members.

Resolution relating to a record of the minutes of trials.

S. Gregg, seconded by G. B. Hawkins, moved the following resolution, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be, and hereby are, instructed to inquire into the propriety of altering the Discipline, chapter ix, section 4, page 99, answer 2, so as to make a refusal to support the benevolent institutions of the Church, an offense requiring the same disciplinary treatment as other defects in Christian character there described, and report to this Conference.

Resolution to make a refusal to support benevolent institutions a matter of complaint.

This resolution was laid on the table.

Laid on the table.

Israel Chamberlayne, seconded by J. M'Clintock, moved the following resolution, namely :

*Resolved*, That it shall not be in order to receive petitions and memorials after the session of Monday next.

Resolution relating to the reception of memorials.

This resolution was laid on the table.

Laid on the table.

W. B. Disbro moved the following resolution, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Boundaries be instructed to conform the lines of conferences to the line of states as far as practicable.

Resolutions to conform conference lines to state lines.

This resolution was laid on the table.

Laid on the table.

On motion of W. H. Pearne, seconded by J. Kennaday, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

May 20, 1856.  
Memorials on  
Lay Delegation  
to be referred  
to a select com-  
mittee.

*Resolved*, That all petitions and memorials presented to this body, on the subject of Lay Representation in our Church, be referred from the Committee on Itinerancy to a special committee of five.

On motion of H. Mattison, seconded by Jonas Dodge, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Committee on  
Missions in-  
structed to re-  
port the appro-  
priations to  
Kentucky, Mis-  
souri, and Ar-  
kansas Confer-  
ences.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Missions be instructed to ascertain and report to this body at their earliest convenience the amount of missionary money appropriated to the Kentucky, Missouri, and Arkansas Conferences during the last four years.

Thomas H. Pearne, seconded by William Roberts, moved the following preamble and resolution, namely :

*Whereas*, the conferences on the Pacific Coast are too far removed from the Atlantic States, to allow of a personal representation in the General Mission Committee without involving great expense; and whereas, the domestic missionary work in these Conferences is constantly changing and requiring modification in its general arrangement, and needs special representation in the said missionary committee; therefore,

Resolution pro-  
viding that  
members of the  
General Mis-  
sion Com-  
mittee shall be  
appointed for  
California and  
Oregon, with  
the right to  
vote by proxy.  
Laid on the  
table.

*Resolved*, That in the appointment of the General Missionary Committee, the Bishops be directed to constitute corresponding members of the said committee for Oregon and California Conferences respectively, who shall have a corresponding relation to the said committee, and shall be allowed to vote by proxy in its annual meetings on all subjects relating to domestic missions on the Pacific coast.

This preamble and resolution were laid on the table to be printed.

The following resolution was moved by S. W. Coggeshall, seconded by Daniel Wise :

Resolution on  
appointing  
preachers edi-  
tors of Annual  
Conference pa-  
pers.  
Referred.

*Resolved*, That the Bishops be empowered to appoint preachers as editors of the papers under the patronage of an Annual Conference, as is now done in the case of the General Conference papers.

This resolution was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

On motion of H. Bangs, seconded by J. M. Reid, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Call for memo-  
rials and peti-  
tions to be sus-  
pended after  
Monday next.

*Resolved*, That the call for memorials and petitions be suspended after Monday next.

Committee on  
Church Exten-  
sion.

The chair announced the following committees, namely :

Committee on the memorial on Church Extension: Peter Cartwright, R. Haney, H. W. Reed, A. M. Osbon, and W. M<sup>c</sup>Combs.

Committee on  
"Cheap Com-  
mentary."

Committee on the memorial of Samuel Williams for a Cheap Commentary: J. Floy, F. G. Hibbard, E. Cooke, S. Allen, and D. W. Clark.

Adjournment.

Conference adjourned.

Benediction by H. Bangs.

May 21, 1856.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 21, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Scott in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by T. J. Thompson, of the Philadelphia Conference.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

The regular order of business was taken up; and F. G. Hibbard, Chairman of the Committee on Revisals and Unfinished Business, submitted a report in relation to Baptized Children, and it was laid over under the rule, and ordered to be printed. He also reported further from the Committee on Revisals, recommending sundry changes in the Discipline, to wit: that New-Orleans be struck from the list of exceptions to the Limitation of the Term of Ministerial Service, on page 41 of the Discipline; that the meeting of District Stewards be annual; that the number of churches or houses of worship be included in the annual statistics of the Church; that the word *up*, in the phrase "the race set *up* before them," on page 29 of the Discipline, be struck out as a typographical error; and that Quarterly Conferences have power given them to order a new trial; this report lies on the table under the rule, and was ordered to be printed.

James Floy, Chairman of the Committee on the Tract Cause, presented as their report, in part, a revised Constitution of the Tract Society. It was read, laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

Cyrus Brooks moved to suspend the order of business, in order to introduce the report of the Special Committee on the Education of Colored Children, but the motion did not prevail.

George Peck, Chairman of the Committee on the Book Concern, presented a report in relation to the Sunday School Advocate, and it was adopted in words following, to wit:

The Committee have had under consideration a resolution of the Board of Managers of the Sunday School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in relation to the Sunday School Advocate, and recommend that the Sunday School Advocate should be reduced to about half its present size, and be published at a cost not exceeding 25 cents per volume, of such quality as to secure its publication without loss to the Concern, and that it be strictly a child's paper.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Book Concern reported also, in relation to a Book Concern in Germany,

Report of Committee on Revisals relating to Baptized Children presented. Laid over under the rule. Report of Committee on Revisals relating to N. Orleans.

Annual meeting of District Stewards. Statistics of Churches. The word "*up*," on page 29 of the Discipline.

And a new trial. Lies on the table under the rule.

Committee on the Tract Cause report a revised Constitution. Laid on the table. Motion to suspend the order of business to introduce a report on the Education of Colored Youth. Lost.

Report relating to the Sunday School Advocate. Adopted.

Report relating to a Book Concern in Germany.

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and in relation to a German Sunday-school paper for the use of our German Sunday schools.

L. S. Jacoby addresses the Conference.

Pending the consideration of the report, L. S. Jacoby addressed the Conference in relation to the publishing interest in Germany.

Substitute for the report proposed.

John P. Durbin submitted a substitute for the report, when, on motion of Henry Slicer, so much of the report as relates to Church interests in Germany, together with the substitute offered by J. P. Durbin, was laid on the table.

Report and substitute laid on the table.

John M'Clintock submitted a resolution, which was adopted as follows, namely:

Missionary Society to publish Books, Newspapers, &c., for Germany.

Outlay not to exceed \$1,000 a year for the next four years.

*Resolved*, That the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church be, and they hereby are, requested to carry on, through our missionaries in Germany, such publications of books, newspapers, &c., as may be necessary in the prosecution of the missionary work in that country; the extent of the expense to be incurred not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per year for the next ensuing four years.

So much of the report of the Committee on the Book Concern as relates to a Sunday-school paper to be printed in the German language, was adopted in words following, to wit:

German Sunday-school paper to be published at Cincinnati.

We further report: That the Book Agents at Cincinnati be instructed to publish a German Sunday-school paper for the use of our German Sunday Schools.

Report relating to Depository of Books, etc., in Oregon.

Read and laid on the table.

The Committee on the Book Concern, through its Chairman, further reported, in relation to a Depository of Books, and the publication of a weekly paper in Oregon Territory. This report was read and laid on the table to be printed.

Committee on Lay Delegation.

The chair announced the following Committee on Lay Delegation ordered yesterday, namely:

D. W. Clark, E. Yocum, J. M. Trimble, J. S. Martin, and C. D. Pillsbury.

Report on Slavery presented.

M. Raymond, Chairman of the Committee on Slavery, presented a report, proposing changes in the Discipline on the subject of Slavery. It lies over under the rule; and on motion it was ordered to be printed.

Lies over under the rule.

John A. Collins gave notice that there would be a Minority Report from the Committee on Slavery.

Notice given that a Minority Report will be presented.

A motion was made to extend the time of the session.

Motion to extend the session.

J. M. Reid moved as a substitute, that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at three o'clock this afternoon; but the substitute was laid on the table.

Substitute offered and laid on the table.

Z. Phillips renewed the motion to extend the time, but the motion was lost by a vote of 79 to 90.

May 21, 1856.  
Motion to extend the time.  
Lost.  
Motion to adjourn.  
Lost.

A motion was again made to adjourn, but the motion did not prevail.

William H. Brockway moved to extend the time to hear the report of the Committee on Education.

Motion to extend the time to hear a report.  
Laid on the table.

On motion of H. Bangs, the motion to extend the time was laid on the table by a vote of 93 to 62.

On motion Conference adjourned. Benediction by Abel Stevens.

Adjournment.

THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 22, 1856.

May 22, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Simpson in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by C. W. Ruter, of the Southeastern Indiana Conference.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

D. W. Bristol presented a communication from the trustees of the Odd Fellows' Hall, inviting the Conference, either as a body or individually, to visit their Hall at some time during the session; and on motion of S. Van Deusen, the invitation was accepted.

Invitation from trustees of Odd Fellows' Hall.

Invitation accepted.

E. Thomson, Chairman of the Committee on Education, submitted a report, which was read, and, on motion of William Hamilton, it was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Report of the Committee on Education relating to Biblical Institutes.  
Laid on the table.

The Committee on Public Worship reported, that as they were by resolution of the General Conference instructed not to appoint more than twenty-five members of this body to preach abroad on the Sabbath, and that as they could with that number by no means supply the demand made upon them, they should decline appointing any one unless otherwise instructed.

Committee on Public Worship declines appointing preachers to go out of the city on Sabbath.

D. W. Bristol moved to approve of the judgment of the committee.

Motion to approve the decision of the committee.  
Substitute to reconsider.

W. B. Disbro moved as a substitute, that the vote adopting the resolution restricting the Committee on Public Worship be reconsidered.

H. Bangs moved to lay the substitute on the table, but the motion did not prevail; after which the substitute was adopted.

Motion to lay substitute on the table.  
Lost.  
Substitute adopted.  
Motion instructing the com

On motion of Thomas H. Pearne, the resolution limiting

May 22, 1856.  
Committee is laid  
on the table.

the Committee on Public Worship, in the number of preachers they are at liberty to send abroad, was laid on the table.

Order of the day  
suspended.

On motion of Cyrus Brooks, the order of the day was suspended to receive a report from a special committee.

Report on the  
Education of  
Colored Youth.  
Adopted.

Cyrus Brooks, Chairman of the Committee on the Education of Colored Youth, presented a report, which was read, and, on motion of J. Dodge, was adopted, and ordered to be printed.

The report, as adopted, contained the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That, in the judgment of this General Conference, the religious education of the people of color in our land will tend most effectually and speedily, under God, to their elevation in this country, and to prepare the way for the restoration of the benighted millions of down-trodden Africa to all the blessings of civilization, science, and religion.

2. *Resolved*, That we look upon the proposed plan for the education of the colored youth of our land, as of God, and as promising great good to the people of color among us, and untold blessings to the land of their ancestors; and we do most earnestly recommend this noble work to the sympathy, the prayers, and the generous benefactions of all who desire the elevation of the entire family of man.

3. *Resolved*, That we bespeak for the agents of this enterprise a cordial reception on the part of all Christians and philanthropists, hoping that they may be successful, not only in awakening sympathy and enlisting prayers, but also in gathering funds to pay for the property purchased, and to afford a liberal endowment of the institution, so as to place it on an equal footing with the best institutions of learning in our country.

[For the entire report, see *Appendix U.*]

Order further  
suspended.

On motion the order of business was further suspended, and

Report on the  
Irish Cause.

E. Thomson, Chairman of the Special Committee on the Mission of the Irish Deputation, presented a report, together with a Reply to the Address of the Irish Conference.

Resolutions considered in their order.

On motion of W. B. Disbro, the resolutions were considered in their order severally.

E. Scott of the  
Irish Deputation addressed  
the Conference.

While the report was under consideration, Rev. R. Scott, of the Irish Deputation, addressed the Conference.

The report was adopted as follows:

The Committee on the mission of Rev. Messrs. Arthur, Scott, and Cather, report that they have considered the subject referred to them, and submit the following resolutions, namely:

1. *Resolved*, That the General Conference sanctions the mission of the Delegates of the Irish Conference, and heartily commends them and their cause to the kind consideration of American Protestants, and particularly American Methodists; hoping that they will meet with favor and aid from all classes, but especially the wealthy among us.

2. *Resolved*, That the Bishops be, and hereby are, requested to

lay the matter before the Annual Conferences, and suggest to them to authorize collections in aid of the Irish cause during the current year.

3. *Resolved*, That the Superintendents be authorized to employ such assistance as they may deem advisable, to aid the deputation in carrying out the object of their mission.

4. *Resolved*, That the Superintendents be authorized to send a few preachers, if any should volunteer, to Ireland to take part in the Irish Missionary work for two or three years, on condition that the Irish Conference request it, and offer to such preachers a suitable relation to the conference for the time.

5. *Resolved*, That the delegates from this Conference to the British Conference be directed to attend the Irish Conference also.

The reading of the Reply to the Address of the Irish Conference having been again called for, on motion of Thomas H. Pearne, the further reading was dispensed with, and the Reply was adopted.

[For Reply, see *Appendix G.*]

On motion of John A. Collins, the order of the day was further suspended to receive the report of the minority of the Committee on Slavery. The Minority Report was then presented and read by John A. Collins, chairman of the minority of the committee. After which George Peck moved that it be accepted, and printed in the Daily Advocate; and that both the Majority and Minority Reports from the Committee on Slavery be printed together in pamphlet form, and that 1000 copies be furnished for the use of this body.

H. Mattison moved to amend, by striking out "1000" and inserting "5000."

On motion of J. Z. Nichols, Conference ordered the question to be taken without further debate.

The amendment proposed by H. Mattison prevailed, and the motion as amended was carried.

H. Bangs moved to continue a suspension of the rule to take up the report of the Committee on Temporal Economy, laid over on Monday of last week for want of a quorum.

On motion of Isaac Parks, the motion to suspend the rule was laid on the table.

On motion, the appeal of Oliver Burgess, which had been made the order of the day for yesterday morning, was taken up.

It appearing that Oliver Burgess has withdrawn from the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is not therefore now a member, T. J. Thompson moved that the appeal be not entertained.

W. H. Brockway moved to strike out the word "not."

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Call for the re-reading of the Address not sustained.

Address to the Irish Conference.

Order further suspended to receive the Report of the minority of the Committee on Slavery.

Minority Report read.

Both Reports to be printed in pamphlet form.

5000 copies ordered for the use of the Conference.

Motion to further suspend the order.

Laid on the table.

Appeal of Oliver Burgess taken up.

Motion not to entertain the appeal.

Proposed amendment.

May 22, 1856.  
Appeal not entertained.

On motion of T. H. Pearne, the motion to strike out was laid on the table, and the original motion prevailed.

Journal of the North Ohio Conference, relating to Oliver Burgess.  
Referred.

On motion of John Kennaday, so much of the Journal of the last session of the North Ohio Conference as relates to the case of Oliver Burgess was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

Memorials and petitions, &c.

On motion, the order of the day was suspended indefinitely, in order to call for memorials, petitions, appeals, and resolutions.

Memorial from Young Men's Christian Association of Baltimore.  
Referred.

Bishop Waugh presented a memorial from the Young Men's Christian Association of Baltimore, requesting a donation of books to its library, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. He also presented a communication from Dr. Roberts, of Baltimore, against striking from the Discipline those parts which relate to "Bands," and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals. He also presented a memorial from Cincinnati, signed by M. M. Clark and five others as a Committee on the Education of Colored Youth, and it was referred to the committee on that subject.

Communication from Dr. Roberts in relation to "Bands."  
Referred.

Memorial from Cincinnati on Education of Colored Youth.  
Referred.

Conferences called.

The conferences were called in order, and the following were presented :

N. YORK EAST.  
Memorial from Greene-street, New-York, and from Sands-street, Brooklyn, praying that no action be taken on the subject of Slavery.  
Referred.

NEW-YORK EAST CONFERENCE.—J. B. Merwin presented a memorial from members of Greene-street Church, New-York, asking that no action be taken on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery. He also presented a memorial from Sands-street, Brooklyn, on the same subject, and it was referred to the same committee.

BLACK RIVER.  
Memorial from Publishing Committee of the Northern Advocate for a Book Depository.  
Referred.

BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE.—A. J. Phelps presented a memorial from the Publishing Committee of the Northern Christian Advocate, asking that a Book Depository be established in connection with the paper, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

Motion to read the report of the Publishing Committee.  
Lost.

A. J. Phelps moved that the report of the Publishing Committee of the Northern Christian Advocate, which was referred yesterday, be read ; but the motion was lost.

EAST GENESEE.  
Memorial on the Presiding Eldership, on Extension of Time, and on Lay Delegation.  
Referred.

EAST GENESEE CONFERENCE.—J. Watts presented a memorial on the several subjects of appointing a Presiding Elder to pastoral work, of Extending the Time of Ministerial Service on Circuits and Stations, and on Lay Delegation, and so much as relates to the first two was referred to the Committee on Revisals, and so much as relates to the last was referred to the Committee on Lay Delegation. He also



presented a remonstrance against any change in the conference relations of the Churches on the west side of the river in the city of Rochester, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

GENESEE CONFERENCE.—I. C. Kingsley presented a memorial from B. Williams, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE.—W. H. Collins presented a memorial from David Whitcomb, in relation to Superannuated Preachers and Quarterly Conferences, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

ROCK RIVER CONFERENCE.—H. Crews presented a memorial in relation to the purchase of real estate in Chicago for a Book Depository, &c., and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

CINCINNATI CONFERENCE.—M. Dustin presented a memorial from Greenville, asking that that circuit be transferred from the North Ohio to the Cincinnati Conference; and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

J. B. Finley presented a memorial on Slavery from Raper Chapel, Dayton. Referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Asbury Lowrey presented a memorial from Union City on the subject of Boundaries, and it was referred to the committee on that subject.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE.—J. B. Corrington presented a memorial from Williams, in relation to the Sale of Church Property, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

NEW-JERSEY CONFERENCE.—S. Y. Monroe presented a memorial from official members of Liberty-street Station, New-Brunswick, asking to be attached to what it is proposed to call the Newark Conference; and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

George F. Brown presented a memorial on the subject of a Mission Annual Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Colored Members.

William Young, seconded by William Cooper, presented the following resolution, and it was adopted :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to inquire into the expedience of incorporating a provision in Ques. 1, Ans. 1, sec. 5, page 48 of the Discipline, providing for the reception of ministers from the Methodist Episcopal Church South, as is provided in case of ministers from the Wesleyan Connexion in Europe or Canada.

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Remonstrance against a change in the conference relations of Churches in Rochester.

Referred.  
GENESEE.  
Memorial from B. Williams.  
Referred.

MICHIGAN.  
Memorial from David Whitcomb on Superannuated Preachers.  
Referred.

ROCK RIVER.  
Memorial on Purchasing Real Estate in Chicago.  
Referred.

CINCINNATI.  
Memorial from Greenville on Boundaries.  
Referred.

Memorial on Slavery, from Raper Chapel.  
Referred.  
Memorial from Union City on Boundaries.  
Referred.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.  
Memorial on the Sale of Church Property.  
Referred.

NEW-JERSEY.  
Memorial from New-Brunswick on Boundaries.  
Referred.

Memorial relating to a Mission Annual Conference.  
Referred.

Resolution relating to the reception of preachers from the Church South.

May 22, 1856.  
Report of Com-  
mittee on the  
Smith Arnold  
Fund.

Zebulon Phillips, Chairman of the Committee to whom was referred the memorial of the New-York East Conference, in relation to the Smith Arnold Fund, presented a report, setting forth the history of the case, and expressing the conviction that the General Conference has no jurisdiction of the case, but recommending that the New-York Conference so apply the proceeds of the fund that they may in future inure to the benefit of N. W. Thomas and his wife, during their lives: provided, they shall remain members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Motion to lay  
the report on  
the table.  
Lost.  
Report adopted.

W. H. Pearne moved to lay the report on the table, but the motion was lost.

The report was adopted.

[For full report, see *Appendix V.*]

NEW-YORK.  
Memorials on  
Boundaries  
from Yorkville  
and Harlem.  
Referred.

NEW-YORK CONFERENCE.—A. M. Osbon presented two memorials on Boundaries, one from Yorkville and one from Harlem, and they were referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

J. A. Brouse, seconded by William Young, moved the following resolution, and it was adopted:

Resolution re-  
lating to the  
business of  
Quarterly Con-  
ferences.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be, and they hereby are, instructed to inquire into the expedience of so arranging the answers to question 4, "What shall be the regular business of the Quarterly Conference?" of section 4, of chapter 3, on page 38, as to secure greater uniformity in the proceedings of the Quarterly Conferences.

Appeal of John  
Demming  
made the order  
of the day for  
to-morrow  
morning.

C. Kingsley presented the appeal of John Demming, an expelled member of the Erie Conference, and on motion, it was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning, immediately after reading the Journal.

Communication  
from the Cor-  
responding Sec-  
retary of the  
Tract Society.  
Referred.

James Floy presented a communication from the Corresponding Secretary of the Tract Society, concerning certain alterations in the Discipline adjusting it to the authorized form of the Tract Enterprise, and it was referred to the Committee on the Tract Cause.

Memorial on  
Statistics.  
Referred.

H. W. Reed presented a memorial signed by himself, J. G. Dimmitt, and L. W. Berry, on Statistics, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

H. Bangs, seconded by W. C. Hoyt, moved the following resolution, namely:

Resolution for a  
final adjourn-  
ment.

*Resolved*, That this General Conference will adjourn finally on Thursday, the 29th instant.

Laid on the  
table.

The resolution was, on motion, laid on the table.

John Kennaday reported back the resolution of J. S. Porter, referred to the Committee on Episcopacy yesterday, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

May 23, 1856.  
Resolution taken from Committee on Episcopacy. Referred.

S. Wakefield, seconded by W. Cox, moved the following resolution, and it was adopted :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be, and they are hereby instructed to inquire into the expedience of so amending the Discipline, Part III, chapter ii, section 3, page 177, 15 lines from the top, as to read, "Quarterly Conference of the Circuit or Station, which said Quarterly Conference shall dispose of said money," &c.

Resolution to give Quarterly Conferences authority to dispose of certain moneys.

On motion of A. M. Osbon, seconded by William Reddy, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the committee ordered to nominate candidates for election as delegates to the Canada Wesleyan Conference, be instructed to nominate six candidates, from whom two delegates to the British Wesleyan Connection shall be elected.

Candidates to be nominated for delegates to the British Conference.

On motion of H. N. Barnes, seconded by J. H. Hull, the following preamble and resolution were adopted, namely :

*Whereas* much diversity exists among our people in forming Sunday-school Societies, and for want of a prescribed form especially in forming schools in new places, they are frequently at a loss how to proceed ; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Sunday Schools be requested to take into consideration the propriety of reporting to this Conference for its adoption, a constitution for a Sunday-school Society, such as is herewith submitted.

Resolutions relating to a constitution for a Sunday-school society.

J. B. Corrington presented a memorial on the subject of a Book Depository and Church Paper at St. Louis, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

Memorial on a Book Depository, &c., at St. Louis. Referred.

A. J. Phelps, seconded by F. H. Stanton, moved a series of resolutions prescribing an order of debate to be observed during the discussion of the reports on Slavery.

Res. moved prescribing an order of debate on Slavery.

On motion of B. Griffen, the resolutions were laid on the table.

Resolutions laid on the table.

Conference adjourned.

Adjournment.

Benediction by Thomas H. Pearne.

FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 23, 1856.

May 23, 1856.

Conference met this morning ; Bishop Baker in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by William Roberts, of Oregon Conference.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

May 23, 1856.  
Appeal of John  
Demming tak-  
en up.

On motion of Benjamin Griffen, the appeal of John Demming was taken up; and it appearing that said John Demming was not now a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, but that he is a minister at present of another Church, and, therefore, in no way amenable to this body, on motion of T. J. Quigley, Conference resolved not to entertain the appeal.

Appeal not en-  
tertained.

Report on  
Slavery taken  
up.

On motion of John A. Collins, the report of the majority of the Committee on Slavery was taken up.

Motion to  
adopt the sec-  
ond resolu-  
tion.

Minor Raymond moved the adoption of the second resolution of the report.

Motion to sus-  
pend the fifteen  
minutes' rule.

James H. Perry moved that, during the discussion on the question of Slavery, the rule limiting speakers in debate to fifteen minutes be suspended, and on further motion of J. H. Perry, Conference ordered the vote on suspending the rule to be taken by yeas and nays.

Vote to be tak-  
en by yeas and  
nays.

Question to be  
taken without  
further debate.

On motion of Heman Bangs, Conference resolved to take the question without further debate, 175 voting in favor of the motion.

Roll called.

The roll of Conference was then called, and the vote was as follows :

*Ayes.*

*Ayes.*—Baird, Bangs, Barker, Battelle, Berry, Bewley, Blain, Blake, Bristol, Brooks of Cincinnati, Brooks of Iowa, Brown of Cincinnati, Brown of Baltimore, Brown of Troy, Buck of Illinois, Burlingham, Carlton, Carpenter, Cartwright, Chivington, Clark of New-York, Coggeshall, Collins of Baltimore, Collins of Michigan, Connell, Cooper of Philadelphia, Corrington, Crews, Crooks, Cunningham, Dodge, Drummond, Durbin, Finley, Goheen, Graham, Gregg, Griffen of New-York, Griffin of Troy, Griffith, Gurley, Hamilton, Haney, Harris, Hibbard, Hill of Erie, Hirst, Hitchcock, Holliday, Hopkins, Hulburt, Hull, Jamison, Kennaday, Kenney, King of New-York, Kingsley of Erie, Kinsley, Lanahan, Lanck, Leihy, Lenhart, Lewis, Lowrey, M'Clintock, M'Combs, Martin of Virginia, Martin of Baltimore, Merwin, Monroe, Morey, Morgan, Mulfinger, Pearne of Oregon, Pearne of Wyoming, Peck, Perry, Phillips, Pilcher of Michigan, Pilcher of North Ohio, Poisal, Power, Quigley, Reed of Iowa, Reid of New-York East, Reese, Rice of New-York, Robertson, Ruter, Rutledge, Sapp, Sargent, Slicer, Smith of Indiana, Summers, Starks, Stevens, Swaim, Talbott, Thompson of Philadelphia, Thomson of North Ohio, Trimble, Triplett, Trotter, Van Cleve, Walker,

Wallace, Watson, Wilson of Baltimore, Wilson of Erie, Wood, Yocum, Young of North Ohio, Young of Cincinnati.—114.

May 23, 1856.

*Nays*.—Allen of Maine, Allyn of South Illinois, Baker, Bannister, Barns, Beach, Bennett, Bingham, Blakeslee, Bowers, Boyd of Northwestern Indiana, Boyd of Pittsburgh, Bradford, Brockway, Brouse, Brown of New-Jersey, Buck of East Genesee, Burns, Button, Chamberlayne, Clark of Wyoming, Coats, Conrey, Cook, Coombe, Cox, Crary, Crawford, Crowell, Culver, Dana, Dennis, Dimmitt, Disbro, Dustin, Erwin, Evans, Farrington, Felch, Flower, Floy, Fowble, French, Gillet, Gorrie, Griswold, Hall, Hawkins, Heath, Henderson, Hill of Indiana, Hodgson, Hosmer, Howard, Hoyt, Kidder, King of Vermont, Kingsley of Genesee, Kisling, Knox, Kuhl, Lemon, Luccock, Marcy, Mattison, Moffatt, Nast, Osbon, Parks of Troy, Parks of Oneida, Phelps, Pillsbury, Poe, Porter of New-England, Porter of New-Jersey, Pratt, Randall, Raymond, Reddy, Requa, Rice of New-England, Roberts, Rust, Sanderson, Simonds, Smith of New-Hampshire, Starr, Stanton, Stallard, Thayer, Thompson of Northwestern Indiana, Thurston, Van Deusen, Waite, Wakefield, Washburn, Watts, Webster, Wheeler, Wilmer, Wise, Witherspoon, Worthington.—103.

*Absentees*.—Bowen, Dempster, Nichols.—3.

W. H. Brockway moved that during the discussion of the subject of Slavery, no speaker be allowed more than thirty minutes.

Motion to limit speakers to thirty minutes.

John S. Porter moved that the question be taken without debate, and the motion was sustained; after which the motion limiting speakers to thirty minutes was carried.

Call for the previous question sustained. Motion carried.

At the close of the remarks of H. Mattison, he having spoken thirty minutes, H. Slicer moved that he have leave to proceed; but the motion granting leave to proceed was, on motion of William Reddy, laid on the table.

Motion to allow H. Mattison to proceed. Laid on the table.

William Graham moved, that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at half past two o'clock this afternoon.

Motion for an Afternoon Session.

A motion was made by W. Cooper to lay the motion to meet this afternoon on the table; but the motion to lay on the table was lost by a vote of 91 to 105, and the original motion prevailed.

Motion to lay on the table. Lost. Original motion carried.

On motion of William Cooper, Conference adjourned. Benediction by W. H. Brockway.

Adjournment.

May 28, 1856.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Ames in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by Davis W. Clark, of the New-York Conference.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

J. B. Finley has leave of absence till Monday next.

Motion relating to spectators. Lost.

James B. Finley asked and obtained leave of absence till Monday next, in consequence of the ill health of his family.

James B. Finley, seconded by E. H. Pilcher, moved that spectators be requested to retire without the bar of the Conference; but the motion did not prevail.

Consideration of the Report on Slavery resumed.

Adjournment.

On motion of John A. Collins, the consideration of the report on Slavery was resumed, and the discussion continued till past five o'clock, when, on motion of W. C. Hoyt, Conference adjourned.

Benediction by Bishop Scott.

May 24, 1856.

## SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 24, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Waugh in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by E. G. Wood, of the Southeastern Indiana Conference.

The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.

Conference to meet Monday afternoon.

On motion of John A. Collins, the regular order of business was suspended; and on further motion of John A. Collins, it was resolved, that when Conference adjourn, it adjourn to meet on Monday at two o'clock in the afternoon.

D. A. Whedon takes his seat.

D. W. Bristol presented the credentials of D. A. Whedon, a reserve delegate from the Oneida Conference, who takes the place of Elias Bowen, excused on account of ill health, and he was admitted to a seat as a member of the General Conference.

Motion to resume the discussion on Slavery.

Substitute proposed and laid on the table.

A. J. Phelps moved that the unfinished business of yesterday be taken up.

A. M. Osbon moved as a substitute, that it be postponed till Tuesday morning next.

Motion to resume laid on the table.

On motion of M. Dustin, the substitute was laid on the table, and on motion of W. A. Wilmer, the motion to resume the business of yesterday was also laid on the table.

D. B. Randall, seconded by S. Allen, moved the following resolutions, and they were adopted unanimously by a rising vote.

May 24, 1856.

1. *Resolved*, That our hearty thanks are due to Rev. J. H. Noble, pastor of Wesley Chapel, for his kindness in taking charge of the letters and papers addressed to and from members of this Conference, and in delivering them with so much promptness and care.

Resolutions of thanks to Rev. J. H. Noble.

2. *Resolved*, That it will give us great pleasure to present to Rev. J. H. Noble a substantial token of our appreciation of this service.

3. *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to carry into effect the object of these resolutions.

Cyrus Brooks presented a memorial from the Quarterly Meeting Conference of Fletcher Circuit, Cincinnati Conference, asking that the Orange Chapel Society, now attached to Port Jefferson Circuit, North Ohio Conference, be attached to the said Fletcher Circuit; and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Memorial from Fletcher Circuit on Boundaries. Referred.

John Kennaday, Chairman of the Committee on the Episcopacy, presented a report, and it was adopted as follows, namely:

The Committee on the Episcopacy, to whom was referred the petition of Reeder Smith, in relation to the action of the Wisconsin Conference upon his appeal as a Local Preacher, respectfully report, That they have duly examined the petition, and find nothing therein calling for the action of said committee. They therefore return the petition to the Conference, and ask that they may be excused from its further consideration.

Report of the Committee on Episcopacy, concerning Reeder Smith. Adopted.

On motion of W. H. Collins, the memorial of Reeder Smith was referred to a select committee of five.

Memorial of Reeder Smith referred to a select committee.

H. E. Pilcher, seconded by E. H. Pilcher, moved the following resolution, namely:

*Resolved*, That the Discipline, Part I, chapter iv, sec. 8, lines 10 and 11 from the bottom, on page 52, be amended by striking out the words "on circuits and stations."

Resolution relating to the "Regular Work"

This resolution lies on the table under the rule.

Lies over under the rule. Memorial from J. M. Snow.

J. H. Perry presented a memorial from J. M. Snow, praying the Conference to reconsider its action, by which his case was remanded to the Wisconsin Conference for a new trial, and J. H. Perry moved that the memorial be referred to a select committee of three to consider and report thereon.

Motion to refer the memorial to a select committee.

On motion of I. M. Leihy, both the motion to refer and the memorial itself were laid on the table by a vote of 85 to 84.

Motion and memorial laid on the table.

May 24, 1856.

Report of the Committee on the Book Concern relating to a Book Depository at St. Louis, and concerning editors, &c.  
Laid on the table.

George Peck, Chairman of the Committee on the Book Concern, submitted a report in relation to a Paper and Book Depository at St. Louis, and in relation to the residences of editors, their duties, and accountability, and they were laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Book Concern reported further as follows :

Report of the Committee on the Book Concern relating to sales to local preachers.

The committee have had under consideration the memorial of Sheldon Clark, praying that local preachers among us have the same discount allowed them by our Book Agents on books and periodicals, as are allowed to traveling preachers. The committee propose the following :

Local preachers to have the same discount as traveling preachers.

*Resolved*, That our Book Agents be authorized to furnish our local preachers with books and periodicals for their own use at the same discount allowed traveling preachers, when the money accompanies the order.

Report adopted.

On motion of George Peck the report was adopted.

The Committee on the Book Concern, through its chairman, further reported as follows, namely :

Report of Committee on the Book Concern relating to certain papers from Rev. George Coles.

The committee have had under consideration certain papers from Rev. George Coles, and find that they contain proposals for publishing a "A cheap Commentary on the Bible," "Questions on the Book of Proverbs," and a "Revised Concordance." They recommend that the proposal for the publication of a cheap commentary be referred to the committee on that subject ordered by the General Conference, and that Brother Coles be recommended to submit the other papers referred to, to the editors at New-York.

Report adopted.

This report was, on motion, adopted.

Motion to take up the report of the Committee on Temporal Economy.

E. E. Griswold moved to take up the report from the Committee on Temporal Economy in relation to leaving the entire amount of the allowance of preachers on circuits and stations to the Estimating Committee and the Quarterly Conference; but the motion to take up did not prevail.

Motion lost.

Report concerning a course of study for candidates for the itinerant ministry.

N. Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on the Itinerancy, submitted two reports: one relating to a course of study for candidates for admission on trial into the traveling connection; the other recommending such an alteration of the Discipline as to empower the Bishops, in a case where one or more Annual Conferences may establish and sustain a religious paper, to appoint an editor for said paper from among the traveling preachers from year to year; and both reports were laid on the table under the rule.

Report on appointing editors to Conference papers.

Lies over under the rule.

Report of Committee on Trials and Appeals.

Lies over under the rule.

James Porter, Chairman of the Committee on Trials and Appeals, presented a report on that subject, which was read, and lies over under the rule.



On motion of John A. Collins, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

May 24, 1856.

*Resolved*, That so much of the chapter on Slavery as is contained in answers 4 and 5, in said chapter, be referred to the Committee on Revisals, with a view that they be detached therefrom, and placed in a more appropriate relation in the Discipline.

Resolution relating to the chapter on Slavery.

On motion of W. Hamilton, the report of the Committee on Missions was taken up, and so much of the report as relates to Missionary Bishops and to a Bishop for Africa, was read.

Report of Committee on Missions taken up.

H. Bangs, seconded by J. S. Porter, moved the following as a substitute for so much of the report as had been read, namely :

*Whereas*, The Liberia Annual Conference has felt the necessity of episcopal service beyond the ability of our bishops residing in this country to render; and,

Substitute for the Report.

*Whereas*, it is the desire of this General Conference to promote the work of God in that as well as other countries, in such way and by such means as may appear to be the best adapted to the circumstances of the people; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Liberia Annual Conference be at liberty to form themselves into a separate Church establishment.

*Resolved*, That we do hereby recommend to our brethren in Africa to adopt the form of government of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, with only such modifications as the circumstances may require.

*Resolved*, That should the Liberia Annual Conference avail themselves of the foregoing provisions, and elect an elder to the superintendence of the Church there, desiring his ordination by our Bishops, we do hereby authorize and request the Bishops, or any of them, to whom such elect may be presented, to ordain him.

*Resolved*, That in case the Church in Africa become separated from us, it does not follow that we will cease to cherish and assist them in carrying on the work of God in that country, but, on the contrary, we do hereby recommend to the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in New-York, to continue their fostering care, and make such appropriations for the work there, from time to time, as they may judge to be necessary, provided the doctrines and moral discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church be faithfully preserved among them.

Norval Wilson, seconded by Isaac Parks, moved the indefinite postponement of both the report and the substitute, and on a count vote, 72 voted to postpone and 68 against it; but as the whole number voting did not constitute a quorum of the Conference, the chair pronounced that the motion did not prevail.

Motion to postpone indefinitely.

A quorum does not vote. Motion lost.

Benjamin Griffen moved that Conference do now adjourn; but the motion was lost.

Motion to adjourn. Lost.

On motion of Henry Slicer, the roll of Conference was called, and 163 members answered to their names; and as 147 members constitute a quorum of this body, it was found

Call of Conference.

- May 24, 1856. Quorum present  
Vote on motion to postpone again taken.
- Motion lost—a quorum not voting.
- Motion to adjourn. Lost.
- Motion to adjourn. Lost.
- Motion to call the Conference. Lost.
- Motion to adjourn. Call for the yeas and nays not sustained.
- Motion to adjourn. Lost.
- Adjournment.
- that there was a quorum present, whereupon the vote was again taken on the motion to indefinitely postpone the report and substitute as aforesaid, and 72 voted for indefinite postponement, and 66 against it, and the chair as before, and for the same reason, pronounced that the motion did not prevail.
- Benjamin Griffen again moved that Conference do now adjourn; but the motion was lost by a vote of 42 to 100.
- The motion to adjourn was immediately renewed, and was again lost.
- John M'Clintock moved that the roll of members be called, to ascertain if there is a quorum present; but the motion did not prevail.
- The motion to adjourn was renewed, and a call of the yeas and nays demanded; but as twenty-five did not vote in favor of the call, it was not sustained; and on vote, the motion to adjourn was lost.
- The motion to adjourn was again renewed, and carried by a vote of 88 to 43.
- Conference closed at a quarter past eleven o'clock, with singing the doxology, and the benediction by A. M. Osbon.

### MONDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 26, 1856.

- May 26, 1856. Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Morris in the chair.
- The usual religious services were conducted by Richard Haney, of the Rock River Conference.
- The Journal of Saturday was read and approved.
- On motion of A. J. Phelps, the regular order of business was suspended by a vote of 110 to 48; and on further motion of A. J. Phelps, the Report of the majority of the Committee on Slavery was taken up, and the discussion was resumed.
- Pending the discussion, E. Thomson having spoken 30 minutes, John A. Collins moved that he have liberty to proceed; but the motion was lost by a vote of 73 to 85.
- John M'Clintock moved to suspend the rule limiting speakers in debate to 30 minutes, and to extend the time to one hour.
- W. H. Brockway moved to lay the motion on the table, but the motion was lost; after which the motion of J. M'Clintock prevailed.
- Ordersuspended and Report on Slavery taken up.
- Motion to extend the time. Lost.
- Motion to change from 30 to 60 minutes.
- Motion to lay on the table. Lost.
- Original motion adopted.

On motion of J. A. Collins, E. Thomson was requested to resume his argument under the new rule. He then concluded his remarks, at the close of which, J. A. Collins having obtained the floor, E. Thomson moved that Conference do now adjourn; but the motion was lost.

May 26, 1856.  
E. Thomson requested to resume his argument.

Motion to adjourn.  
Lost.

The discussion having proceeded for a short time, the motion to adjourn was renewed and carried.

Adjournment.

Benediction by J. P. Durbin.

TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 27, 1856.

May 27, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Janes in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by J. L. Thompson, of the Northwestern Indiana Conference.

The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.

Bishop Baker announced the following committees ordered by the Conference, namely:

Committee on the memorial of Reeder Smith: H. W. Reed, P. S. Bennett, W. H. Collins, H. Summers, and A. Brown.

Committee on Memorial of Reeder Smith.

Committee on the resolutions offered by D. B. Randall, namely: D. B. Randall, J. M. Stallard, and Hiram Buck.

Committee on resolutions offered by D. B. Randall.  
Order of the day suspended.

Heman Bangs moved to suspend the order of the day, to introduce a resolution in relation to a final adjournment of the Conference.

A motion was made to amend, by providing for the introduction of resolutions in relation to other matters, as well as the one indicated in the motion to suspend, and the amendment prevailed, and the motion as amended was adopted.

H. Bangs, seconded by B. Griffen, moved the following resolution, namely:

*Resolved*, That this Conference come to a final adjournment on Saturday the 31st instant.

Resolution for a final Adjournment.

This resolution was laid on the table.

Laid on the table.

C. S. Coats, seconded by William Reddy, moved the following resolution, namely:

*Resolved*, That the election of editors of the periodicals under the supervision of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and of the Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati, be the order of the day for Thursday at nine o'clock A. M.

Resolution fixing the time of the elections.

May 27, 1856.  
Laid on the table.

On motion of I. N. Felch, the resolution was laid on the table by a vote of 104 to 42.

On motion of W. H. Brockway, seconded by S. D. Simonds, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Resolution instructing the Committee on Public Worship.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Public Worship be, and they are hereby instructed, hereafter, during the present session of this General Conference, not to appoint members of this body to preach out of this city, or its immediate vicinity.

W. H. Brockway, seconded by R. Sapp, moved the following resolution, namely :

Resolution relating to the Quorum of the General Conference.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be, and they are hereby, instructed to examine and report as to the propriety of amending the Discipline in chap. iii, sec. 2, ans. 3, on page 32, last line, by striking out "two thirds," and inserting "a majority."

Laid on the table.

On motion of J. Brooks, the resolution was laid on the table.

G. M. Boyd, seconded by H. Crews, moved the following resolution, namely :

Resolution to give the Preacher in charge power to appeal in case of the trial of a member.  
Lost.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to inquire into the expedience of so altering the Discipline, chap. ix, sec. 4, ans. 4, as to read: "*nevertheless*, if in any of the above-mentioned cases, the minister, or preacher in charge, differ in judgment from the majority of the society or the select number, concerning the innocence or guilt of the accused person, in such case the minister, or preacher in charge, may appeal the case to the ensuing Quarterly Conference."

This resolution was lost.

Resolution relating to the solemnization of marriage by unordained traveling preachers.  
Laid on the table.

A. J. Dana, seconded by William Reddy, moved the following resolution, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be, and hereby are, instructed to inquire and report whether it is not expedient and desirable to authorize unordained traveling preachers, who may have charge of circuits and stations, to solemnize matrimony.

This resolution was laid on the table.

On motion of John Luccock, seconded by H. Kinsley, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Resolution relating to receiving persons into full connection.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to inquire into the expedience of so altering our Discipline, Part I, chapter ii, section 2, answer 1, as to make it read, "after having met *at least* six months in class," instead of reading, "with whom they have met at least six months in class."

Preamble and resolution relating to the subject of Divorce.

S. W. Coggeshall, seconded by D. Wise, moved the following preamble and resolution, namely :

*Whereas*, the law of our Lord on the subject of Divorce, while recognized by most Christian Churches, and also upheld by most

Christian States, has been abrogated by many of these United States, in consequence of which there are persons in good and regular standing in our Churches, who, according to this law, are guilty of transgression of the Seventh Commandment, and we now have no Disciplinary rule to prohibit it; therefore,

May 27, 1856.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to frame a section for our book of Discipline, in which the law contained in Matthew v, 31, 32, shall be embodied, and in which it shall be distinctly set forth that persons guilty of its violation cannot be allowed membership in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The preamble and resolution were, on motion of A. Sanderson, laid on the table.

Laid on the table.

S. Van Deusen, seconded by A. M. Osbon, moved the following resolution, namely:

*Resolved*, That when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at half past two o'clock, for the purpose of taking up and acting upon reports of committees now on the table.

Resolution to meet this afternoon for a specific purpose.

W. B. Disbro moved to amend the resolution, by striking out so much as prescribes the business of Conference for the afternoon session.

Amendment proposed.

A motion was made to lay the amendment on the table, but the motion was lost, the amendment prevailed, and the resolution as amended was carried.

Motion to lay the amendment on the table.

A. Lowrey, seconded by I. Parks, moved the following resolution, namely:

Amendment prevailed, and motion as amended carried.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be, and hereby are, instructed so to alter the Discipline as to require local preachers to pass an examination before the preacher in charge, or the Presiding Elder within whose jurisdiction he may reside, on the prescribed course of study, as a condition of ordination.

Local preachers to be examined on the course of study.

This resolution was, on motion of W. Cooper, laid on the table.

Laid on the table.

John Poisal, seconded by Norval Wilson, moved the following resolution, namely:

*Resolved* by the General Conference, &c., That the Discipline be so altered, that when a traveling preacher is employed as an agent of a State Bible Society, auxiliary to the American Bible Society, the Bishop may have power to make such appointment as is now provided for in the employment of agents for state colonization societies, chaplains to state prisons, and in the army and navy, &c.

Resolution relating to the appointment of Preachers to the agency of State Bible Societies.

This resolution lies on the table under the rule.

Lies over under the rule.

Asbury Lowrey moved to take up the report on Slavery, which was under consideration at the time of adjournment yesterday; but the motion was lost.

Motion to take up the Report on Slavery.

On motion of James B. Finley, seconded by James Porter, the Hon. Judge M'Lean and his Associates were invited to a seat within the bar of the Conference.

Lost.

M. Dustin presented a memorial from Edgar Conkling on "Lay Delegation," and in relation to the appointment of

Judge M'Lean and his associates invited to seats within the bar.

Memorial from E. Conkling on Lay Delegation, &c.

May 27, 1856.  
Referred.

Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Abingdon.  
Referred.

Memorials from  
Halsey-street  
and Broad-  
street, praying  
that no action  
be taken on the  
subject of  
Slavery.  
Referred.

Memorials from  
Central Church  
and Union-  
street, praying  
that no action  
be taken on  
Slavery.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Seventh-street,  
praying that no  
action be taken  
on Slavery.  
Referred.

Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Russel-street.  
Referred.

Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Lamoille.  
Referred.

Memorials from  
New-York  
Mills on  
Slavery, Extension  
of Time,  
and Lay Dele-  
gation.  
Referred.

Invitation to  
hold the next  
session in  
Philadelphia.  
Laid on the  
table.

Memorial relat-  
ing to Sunday-  
School Super-  
intendents.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
West Liberty  
on Boundaries.  
Referred.

ministers to secular positions; and it was referred to the Committee on Lay Delegation.

Richard Haney presented a memorial on Slavery from Abingdon, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

S. Y. Monroe presented two memorials, one from Halsey-street Church, and one from Broad-street Church, Newark, both asking that no change be made in the Discipline on the subject of Slavery, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

J. S. Porter presented two memorials, one from Central Church, and one from Union-street Church, Newark, both asking that no action be taken by the General Conference on the subject of Slavery; and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

H. Bangs presented a memorial from members of Seventh-street Church, New-York, asking that no action be taken on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

James Porter presented a memorial on Slavery from North Russel-street, Boston, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Luke Hitchcock presented a memorial on Slavery from Lamoille, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Isaac Parks presented three memorials from the Quarterly Conference of New-York Mills Station, one on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery; one on the Extension of Time of Ministerial Service, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy; and one on the subject of "Lay Delegation," and it was referred to the Committee on Lay Delegation.

John P. Durbin presented an invitation from Philadelphia to the General Conference to hold its next session in that city. It was laid on the table till the subject to which it relates shall come up; and it was ordered to be printed.

James B. Finley presented a memorial from the Quarterly Meeting Conference of Lebanon Station, praying that male superintendents of our Sunday Schools be made members of the Quarterly Meeting Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Sunday Schools.

George M. Boyd presented a memorial from members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in West Liberty Station, North Ohio Conference, in relation to Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

E. Thomson presented a memorial from a committee on behalf of the inmates of the Indiana Deaf and Dumb Asylum, asking a donation of a full set of the books published by the Western Book Concern, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

May 27, 1856.  
Memorial from  
Indiana Deaf  
and Dumb  
Asylum.  
Referred.

W. Hamilton presented an invitation from the Baltimore City Station to the General Conference, to hold its next session in said station. It was laid on the table till the matter to which it relates shall come up; and it was ordered to be printed.

Invitation to  
hold the next  
session in Bal-  
timore.  
Laid on the ta-  
ble.

J. K. Gillet presented a memorial on Slavery from Reading Circuit, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Reading Cir-  
cuit.  
Referred.

George W. Walker presented a memorial from John W. Keeley, concerning the Conference relations of Superannuated Preachers, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Memorial con-  
cerning Super-  
annuated  
Preachers.  
Referred.

I. N. Baird presented the Quadrennial Report of the Publishing Committee of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. [See *Appendix X.*]

Report of the  
Publishing  
Committee of  
the Pittsburgh  
Christian Ad-  
vocate.  
Referred.

Bishop Janes presented the Quadrennial Report of the Board of Trustees of the Chartered Fund. The report was read, and, on motion of James B. Finley, it was referred to a select committee of five. [For report, see *Appendix Y.*]

Report of the  
Trustees of the  
Chartered  
Fund.  
Referred.

On motion of H. Crews, seconded by L. Hitchcock, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the special committee just ordered, be requested to inquire into the expedience of loaning the funds of the Chartered Fund in some of our states where the legal rate of interest is ten per cent.

Resolution con-  
cerning invest-  
ing the fund at  
ten per cent.  
per annum.

W. B. Disbro, seconded by M. Dustin, moved the following resolution, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to report a change in the Discipline, so that the appointment of preachers to Seamen's work, Chaplains to the Navy and Penitentiary, shall be limited to the same time as preachers in the regular work.

Resolution relat-  
ing to Chap-  
lains to sea-  
men.

This resolution was not adopted.

On motion of William M'Combs, the report of the majority of the Committee on Slavery was taken up.

Lost.  
Report on  
Slavery taken  
up.

John A. Collins having the floor, resumed his argument,

- May 27, 1856. and after having spoken out the hour allotted, he was, on motion of Henry Slicer, permitted to proceed.
- Session prolonged. pro- At 3 minutes before 12 o'clock, John Dempster having the floor, on motion, the session was prolonged till he should complete his argument.
- Adjournment. At seventeen minutes past 12 o'clock, Conference adjourned with singing the Doxology, and the benediction by Uriah Heath.

## TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Scott in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by W. A. Wilmer, of the New-Jersey Conference.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

Report on Slavery taken up. On motion, the subject under consideration at the time of adjournment was taken up and the discussion was resumed.

Substitute for the report on Slavery. Jacob Young, seconded by E. Thomson, moved the following resolutions as a substitute for the second resolution of the report, and the whole matter comprised under it, namely :

1. *Resolved*, That no man has a moral right to hold a fellow-being as property.

2. *Resolved*, That it is the duty of all our members and probationers who may sustain the legal relation of slaveholder, to teach their servants to read the word of God; to allow them to attend the public worship of God on our regular days of Divine service; to protect them in the discharge of the duties of the conjugal, parental, and filial relations; to give them such compensation for their services as may be just and equal; to make such provision as may be legally practicable to prevent them and their posterity from passing into perpetual slavery, and to treat them in all respects as required by the ten commandments and the law of love.

3. *Resolved*, That we recommend all our membership and ministry to make the condition of the Africans in bondage upon our shores a prominent subject of prayer; beseeching God to deliver them from their bondage without servile or civil wars, the dissolution of our Union, or any other judgment, and to incline the hearts of the American people to repent of all their oppression, and by all possible means atone for the wrongs they have done to the helpless.

4. *Resolved*, That we advise our people to memorialize Congress to provide by law, that whenever any slave State shall signify her willingness to emancipate her slaves, such State shall receive for her slaves a reasonable compensation from the national treasury for the slaves so to be emancipated.

Question order. of W. B. Disbro, who had spoken on the report of the Committee on Slavery, having obtained the floor, a question of order was raised by John P. Durbin, as to whether one who



had spoken on the report on Slavery, has a right now to speak on the substitute relating to the same general subject until every one desiring to speak shall have spoken.

The chair decided that the rule prohibits a second speech only on the particular motion under consideration at the time the member addressed the Conference, and does not prohibit him from speaking to any *new* motion or resolution, though it may involve the same general subject.

From this decision B. F. Crary appealed to the Conference, whereupon Thomas J. Thompson moved that the decision of the chair stand as the judgment of the Conference; and the motion was sustained by a vote of 95 to 89.

C. Kingsley moved that the substitute lie on the table and be printed. J. A. Collins called for a division of the question, and the substitute was laid on the table; and so much of the motion as relates to printing the substitute was carried by a vote of 104 to 70.

On motion, Conference adjourned.

Benediction by Benjamin Griffen.

May 27, 1856.  
Has a member a right to speak on the substitute who has spoken on the report?  
Decision of the chair.  
Rule applies to the particular motion under consideration.

Appeal from the decision of the chair.  
Decision of the chair sustained.

Substitute laid on the table.

Adjournment.

### WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 28, 1856.

May 28, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Simpson in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by Samuel Wakefield, of the Pittsburgh Conference.

The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.

S. Y. Monroe moved to take up the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery.

A. Sanderson moved to lay the motion of S. Y. Monroe on the table, but the motion to lay on the table was lost, and the motion to take up the report prevailed.

Bishop Baker announced the following committee on the Report of the Trustees of the Chartered Fund, namely: F. Hodgson, A. M. Osbon, W. A. Wilmer, E. G. Wood, A. Webster.

Pending the discussion, W. H. Brockway moved that when we adjourn we adjourn to meet at half past two o'clock P. M.

Thomas H. Pearne moved the following resolutions as a substitute to the foregoing motion, namely:

1. *Resolved*, That when we adjourn we adjourn to meet at two o'clock P. M.

Motion to take up the Report on Slavery.

Motion to lay on the table lost, and original motion prevails.

Committee on Report of the Trustees of the Chartered Fund.

Motion to meet at half past two P. M.

Substitute offered.

May 28, 1856.

2. *Resolved*, That no further debate shall be had on slavery after to-day.

Substitute laid on the table.

On motion of W. H. Brockway, the substitute was laid on the table.

Motion amended and adopted.

On motion of H. Slicer, the original motion was amended by striking out "half past two o'clock" and inserting "two o'clock," and the motion as amended was adopted.

Adjournment.

Conference adjourned with singing the Doxology, and with the benediction by Israel Chamberlayne.

#### WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Baker in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by P. S. Bennett, of the Wisconsin Conference.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

Report in relation to paying the widows and orphans of deceased Bishops.

Heman Bangs, Chairman of the Committee on Temporal Economy, presented a report in relation to the paying the widows and orphans of deceased Bishops; it was read, and lies on the table under the rule.

Lies over under the rule.

Order suspended.

On motion of William Reddy, the regular order of business was suspended, and the consideration of the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery was resumed.

Report on Slavery taken up.

Pending the discussion, Henry Slicer having spoken out his hour, on motion of R. S. Rust, he had liberty to continue his argument at pleasure.

Slicer has permission to continue his argument at pleasure.

Adjournment.

Conference adjourned at six o'clock P. M.  
Benediction by H. Bangs.

May 29, 1856.

#### THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 29, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Ames in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by A. M. Osbon, of the New-York Conference.

The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.

Order of business suspended for a specific purpose.

On motion of John Kennaday, seconded by E. H. Pilcher, the regular order of business was suspended, to consider the following preamble and resolution, which they submitted, namely:

Preamble and resolution relating to the

*Whereas*, a very large amount of the most important business of the General Conference remains either untouched, or in a very imperfect state; and

Whereas, the Report of the Committee on Slavery, after occupying the attention of a large and able committee for several weeks, has engaged the attention of the Conference for several days, during which it has been extensively discussed; therefore,

Resolved, That after the speaker who shall be recognized by the chair this morning shall have spoken, the floor shall be conceded to the Chairman of the Committee on Slavery; after which, the Report of said committee shall be laid on the table, excepting the first resolution, which resolution shall be made the special order of the day for this morning at 11 o'clock.

W. H. Brockway moved, that the vote on the foregoing preamble and resolution be taken without further debate, and the motion prevailed, 156 voting in favor of it.

The preamble and resolution were then adopted.

On motion of Isaac Parks, the consideration of the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery was resumed.

At the close of the argument of the Chairman of the Committee on Slavery, John M'Clintock obtained the floor, and a question of order was raised, as to whether the resolution adopted this morning lays the second resolution of the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery on the table without further vote of the Conference to that effect.

The chair decided that the second resolution of the Report was not laid upon the table by the adoption of the aforesaid resolution this morning.

From this decision an appeal was taken to the Conference; whereupon, H. Slicer moved, that the decision of the chair stand as the judgment of the Conference; but the motion to sustain the decision of the chair was lost by a vote of 93 to 107.

Whereupon, the chair announced that, by this action of the Conference, it was decided that the Report of the Committee on Slavery, excepting the first resolution, was laid on the table by force of the resolution relating to that subject adopted this morning.

On motion of H. Bangs, it was resolved, that when we adjourn we adjourn to meet this afternoon at 2 o'clock.

The chair decided that J. M'Clintock was entitled to the floor. From this decision W. Hosmer appealed, when, on motion of T. J. Thompson, the appeal was laid on the table.

John M'Clintock moved to take from the table the second resolution of the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery.

May 29, 1856.  
action on the  
Report on  
Slavery.

First resolution  
of the Report  
on Slavery  
made the order  
of the day for  
11 o'clock.

Call for the pre-  
vious question  
sustained.

Preamble and  
resolution  
adopted.  
Report on Slav-  
ery taken up.

Question of or-  
der.  
Is the second  
resolution laid  
on the table by  
vote of this  
morning?

Chair decides  
not.

Appeal from the  
decision of the  
chair.

Decision of the  
chair not sus-  
tained.

Report on Slav-  
ery, except the  
first resolution,  
laid on the ta-  
ble.

Afternoon ses-  
sion.

Chair assigns  
the floor.  
Appeal taken,  
but laid on the  
table.

Motion to take  
up the report  
just laid on the  
table.

May 29, 1856.  
Question of order.  
Is the first resolution of the Report *now* before the Conference?  
Chair decides not.

A question of order was raised, to wit: whether, by force of the resolution adopted this morning, the first resolution of the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery is not now before the Conference.

The chair decided that the first resolution is not before the Conference, unless taken up by specific vote to that effect.

Appeal from the decision taken.

H. Mattison took an appeal from this decision of the chair, and while the appeal was pending, on motion of John A. Collins, Conference adjourned.

Adjournment.

Benediction by Bishop Waugh.

#### THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Waugh in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by George Pratt, of East Maine Conference.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

Motion to suspend the order of the day.

Amendment proposed.

Motion to lay the amendment on the table.

Lost.

Amendment prevails.

Motion carried.

First resolution of the report taken up.

B. Griffen moved to suspend the order of the day. H. Mattison moved to amend by adding, "for the purpose of taking up the first resolution of the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery." Thomas H. Pearne moved to lay the amendment on the table. The motion to lay on the table was lost, the amendment prevailed, and the motion as amended was carried.

On motion of John M'Clintock, the first resolution of the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery was taken up.

Call for the previous question sustained.

Yeas and nays ordered.

A. Sanderson, seconded by J. S. Porter, moved that the vote on the adoption of the resolution be taken without further debate, and the motion was carried by a vote of 146 to 55.

On motion of John A. Collins, the yeas and nays were ordered, the roll of Conference was called, and the vote was as follows, namely:

Ayes.

*Ayes.*—Allen of Maine, Allyn of Southern Illinois, Baker, Bannister, Barnes, Bennett, Berry, Bingham, Blakeslee, Bowers, Bradford, Bristol, Brockway, Brouse, Brown of Cincinnati, Brown of Troy, Buck of East Genesee, Burlingham, Burns, Button, Carpenter, Chamberlayne, Clark of Wyoming, Coats, Coggeshall, Cook, Cox, Crary, Crews, Crowell, Culver, Dana, Dempster, Dennis, Disbro, Dodge, Dustin, Erwin, Evans, Farrington, Finley, Flower, Floy,

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Fowble, French, Gillet, Gorrie, Gregg, Griffin of Troy, Griswold, Gurley, Hall, Haney, Harris, Hawkins, Heath, Henderson, Hibbard, Hill of Erie, Hitchcock, Holliday, Hosmer, Hoyt, Hulburd, Hull, Kenney, Kidder, King of Vermont, Kingsley of Erie, Kingsley of Genesee, Knox, Leihy, Lemon, Lowrey, Marcy, Mattison, Moffatt, Morey, Mulfinger, Parks of Troy, Parks of Oneida, Pearne of Wyoming, Phelps, Pilcher of Michigan, Pilcher of North Ohio, Pillsbury, Poe, Porter of New-England, Pratt, Randall, Raymond, Reddy, Reid of New-York East, Requa, Rice of New-England, Rust, Sanderson, Sapp, Simonds, Smith of New-Hampshire, Stallard, Starks, Starr, Stanton, Stevens, Thayer, Thompson of Northwestern Indiana, Thomson of North Ohio, Thurston, Waite, Wakefield, Washburn, Watson, Watts, Webster, Whedon, Wheeler, Wilson of Erie, Wise, Witherspoon, Yocum, Young of Cincinnati.—122.

*Nays.*—Baird, Bangs, Barker, Battelle, Beach, Bewley, Blain, Blake, Boyd of Northwestern Indiana, Boyd of Pittsburgh, Brooks of Cincinnati, Brooks of Iowa, Brown of Baltimore, Brown of New-Jersey, Buck of Illinois, Carlton, Cartwright, Chivington, Clark of New-York, Collins of Baltimore, Collins of Michigan, Connell, Conrey, Coombe, Cooper of Philadelphia, Corrington, Crawford, Crooks, Cunningham, Drummond, Durbin, Felch, Goheen, Graham, Griffen of New-York, Griffith, Hamilton, Hill of Indiana, Hirst, Hodgson, Hopkins, Howard, Jamison, Kennaday, King of New-York, Kinsley, Kisling, Kuhl, Lanahan, Lauck, Lenhart, Lewis, Luccock, M'Clintock, M'Combs, Martin of Western Virginia, Martin of Baltimore, Merwin, Monroe, Morgan, Nast, Nichols, Osbon, Pearne of Oregon, Peck, Perry, Poisal, Porter of New-Jersey, Power, Quigley, Reed of Iowa, Reese, Rice of New-York, Roberts, Robertson, Ruter, Rutledge, Sargent, Slicer, Smith of Indiana, Summers, Swaim, Talbot, Thompson of Philadelphia, Trimble, Triplett, Trotter, Van Cleve, Van Deusen, Walker, Wallace, Wilmer, Wilson of Baltimore, Wood, Worthington, Young of Ohio—96.

*Absentees.*—Dimmitt, Phillips.

Absent.

As two thirds of the members did not favor the motion it was lost, according to the rule of the Discipline in such cases made and provided.

Resolution lost.

M. Raymond moved to take up the second resolution of the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery.

Motion to take up the second resolution of the report.

May 29, 1856.  
Moved to make  
the motion the  
special order  
for Friday of  
next week.  
Adjournment.

Thomas H. Pearne moved that the motion be made the special order of the day for Friday of next week, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion of D. B. Randall, Conference adjourned.  
Benediction by J. Flower.

May 30, 1856.

### FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 30, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Morris in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by H. Crews, of the Rock River Conference.

The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.

Motion to suspend the regular order to take up the Report on Slavery, in order to offer a substitute.  
Motion to lay on the table.

James Floy moved to suspend the regular order of the day in order to take up the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery, with a view to offer a substitute for the second resolution of said report.

E. E. Griswold moved that the foregoing motion lie on the table, and on motion of W. H. Pearne, it was ordered that the vote on the motion to lie on the table be taken by yeas and nays.

Ayes and nays ordered.

The roll of the Conference was called, and the vote stands as follows, namely :

Ayes.

*Ayes.*—Allen of Maine, Allyn of Southern Illinois, Baird, Bangs, Barker, Battelle, Beach, Berry, Bewley, Blain, Blake, Brooks of Cincinnati, Brooks of Iowa, Brouse, Brown of Baltimore, Brown of New-Jersey, Brown of Troy, Buck of Illinois, Carlton, Cartwright, Chivington, Clark of New-York, Coggeshall, Collins of Baltimore, Connell, Conrey, Coombe, Cooper, Corrington, Cox, Crary, Crawford, Crews, Crooks, Cunningham, Drummond, Durbin, Farrington, Felch, Finley, French, Goheen, Graham, Griffen of New-York, Griffin of Troy, Griffith, Griswold, Hamilton, Heath, Hill of Indiana, Hill of Erie, Hirst, Hodgson, Holliday, Hopkins, Howard, Hoyt, Jamison, Kennaday, King of New-York, Kinsley, Kisling, Kuhl, Lanahan, Lauck, Lenhart, Lewis, Luccock, M'Clintock, M'Combs, Martin of Western Virginia, Martin of Baltimore, Merwin, Monroe, Morgan, Nast, Nichols, Osbon, Pearne of Oregon, Peck, Perry, Pilcher of North Ohio, Pillsbury, Poe, Poisal, Porter of New-Jersey, Power, Pratt, Quigley, Reed of Iowa, Reid of New-York East, Reese, Rice of New-York, Roberts, Robertson, Ruter, Rutledge, Sander-

son, Sargent, Simonds, Slicer, Smith of Indiana, Summers, Starks, Stevens, Swaim, Talbot, Thompson of Philadelphia, Trimble, Triplett, Trotter, Van Cleve, Van Deusen, Walker, Wallace, Washburn, Watson, Wilmer, Wilson of Baltimore, Wilson of Erie, Wood, Worthington, Yocum, Young of Ohio—124.

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*Nays.*—Baker, Bannister, Barnes, Bennet, Bingham, Blakeslee, Bowers, Boyd of Northwest Indiana, Boyd of Pittsburgh, Bradford, Bristol, Brockway, Brown of Cincinnati, Buck of East Genesee, Burlingham, Burns, Button, Carpenter, Chamberlayne, Clark of Wyoming, Coats, Collins of Michigan, Cook, Crowell, Dana, Dempster, Dennis, Disbro, Dodge, Erwin, Evans, Flower, Floy, Fowble, Gillet, Gorrie, Gregg, Gurley, Hall, Haney, Harris, Hawkins, Henderson, Hibbard, Hitchcock, Hosmer, Hulburd, Hull, Kenney, Kidder, King of Vermont, Kingsley of Erie, Kingsley of Genesee, Knox, Leihy, Lemon, Lowry, Marcy, Mattison, Moffat, Morey, Mulfinger, Parks of Troy, Parks of Oneida, Pearne of Wyoming, Phelps, Pilcher of Michigan, Porter of New-England, Randall, Raymond, Reddy, Requa, Rice of New-England, Rust, Sapp, Smith of New-Hampshire, Stallard, Starr, Stanton, Thayer, Thompson of Northwest Indiana, Thomson of North Ohio, Thurston, Waite, Wakefield, Watts, Webster, Wheeler, Whedon, Witherspoon, Young of Cincinnati—91.

*Nays.*

So the motion was laid on the table.

*Absentees.*—Culver, Dimmitt, Dustin, Phillips, Wise—5.

*Absentees.*

Church suit in New-York.

George Peck, Chairman of the Commissioners of the Church suit in New-York, appointed at the last General Conference, submitted the report of said committee. It was read and placed on file. [For Report, see *Appendix Z.*]

Norval Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, submitted a report in relation to the case of Oliver Burgess as follows, to wit:

The Committee on Itinerancy, to whom was referred so much of the Journal of the North Ohio Conference as relates to the case of Oliver Burgess, a former member of that Conference, beg leave to report:

That, on examination, they find the Conference passed the character of said Burgess, recognized his withdrawal from the connection, and entered the same on the Journals; that they subsequently reconsidered the passage of his character without reconsidering their recognition of his withdrawal from the Church, and then refused to pass his character. We therefore recommend for adoption the following resolution, namely:

Report of Committee on Itinerancy relative to the Journal of North Ohio Conference in the case of Oliver Burgess.

*Resolved* by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in

- May 30, 1856. General Conference assembled, That the action of the North Ohio Conference in reconsidering the passage of the character of O. Burgess after they had recognized his withdrawal from the Church, and then refusing to pass his character, was irregular and unauthorized.
- Motion to re-mand the case. Lost. Pending the consideration of this report, John H. Power moved that the case be remanded to the North Ohio Conference for re-adjudication; but the motion did not prevail, and the report as submitted was adopted.
- Report adopted. Thomas Carlton, Chairman of the Committee on Boundaries, submitted a report. It was read by the Secretary of the committee, and lies on the table under the rule.
- Report on Boundaries submitted. Lies over under the rule. W. Hamilton, Chairman of the Committee on Missions, submitted a report relating to Scandinavian Missions, and to the support of Superannuated Missionaries. It was read, and lies on the table under the rule.
- Report relating to Scandinavian missions. Lies over under the rule. N. Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, submitted a further report, and it was adopted as follows, namely:
- Report concerning questions relating to stewards. The Committee on Itinerancy, to whom was referred certain questions respecting Stewards, signed by S. Washburn and S. D. Brown, beg leave to report for adoption the following, namely:  
*Resolved* by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the duties and prerogatives of stewards in the Methodist Episcopal Church are well defined in the Discipline, and that the questions proposed to the General Conference by S. Washburn and S. D. Brown, properly belong to the President of a Quarterly or an Annual Conference.
- Letter of Wm. Simmons reported back. N. Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, reported back the letter of William Simmons, stating that it contained a communication to the Conference merely, and nothing calling for the action of the committee; and on motion of J. P. Durbin, the communication was laid on the table.
- Laid on the table. John Kennaday, Chairman of the Committee on the Episcopacy, submitted the following report, which was adopted:
- Report of the Committee on Episcopacy. The Committee on Episcopacy beg leave to report: That the various subjects claiming their attention have been duly considered.  
From every conference information has been received respecting the administration; and the result shows that the Bishops have been faithful in their work, and that they enjoy the full confidence and affection of the respective conferences. The committee therefore recommend that their characters pass.
- Characters of the Bishops passed. On motion of J. H. Perry, Conference directed that all memorials presented to this body and referred to the several committees, be left in the hands of the chairmen of the committees respectively.
- Memorials to be retained by chairmen of committees.



Peter Cartwright, Chairman of a Select Committee on Church Extension, submitted a report containing the following resolutions, and the report was adopted.

May 30, 1856.  
Report on  
Church Extension.  
Adopted.

1. *Resolved*, That we appreciate and commend the zeal of our brethren at Chicago, yet we do not think it practicable at this time to organize such a society as they desire.

2. *Resolved*, That we earnestly recommend the Annual Conferences, as having this work more immediately under their supervision and control, to adopt such measures as are best calculated, according to their circumstances and necessities, and by all prudential means, to secure the desired end.

[For the Report, see *Appendix AA.*]

Henry W. Reed, Chairman of the Special Committee, to whom was referred the memorial of Reeder Smith, submitted a report in relation to the case.

Report on the  
case of Reeder  
Smith.

P. S. Bennett, on behalf of himself and H. Summers, presented a Minority Report, and on motion of N. Wilson, it was laid on the table.

Minority Report  
in the above  
case laid on the  
table.

On motion of B. F. Cray, the report of the majority of the committee in the case of Reeder Smith was laid on the table by a vote of 80 to 50.

Majority Report  
laid on the ta-  
ble.

George F. Brown, Chairman of the Special Committee on Colored Members, presented a report, which was read, and lies on the table under the rule.

Report relating  
to Colored  
Members.  
Lies over under  
the rule.

D. W. Clark, Chairman of the Special Committee, to whom was referred the subject of Lay Delegation, submitted a report.

Report on Lay  
Delegation.

On motion of F. G. Hibbard, the report was recommitted to afford the committee an opportunity of receiving and considering sundry memorials on that subject, which have not yet come into their hands.

Report recom-  
mitted.

On motion, Conference determined that when we adjourn we adjourn to meet at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Afternoon ses-  
sion.

A. Lowrey submitted the following resolution, namely :

*Resolved*, That we recommend the Committee on Lay Delegation to consider the propriety of so altering the Discipline as to allow Lay Financial Delegates in our Annual Conferences.

Resolution relat-  
ing to Financial  
Delegates.

On motion of J. S. Martin, Conference adjourned.

Adjournment.

Benediction by J. Lewis.

May 30, 1856.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Janes in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by John Kising, of the Southeastern Indiana Conference.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

Members absent on call of yeas and nays permitted to record their votes.

On motion, members not present on the call of the yeas and nays were permitted to record their votes on the question taken in that method this morning.

E. G. Wood records his vote in the negative.

On motion, E. G. Wood, who was not present yesterday when the vote was taken on the first resolution of the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery, was permitted to record his vote; and he voted in the negative.

Motion to suspend the order of the day to take up the Report on Book Depository, &c, at St. Louis.

W. D. R. Trotter moved to suspend the order of the day to take up the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern relating to a Book Depository and Paper at St. Louis.

Motion laid on the table.

On motion of H. Requa, the motion to suspend for the purpose indicated was laid on the table.

Motion to suspend the order of the day.

S. Van Deusen moved to suspend the regular order of the day.

Amendment proposed.

J. P. Durbin moved to amend by adding, "for the purpose of taking up the Report of the Committee on Missions."

Motion to lay the amendment on the table.

S. Van Deusen moved to lay the amendment on the table, but the motion was lost by a vote of 60 to 79.

Lost. Substitute for the amendment.

James Floy moved to substitute for the amendment, "for the purpose of taking up the Report of the Committee on the Tract Cause."

Substitute laid on the table.

On motion of John M'Clintock, the substitute was laid on the table.

A second substitute for the amendment.

F. G. Hibbard moved as a substitute for the amendment, "for the purpose of taking up the Report of the Committee on Revisals in relation to Baptized Children."

Substitute adopted.

The substitute was adopted, and the motion as amended prevailed.

Motion as amended carried.

The report relating to baptized children was then taken up and read.

Report relating to Baptized Children read. To be considered item by item.

On motion of F. G. Hibbard, Conference proceeded to consider the several items *seriatim*.

The first Question and Answer considered.

The first question and its answer having been read, J. B. Merwin moved to amend the answer to the question by striking out the word "expected," and insert instead

thereof the word "required," and by striking out the words "using all diligence in bringing," and inserting instead thereof the words "covenant to bring."

May 30, 1856.  
Proposed amendment.

On motion of W. B. Disbro, the motion to amend was laid on the table.

Amendment laid on the table.

F. Hodgson moved to amend by striking out the words "in a state of grace," and insert the words "in favor with God."

Amendment proposed.

On motion of S. Wakefield, the proposed amendment was laid on the table.

Amendment laid on the table.

S. Washburn moved to refer the whole report to a select committee, to consider and report to the next General Conference.

Motion to refer to a committee to report to the next General Conference.

On motion of W. H. Pearne, the foregoing motion was laid on the table.

Motion to refer laid on the table.

D. W. Bristol moved that the vote on the Answer to the First Question be taken without further debate; the motion prevailed, and the Answer was adopted.

Previous question ordered. First Question and Answer adopted.

The Second Question and Answer were read and adopted.

Second Question and Answer adopted.

The Third Question, with its several Answers, was read, when, on motion of J. McClintock, Conference agreed to consider the several Answers in order. The First and Second Answers to the Third Question were then adopted.

Answers to the Third Question to be considered in their order.

Pending the consideration of the Third Answer to this Question, H. Kinsley moved to amend it by inserting after the words "a desire to flee from the wrath to come," the words, "and to be saved from their sins."

First and Second Answers adopted. Amendment proposed.

D. B. Randall moved to lay both the Answer and the proposed amendment on the table.

Motion to lay the Answer and amendment on the table.

A division of the question having been ordered, the motion to lay the amendment on the table was lost. The amendment was then adopted.

Division of the question ordered. Amendment adopted.

Israel Chamberlayne moved that the vote be now taken without further debate; the motion prevailed, and the Third Answer to Question Third, as amended, was adopted. The Fourth Answer to the Third Question was then adopted.

Previous question ordered. Third Answer adopted. Fourth Answer adopted.

The report, as a whole, was then adopted in words following, to wit:

Report as a whole adopted.

The Committee on Revisals, to whom was referred the subject of the Relation of Baptized Children to the Church, having maturely considered this important subject, beg leave to present the following as their report, which they recommend to be inserted in the Discipline as sec. 3 of ch. ii, Part I, on page 31.

Report on the Relation of Baptized Children. Adopted.

SECTION III.—Of Baptized Children.

Discipline changed.

Quest. 1. Are all young children entitled to Baptism?

Ans. We hold that all children, by virtue of the unconditional

All young chil-

May 30, 1856.  
 dren entitled  
 to Baptism.

benefits of the atonement, are members of the kingdom of God, and, therefore, graciously entitled to baptism; but as infant baptism contemplates a course of religious instruction and discipline, it is expected of all parents or guardians who present their children for baptism, that they use all diligence in bringing them up in conformity to the word of God, and they should be solemnly admonished of this obligation, and earnestly exhorted to faithfulness therein.

*Ques. 2.* What is the relation of baptized children to the Church?

Relation of Bap-  
 tized Children  
 to the Church.

*Ans.* We regard all children who have been baptized, as placed in visible covenant relation to God, and under the special care and supervision of the Church.

*Ques. 3.* What shall be done for the baptized children of our Church?

Register of the  
 Residences,  
 Parentage,  
 Names, and  
 dates of the  
 Birth and Bap-  
 tism of Chil-  
 dren.

*Ans. 1.* The preacher in charge shall preserve a full and accurate register of the names of all the baptized children within his pastoral care; the dates of their birth, baptism, their parentage, and places of residence.

To be taught  
 the nature and  
 design of Bap-  
 tism.

*Ans. 2.* As early as they shall be able to understand, let them be taught the nature, design, and obligations of their baptism, and the truths of religion necessary to make them wise unto salvation; let them be encouraged to attend class, and to give regular attendance upon all the means of grace, according to their age, capacity, and religious experience.

To attend class.

*Ans. 3.* Whenever they shall have attained an age sufficient to understand the obligations of religion, and shall give evidence of a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and to be saved from their sins, their names shall be enrolled in the list of probationers; and if they shall continue to give evidence of a principle and habit of piety, they may be admitted into full membership in our Church, on the recommendation of a leader with whom they have met at least six months in class, by publicly assenting before the Church to the baptismal covenant, and also the usual questions on doctrines and discipline.

To be received  
 into full mem-  
 bership.

*Ans. 4.* Whenever a baptized child shall by orphanage, or otherwise, become deprived of Christian guardianship, the preacher in charge shall ascertain and report to the Leaders' Meeting, the facts in the case; and such provision shall be made for the Christian training of the child, as the circumstances of the case admit and require.

Daniel Wise ex-  
 cused and Wil-  
 liam Livesey  
 admitted to a  
 seat.

A. Stevens stated that Daniel Wise, a delegate to this body from the Providence Conference, was seriously ill, and would not be able to resume his seat at all during the session: whereupon, on motion, William Livesey, a reserve delegate from Providence Conference, was admitted to a seat in his stead.

J. G. Dimmitt  
 has leave of ab-  
 sence.

H. W. Reed asked leave of absence for J. G. Dimmitt, on account of sickness in his family; and on motion leave was granted accordingly.

Paying widows  
 and orphans of  
 deceased  
 bishops.

On motion of H. Bangs, the Report of the Committee on Temporal Economy, relating to the method of paying the widows and orphans of deceased bishops, was taken up, and adopted in words following, to wit:

The Committee on Temporal Economy beg leave to report in part the following resolution, on the paying the widows and orphans of deceased bishops, namely:

*Resolved*, That answer 3, section 1, chapter iii, Part III, of the Discipline be stricken out, and the following inserted :

May 30, 1856.  
Discipline  
changed.

The widows and orphans of deceased bishops shall be allowed to draw on the funds of the Book Concern annually for their Disciplinary allowance.

S. Van Deusen, seconded by William Reddy, moved the following resolution, namely :

*Resolved*, That the election of Book Agents, Editors of the Church periodicals, Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society, Corresponding Secretary of the Tract Society, and Corresponding Secretary of the Sunday School Union, be the special order of the day to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Resolution an-  
ning the time of  
the elections.

On motion of T. J. Quigley, the resolution was laid on the table.

Laid on the  
table.

Thomas H. Pearne, seconded by William Roberts, moved the following resolution, and it was adopted :

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of this Conference be authorized to supervise and edit the Journal of this Conference for publication by the Book Concern at New-York, and that the Agents be directed to remunerate him suitably for the service.

Secretary ap-  
pointed to edit  
the Journal of  
this General  
Conference.

A motion was made to adjourn, but it did not prevail.

Motion to ad-  
journ.

On motion of W. H. Brockway, a call was made for memorials and petitions, and the following were presented and referred, namely :

Lost.  
Call for memo-  
rials and peti-  
tions.

TROY CONFERENCE.—W. Griffin presented a copy of the last will and testament of James Bourdet, by which will the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States is made a residuary devisee ; and it was referred to a select committee of three.

Troy.  
Copy of will of  
James Bour-  
det.  
Referred.

GENESEE CONFERENCE.—Thomas Carlton presented a memorial from Buffalo on the subject of Lay Delegation, and it was referred to the Committee on Lay Delegation.

GENESEE.  
Memorial from  
Buffalo on Lay  
Delegation.  
Referred.

He also presented two invitations to the General Conference to hold its next session in the city of Buffalo, one from the Quarterly Conference of the Niagara-street Church, and the other from the Presiding Elder of the district, and the pastors of the city, and they were laid on the table till the subject to which they relate shall be taken up ; and they were ordered to be printed.

Invitations to  
hold the next  
session in  
Buffalo.  
Laid on the  
table.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE.—P. S. Bennett presented a memorial on Slavery from Kenosha, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

WISCONSIN.  
Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Kenosha.  
Referred.

NORTH OHIO CONFERENCE.—W. B. Disbro presented a memorial from Elyria Station on the subject of Lay Delegation, and it was referred to the committee on that subject.

NORTH OHIO.  
Memorial from  
Elyria on Lay  
Delegation.  
Referred.

May 30, 1856.

CINCINNATI.  
Memorial from  
Greenville and  
Palestine on  
Boundaries.  
Referred.

Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Cedar County,  
Iowa.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Edgar Conk-  
ling.  
Referred.

Motion to read  
the memorial.  
Lost.

NEW-ENGLAND.  
A memorial on  
Slavery from  
Meridian-  
street.  
Referred.

Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Bromfield-  
street.  
Referred.

NEW-JERSEY.  
Memorial from  
N. Brunswick  
on Boundaries.  
Referred.

Memorial ask-  
ing that the  
Chapter on  
Slavery remain  
unaltered.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Belleville, pray-  
ing that no  
change be  
made in the  
Discipline on  
Slavery.  
Referred.

Memorial on  
Boundaries  
from New-  
Brunswick.  
Referred.

Memorial ask-  
ing that no  
change in the  
Discipline on  
Slavery be  
made.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Grant Good-  
rich, on Scrip-  
ture texts to  
accompany the  
Articles of Rel-  
igion.  
Referred.

CINCINNATI CONFERENCE.—James B. Finley presented a memorial from Greenville and Palestine Circuits, praying that they may be set off from the North Ohio Conference to the Cincinnati Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries. He also presented a memorial from members of the Church in Cedar County, Iowa, on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

George W. Walker presented a memorial from Edgar Conkling, on appointing ministers of the Gospel to secular positions, and it was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy. On the presentation of the foregoing memorial, a motion was made that it be read, but the motion was lost.

NEW-ENGLAND CONFERENCE.—L. R. Thayer presented a memorial from Meridian-street Church, Boston, on Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

James Porter presented a memorial on Slavery from Bromfield-street Church, Boston, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

NEW-JERSEY CONFERENCE.—S. Y. Monroe presented a memorial from the Pitman Methodist Episcopal Church, New-Brunswick, on the subject of Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries. He also presented a memorial from the same source, asking that the Chapter on Slavery in the Discipline remain unaltered; and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

John S. Swaim presented a memorial from members of the Church on Belleville Circuit, praying that no alteration be made in the Discipline on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

W. A. Wilmer presented a memorial from Liberty-street Station, New-Brunswick, on the subject of Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries. He also presented a memorial from the same source, praying that no change in relation to the subject of Slavery be made in the Discipline, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Bishop Simpson presented a memorial from Grant Goodrich, of Chicago, praying that in the publication of the "Articles of Religion" in the Discipline, the most prominent and pertinent texts of Scripture on which the several articles are founded may be referred to under each article. The memorial was read, and referred to the Committee on Revisals.

T. J. Thompson, seconded by S. D. Brown, moved the following resolution, namely :

May 30, 1856.

*Resolved*, That the election of the Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati; the Secretaries of the Missionary, Sunday-school, and Tract Societies, and the editors of the several Church periodicals which are to be chosen by the General Conference, be the special order of the day for Tuesday, the 3d of June, at 9 o'clock A. M., as follows :

Resolution fixing the time and the order of the elections.

1. Book Agent at New-York.
2. Assistant Book Agent at New-York.
3. Editor of the Quarterly Review, &c.
4. Missionary Secretary.
5. Editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal.
6. Secretary of the Sunday-School Union.
7. Secretary of the Tract Society, &c.
8. Editor of the National Magazine.
9. Book Agent at Cincinnati.
10. Assistant Book Agent at Cincinnati.
11. Editor of the Western Christian Advocate.
12. Editor of the Ladies' Repository.
13. Editor of the Christian Apologist.
14. Editor of the Northern Christian Advocate.
15. Editor of the Northwestern Christian Advocate.

On motion of John A. Collins, the foregoing resolution was laid on the table by a vote of 88 to 65.

Resolution laid on the table.

J. B. Merwin, seconded by William Roberts, moved the following resolution, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be requested to consider the expedience of changing the second paragraph of the second section of chapter second, having reference to the time of the sessions of the General Conference, so as to read, "once in seven years."

Resolution to provide for Septennial Sessions of the General Conference.

A motion, by R. Sapp, to lay the foregoing resolution on the table, was lost by a vote 62 to 74.

Motion to lay on the table. Lost.

On motion of Thomas H. Pearne, it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Referred.

On motion, Conference adjourned.

Adjournment.

Benediction by I. Chamberlayne.

### SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 31, 1856.

May 31, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Scott in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by J. L. Lenhart, of the New-Jersey Conference.

The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.

On motion of J. D. Blain, the regular order of business was suspended, and the Report of the Committee on Boundaries was taken up.

Report on Boundaries taken up.

May 31, 1856.  
Committee on  
the of Will of J.  
Bourdet.

Bishop Baker announced the following committee on the Last Will and Testament of James Bourdet, namely :

William Griffin, James H. Perry, and S. D. Brown.

Action on  
Boundaries.

Conference proceeded to consider the Boundaries of the Conferences severally. The Boundary of the New-York Conference was adopted as reported by the committee.

NEW-YORK  
EAST.  
Amendment  
proposed.

Pending the consideration of the Boundary of the New-York East Conference, James Floy moved to amend by adding the words, "except also any church edifice that may be erected from the proceeds of the sale of the John-street Church."

Amendment  
laid on the table.

On motion of M. D'C. Crawford, the proposed amendment was laid on the table by a vote of 96 to 33 ; and the Boundary as reported by the committee was adopted.

The report of the committee relating to the Boundaries of the Providence, New-England, Maine, New-Hampshire, Troy, Black River, Oneida, Wyoming, East Genesee, and Genesee Conferences, severally, was read and adopted.

Amendment  
proposed.

Pending the consideration of the report relating to the Boundary of the Erie Conference, S. Gregg moved to amend by striking out the words, "lying east of the Cuyahoga River."

Laid on the  
table.

The motion to amend was laid on the table, and the report of the committee in relation to the Boundary of the Erie Conference was adopted.

Amendment  
proposed.

The report of the committee relating to the Boundary of the Pittsburgh Conference was read, when A. Poe moved to amend by striking out the word "including" and inserting the word "excluding" immediately preceding the word "Massilon."

Laid on the  
table.

On motion of J. Cunningham, the proposed amendment was laid on the table, and the Boundary as reported by the committee was adopted.

The report of the committee relating to the Boundary of the Western, Virginia and Ohio Conferences was read and adopted.

So much of the report as relates to the Boundary of the Cincinnati Conference was read.

Amendment  
proposed.

George W. Walker moved to amend the report so as to include West Liberty and Greenville Stations and Palestine Circuit, now of the North Ohio Conference, in the Cincinnati Conference.

Laid on the  
table.

On motion of H. Bangs, the motion to amend was laid on the table, and the Boundary as reported was adopted.



The report of the committee relating to the Boundaries of the Kentucky and North Ohio Conferences was read and adopted.

May 31, 1856.

The report of the committee concerning the Boundary of Delaware Conference was read.

A. Poe moved to amend by so changing the line recommended as to *exclude* Galena and South Delaware Circuit, but still including the Ohio Wesleyan University.

Amendment proposed.

On motion of James B. Finley, the proposed amendment was laid on the table, and the Boundary as reported was adopted.

Laid on the table.

The report of the committee in relation to the Boundaries of the Michigan, Detroit, Indiana, Northwestern Indiana, North Indiana, Southeastern Indiana, Rock River, and Peoria Conferences, severally, was read and adopted.

With consent, Peter Cartwright, seconded by H. Crews, moved the following preamble and resolution, namely :

*Whereas* it is mutually agreed between the delegates of the Illinois and Peoria Conferences, that they are jointly to patronize the Wesleyan University in Bloomington, now in the Illinois Conference; and

Preamble and resolution relating to the Western Charge in Bloomington.

*Whereas* it is futher agreed, that if the said Peoria Conference shall adopt the said University, and aid the Illinois Conference in building up said institution of learning, then and in that event the Western Charge in Bloomington is to be attached to the Peoria Conference; therefore,

*Resolved*, That in the event of the compliance of the Peoria Conference with the above agreement, our bishops are requested to attach said Western Charge to the Peoria Conference, and supply it accordingly.

The preamble and resolution were adopted.

The report of the committee relating to the Boundaries of the Wisconsin, West Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Upper Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska, and Illinois Conferences, severally, was read and adopted.

Pending the consideration of the report relating to the Boundary of the Southern Illinois Conference, J. B. Corrington moved so to amend it as to *include* Hillsborough Station in the Southern Illinois Conference, but the motion to amend was laid on the table, and the Boundary as reported was adopted.

Amendment proposed.

Laid on the table.

The report of the committee in relation to the Boundaries of the Missouri and Arkansas Conferences was read and adopted.

The report of the committee relating to the Boundary of the Baltimore Conference was read.

- May 31, 1856. A. Griffith, seconded by William Hamilton, moved the following as a substitute for so much of the report of the committee as relates to the Baltimore Conference, namely :
- Substitute proposed. The Baltimore Conference shall consist of the territory now included in the Baltimore, Potomac, Winchester, Rockingham, and Lewisburg Districts.
- Laid on the table. On motion of H. Bangs, the substitute was laid on the table.
- Substitute adopted. I. Parks moved as a substitute, That the Baltimore Conference remain intact, and a call for the previous question having been sustained, the motion was carried by a vote of 92 to 82.
- Motion to allow Baltimore Conference to divide itself by a two-thirds vote. H. Slicer moved that the Baltimore Conference be allowed and authorized, at any session of the said Conference within the next four years, by a vote of two thirds of its members in favor of the measure, and with the concurrence of the bishop presiding at the said session, to divide the said Baltimore Conference.
- Amendment proposed. J. Lanahan moved to amend by striking out "two thirds" and inserting "a majority."
- Motion to lay on the table lost. H. Slicer moved to lay the motion to amend on the table, but the motion did not prevail.
- Previous question ordered. On motion of J. Lanahan it was ordered, by a vote of 134 to 17, that the question be taken without further debate.
- Amendment carried. The amendment substituting the words "a majority" for the words "two thirds" was carried, and the motion as amended prevailed.
- Motion prevails.
- Afternoon session. On motion of W. Reddy it was resolved, that when we adjourn we adjourn to meet at two o'clock this afternoon.
- Motion to reconsider the vote in the case of Baltimore Conference. J. P. Durbin moved to reconsider the vote by which Baltimore Conference was authorized to divide by its own action.
- Motion laid on the table. On motion of John Poisal, the motion to reconsider was laid on the table.
- Speakers, except chairmen, limited to five minutes. H. Bangs moved that each speaker in debate, except chairmen of committees, be restricted to five minutes. The motion was adopted.
- Report on Boundaries laid on the table. On motion of John S. Porter, the Report of the Committee on Boundaries was laid on the table.
- Committee on Expenses of Delegates report. J. S. Porter, Chairman of the Committee on the Expenses of Delegates, submitted the following report, namely :
- The Committee on the Expenses of the Delegates beg leave to report,  
That they have so far progressed with the business assigned to

them, as to ascertain that there will be a deficiency of nearly three thousand three hundred dollars. They submit to the General Conference the following resolutions, namely:

May 31, 1856.  
Deficiency  
\$3,300.

1. *Resolved*, That a draft be ordered on the Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati, (two thirds of which to be paid by the former, and the remaining one third by the latter,) for an amount sufficient to cover the deficiency.

Draft ordered  
for the amount.

2. *Resolved*, That in those circuits and stations where collections have not been taken up to meet those expenses, agreeably to the directions of the Discipline, we will on our return make an effort to have such collections taken, and the money so raised shall be forwarded to the agents at New-York and Cincinnati, as an indemnity for the above draft.

Collections to  
be taken here-  
after where  
none have  
been taken  
hitherto.

3. *Resolved*, That the Chairman of the Committee on Expenses of the Delegates be authorized to draw for the amount of deficiency on the agents at New-York and Cincinnati, as provided in the first resolution.

Chairman of  
committee  
authorized to  
draw for the  
amount.

On motion of H. Bangs, the foregoing report was adopted.

Report adopted.

John Poisal, seconded by James Cunningham, moved the following resolution, namely:

*Resolved*, That this General Conference will adjourn *sine die* on Wednesday next, the third of June, at 12 o'clock M.

Resolution to  
adjourn *sine  
die*.

This resolution was laid on the table.

Laid on the  
table.

H. Bangs moved that the election of officers be made the order of the day for Monday morning at 9 o'clock. An amendment proposing to insert "Tuesday" instead of "Monday," and still another to insert "Wednesday" instead of "Monday." Pending the motion and amendments, Conference adjourned by expiration of time. Conference united in singing the Doxology, and the benediction was pronounced by J. Floy.

Amendments  
proposed.

Adjournment.

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Simpson in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by Isaac Parks, of the Oneida Conference.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

James B. Finley moved to suspend the regular order of the day, for the purpose of taking up the Report of the Committee on Boundaries.

Motion to take  
up the Report  
on Boundaries.

Thomas H. Pearne moved to amend, so as to take up the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern, in relation to the Pacific Christian Advocate, and the Central Christian Advocate.

Proposed  
amendment.

The amendment was laid on the table, and the original

Laid on the ta-  
ble.

May 31, 1856.

Report on  
Boundaries  
taken up.

Motion to re-  
commit so  
much as relates  
to Baltimore  
and Baltimore  
East Confer-  
ences.

Motion to re-  
commit laid on  
the table.

Report relating  
to Baltimore  
and East Balti-  
more Confer-  
ences struck  
out, and  
Boundaries in  
the Discipline  
inserted.

Report relating  
to New-JER-  
SEY reconsider-  
ed and amend-  
ed.

NEWARK CON-  
FERENCE.  
Motion to  
amend.

Motion to re-  
commit.  
Laid on the ta-  
ble.  
Amendment  
laid on the ta-  
ble.

Motion to re-  
commit laid on  
the table.

Motion to  
amend.

Motion to lay  
on the table.  
Lost.

Section fixing  
Boundaries of  
New-Jersey  
Conference re-  
considered and  
amended.

motion prevailed, and the Report of the Committee on Boundaries was taken up.

A. J. Phelps moved that so much of the report as related to the Baltimore and Baltimore East Conferences, be recommitted, with instructions to divide the territory into three Conferences.

On motion of John A. Collins, the foregoing motion was laid on the table.

On motion of H. Bangs, so much of the report as relates to the Baltimore and Baltimore East Conferences was struck out, and the Boundary of the Baltimore Conference, as set forth in the Discipline, inserted instead thereof.

The report of the committee concerning the Philadelphia and New-Jersey Conferences was read and adopted.

Afterward, on motion of J. S. Porter, the vote adopting the Boundary of the New-Jersey Conference was reconsidered, and on further motion of J. S. Porter, the item was amended by striking out the words, "the City of New-Brunswick and," and the section as amended was adopted.

The report of the committee relating to the Newark Conference was read.

J. S. Porter moved to amend so as to include the City of New-Brunswick.

H. Kinsley moved to recommit the report, but the motion was laid on the table.

W. Reddy moved to lay the amendment proposed by J. S. Porter on the table, and the motion was carried by a vote of 48 to 44.

W. Reddy moved to recommit the report.

On motion of T. H. Pearne, the motion to recommit was laid on the table.

J. P. Durbin moved to amend so as to include New-Brunswick, Milltown, South River, and South Amboy in the Newark Conference.

A motion was made that so much of the Report of the Committee on Boundaries as relates to the Newark Conference, be laid on the table; but the motion was lost by a vote of 39 to 70.

On motion of J. S. Porter, the vote adopting the section relating to the New-Jersey Conference was reconsidered; and, on further motion of J. S. Porter, the words "the City of New-Brunswick and" struck from this item heretofore, were restored, and the section, as amended, was adopted.

The report of the committee relating to the Newark, Oregon, California, and Liberia Mission Conferences was read and adopted.

May 31, 1856.

The report of the committee in relation to a Mission Annual Conference in Germany was read.

Mission Conference in Germany.

J. Dodge moved to amend the section by striking out the words "except that of sending delegates to the General Conference."

Proposed amendment laid on the table.

On motion of W. Cooper, the amendment was laid on the table, and the section was adopted.

L. B. Gurley moved to reconsider the vote by which the report of the committee concerning the Boundaries of the North Ohio and Delaware Conferences was adopted.

Motion to reconsider in relation to Boundaries of North Ohio Conference. Laid on the table.

On motion of J. Cunningham, the motion to reconsider was laid on the table by a vote of 94 to 25.

Conference proceeded to consider the Report of the Committee on Boundaries in relation to the German work, and after the first item was read and agreed to,

German work.

On motion of Cyrus Brooks, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the North Ohio and Michigan Districts of the German work be allowed to meet in connection with the Cincinnati Conference, at its session next ensuing.

The Second, Third, and Fourth Sections relating to the German work were read and adopted.

On motion, the vote adopting the Third Section was reconsidered, and on motion of John Kisling, the following substitute was adopted, namely :

The German work now connected with the Southeastern Indiana Conference shall remain connected with that Conference.

The Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Sections were read and adopted.

On motion of J. D. Blain, the report of the committee was amended by adding to the German work a Ninth Section as follows, namely :

9. The German Missions in California are to belong to the California Conference.

On motion of William Nast, the following resolution was adopted :

*Resolved*, That the preachers of the St. Louis and Belleville German Districts be permitted to meet with the Illinois Conference at their next session.

May 31, 1856.

The committee submitted as a part of their report the following resolutions :

New Hamp-  
shire and Ver-  
mont Confer-  
ences may  
unite.

1. *Resolved*, That the Bishop presiding at the next session of the New-Hampshire and Vermont Conferences respectively, be requested to present the question of a reunion of these two conferences for the action of each ; and if a majority of each of them shall so determine, the two conferences shall thereafter be one, under the name of the New-Hampshire Conference.

2. *Resolved*, That this General Conference consent that the New-Jersey and Newark Conferences shall hold their next session together, according to their request.

3. *Resolved*, That we deem it inexpedient to publish a map of our several conference territories.

4. *Resolved*, That Orange Chapel be transferred from the Delaware Conference, and be attached to the Cincinnati Conference, and that Plattville be transferred from the Cincinnati Conference, and attached to the Delaware Conference.

These resolutions were severally adopted, and the report as a whole was adopted.

[For full Report, see *Appendix BB.*]

Report on Mis-  
sions taken up.

John P. Durbin moved for a further suspension of the order of the day for the purpose of taking up the Report of the Committee on Missions. The motion prevailed, and Conference proceeded to consider so much of the report as relates to a Missionary Bishop for Africa.

Bishops re-  
quested to  
communicate  
their views.

On motion of J. P. Durbin, the Bishops were requested to communicate to the Conference their views of the matter under consideration, if they desired so to do.

Motion to adopt  
the substitute.  
Substitute laid  
on the table.

The report of the committee and the substitute offered by H. Bangs were both read, and H. Bangs moved that the substitute be adopted.

On motion of W. B. Disbro, the substitute was laid on the table.

W. Graham moved that the first resolution of the report be adopted.

Vote on the  
first resolution  
to be taken by  
yeas and nays.

John A. Collins moved that the vote on the adoption of the resolution be taken by yeas and nays ; and the call being sustained by the requisite number, the vote was taken as follows, namely :

Yeas.

*Yeas.*—Allen of Maine, Baird, Baker, Bannister, Barnes, Bennett, Berry, Bewley, Bingham, Blain, Blake, Boyd of Northwestern Indiana, Bradford, Bristol, Brockway, Brooks of Cincinnati, Brouse, Brown of Baltimore, Brown of New-Jersey, Buck of East Genesee, Buck of Illinois, Burlingham, Burns, Carlton, Carpenter, Chamberlayne, Clark of Wyoming, Coats, Collins of Baltimore, Collins of Michigan, Cooke,

Coombe, Cooper, Corrington, Cox, Crary, Crawford, Crewes, Crooks, Crowel, Dana, Dempster, Disbro, Dodge, Drummond, Durbin, Erwin, Farrington, Felch, Finley, Flower, Fowble, French, Goheen, Gorrie, Graham, Gregg, Griffin of Troy, Griffith, Griswold, Gurley, Hall, Hamilton, Haney, Harris, Hawkins, Heath, Hibbard, Hill of Indiana, Hill of Erie, Hirst, Hitchcock, Hodgson, Holliday, Hosmer, Howard, Hoyt, Hulburd, Jamison, Kennaday, Kenney, Kidder, King of New-York, King of Vermont, Kingsley of Erie, Kingsley of Genesee, Kinsley, Kisling, Knox, Lanahan, Leihy, Lemon, Lenhart, Livesey, M'Clintock, Marcy, Martin of Western Virginia, Merwin, Moffatt, Morey, Nast, Osbon, Parks of Troy, Parks of Oneida, Pearne of Oregon, Peck, Phelps, Pilcher of Michigan, Pilcher of North Ohio, Pillsbury, Poe, Poisal, Porter of New-England, Porter of New-Jersey, Power, Pratt, Quigley, Reddy, Reed of Iowa, Reid of New-York East, Reese, Requa, Rice of New-England, Roberts, Roberston, Rust, Ruter, Rutledge, Sanderson, Sipp, Sargent, Simonds, Slicer, Smith of New-Hampshire, Smith of Indiana, Summers, Starks, Starr, Stallard, Stanton, Swaim, Thompson of Northwestern Indiana, Thompson of Philadelphia, Thurston, Trimble, Trotter, Van Cleve, Waite, Washburn, Watson, Webster, Whedon, Wilmer, Wilson of Baltimore, Wither- spoon, Wood, Worthington, Yocum, Young of Cincinnati—159.

May 31, 1856.

*Nays.*—Allyn of Southern Illinois, Bangs, Beach, Brooks of Iowa, Cartwright, Chivington, Clark of New-York, Cunningham, Floy, Gillet, Griffen of New-York, Hopkins, Lewis, M'Combs, Martin of Baltimore, Morgan, Nichols, Perry, Rice of New-York, Talbot, Thayer, Thomson of North Ohio, Triplett, Van Deusen, Walker, Wallace, Young of Ohio—27.

Nays.

*Absentees.*—Barker, Battelle, Blakeslee, Bowers, Boyd, Brown of Cincinnati, Brown of Troy, Button, Coggeshall, Connell, Conrey, Culver, Dennis, Dimmitt, Dustin, Evans, Henderson, Hull, Kuhl, Lauck, Lowrey, Luccock, Mattison, Monroe, Mulfinger, Pearne of Wyoming, Phillips, Randall, Raymond, Stevens, Wakefield, Watts, Wheeler, Wilson of Erie—34.

Absentees.

H. R. Clark moved, that absent members have leave to record their votes at any time during the session.

Motion to allow  
absentees to  
record their  
vote.  
Laid on the  
table.

On motion of J. Cunningham, the motion of H. R. Clark was laid on the table.

May 31, 1856.  
Bishops requested to present the resolution to the Annual Conferences for concurrence.

On motion, the Bishops were respectfully requested to present the resolution just adopted to the several Annual Conferences for their concurrence; and the Secretary was directed to furnish them severally with copies of the resolution, together with a certified copy of the action of this Conference in relation thereto.

On motion of John P. Durbin, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Bishops authorized to ascertain the vote and to act under it.

*Resolved*, That the Bishops be, and they are hereby authorized to ascertain the vote of the several Annual Conferences on this recommendation of the General Conference; and if they find the requisite majority in favor of the measure set forth in the resolution, then they are hereby authorized to act under its authority if necessary.

The second resolution of the report was read.

Motion to postpone the second resolution indefinitely.

E. H. Pilcher moved that its further consideration be indefinitely postponed; but the motion did not prevail.

Resolution amended.

On motion of J. P. Durbin, the resolution was amended, by inserting, after the words "to elect," the words "by a vote of two thirds of all the members of the said Conference;" and on motion of H. Slicer, it was further amended by inserting after the words "who are hereby authorized," the words "with the concurrence of his or their colleagues."

Previous question ordered.

J. D. Blain moved that the vote on the resolution be taken without further debate, and 106 voted in favor of the motion, and 23 against it.

Call of Conference—quorum present.

As a quorum did not vote, a call of the Conference was ordered, and it appeared that there was a quorum present.

Vote taken a second time.

A doubt was expressed whether there was a quorum present when the vote ordering the previous question was taken.

Whereupon the vote was again taken, and the call for the previous question was sustained by a vote of 133 to 19, and the resolution as amended was adopted by a vote of 121 to 24.

The resolutions relating to Missionary Bishops were adopted in words following, to wit:

Missionary Bishop.

1. *Resolved*, That we recommend to the several Annual Conferences to alter the Discipline, paragraph 3, section 2, Part I, by adding the words, after the word "superintendency," in the fourth line, "but may appoint a Missionary Bishop or Superintendent for any of our foreign missions, limiting his episcopal jurisdiction to the same respectively."

Liberia Annual Conference authorized to elect a Bishop.

2. *Resolved*, That we recommend and authorize the Liberia Annual Conference, under the direction of the Bishop having episcopal charge of said conference at present, assisted by the Corresponding Secretary, to elect, by a vote of two thirds of all the members of the said conference, an elder in good standing in the



Methodist Episcopal Church, and present him for ordination to the Bishops, or any of them, who are hereby authorized, with the concurrence of his or their colleagues, to ordain such persons so elected; certifying in the parchment of ordination that his episcopal jurisdiction is expressly limited to Africa. Nevertheless, the said Liberia Conference shall be under the general supervision of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as our foreign missions now are;

May 31, 1856.

*Provided*, That our Bishops, or any of them, shall not ordain any man a Bishop for Africa until after the concurrence of the several Annual Conferences shall have been obtained, as provided in the first resolution.

On motion of J. P. Durbin, the further consideration of the Report of the Committee on Missions was laid on the table.

Report laid on the table.

James Floy, Chairman of the Committee on the Tract Cause, submitted a report proposing sundry alterations in the Discipline.

Report on the Tract Cause.

It was read, and lies on the table under the rule.

Lies over under the rule.

James Floy, as Chairman of the Special Committee, to whom was referred the subject of publishing a cheap Commentary on the Holy Scriptures, presented a report, and, on motion of J. P. Durbin, it was adopted, as follows:

Report on publishing a cheap Commentary.

The committee to whom was referred the subject of publishing a Commentary on the Holy Scriptures respectfully report:

That having considered the propositions contained in the memorials of Samuel Williams, Esq., and the Rev. George Coles, they are of opinion that, desirable as such a commentary may be, it does not fall within the province of this General Conference imperatively to require its preparation, and therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution, to wit:

*Resolved*, That the subject of preparing and publishing a commentary on the Bible be referred to the Editor of the Books of our General Catalogue, in conjunction with the Book Agents and the Book Committee at New-York.

Your committee have also considered the letter from the Rev. George Coles, on the subject of a Concordance of the Bible; on the subject of a series of questions on the Book of Proverbs; and on the subject of preparing select extracts from the Bible for family reading, and recommend that these matters also be referred to our Editors and Agents at New-York.

John A. Collins moved to reconsider the vote by which the foregoing report was adopted; but the motion to reconsider was laid on the table by a vote of 85 to 61.

Motion to reconsider. Lost.

A motion to adjourn was lost.

Motion to adjourn. Lost.

On motion of E. Thomson, the Report of the Committee on Education, relating to Biblical Institutes, was taken up, read, and its further consideration made the order of the day for Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

Report on Biblical Institutes read.

Conference adjourned; benediction by J. H. Perry.

Adjournment.

June 2, 1856.

## MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 2, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Baker in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by Minor Raymond, of the New-England Conference.

The Journal of Saturday afternoon was read and approved.

Motion to take up Report on Trials and Appeals.  
Lost.

James Porter moved to suspend the regular order of business in order to take up the Report of the Committee on Trials and Appeals; but the motion did not prevail.

Report from Tract Committee on publishing Anti-Slavery matter.  
Amendment proposed.

James Floy, Chairman of the Committee on the Tract Cause, presented a report in relation to the publication in tract or book form, of anti-slavery matter.

S. V. Blake moved to amend the report by inserting after the word "form," in the resolution, the words, "at their discretion," and by striking out the words, "as the subject of Slavery may demand," and inserting in their stead the words, "as the wants of the Church may demand."

Amendment laid on the table.

On motion of R. S. Rust, the motion to amend was laid on the table.

Motion to postpone indefinitely.

Thomas J. Quigley moved that the report be indefinitely postponed.

Yeas and nays demanded.

On motion of W. L. Harris, it was ordered that the vote on the indefinite postponement be taken by yeas and nays.

The roll of Conference was called, and the vote was as follows:

Yeas.

*Yeas.*—Allyn of Southern Illinois, Bangs, Battelle, Bewley, Blake, Brown of Baltimore, Cartwright, Chivington, Collins of Baltimore, Coombe, Cooper, Corrington, Cunningham, Drummond, Durbin, Felch, Goheen, Griffith, Hamilton, Hirst, Hodgson, Hopkins, Kennaday, King of New-York, Lanahan, Lauck, Lewis, M'Clintock, M'Combs, Martin of Western Virginia, Martin of Baltimore, Morgan, Osbon, Peck, Pilcher of North Ohio, Poisal, Power, Quigley, Reese, Rice of New-York, Robertson, Ruter, Rutledge, Sargent, Slicer, Summers, Swaim, Talbot, Thompson of Philadelphia, Triplett, Wallace, Wilson of Baltimore, Young of Ohio—53.

Nays.

*Nays.*—Allen of Maine, Baird, Baker, Bannister, Beach, Bennett, Berry, Bingham, Blain, Blakeslee, Bowers, Boyd of Northwestern Indiana, Bradford, Bristol, Brockway, Brooks of Cincinnati, Brooks of Iowa, Brouse, Brown of New-Jersey, Buck of East Genesee, Burlingham, Burns,

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Carpenter, Chamberlayne, Clark of New-York, Clark of Wyoming, Collins of Michigan, Cooke, Cox, Crary, Crawford, Crews, Crowel, Dana, Dempster, Dennis, Disbro, Dodge, Erwin, Farrington, Finley, Flower, Floy, French, Gillet, Gorrie, Graham, Gregg, Griffen of New-York, Griffen of Troy, Griswold, Gurley, Hall, Haney, Harris, Hawkins, Heath, Henderson, Hibbard, Hill of Indiana, Hitchcock, Holliday, Hosmer, Howard, Hoyt, Hulburd, Jamison, Kenney, Kidder, King of Vermont, Kingsley of Erie, Kingsley of Genesee, Kising, Knox, Kuhl, Leihy, Lemon, Lenhart, Livesey, Marcy, Mattison, Merwin, Moffat, Morey, Nichols, Parks of Troy, Pearne of Oregon, Perry, Phelps, Pileher of Michigan, Pillsbury, Poe, Porter of New-England, Pratt, Randall, Raymond, Reddy, Reed of Iowa, Reid of New-York East, Requa, Rice of New-England, Roberts, Rust, Sanderson, Sapp, Simonds, Smith of New-Hampshire, Smith of Indiana, Stallard, Starks, Starr, Stanton, Thayer, Thompson of Northwestern Indiana, Thomson of North Ohio, Thurston, Trimble, Trotter, Van Deusen, Waite, Walker, Washburn, Watson, Watts, Webster, Whedon, Wilmer, Witherspoon, Wood, Worthington, Yocum, Young of Cincinnati—132.

*Absentees.*—Barker, Barnes, Boyd of Pittsburgh, Brown of Cincinnati, Brown of Troy, Buck of Illinois, Button, Carlton, Coats, Coggeshall, Connell, Conrey, Crooks, Culver, Dimmit, Dustin, Evans, Fowble, Hill of Erie, Hull, Kinsley, Lowrey, Luccock, Monroe, Mulfinger, Nast, Parks of Oneida, Pearne of Wyoming, Phillips, Porter of New-Jersey, Stevens, Van Cleve, Wakefield, Wheeler, Wilson of Erie—35.

Absentees.

And the motion to indefinitely postpone the report was lost.

Motion to postpone lost.

B. M. Hall moved that the vote on the main question be taken without further debate; but the motion was lost by a vote of 73 to 93.

Call for the previous question not sustained.

John A. Collins moved to amend the resolution by striking out the word "instructed," and inserting instead thereof the words "requested at their discretion."

Proposed amendment.

On motion of W. Cooper, Conference determined to take the vote without further debate.

Call for the previous question sustained.

The amendment was lost by a vote of 65 to 104.

Amendment lost.

H. Mattison moved that the vote on the adoption of the resolution be taken by yeas and nays; but the motion was not sustained by the requisite number, only 18 voting for it.

Call for the yeas and nays not sustained.

June 2, 1856.  
Report adopted.

The report was adopted in words following, to wit :

The Tract Committee, having had under consideration the publication of Anti-slavery Literature, recommend for adoption the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the Book Agents and Tract Secretary be, and they hereby are, instructed to publish, in tract or book form, such anti-slavery matter as the subject of Slavery may demand, including Mr. Wesley's Thoughts on Slavery.

Report relating  
to the Rituals  
of the Church.

John M'Clintock, Chairman of the Committee on Revisals, presented a report in relation to the Rituals of the Church, and in relation to sundry other changes in the Discipline.

Lies over under  
the rule.  
Report relating  
to Biblical In-  
stitutes taken  
up.

It was read, and lies on the table under the rule.

On motion of L. Hitchcock, the Report of the Committee on Education, relating to Biblical Institutes, was taken up, and the resolutions were considered in their order.

The first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth resolutions and the preamble were severally read and adopted.

Report adopted.

The report as a whole was then adopted in words following, to wit :

The Committee on Education have had under consideration the subject of *Biblical Institutes*, and beg leave to report in relation thereto the following resolutions :

1. *Resolved*, That this General Conference reject all institutional means for ministerial education which assume the sufficiency of merely educational qualifications for the sacred office, and most strenuously require that no candidate for that office be admitted to our Biblical Institutes and departments for ministerial training, without a certificate from the quarterly or annual conference of its belief that he is Divinely called to the ministry.

2. *Resolved*, That the General Conference looks with approval on those Biblical departments which are in connection with our colleges, and which may hereafter be established in such connection, and upon our Biblical Institutes, which now do, and hereafter may exist separately for the education of such candidates ; provided, always, that both these classes of ministerial institutions be encompassed with guards sufficient to protect them from heresy in doctrine and error in discipline.

3. *Resolved*, That for the efficiency of this protective purpose the General Conference deems it indispensable that the trustees of such institutions be all members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and that at least one annual conference have the chartered right to supply all the occurring vacancies in such boards, and to have the acknowledged right to procure the prompt removal from the institution of any teacher or teachers whose instructions shall not harmonize with either the doctrines or the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

4. *Resolved*, That the General Conference would regard with decided disapproval every attempt to multiply greatly these institutions among us, as this could have no tendency but to enfeeble their salutary influence and to exhaust the means of the Church, which should be otherwise applied.

5. *Resolved*, That Trustees of Biblical Institutes be required to report annually to the annual conferences patronizing them, and quadrennially to the General Conference.

6. Resolved, That the General Conference request the Superintendents to act as an Advisory Committee, to counsel the Trustees of the Garrett Biblical Institute, in accordance with the suggestions of the said Trustees, and that they also act as an Advisory Committee for such other Biblical Institutes as may exist in accordance with the provisions of the above resolutions.

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B. M. Hall, Chairman of the special committee appointed to nominate Candidates from whom delegates shall be chosen to represent the Methodist Episcopal Church in the English and Canada Wesleyan Conferences, in A. D. 1857, presented the following report :

Report of nominating Committee.

1. For the ENGLISH WESLEYAN CONFERENCE,

George Peck,	John M'Clintock,
John P. Durbin,	Edward Thomson,
Joseph M. Trimble,	Davis W. Clark.

Candidates for Delegates to British Wesleyan Conference.

2. For the CANADA WESLEYAN CONFERENCE,

Tobias Spicer,	John S. Porter,
Charles Elliot,	Calvin Kingsley,
William Hamilton,	Daniel Wise,
Gardner Baker,	Enoch G. Wood,
Lucien W. Berry.	

Candidates for Delegates to Canada Wesleyan Conference.

On motion of W. D. R. Trotter, Conference resolved to meet this afternoon at two o'clock.

Afternoon Session.

H. Bangs moved to suspend the order of the day for the purpose of introducing resolutions, fixing the time, order, and mode of the Elections; and also providing for committees to nominate the Book Committees for New-York and Cincinnati.

Motion to suspend the regular order of business to fix a time for the Elections.

John D. Blain moved to lay the motion to suspend on the table; but the motion was lost, and the original motion was carried; and a series of resolutions introduced accordingly.

Motion to lay on the table. Lost.

David Burns moved to strike out of the first resolution the words "this afternoon, immediately after the reading of the Journal," and insert the words "nine o'clock to-morrow morning."

Proposed amendment.

B. M. Hall moved so to amend the amendment as to make the elections the order of the day for two o'clock in the afternoon of to-morrow.

Amendment to the amendment.

On motion of W. H. Brockway, both amendments were laid on the table.

Laid on the table.

H. R. Clark moved the following substitute for so much

Substitute proposed.

June 2, 1856.

of the first resolution as fixes the order of the elections indicated in the substitute itself.

1. The Editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal.  
The Editor of the Western Christian Advocate.  
The Editor of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.  
The Editor of the Northwestern Christian Advocate.  
The Editor of the Northern Christian Advocate.  
The Editor of the German Apologist.  
The Editor of the National Magazine.  
The Editor of the Ladies' Repository.  
The Editor of the Quarterly Review.
2. The Agents of the Book Concern, New-York and Cincinnati.
3. The Book Committees for the Book Concerns at New-York and Cincinnati.
4. Corresponding Secretaries of the Missionary, Sunday School, and Tract Societies.

Substitute laid  
on the table.

On motion of John A. Collins, the substitute was laid on the table.

Amendment.

On motion, the second resolution was amended by striking out all after the word "business."

Resolutions  
adopted.

The resolutions, as amended, were then adopted, as follows:

1. *Resolved*, That the election of Agents, Editors, and Book Committees be made the order of the day for this afternoon, immediately after the reading of the Journal; and that the order of elections be as follows:

1. The Book Agents at New-York,
2. The Book Agents at Cincinnati.
3. The Editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal.
4. The Editor of the Western Christian Advocate.
5. The Editor of the Quarterly Review and Books of the General Catalogue.
6. The Editor of Sunday-School Publications.
7. The Editor of the National Magazine and Tracts,
8. The Editor of the Ladies' Repository.
9. The Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society.
10. The Editor of the Northern Christian Advocate.
11. The Editor of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.
12. The Editor of the Northwestern Christian Advocate.
13. The Editor of the German Publications.
14. The Book Committee at New-York.
15. The Book Committee at Cincinnati.

2. *Resolved*, That in the election of Book Committees and all other cases, where but one candidate is nominated for an office, it shall be by an open vote in the Conference. But in case two or more candidates are nominated for the same office, the voting shall be by ballot. The tellers, when the votes are gathered, shall retire with one of the Secretaries, and count the votes; the Conference meantime proceeding with its business.

Committee to  
nominate Book  
Committees.  
Ordered.

3. *Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to nominate a Book Committee for the Book Concern at New-York, and that a like number be appointed to nominate a Book Committee for the Western Book Concern, at Cincinnati.

John P. Durbin and thirty-six others moved the following resolution, namely :

June 2, 1856.

*Resolved*, That the next session of the General Conference shall commence on the first day of May, A.D. 1861, and shall be held every four years thereafter, commencing on the first day of May.

Resolution to fix the time of the next General Conference May 1, 1861. Referred.

The resolution was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

John Kennaday moved to suspend the order of the day, for the purpose of introducing the Reply to the Address of the Congregational Union of England and Wales ; but the motion to suspend was laid on the table.

Motion to suspend the order. Laid on the table.

H. Buck moved, that the consideration of the report concerning the Pacific Christian Advocate, the Central Christian Advocate, and the California Christian Advocate, be made the special order of the day for this afternoon, immediately after reading the Journal: subject, however, to the order fixed by the resolutions relating to the elections ; and the motion was carried.

Report relating to the Pacific, Central, and California Advocates the special order for this afternoon.

On motion of John M'Clintock, the Report of the Committee on Revisals, presented May 10th, was taken up, and the various items considered in their order, and adopted as follows, namely :

Report of Committee on Revisals taken up and adopted.

The Committee on Revisals and Unfinished Business beg leave to report in part,

Discipline changed. Ratio of Representation.

1. That having duly considered that part of the Bishops' Address which relates to the ratio of Representation in the General Conference, the committee recommend the insertion of the words "Twenty-seven," in place of "Twenty-one," in Part I, chap. iii, sec. 2, ans. 1, of the Book of Discipline.

Proposition to change the Restrictive Rule.

The committee also recommend the alteration of the second Restrictive Rule, (on page 33,) so as to insert "one for every forty-five," in place of "one for every thirty."

Discipline changed in relation to Bands.

2. The committee having duly considered the memorial of the New-England Conference, referred to them in respect to Part I, chap. v, sec. 4, page 81 of the Discipline, entitled, "*Of the Band Societies*," recommend that the said sec. 4, page 81, be struck out, and also that the word "band" or "bands," and all allusions thereto, be struck out from every other part of the Discipline.

3. The committee having duly considered that part of the Bishops' Address which relates to the call of an extra session of the General Conference, recommend the insertion of the following in Part I, ch. iii, sec. 2, in place of our present provision for calling an extra session of the General Conference :

Discipline changed in relation to an Extra Session of the General Conference.

"But the General Superintendents, or a majority of them, by or with the advice of two thirds of all the Annual Conferences, or, if there be no General Superintendent, two thirds of all the Annual Conferences, shall have power to call an extra session of the General Conference at any time, to be constituted in the usual way."

June 2, 1856.  
Restrictive Rule  
changed.

The proposition to change the Second Restrictive Rule was adopted by a vote of more than two thirds of all the members of the General Conference in its favor.

Adjournment.

Conference adjourned.  
Benediction by W. H. Collins.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Ames in the chair.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

D. Wise has  
permission to  
record his vote.

On motion, Daniel Wise was permitted to record his vote on the resolution proposing a change of the General Rule on Slavery, and he voted in favor of the resolution.

J. L. Thompson, seconded by H. Mattison, moved the following resolutions, namely :

Resolution in  
relation to  
limiting the  
Term of Service  
of a Bishop,  
and to Quad-  
rennial Elec-  
tion of Bishops.  
Ordination of  
Bishops.

1. *Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the Committee on Revisals be, and they are hereby instructed to inquire into the expedience of limiting the term of service of the bishops hereafter to four years, the same bishops being eligible to reelection.

2. *Resolved*, And that whether the ordination of bishops is not incompatible with the doctrine of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which from the beginning has maintained that there are but two Scriptural Orders known among the ministry, and should therefore be dispensed with in connection with the office of General Superintendent.

Laid on the  
table.

On motion of W. Cooper, the resolutions were laid on the table.

William Young, seconded by William Nast, moved the following Resolution, and it was adopted, namely :

Plan of Study  
for the German  
Preachers to be  
published in  
the German  
Discipline.

*Resolved*, That the plan of study authorized for the German Traveling Preachers and German Local Preachers, be published in the German edition of the Discipline.

Bishop Baker announced the following committees, namely :

Committee to  
nominate Book  
Committee for  
New-York.

Committee to nominate the Book Committee for the New-York Book Concern :

P. Rice, L. Crowl,  
S. D. Brown, J. A. Collins,  
F. Hodgson.

Committee to  
nominate Book  
Committee for  
Cincinnati.

Committee to nominate the Book Committee for the Cincinnati Book Concern :

P. Cartwright, E. G. Wood,  
U. Heath, C. Brooks,  
H. S. Talbot.



The special order of the day, namely, the elections as prescribed by resolution of this morning, was taken up,

And on nomination of P. Rice, Thomas Carlton was, by a hand vote, unanimously elected Agent of the Book Concern at New-York for four years.

The chair appointed J. M. Trimble, R. S. Rust, H. Kinsley, and H. Crews Tellers, and Conference proceeded to ballot for Assistant Book Agent at New-York.

The ballot was cast, and the Tellers, with James Hill, Assistant Secretary, retired to count the votes.

George W. Walker moved to suspend the order of the day for a special purpose, but the motion was lost.

The Report of the Book Committee was taken up, and so much as relates to the Book Depository and Pacific Advocate in Oregon was read. Pending its consideration, the first resolution was amended by striking out the words "as soon as practicable," and the resolutions were adopted in their order; and the report as a whole was adopted as follows, namely :

The Committee on the Book Concern have had under consideration the papers referred to them relating to a Depository of Books and the publication of a weekly paper in Oregon Territory, and report for the action of the General Conference the following resolutions :

1. *Resolved*, That the Book Agents at New-York be directed to establish a Book Depository, and publish a weekly paper in Oregon Territory.

2. *Resolved*, That we advise the Book Agents at New-York to purchase, at a cost not exceeding three thousand five hundred dollars, (\$3,500,) the publishing office already established, and continue the publication of the Pacific Christian Advocate.

3. *Resolved*, That the Oregon Conference be directed to appoint a committee of five, who shall have power to fix the salary of the editor of the Pacific Christian Advocate, audit his accounts, and have a general oversight of his editorial conduct, make an annual report of the same to the Oregon Conference and to the Book Agents at New-York.

So much of the report as relates to the Book Depository and Central Christian Advocate at St. Louis was read.

On motion of Peter Cartwright, the first resolution was amended by striking out the words, "so soon as the agents are assured that a list of paying subscribers has been obtained amounting to at least six thousand subscribers." And the resolution, as amended, was adopted.

The second resolution was amended by inserting the word "heretofore" between the words "Paper" and "published," and the resolution, as amended, was adopted.

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced

June 2, 1856.  
Elections taken up.

T. Carlton elected Book Agent at New-York.

Tellers appointed.

First ballot for Assistant Book Agent at New-York.

Motion to suspend the order of the day. Lost.

Report of the Book Committee taken up.

Amendment.

Report adopted.

Pacific Christian Advocate established.

Oregon Conference to appoint a Publishing Committee.

Report relating to the Central Christian Advocate taken up.

Amendment.

June 2, 1856.  
Result of first  
ballot for As-  
sistant Book  
Agent at New-  
York.

the result of the first ballot for Assistant Book Agent at New-York, as follows: The whole number of votes cast was 212: necessary to a choice, 107. James Porter received 97; Benjamin Griffen received 67; George F. Brown received 23; Moses Hill received 21; scattering 4. As no one received a majority of all the votes cast, the chair announced that there was no election. A second ballot for Assistant Book Agent at New-York was cast, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

No election.  
A second ballot  
cast.

The Report of the Book Committee in relation to the Book Depository and Central Advocate at St. Louis was adopted as follows, namely:

Central Chris-  
tian Advocate  
established.

The committee have had under consideration the papers referred to them relating to a Book Depository at St. Louis, also the publication of a Paper at said place, and present for the action of the General Conference the following resolutions:

Depository at  
St. Louis of  
Sunday-school  
books and Ger-  
man publica-  
tions.

1. *Resolved*, That the Agents of the Western Book Concern be, and they are hereby instructed to establish a member of the Advocate family, to be called the Central Christian Advocate, at St. Louis.

2. *Resolved*, That the Agents of the Western Book Concern be, and they are hereby instructed to establish at St. Louis a Depository of our Sunday-school and German publications.

3. *Resolved*, That, in view of the circumstances, we do not deem it expedient to instruct the Agents to assume any liabilities of the Paper heretofore published at St. Louis, but would leave it wholly to the judgment of the Agents to purchase the materials if they think proper.

Result of the  
second ballot  
for Assistant  
Book Agent at  
New-York.

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the second ballot for Assistant Book Agent at New-York as follows: The whole number of votes cast was 210 necessary to a choice, 106. James Porter received 114, Benjamin Griffen received 65, Moses Hill received 18, and George F. Brown received 13. James Porter having received a majority of the votes cast, was declared duly elected Assistant Book Agent at New-York for the next four years.

James Porter  
elected.

L. Swormstedt  
elected Book  
Agent at Cin-  
cinnati.

Leroy Swormstedt was, by a hand vote, unanimously chosen Agent of the Western Book Concern at Cincinnati for four years.

Ballot for Assist-  
ant Book  
Agent at Cin-  
cinnati.  
Committee on  
Book Concern  
report.

A ballot was cast for Assistant Book Agent of the Western Book Concern, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

George Peck, Chairman of the Committee on the Book Concern, submitted a further report.

Result of the  
Ballot for As-  
sistant Book  
Agent at Cin-  
cinnati.

Pending its consideration, the Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the ballot for Assistant Book Agent at Cincinnati as follows: Whole number of votes cast 206: necessary to a choice, 104. Adam Poe received 116, Luke Hitchcock received 82, and

John A. Brouse received 8. A. Poe having received a majority of the votes cast, was declared duly elected Assistant Agent of the Western Book Concern for the next four years.

June 2, 1856.  
A. Poe elected.

A ballot was cast for Editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

Ballot cast for Editor of Advocate and Journal.  
Report of Book Committee resumed.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern was resumed.

John Dempster moved so to amend the report that it shall be the duty of the Book Agents at Cincinnati to advance to W. D. R. Trotter, one half the sum of his indebtedness, as specified in the resolution.

Motion to amend.

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the ballot as follows, namely: Whole number of votes cast was 207: necessary to a choice, 104. Abel Stevens received 136; F. G. Hibbard received 66; and George Peck received 5. Abel Stevens, having received a majority of all the votes, was declared duly elected Editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal for the next four years.

Result of the ballot.

Abel Stevens elected.

A ballot was cast for Editor of the Western Christian Advocate, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

Ballot for Editor of the Western Christian Advocate.  
Report resumed

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern was resumed.

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the ballot for Editor of the Western Christian Advocate as follows: Whole number of votes cast, 207: necessary to a choice, 104. Calvin Kingsley received 116; Charles Elliot received 73; B. F. Cray received 20; scattering 2.

Result of the ballot.

Calvin Kingsley elected.

C. Kingsley, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected Editor of the Western Christian Advocate for four years.

A ballot was cast for Editor of the Methodist Quarterly Review, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

Ballot for Editor of the Quarterly Review, &c.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern was resumed.

Report resumed

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the ballot for Editor of the Quarterly Review and Books of the General Catalogue as follows, namely:

Result of the ballot.

Whole number of votes cast, 207: necessary to a choice, 104. D. D. Whedon received 108; John M'Clintock received 99. Daniel D. Whedon, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected Editor of the

Daniel D. Whedon elected.

- June 2, 1856. Methodist Quarterly Review and of the Books of the General Catalogue for the next four years.
- Ballot for Editor of Sunday-School Publications. A ballot was cast for Editor of Sunday-School Publications, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.
- Evening session. On motion of B. F. Crary, Conference agreed to meet at 8 o'clock this evening.
- Amendment to Report of Committee on the Book Concern. Laid on the table. On motion of John S. Porter, the amendment of the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern, proposed by John Dempster, was laid on the table by a vote of 103 to 51.
- Report as a whole adopted. The resolution was adopted, and the report as a whole was adopted as follows :
- The Committee on the Book Concern have had under consideration the memorial of W. D. R. Trotter, as also documents from the Publishing Committee of the Central Christian Advocate, relative to the indebtedness of Brother Trotter as editor and publisher of said paper, and asking this General Conference to meet said indebtedness.
- The committee recommend for adoption the following resolution :
- Resolved*, That in order to assist in the liquidation of a debt of seven thousand two hundred and sixty-four dollars and twenty-five cents, (\$7,264 25) resting upon Rev. W. D. R. Trotter as editor and publisher of the Central Christian Advocate, that the Book Agents at Cincinnati be, and are hereby instructed to appropriate for the coming four years, all the profits of the paper which we have recommended to be published at St. Louis, to Rev. W. D. R. Trotter, not exceeding the above-named amount.
- W. D. R. Trotter has leave to address the Conference. On motion, W. D. R. Trotter had permission to address the Conference in relation to the interests and condition of the Central Christian Advocate.
- Result of the ballot. The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the ballot for Editor of the Sunday-School Publications as follows :
- Daniel Wise elected. Whole number of votes cast, 202 : necessary to a choice, 102. Daniel Wise received 123 ; A. M. Osborn received 61 ; D. P. Kidder received 17 ; and F. G. Hibbard 1. Daniel Wise, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected editor of the Sunday-School Publications for four years.
- Motion to postpone the election of Editor of National Magazine. Stephen Allen moved that the election of Editor for the National Magazine and Tracts be postponed till to-morrow. The motion to postpone was laid on the table.
- Laid on the table. A ballot was cast for Editor of the National Magazine and Tracts, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.
- Ballot for Editor of the National Magazine. Report concern- George Peck, Chairman of the Committee on the Book

Concern, presented a report relating to the California Christian Advocate, and it was read.

June 2, 1856.  
ing the California Christian Advocate.  
First resolution amended.

J. D. Blain moved to amend the first resolution of the report by inserting after the word "Paper," the words, "and to establish a Book Depository;" and the motion to amend prevailed.

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the ballot for Editor of the National Magazine and Tracts as follows: Whole number of votes cast, 208: necessary to a choice, 105. James Floy received 124; James H. Perry received 79; scattering 5. James Floy having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected editor of the National Magazine and Tracts for four years.

Result of the ballot.

James Floy elected.

Davis W. Clark was unanimously, by a hand vote, elected Editor of the Ladies' Repository, and of the Books of the General Catalogue, at the Western Book Concern, for four years.

D. W. Clark elected Editor of Ladies' Repository.

A ballot was cast for Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

Ballot for Secretary of the Missionary Society.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern was resumed.

Report resumed.

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the ballot for Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society as follows, namely: Whole number of votes cast, 209; necessary to a choice, 105. John P. Durbin received 123; Minor Raymond received 86. John P. Durbin having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society for four years.

Result of the ballot.

John P. Durbin elected.

A ballot was cast for Editor of the Northern Christian Advocate, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

Ballot for Editor of the Northern Christian Advocate.  
Report resumed.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern was continued.

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the ballot as follows: Whole number of votes cast, 212: necessary to a choice, 107. F. G. Hibbard received 118, and W. Hosmer 94. F. G. Hibbard, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected Editor of the Northern Christian Advocate for four years.

Result of the ballot.

F. G. Hibbard elected.

Isaac N. Baird was, by a hand vote, unanimously elected Editor of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate for four years.

I. N. Baird elected Editor of Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.

June 2, 1856.  
Ballot for Editor  
of the North-  
western Chris-  
tian Advocate.

A ballot was cast for Editor of the Northwestern Christian Advocate, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

Report resumed.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern was resumed.

Result of the  
ballot.

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the ballot for Editor of the Northwestern Christian Advocate as follows: Whole number of votes cast, 204: necessary to a choice, 103. James V. Watson received 132; Thomas M. Eddy received 69; scattering 3. James V. Watson, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected Editor of the Northwestern Christian Advocate for four years.

James V. Wat-  
son elected.

W. Nast elected  
German Editor.

William Nast was, by a hand vote, unanimously elected Editor of the Christian Apologist, and of the German publications at the Western Book Concern for four years.

Adjournment.

On motion of W. H. Brockway, Conference adjourned.  
Benediction by Benjamin Griffen.

#### MONDAY EVENING.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Waugh in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by D. D. Buck, of the East Genesee Conference.

The Journal of this afternoon was read and approved.

Motion to take  
up the Report  
on Sunday  
Schools.  
Amendment  
proposed.

S. Van Deusen moved to suspend the order of the day to take up the Report of the Committee on Sunday Schools.

John M'Clintock moved to amend so as to take up the Report of the Committee on the Tract Cause.

Substitute for  
the amend-  
ment.

J. D. Blain moved, as a substitute for the amendment, that the motion be so modified that the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern relating to the California Christian Advocate be taken up, should the motion to suspend prevail. The substitute was accepted, the amendment prevailed, and the motion as amended was carried.

Substitute ac-  
cepted, amend-  
ment prevails,  
and motion  
carried.

Amendment  
providing for  
Book Deposi-  
tory at Cali-  
fornia recon-  
sidered and  
withdrawn.

The report having been taken up and read, John D. Blain moved a reconsideration of the amendment adopted this afternoon, providing for a Book Depository, and the motion prevailed. The amendment was then withdrawn.

First resolu-  
tion amended  
and adopted.

H. W. Reed moved to add to the first resolution the words, "And that the said Agents appropriate from the funds of the Book Concern a sum not exceeding two thousand dollars annually for the next four years for the maintenance

of the said Paper." The amendment prevailed, and the resolution as amended was adopted.

June 2, 1856.

The second resolution was read, when, on motion, the resolution was amended by striking out the words, "Provided the cost shall not exceed \$3,500."

Second resolution amended.

The resolution as amended was adopted, and the report as a whole was adopted as follows, namely :

Report adopted.

The Book Committee present the following resolutions relating to a weekly paper in California, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Book Agents at New-York be, and they hereby are, directed to publish a weekly paper in San Francisco, California; and that the said Agents appropriate from the funds of the Book Concern a sum not exceeding two thousand dollars annually, for the next four years, for the maintenance of such paper.

Weekly paper to be published in California.

*Resolved*, That in case a transfer of the California Christian Advocate, now published at San Francisco, can be obtained on reasonable terms, the Book Agents be, and they hereby are, instructed to adopt that paper as a General Conference paper.

N. Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on the Itinerancy, presented a report in relation to the claim of Reuben Aldridge for services as a missionary. The report, containing the following resolution, was adopted :

Report in case of Reuben Aldridge.

*Resolved*, by the General Conference in Conference assembled, That we recommend to the Parent Board of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church to pay to the order of Reuben Aldridge the sum of one hundred dollars, (\$100,) with interest from the time said claim was allowed, namely, the month of October, 1849.

[For full Report, see *Appendix CC.*]

N. Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, submitted a report in relation to the Journals of the several Annual Conferences.

Report relating to the Journals of the several Annual Conferences.

Pending the consideration of the report, the first resolution was amended by striking out so much as relates to the recording of the appointments of the preachers in the Conference Journal from year to year.

First Resolution amended.

The report as amended was adopted.

Report adopted.

The resolutions contained in the report were adopted in words following, to wit :

1. *Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the statistics of the Conference should be entered on the Conference Journals.

Resolutions of the report.

2. *Resolved*, That the secretaries of the several Annual Conferences be instructed to observe greater precision in referring to papers, documents, charges, testimony, &c., so that they may be certainly identified.

[For full Report, see *Appendix DD.*]

N. Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, submitted the following resolution :

June 2, 1856.  
Resolution concerning delegates who may accept civil office.

*Resolved*, That the following be added to the answer to this question: "Who shall compose the General Conference?" page 32, namely: "Nevertheless, should one thus qualified accept of civil office, he shall thereby be disqualified for a seat in the General Conference; and the disqualification thus incurred shall remain until removed by a vote of the Annual Conference of which he is a member."

Lies over under the rule.

This resolution lies on the table under the rule.

Amount of money appropriated to conferences in slaveholding states.

W. Hamilton, Chairman of the Committee on Missions, submitted the following as the information desired by the Conference in relation to missionary contributions and missionary appropriations to the conferences in slave territory.

The following information is given to the Conference by the Missionary Committee, at the instance of the Conference.

Appropriations of missionary money to conferences in slave territory, in part or in whole, during the last four years:

Kentucky Conference.....	\$5,450
Missouri Conference.....	17,800
Arkansas Conference.....	10,500
Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Western Virginia for four years.....	30,550

Total appropriations during the last four years 64,300

The same conferences contributed missionary money, during the last four years, to the amount of \$163,301 74, showing an excess of contributions of missionary money by these conferences over the appropriations of missionary money to them of about \$100,000. We think it desirable that the Church will note this.

George Peck, Chairman of the Committee on the Book Concern, submitted a report, providing for Publishing Committees for the Advocates, and also proposing an alteration of the Discipline as follows, namely:

Proposed change in the Discipline.

Chap. vi, Part III, page 202, strike out the section after the word "practicable," and insert, "they shall also pay one third of the salary and the traveling expenses of the Bishops; and the same proportion of all other appropriations made by the General Conference, not otherwise provided for."

Lies over.

This resolution lies on the table under the rule.

Report of Committee on Education.

E. Thomson, Chairman of the Committee on Education, presented a report, and as one of its resolutions proposes a change in the Discipline, it lies on the table under the rule.

Lies over.

On motion of J. S. Porter, the order of business was suspended.

J. S. Porter, seconded by B. F. Cray, moved the following resolution, namely:

Resolution requesting the Bishops to state

*Resolved*, That the Bishops be requested to state whether, in their judgment, in view of the number of new Conferences, and of the claims of the work in California and Oregon, the Episco-



pace needs strengthening at the present session of the General Conference.

Israel Chamberlayne moved to lay the resolution on the table; but the motion did not prevail, and the resolution was adopted.

William Young, seconded by C. Brooks, moved the following resolutions, namely:

1. *Resolved*, That the Book Agents of the Western Book Concern be, and are hereby, authorized to pay a sum not exceeding \$800, for an Assistant Editor for the German Publications.

2. *Resolved*, That the Bishops be, and are hereby, authorized to appoint to this office a German itinerant preacher, if such a one is nominated or elected by the Book Committee, or, in the absence of the Book Committee, by the Book Agents and Editors of the Western Book Concern.

These resolutions lie on the table under the rule.

L. L. Hamline having, through George W. Walker, requested that the letters which were addressed to himself, or his wife, and which were used as testimony in the case of L. D. Harlan, be returned to them; on motion of George W. Walker, the Conference ordered that all the papers used as testimony in the case of L. D. Harlan be returned to the Secretary of the Cincinnati Annual Conference.

George W. Walker presented the following resolution, which lies on the table under the rule, namely:

*Resolved*, That, in view of the intimate relation which our German Publications at Cincinnati bear to the Sabbath-school, Tract, and General English Publications at New-York, as well as to the contemplated German publications in Bremen, by order of the Missionary Board, we recommend the appointment of the German Editor as ex-officio member of the Publishing Committees of the Tract Society, of the Sunday School Union, and of the Missionary Society, so as to allow him, when it is deemed necessary by those having charge of the above-named interests, officially to consult with them in regard to the Books and Tracts which ought to be published in Cincinnati or in Bremen, and for properly selecting and procuring the necessary cuts and other typographical requirements.

The Bishops returned the following answer to the inquiry propounded in the resolution offered by James S. Porter, namely:

The Bishops have not heretofore communicated to the Conference any wish in reference to the increase of their number, desiring that the Conference should form its own opinion of the propriety of such a measure. We, however, incline to the opinion that, in view both of our interests on the Pacific coast and our increased number of conferences, it might be prudent to elect an additional

June 2, 1856.  
whether their  
number should  
be increased.  
Motion to lay  
on the table.  
Lost.  
Resolution  
adopted.

Resolutions  
providing for an  
Assistant Editor  
for German Publications.

Lie over.

Papers in the  
case of L. D.  
Harlan returned  
to the Cincinnati  
Conference.

Resolution  
making the  
German Editor  
ex-officio  
member of the  
Book Committee  
at New-York.

Answer of the  
Bishops to the  
inquiry made  
in the resolution  
presented  
by J. S. Porter.

- June 2, 1856. Bishop. We could at present discharge all the duties and give the usual attention to the Pacific; but if increased attention is needed on that coast, it can be given only by a Bishop residing there; and if the health of any one of our number should fail, we might not be able to perform the work expected of us.
- Referred. On motion of H. Bangs, the foregoing answer of the Bishops was referred to the Committee on the Episcopacy.
- Report concern-  
ing statistics.  
Lies over under  
the rule. John M'Clintock, Chairman of the Committee on Revisals, presented a report, providing for more complete church statistics. It was read, and lies on the table under the rule.
- Adjournment. On motion, Conference adjourned.  
Benediction by Alfred Griffith.

June 3, 1856.

## TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 3d, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Morris in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by J. M. Trimble, of the Ohio Conference.

The Journal of last evening was read and approved.

The general order of business was suspended, and on motion of John A. Collins, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Book Agents at  
New-York to  
pay George  
Peck's travel-  
ing expenses,  
&c.

*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church in General Conference assembled, That the Book Agents at New-York be, and they are hereby, directed to pay to George Peck, the amount of his traveling expenses from New-York to his place of residence in the Wyoming Conference, and also his salary up to the time of his receiving an appointment in the regular work in said conference.

On motion of B. M. Hall, the regular order was further suspended, and the following resolution was adopted, namely:

*Resolved*, That the Book Agents at New-York be, and they are hereby, instructed to pay to Zebulon Phillips the amount of his moving expenses from New-York to the Troy Conference.

W. Hamilton, Chairman of the Committee on Missions, presented a reply to the Address of the French Conference to this body. It was read and adopted, and ordered to be printed. [For Reply, see *Appendix I*.]

Address to the  
Church on the  
subject of Mis-  
sions.

W. Hamilton, Chairman of the Committee on Missions, further reported an Address to the Church on the subject of Missions. It was read and adopted, and ordered to be printed. [For the Address, see *Appendix EE*.]

W. Hamilton moved to suspend the order of the day to take up the Report of the Committee on Missions; but the motion did not prevail.

June 3, 1856.  
Motion to suspend the order.  
Lost.

John Kennaday, Chairman of the Committee on the Episcopacy, submitted the following report, namely:

The Committee on Episcopacy, to whom was referred the response of the Bishops to the inquiry of Rev. J. S. Porter, beg leave to report the following as the result of their deliberations.

Report of Committee on increasing the number of Bishops.

*Resolved*, That we deem it inexpedient to recommend any addition to the number of Bishops.

Pending the consideration of this report, T. J. Quigley moved that the vote on its adoption be taken without further debate. The motion was sustained by a vote of 136 to 15; and the report was adopted.

Previous question ordered.

On motion of D. W. Clark, the regular order of business was suspended by a vote of 108 to 25, to receive the Report of the Committee on Lay Delegation.

Report adopted.  
Orders suspended

D. W. Clark, Chairman of the Committee on Lay Delegation, presented a report on that subject.

Lay Delegation.

It was read, and the report, containing the following resolution, was adopted.

Report adopted.

*Resolved*, That any change in our economy relating to the constitution of our General and Annual Conferences is inexpedient at the present time.

[For full Report, see *Appendix FF.*]

On motion of J. M'Clintock, the order of the day was further suspended to take up the Report of the Committee on Revisals; and Conference proceeded to consider the report item by item.

Report on Revisals taken up.  
Changes in Discipline.

The item relating to a provision for changing the place of holding an Annual Conference, and the item in relation to a note on page 210 of the Cincinnati edition of the Discipline, were read and adopted.

Place of holding an Annual Conference.

Note on page 210.

The item relating to dress was read. Pending its consideration, W. Reddy, seconded by A. J. Dana, moved the following substitute, namely:

Dress.

To follow the words, "section 1, chap. viii, Part I," in the report of the committee.

"By all means this is no time to give encouragement to superfluity of dress: 1. Therefore, in the examination of candidates for admission into the Church, particular attention shall be called to our general rule on this subject, and the candidates shall be interrogated in regard to their willingness to conform to the same. 2. Let every one who has charge of a circuit or station, frequently exhort our people to conform to the spirit of the apostolic precept, 'not to adorn themselves with gold, and pearls, and costly array.'" 1 Tim. ii, 9.

Substitute for report relating to Dress.

June 3, 1856.  
 Substitute laid  
 on the table.  
 Motion to lay  
 the item on the  
 table.  
 Lost.  
 Item adopted.  
 Changes in Dis-  
 cipline.

On motion of W. Cooper, the substitute was laid on the table by a vote of 100 to 67.

W. Reddy moved to lay the item on the table; but the motion to lay on the table was lost, and the item adopted.

The items relating to the provision concerning preachers stationed in New-Orleans; the Annual Meeting of District Stewards; the report of the number of churches or houses of worship; striking the word "up" from the phrase "set up before them;" the provision giving to Quarterly Conferences power to order a new trial; giving the Quarterly Conferences, instead of the Annual Conferences, power to dispose of moneys arising from the sale of Church property; adding after Gildas Salvianus, the remaining part of the title of the book; the case of superannuated preachers living out of the bounds of the Annual Conference to which they belong; the requirement that the preachers meet the men and women apart in the large societies; taking minutes of a trial before the society or a select number of them; the trial of an appeal before the Quarterly Conference on the minutes thus taken; and the proportion of the salaries and traveling expenses of the Bishops, and of other appropriations, made by the General Conference, to be paid by the Western Book Concern, were severally read and adopted.

On removing  
 the restrictions  
 upon the power  
 of the Bishops.

The recommendation of the Committee to remove the restrictions on the continuance and reappointment of preachers to the same city was read.

Item laid on the  
 table.

John A. Collins moved to lay the item on the table. H. Slicer moved that the vote on the motion to lie on the table be taken by yeas and nays, but the call was not sustained, and the motion to lie on the table prevailed by a vote of 102 to 84.

Vote laying on  
 the table re-  
 considered.

On motion of W. Reddy, the vote laying the item on the table was reconsidered.

Previous ques-  
 tion ordered  
 and item  
 adopted.

On motion, the vote was taken without further debate, and the item as reported was adopted.

New chapter on  
 Singing.  
 Admissions, &c.,  
 to be reported.

The items providing a new chapter on the spirit and truth of Singing, and the item requiring admissions, expulsions, dismissions, withdrawals, and deaths, to be reported to the Quarterly Conferences, were severally read and adopted.

Item relating to  
 Class-Meetings  
 laid on the  
 table.

The item concerning those who neglect attendance on Class-Meetings was, on motion of George Pratt, laid on the table.

Report laid on  
 the table to

On motion of John A. Collins, the Report of the Commit-

tee on Revisals was temporarily laid on the table, in order to proceed with the elections.

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proceed in the  
elections.

The same Tellers and Secretary that acted in the elections yesterday were requested to serve to-day.

Tellers.

A ballot was cast for Editor of the Central Christian Advocate, and the Tellers retired.

First ballot for  
Editor of the  
Central Christian  
Advocate.  
T. H. Pearne  
elected Editor  
of the Pacific  
Christian Ad-  
vocate.

On nomination of William Roberts, Thomas H. Pearne was, by a hand vote, unanimously elected Editor of the Pacific Christian Advocate.

E. Thomas  
elected Editor  
of the California  
Christian Ad-  
vocate.

On nomination of S. D. Simonds, Eleazer Thomas was, by a hand vote, unanimously elected Editor of the California Christian Advocate.

Assistant Editor  
of German  
publications.

On motion of W. Young, the resolution offered yesterday, providing for an Assistant Editor of German publications, was taken up and adopted as follows :

1. *Resolved*, That the Book Agents of the Western Book Concern be, and are hereby, authorized to pay a sum not exceeding \$800 for an Assistant Editor for the German Publications.

2. *Resolved*, That the Bishops be, and are hereby, authorized to appoint to this office a German itinerant preacher, if such a one is nominated or elected by the Book Committee, or, in the absence of the Book Committee, by the Book Agents and Editors of the Western Book Concern.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on Revisals was resumed; and the item providing for statistics was read and adopted.

Report on Re-  
visals resumed.

The item providing for *nine* Circuit Stewards, instead of *seven*, was read.

Change of Dis-  
cipline.

P. Cartwright moved to lay it on the table, but the motion was lost, and the item was adopted.

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the first ballot for the Editor of the Central Christian Advocate, as follows: Whole number of votes cast, 188: necessary to a choice, 95. Joseph Brooks received 76; B. F. Crary, 55; C. Elliott, 28; J. H. Power, 26; F. C. Holliday, 3. As no one received a majority of the votes cast, there was no election.

Result of ballot.

No election.

A second ballot was cast, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

Second ballot.

On motion of J. M'Clintock, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Editor of the Books at New-York be directed to conform Ans. 9, p. 59, on the Duty of Preachers in Charge, to the change made in Reply 13, p. 36.

Resolution in-  
structing  
Editor  
of  
Books.

June 8, 1856.  
Result of the  
ballot.

Joseph Brooks  
elected.

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the ballot as follows: Whole number of votes cast, 186; necessary to a choice, 95. Joseph Brooks received 114; B. F. Creary 67. Joseph Brooks, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected Editor of the Central Christian Advocate for four years.

Afternoon ses-  
sion.

On motion of H. Bangs, Conference agreed to meet at two o'clock this afternoon.

Report of Com-  
mittee on Re-  
visals resumed.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on Revisals was resumed.

Revision of the  
Rituals.

So much of the report as relates to the subject of a Revision of the Rituals of the Church was adopted. The following are the resolutions adopted in the Report of the Committee on Revisals relating to the Rituals:

1. *Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed by the chair to revise the Rituals of our Church.

2. *Resolved*, That this committee be instructed to prepare a circular at their earliest meeting, in which all the points involved in the proposed revision shall be stated, and to send a copy of this circular to each member of the present General Conference, who shall consider the same and return his opinions and suggestions to the committee, within three months.

3. *Resolved*, That when the committee shall have received the returned circulars from the members of this Conference, with their opinions and suggestions on the points therein contained, they shall avail themselves of all the information thus suggested, and prepare a revised copy of our Rituals, which they shall then lay before the Bishops; and the Bishops shall have power to make any verbal alterations; and when the Ritual shall receive the final approval of the Bishops, they shall cause the same to be published, and the Rituals thus revised shall thereafter go immediately into use."

[For so much of the Report of the Committee on Revisals as relates to a Revision of the Rituals of the Church, see *Appendix GG.*]

The Report of the Committee on Revisals as a whole was then adopted, as follows:

The Committee on Revisals and Unfinished Business present the following as a continuation of their report:

Having considered that part of the Bishops' Address relating to a provision for changing the place of holding an annual conference,

Change of Dis-  
cipline.  
Relating to a  
change of place  
for holding an  
annual confer-  
ence.

Recommend the addition of the following to the answer to ques. 3, sec. 3, chap. iii, Part I: "But should it become necessary, from any unforeseen cause, to change the place of its sitting after it has been fixed by the Conference, the preacher or preachers in charge of the place, and the presiding elder of the district where the conference was to be held, shall have power to make such change. But this authority shall not be exercised without first consulting the other presiding elders of the conference so far as practicable."

Change of Dis-  
cipline.  
Note on page  
210.

Having considered the memorial from the members of our Church in Cincinnati, in relation to a note on page 210 of the

Cincinnati edition of our Discipline, we recommend the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the note on page 210 of the Discipline, as published by our Book Agents at Cincinnati, is unauthorized, and shall be struck out.

The Committee having considered the memorial from New-England Conference in relation to the section on Dress, recommend the substitution of the following for answer to question in sec. 1, chap. viii, Part I.

"By all means. This is no time to encourage superfluity in dress. Therefore, let all our people be exhorted to conform to the spirit of the apostolic precept, 'not to adorn themselves with gold, and pearls, and costly array.'" 1 Tim. ii, 9.

We recommend that the words, "also the preacher or preachers that may be stationed in the city of New-Orleans," be struck out of ans. 3, ques. 3, sec. 1, chap. iv, Part I, page 41, of the Discipline.

We recommend that the word "annually" be inserted after the words "There shall be," in the first line of ans. 2, sec. 2, chap. iii, Part III, page 181, so as to make the meeting of the District Stewards annual.

We recommend the insertion of the words, "the number of churches or houses of worship in their charge," after the words "properly distinguished," in ans. 9, ques. 1, sec. 11, chap. iv, Part-I, page 59, of the Discipline.

We recommend that the word "up," in the clause, "By running with patience the race which is set up before them," page 29, sec. 1, chap. ii, Part I, be struck out as a typographical error.

We also recommend that the words, "which shall have authority to order a new trial," be added after the words "Quarterly Conference," in ans. 4, ques. 1, sec. 4, chap. ix, Part I, page 100, of the Discipline.

We recommend that the words "next Annual Conference authorized as aforesaid," on page 177 of Discipline, Part III, chap. ii, sec. 3, item 3, be struck out, and the words "Quarterly Conference" be inserted, and the words "Annual Conference" in the next line be struck out, and the words "Quarterly Conference" inserted.

Also, we recommend that the Book Agents be directed to insert after the words "Gildas Salvianus," on page 66 of Discipline, the remaining part of the title to the book, ("Reformed Pastor.")

Also, the insertion in Part I, chap. iv, sec. 17, page 74, after the words "who may reside without the bounds of the Conference of which he is a member," the words "shall have a seat in the Quarterly Conference, and all the privileges of membership in the Church where he may reside."

Also, that ans. 11, ques. 1, sec. 11, chap. iv, Part I, page 59, be struck out.

Also, that ans. 1, ques. 1, sec. 4, chap. ix, Part I, page 98, be amended, by striking out all of said answer embraced in the first period, and insert, "before the Society of which he is a member, or

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Change of Discipline. On the subject of Dress.

Change of Discipline. Relating to stationing preachers in New-Orleans.

Change of Discipline. Annual meeting of district stewards.

Change of Discipline. Statistics of churches.

Change of Discipline. The word "up" to be struck out, &c.

Change of Discipline. Giving a quarterly conference authority to order a new trial.

Change of Discipline.

Quarterly conferences to have power to dispose of monies arising from sale of Church property.

Change of Discipline.

Title of a book to be inserted.

Change of Discipline.

Relating to superannuated preachers.

Change of Discipline.

Men and women not to be met apart, &c.

Change of Discipline.

Trial to be before a preacher in charge, and minutes to be taken.

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a select number of them, in the presence of the preacher in charge, who shall preside in the trial, and cause exact minutes of the evidence and proceedings in the case to be taken."

Change of Discipline.  
Appeals to be determined from the minutes taken in the original trial.

Also, in answer 5 to the same question, page 100, after the words, "sufficient notice is given them," strike out the remainder of the period, and insert, "and the preacher in charge shall present exact minutes of the evidence and proceedings of the trial to the Quarterly Conference, from which minutes the case shall finally be determined."

Change of Discipline.  
Western Book Concern to pay one third of all expenses and appropriations.

Also, in Part III, chap. vi, item 6, respecting the Book Agents, page 202, strike out all of the second period, and insert, "They shall also pay one third of the salaries and traveling expenses of the Bishops, and also the same proportion of all other appropriations made by the General Conference, unless otherwise ordered by said Conference."

Change of Discipline.  
Preachers may stay more than four years in the same city.

Also, we recommend that the words, "nor in the same city more than four years in succession, nor return him to it after such term of service till he shall have been absent four years," be struck out from ans. 3, ques. 1, sec. 1, chap. iv, Part I, page 41.

Change of Discipline.  
New chapter on singing.

Also, we recommend the insertion of the following for sec. 2, chap. v, Part I, entitled, "Of the Spirit and Truth of Singing."

*Ques.* How shall we guard against formality in singing?

*Ans.* 1. Choose such hymns as are proper for the occasion, and do not sing too much at once. Seldom more than four or five verses.

2. Let the tune be suited to the sentiment, and do not suffer the people to sing too slow.

3. In every Society let due attention be given to the cultivation of sacred music.

4. If you cannot sing yourself, let one or two be chosen in each Society to lead the singing.

5. As singing is a part of Divine worship in which all ought to unite, therefore exhort every person in the congregation to sing, not one in ten only.

Also, we recommend the insertion of the following in place of ans. 11, ques. 1, sec. 11, chap. iv, Part I, page 59:

Change of Discipline.  
Quarterly Report.

"To report at each quarterly meeting the names of those who have been received into the Church or excluded therefrom during the quarter; also the names of those who have been received or dismissed by certificate, and of those who have died or have withdrawn from our Church"

Change of Discipline.  
Church statistics.

The Committee on Revisals also recommend the following change in the Discipline. Strike out the 16th inquiry, under ques. 5, page 36, sec. 3, and instead of inquiry 13, insert the following:

What is the number of Church members?

Number of deaths the past year?

Number of probationers?

Number of local preachers?

Number of adults baptized the past year?

Number of children baptized the past year?

Number of churches?

Their probable value?

Number of parsonages?

Their probable value?

Amount collected for superannuated preachers?

Amount collected for the Missionary Society?



Amount collected for the Tract Society?  
 Amount collected for the American Bible Society?  
 Amount collected for the Sunday-School Union?  
 Number of Sunday schools?  
 Number of officers and teachers?  
 Number of scholars?  
 Number of volumes in library?

June 8, 1856.

They also report the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Book Agents be directed to print such blank forms as may be prepared by the Bishops for the use of pastors and presiding elders, and for the use of the secretaries of the several annual conferences.

Blanks.

The committee having considered the memorial and resolutions referred to them relating to circuit stewards,

Recommend that the answer to ques. 5, sec. 4, chap. iii, Part III, page 184, be amended, by striking out the word *seven* (7) and inserting the word *nine* (9).

Change of Discipline.  
*Nine* stewards instead of *seven*.

The following resolution, which was offered some days since and laid on the table, was taken up and adopted, namely:

*Resolved*, That the Discipline, page 41, chap. iv, be so altered that when a traveling preacher is employed as an agent of a State Bible Society, auxiliary to the American Bible Society, the Bishop may have power to make such appointment as is now provided for in the employment of agents for State Colonization Societies, Chaplains to State Prisons, and in the army and navy.

Change of Discipline.  
 Bishops may appoint preachers agents of State Bible Societies.

On motion of S. Van Deusen, the order of business was further suspended to take up the Report of the Committee on Sunday Schools.

Report of the Committee on Sunday Schools taken up.

The report was taken up, and Conference proceeded to consider its several items in their order.

The first question, and the first, second, and third answers to it, were severally read and adopted.

First question and first, second, and third answers read and adopted.  
 Motion to amend.

The fourth answer to the first question was read, and J. M. Reid moved to amend by striking out so much as relates to the duty of a preacher to prepare a list of children, &c.

H. Bangs moved to lay the answer on the table; but the motion did not prevail.

Motion to lay the answer on the table. Lost.

The amendment of J. M. Reid then prevailed.

Amendment carried.  
 Adjournment.

A motion to prolong the session was lost, and Conference adjourned with the benediction by Bishop Scott.

June 3, 1856.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Scott in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by William C. Smith, of the Indiana Conference.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

J. B. Finley excused.

George W. Walker asked that James B. Finley, a delegate from the Cincinnati Conference, have leave of absence for the remainder of the session. On motion, leave was granted accordingly.

John T. Mitchell takes his seat.

John T. Mitchell presented his credentials as the first reserve delegate from Cincinnati Conference, and he was admitted to a seat.

Report on Trials and Appeals taken up.

On motion of James Porter, the order of the day was suspended to take up the Report of the Committee on Trials and Appeals.

The report was taken up, and the item providing a mode of Trial of Traveling Preachers by a Committee of the Annual Conference, was read and adopted as follows :

The Committee on Trials and Appeals beg leave to report,

Change of Discipline relating to the Trial of an accused Traveling Preacher.

That they have carefully considered that part of the Bishops' Address which relates to the trial of accused traveling ministers, and in accordance with their suggestion, they recommend that the Discipline be so altered (Part I, chap. ix, sec. 2, page 94, immediately preceding the words "provided nevertheless," &c.) as to read, "But should the Conference having jurisdiction in any of the foregoing cases, judge it expedient to try the accused by a select number, it may appoint not less than nine, nor more than fifteen of its members for that purpose, who, in the presence of a bishop or a chairman, which the President of the Conference shall appoint, and one or more of the Secretaries of the Conference, shall have full power to consider and determine the case according to the rules which govern annual conferences in such proceedings, and they shall make a faithful report of all their doings to the Secretary of the Conference in writing, and deliver up to him the bill of charges, the evidence taken, and the decision rendered, with all other documents brought into the trial."

So much of the report as relates to the Laws of Evidence was read and adopted as follows :

Report relating to the Laws of Evidence.

The committee have also considered that part of the Bishops' Address which relates to the laws of evidence, and beg leave to report that it is inexpedient to incorporate into the Discipline anything further upon this subject. The laws of evidence in civil and criminal jurisprudence are complicated, and often inappropriate to our circumstances. Having no authority to compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses, we are sometimes obliged to rely chiefly on evidence that would not be admitted in the jurisprudence of the state. These facts, taken in connection with the increasing facilities among us for a better understanding of the subject, fully justify the committee, they think, in the conclusion at which they have arrived.

So much of the report as relates to a Conference of Appeals was read and adopted as follows, namely :

June 3, 1856.

That part of the Bishops' Address which relates to a Conference of Appeals, has given your committee great embarrassment. The plans suggested, together with several others had under consideration at the General Conference of 1852, have been carefully examined. To these have been added a number more, containing elements of great excellence. But after careful consideration of the whole subject, your committee entertain serious doubts of the propriety of introducing a new and distinct tribunal into our economy. Arrange it as we may, it will involve many inconveniences, and much expense, besides being liable to various misconstructions. Our present system is simple and unobtrusive. Without a parade of forms and high-sounding titles, it secures the rights of all our members in an eminent degree, while at the same time it protects the Church against the influence of unworthy members.

Conference of Appeals.

Your committee, therefore, beg leave to report, that, in their judgment, it is inexpedient for this General Conference to provide for a Delegated Annual or Biennial, Conference of Appeals, and to relieve the difficulties which call loudest for some change, they recommend that the following paragraph be appended to section 2, of Part I, of the Discipline, entitled, "Of the General Conference," namely :

"The General Conference may try appeals from members of Annual Conferences who may have been censured, suspended, expelled, or located without their consent by a committee embracing not less than fifteen of its members, nor more than one member from each delegation, who, in the presence of a bishop presiding, and one or more of the secretaries of the Conference keeping a faithful record of all the proceedings had, shall have full power to hear and determine the case, subject to the rules and regulations which govern the said Conference in such proceedings; and the records made and the papers submitted in such trials shall be presented to the Conference, and be filed and preserved with the papers of that body."

Change of Discipline relating to the mode of Trying Appeals.

George Peck, Chairman of the Committee on the Book Concern, submitted the following report, and it was adopted, namely :

The Committee on the Book Concern beg leave further to report, that there have been various applications from individuals asking relief. The committee recommend the following :

Report concerning individuals asking relief.

*Resolved*, That we recommend these persons to apply to the Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati, who are authorized to settle such claims.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Book Concern further reported in relation to the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate as follows, and the report was adopted, namely :

The Committee on the Book Concern, to whom was referred the Quadrennial Report of the Publishing Committee of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate, beg leave to report the following as its financial condition.

Report concerning the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.

June 8, 1856

## ASSETS OF PITTSBURGH CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

Office furniture.....	\$516 50	
Due from sundries.....	790 21	
Bills receivable.....	1,735 00	
Cash in hand.....	1,792 00	
		4,833 71

## LIABILITIES.

Due to sundries.....	1,225 34	
Bills payable.....	1,466 92	
		2,692 26

Balance in favor of Advocate, \$2,141 45

There has been a gradual improvement in the financial condition of the paper during the term since the last General Conference up to June 1st, 1856.

The old debts remaining after your last session have all been paid, and the expenses of publication have been promptly met as they accrued.

We therefore report the paper as in a prosperous condition.

The Committee on the Book Concern, through its chairman, reported further, in relation to alleged errors in the reports of the Book Agents at New-York, concerning the Quarterly Review, National Magazine, and Sunday School Advocate; and the report was accepted and ordered to be printed.

[For full Report, see *Appendix HH.*]

Report on the  
Tract Cause  
taken up.

On motion of J. Floy, the regular order was suspended to take up the Report of the Committee on the Tract Cause. The report was taken up, and the Revised Constitution was read in part, when, on motion of William A. Wilmer, the report was laid on the table by a vote of 92 to 57.

Read in part  
and laid on the  
table.

Report of Com-  
mittee on Pas-  
toral Address.

A. Griffith, Chairman of the Committee to prepare a Pastoral Address, submitted the report of the committee. It was read, and on motion of W. Reddy, it was amended by striking out the phrase "co-workers with God," and inserting, instead thereof, "workers together with him," and the report as amended was adopted.

Report amended  
and adopted.

[For Pastoral Address, see *Appendix II.*]

Address to be  
printed in the  
Church papers.

On motion of J. McClintock, it was ordered that the Pastoral Address be printed in all our Church papers.

Report on the  
Chartered  
Fund.  
Adopted.

F. Hodgson, Chairman of the Committee to whom was referred the Report of the Trustees of the Chartered Fund, presented a report; and on motion it was adopted as follows, namely:

The committee to whom was referred the Report of the Trustees of the Chartered Fund beg leave to report, that from the document submitted to them it appears that in 1854, under a decree of the

June 3, 1856.

Supreme Court of the United States, an amicable division of said fund was made with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Its net valuation at that time was \$33,324 31. The division was made in proportion to the number of preacher in the Churches respectively. The amount paid to the commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is \$17,051 05, leaving a balance of \$21,273 26. It is expected that this sum will be increased in a short time by a due proportion of the sum of \$6,000, now in litigation, and to be divided, when obtained, between the two churches.

Your committee having duly considered the whole subject, recommend to the General Conference the following resolutions, namely:

1. *Resolved*, That the General Conference has entire confidence in the wisdom and integrity of the Trustees of the Chartered Fund, and approves of their administration of their trust during the last four years.

2. *Resolved*, That the General Conference especially approves of the amicable division of the Chartered Fund with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the principles upon which it was effected.

3. *Resolved*, That the General Conference leaves to the discretion of the Trustees the question, whether the Fund committed to their care can be safely invested in those states which allow higher rates of interest than are lawful in Pennsylvania.

4. *Resolved*, That the General Conference confirm the election of Brothers Colson Hieskell and T. K. Collins as Trustees of this Fund.

5. *Resolved*, That the thanks of the General Conference be tendered to the Trustees of the Chartered Fund for the wisdom and faithfulness with which they have discharged their duty.

6. *Resolved*, That the Secretary be instructed to send a copy of the foregoing to the Trustees of the Chartered Fund.

John M'Clintock presented a series of resolutions relating to the interests of the Tract Cause, and to the price of the Christian Advocate and Journal.

Resolutions relating to the interests of the Tract Cause, &c.

The first resolution was adopted.

W. Graham moved to amend the second resolution by inserting the words "and they," between the words "he" and "may," in the phrase "as he may deem necessary."

Amendment proposed.

John A. Collins moved as a substitute, that the Conference now proceed to elect a Tract Secretary.

Substitute offered.

On motion of Isaac Parks, the substitute was laid on the table.

Laid on the table.

John A. Collins moved to lay both the amendment and resolution on the table; but the motion was lost. The amendment prevailed; and the resolution, as amended, was adopted. The third resolution was adopted.

Motion to lay the amendment and resolution on the table. Lost.

The resolutions as adopted are in words following, to wit:

*Resolved*, That it is not expected of the Corresponding Secretary of the Tract Society to devote more time to visiting Annual

Tract Secretary to have suitable assistance.

June 8, 1856. Conferences than may be compatible with his other duties as Editor.

*Resolved*, That the Board of Managers of the Tract Society be directed to provide for the office of the Corresponding Secretary such assistance as he and they may deem necessary to carry into effect the objects contemplated in his appointment.

Agents authorized to increase the price of the Christian Advocate and Journal.

*Resolved*, That the Book Agents at New-York be authorized to increase the price of the Christian Advocate and Journal, so as to afford a larger outlay upon its correspondence, &c., according to their discretion.

Bishops and Secretary to sign.

On motion of J. S. Porter, Conference directed that the Replies to communications from abroad, the Pastoral Address, and the Address to the Church on the subject of Missions, be signed by the Bishops, and countersigned by the Secretary.

On motion of John A. Collins, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

J. T. Peck's moving expenses and salary to be paid.

*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the Book Agents at New-York be, and they hereby are, instructed to pay to Jesse T. Peck his moving expenses from New-York to the appointment which shall be given him in the regular work, and to pay his salary up to the time assigned by the Bishop for his entering upon such work, not extending beyond the month of June.

Thomas Carlton presented the following report, and it was adopted, namely :

Report relating to the Bequest of Noble Melvin.

The Committee appointed on the Bequest of Noble Melvin, deceased, report the following resolution for adoption :

*Resolved*, That the money bequeathed to the "General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to be applied to the circulation of the Holy Scriptures," be paid to the Book Agents at New-York, and that they be instructed, in consideration thereof, to furnish to the Sunday-School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 2,861 roan embossed, gilt, and 1,718 roan, tuck, gilt Testaments, to be distributed by the said Union as presents among the various Sabbath schools in the destitute portions of the work.

On motion of W. Hamilton, the Report of the Committee on Missions was taken up, and so much of the report as relates to the Scandinavian Missions was read and adopted as follows :

Scandinavian Missions.

The Committee on Missions beg leave to report further :

We recommend that the Scandinavian Missions be made a distinct Missionary work upon the same plan as our German Missions; that is, to be formed into a District or Districts; and if there be two Districts formed, the first District shall be attached to the Wisconsin Conference, and the second to the Peoria Conference.

The Revised Constitution of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as suggested by the Parent Board, which was presented heretofore, was taken up.

Pending its consideration, the 13th section was amended so as to make the Contingent Fund \$10,000 instead of \$5,000, and the Revised Constitution, as amended, was adopted.

June 3, 1856.  
Amendment.

Constitution adopted.

[For Revised Constitution, see *Appendix JJ.*]

On motion of John P. Durbin, so much of the Report of the Committee on Missions as relates to a Missionary Seminary was referred to the Missionary Board at New-York, with instructions that any measure the said Board may take in the premises be conformed strictly to the spirit of the proviso with which the report concludes.

Report relating to a Missionary Seminary referred to Missionary Board.

On motion of D. W. Clark, seconded by J. P. Durbin, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the following principles shall regulate the administration in relation to Missionary Bishops during the coming four years, namely :

1. A Missionary Bishop shall reside (with his family, if he have one) in the particular mission field assigned him, and he shall perform all the duties of a Bishop in said district, to which his jurisdiction shall be exclusively limited.

2. Should he cease to reside in said mission field, he shall exercise no episcopal powers, and shall become a member of the annual conference from which he was elected.

3. His amenability shall be as in the case of other bishops, except that the testimony taken before the Investigating Committee shall be in writing, and upon this testimony, and upon such further testimony as may be taken prior to the session of the General Conference, on proper notification of the parties, shall the case be determined by the General Conference.

4. The support of a Missionary Bishop while in his work, or in case of failure of health, and the provision for his family in case of death, shall be furnished in the same manner as in the case of other missionaries.

W. C. Hoyt, seconded by M. D'C. Crawford, moved the following resolutions, and they were adopted unanimously by a rising vote, namely :

*Resolved*, That this General Conference, on behalf of the whole Methodist Episcopal Church, tender their thanks, through His Excellency Governor Wright, to the State of Indiana, for the liberal provisions which have been made in the Capitol Buildings for the sittings of the Conference; and also their thanks to Governor Wright for his personal attention and courtesy to us as a body.

Thanks to the State of Indiana.

2. *Resolved*, That we hereby tender our acknowledgments to the Citizens of Indianapolis and vicinity for their generous hospitality extended to us so freely during our sojourn among them.

Thanks to the Citizens of Indianapolis.

3. *Resolved*, That our obligations are due to our indefatigable and obliging Secretary and his able Assistants, for the faithful manner in which they have performed their onerous duties.

Thanks to the Secretaries.

4. *Resolved*, That we highly appreciate the generosity of those Railroad Companies who have passed our preachers free to and from their appointments during our session, and for their generous reduction of fare to persons coming and going from the sessions of this body.

Thanks to the Railroad Companies.

June 3, 1856.  
Resolutions to  
be published.

5. *Resolved*, That a copy of the above be furnished for publication to each of the newspapers published in this city.

On motion of W. Roberts, the preamble and resolution relating to the appointment of Members of the General Mission Committee on the Pacific coast were taken up and adopted, as follows :

Members of the  
General Mis-  
sion Commit-  
tee on the Pa-  
cific coast.

*Whereas* the conferences on the Pacific coast are too far removed from the Atlantic States to allow of a personal representation in the General Mission Committee without involving great expense : and whereas the domestic missionary work in these conferences is constantly changing and requiring modification in its general arrangement, and needs special representation in the said Missionary Committee ; therefore,

*Resolved*, That, in the appointment of the General Missionary Committee, the Bishop be directed to constitute corresponding members of the said committee for the Oregon and California Conferences, respectively, who shall have a corresponding relation to said committee, and shall be allowed to vote by proxy in its annual meetings, on all subjects relating to domestic missions on the Pacific coast.

J. S. Porter presented a fiscal report from the Committee on Expenses of Delegates, and it was adopted.

[See *Appendix* KK.]

On motion Conference agreed to proceed with the elections.

Motion to recon-  
sider the action  
relating to  
nominations of  
persons to be  
voted for as  
delegates, &c.

W. H. Brockway moved to reconsider the vote by which the Conference ordered nominations for candidates to be voted for as delegates to the Canada and British Wesleyan Conferences.

Matter recon-  
sidered and laid  
on the table.

H. Bangs moved to lay the motion to reconsider on the table, but the motion was lost by a vote of 76 to 91, and the motion to reconsider prevailed ; and the whole matter in relation to the nominations by committee was laid on the table.

Majority neces-  
sary to a choice.

On motion Conference resolved, that in the elections it shall require a majority of all the votes cast to elect.

Ballot for dele-  
gates to the  
British Confer-  
ence.

A ballot was cast for two delegates to attend the British Wesleyan Conference in 1857, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

Delegates of the  
Providence  
Conference to  
receive back  
\$25.

On motion of J. S. Porter, the Committee on Expenses of Delegates were directed to pay back to the delegation of the Providence Conference the sum of \$25.

Report relating  
to B. Williams.  
Laid on the  
table.

Norval Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, submitted a report in relation to B. Williams. It was, on motion, laid on the table.

Report relating  
to the action of  
Genesee Con-  
ference.

He also submitted a further report in relation to the action of the Genesee Conference, as set forth in its Journal ; and, on



motion, it was laid on the table. The Tellers came into Conference, and before the result of the ballot was announced, on motion of J. H. Perry, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That should there be no election on the present ballot, all the names except the four highest shall be dropped in the next balloting. Should one delegate be elected, all the names but those of the two highest shall be dropped at the next ballot.

June 8, 1856.  
Laid on the table.

Resolution relating to a second ballot.

The chairman announced the result of the first ballot as follows :

Whole number of votes cast, 183 : necessary to a choice, 92. Bishop Simpson received 122 ; John M'Clintock, 73 ; M. Raymond, 66 ; George Peck, 34 ; remainder scattering.

Bishop Simpson, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected.

On motion of P. Coombe, Conference agreed to meet at 8 o'clock this evening.

The second ballot was cast, and the Tellers retired.

A communication was received from L. D. Harlan, requesting a copy of the minutes of his trial before the Cincinnati Conference, and also before the committee at Dayton. On motion, the memorialist was referred to the Cincinnati Conference, which, by the vote of this Conference, has all the papers relating to this case in its possession.

In answer to an inquiry made by P. S. Bennett, it was resolved that the case of J. M. Snow, which was remanded to the Wisconsin Conference before the division of said conference for a new trial, shall now be within the jurisdiction of the West Wisconsin Conference.

On motion of L. Hitchcock, seconded by H. Crews, the following resolution was adopted :

*Resolved*, That the Book Agents at Cincinnati be, and they are hereby, authorized and instructed to purchase real estate in the city of Chicago, suitable for the erection of a Book Room and Publishing House for the Methodist Episcopal Church, so soon as they may be able, without endangering the interests of the Book Concern at Cincinnati.

Result of the ballot.

Bishop Simpson elected.

Evening session

Second ballot.

L. D. Harlan requests a copy of certain papers, request referred to the Cincinnati Conference.

J. M. Snow's case goes to the West Wisconsin Conference.

Resolution relating to the purchase of real estate in Chicago.

The Tellers came into Conference, and from the result it appeared that John M'Clintock was elected a delegate to the British Conference.

A ballot was cast for three delegates to the Canada Conference, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

On motion, Conference adjourned.

Benediction by Bishop Baker.

John M'Clintock elected a delegate to the British Conference.

Ballot cast for three delegates to the Canada Conference.

Adjournment.

June 8, 1856.

## TUESDAY EVENING.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Simpson in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by William Young, of the Cincinnati Conference.

The Journal of this afternoon was read and approved.

On motion of C. W. Ruter, seconded by William Cooper, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolution of thanks to the Bishops.

1. *Resolved* by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the thanks of this Conference are justly due, and are hereby tendered, to our beloved Superintendents for the able, patient, and impartial manner in which they have presided over the deliberations of this body during its protracted session.

Thanks to the Reporter.

2. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Conference are hereby tendered to our able Reporter, W. P. Strickland, for the faithful manner in which he has discharged the duties of his office during the session of this Conference.

On motion of J. S. Porter, the Committee on Expenses of Delegates had leave to amend their report as follows, namely:

Report on Expenses of Delegates amended.

The Committee on Expenses of the Delegates beg leave to amend their first report:

The whole amount of deficiency being ascertained to be three thousand four hundred and fifty-one dollars ten cents, (\$3,451 10,) for which the Chairman, by a former action of the Conference, was authorized to draw on the Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati.

The Tellers came into Conference with the result of the ballot for three delegates to the Canada Conference. Before the result of the ballot was declared, on motion of W. L. Harris, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Resolution making the three receiving the highest number of votes the delegates.

*Resolved*, That if it shall appear that three delegates are not chosen by having severally received a majority of all the votes cast, then, and in that case, the three having received the highest number of votes shall be declared duly elected.

The chair announced the result of the ballot as follows:

M. Raymond, William Hamilton, and L. W. Berry elected.

Whole number of votes cast, 175. Minor Raymond received 81; William Hamilton, 64; and L. W. Berry, 49; and they were declared duly elected in pursuance of the foregoing resolution.

Report on Education taken up and adopted.

On motion of E. Thomson, the Report of the Committee on Education was taken up.

The following resolutions, contained in the report, were severally read and adopted as follows, namely:

1. *Resolved*, That our institutions of learning be requested to be more prompt and full in reporting their condition to the General Conference.

2. *Resolved*, That the attention of the Book Agents be called to this report.

3. *Resolved*, That our Seminaries of learning be commended to the prayers of the Church, and that the Annual Concert of prayer for Colleges be observed in all our congregations.

4. *Resolved*, That the several Annual Conferences be directed to discourage the further multiplication of Methodist Colleges, and other Seminaries of learning, unless when additional schools may be imperatively required for the education of the youth of our Church, and unless these schools may be maintained without materially diminishing the patronage and efficiency of existing institutions.

5. *Resolved*, That in the judgment of this Conference, no institution should hereafter be received as a college under the patronage of our Church, until it shall have secured an endowment of one hundred thousand dollars.

6. *Resolved*, That preachers appointed by our Bishops to our institutions of learning, shall not be deemed ineligible to full connection in our Annual Conferences, if otherwise qualified; and that the Discipline be conformed to this principle.

Pending the consideration of the sixth resolution, W. A. Wilner moved to lay it on the table; but the motion was lost.

The report was adopted as a whole, and ordered to be printed. [For Report, see *Appendix LL*.]

John P. Durbin, Chairman of the special committee to prepare a Reply to the Address of the British Wesleyan Conference, submitted the report of the committee. It was read, amended, and adopted.

[For Reply, see *Appendix C*.]

A Reply to the Congregational Union of England and Wales was presented by John Kennaday, and adopted.

[For Reply, see *Appendix K*.]

Calvin Kingsley, Chairman of the select committee to prepare a Reply to the Address of the Canada Wesleyan Conference, submitted a report, and it was adopted.

[For Reply, see *Appendix E*.]

Peter Cartwright, Chairman of the Committee to nominate a Book Committee for the Western Book Concern, reported as follows:

1. JOHN T. MITCHELL, of the Cincinnati Conference.
2. EDWARD THOMSON, of the North Ohio Conference.
3. JAMES M. JAMISON, of the Ohio Conference.
4. F. C. HOLLIDAY, of the Southeastern Indiana Conference.
5. W. H. COLLINS, of the Detroit Conference.
6. W. C. SMITH, of the Indiana Conference.
7. PETER CARTWRIGHT, of the Illinois Conference.

P. S. Bennett moved to amend the report by striking out the last name in the list, and inserting that of Luke Hitch-

June 3, 1856.  
Institutions to make full reports to the General Conference.  
Book Agents.  
Church to pray for our Literary Institutions.  
Methodist Colleges not to be unduly multiplied.

One hundred thousand dollars a minimum.

Change of Discipline.  
Preachers appointed to Literary Institutions may become eligible to admission into full connection.  
Motion to lay the sixth resolution on the table.  
Lost.

Reply to the Address of the British Conference.

Reply to the Address of the Congregational Union of England and Wales.

Reply to the Address of the Canada Conference.

Report of Committee to nominate a Book Committee for Cincinnati.  
Book Committee at Cincinnati.

Motion to amend.

June 3, 1856.  
Motion to lay  
on the table.  
Lost.  
Substitute pro-  
posed.  
Laid on the  
table.

cock. A motion to lay the amendment on the table was lost by a vote of 64 to 74.

Joseph Brooks moved as a substitute for the amendment to strike out the name of F. C. Holliday, and insert that of L. Hitchcock.

On motion of J. A. Brouse, the substitute was laid on the table by a vote of 76 to 62.

Substitute pro-  
posed.  
Laid on the  
table.

H. Buck moved as a substitute for the amendment to strike out the name of W. H. Collins, and insert that of L. Hitchcock, but this substitute was also laid on the table, and on vote the amendment offered by P. S. Bennett was lost by a vote of 75 to 75. The report of the committee was then adopted.

Amendment  
lost.

Report relating  
to Bequest of  
James Bour-  
det.

William Griffin, Chairman of the Committee on the Bequest of James Bourdet, presented a report, and the resolutions which it contained were adopted as follows, namely:

1. *Resolved*, That Solomon Fisk, of Chazy, New-York, and L. Clark, of Plattsburgh, New-York, be and they hereby are appointed commissioners on the part of the Methodist Episcopal Church to settle with the executor or executors of the aforesaid estate.

2. *Resolved*, That they pay over the money remaining in their hands, after defraying all necessary expenses, in the manner following, namely;

Five hundred dollars to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Chazy, New-York, and the balance, be the same more or less, to the Treasurer of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The report as a whole was adopted.

[For full Report, see *Appendix MM.*]

Nominations for  
a Book Com-  
mittee at New-  
York.

Phineas Rice, Chairman of the Committee to nominate a Book Committee for New-York, reported, and the report was adopted as follows, namely:

Book Commit-  
tee at New-  
York.

The committee appointed to nominate the Book Committee for the Book Concern at New-York, beg leave to report the following names:

1. BENJAMIN GRIFFEN, New-York Conference.
2. ISAAC PARKS, Oneida Conference.
3. THOMAS J. THOMPSON, Philadelphia Conference.
4. CHARLES B. TIPPETT, Baltimore Conference.
5. ZEBULON PHILLIPS, Troy Conference.
6. JOHN M'CLINTOCK, New-Jersey Conference.
7. RICHARD S. RUST, New-Hampshire Conference.

John P. Durbin moved to take up the Report on the Metropolitan Church.

Report on Col-  
ored Members  
taken up and  
adopted.

J. A. Collins moved as a substitute, that the Report of the Committee on Colored Members be taken up. The

substitute was accepted, and the motion prevailed; and the report was read and adopted as follows, namely:

June 3, 1856.

The committee to whom was referred the memorials of colored members within the bounds of the Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New-Jersey Conferences, after due consideration, report the following for the adoption of the Conference, and recommend that it be inserted in the Discipline as a distinct chapter, entitled:

Change of Discipline.

CHAPTER VIII.—*Of the Rights and Privileges of our Colored Members.*

1. Our colored preachers and official members shall have all the privileges which are usual to others in quarterly conferences, where the usages of the country do not forbid it. And the presiding elder may hold for them a separate quarterly conference, when in his judgment it shall be expedient.

Colored members.

2. The bishop or presiding elder may employ colored preachers to travel and preach, when their services are judged necessary. Provided, that no one shall be so employed without having been recommended by a quarterly conference.

3. The Bishops may call a conference once in each year of our colored local preachers, within the bounds of any one or more of our districts, for the purpose of conferring with them with respect to the wants of the work among our colored people, and the best means to be employed in promoting its prosperity; at which conference, the presiding elder within whose district, and under whose care, the colored churches and congregations are, shall be present. Provided, that the holding of said conference or conferences shall be recommended by an annual conference, and the Bishops, upon due inquiry, shall deem it practicable and expedient.

On motion of H. Bangs, Conference proceeded to fix the place of its next session.

Next session.

Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Buffalo, were severally nominated and represented. After which it was agreed to vote on the places named in their order, and that the place receiving the highest number of votes, provided it receive a majority of the votes of those present and voting, shall be the place.

Philadelphia, Baltimore, Buffalo, nominated.

The votes were then taken, and Philadelphia received 86 votes, Baltimore 27, and Buffalo 108; whereupon the chair announced that Buffalo was chosen as the place of the next session of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Buffalo chosen.

A communication from Leroy Swornstedt was received, requesting the General Conference to allow him eight hundred dollars, in addition to the allowance for the past four years made him by the Estimating Committee; and, on motion, his request was granted.

L. Swornstedt allowed \$800 in addition to his salary for the past four years.

J. P. Durbin stated that there were doubts on the minds of some members of this body in reference to the constitu-

June 3, 1856.  
Mode prescribed  
for electing a  
Bishop for  
Africa consid-  
ered by some  
unconstitu-  
tional.  
Rule suspended  
to change the  
Discipline.

tionality of the mode prescribed for electing a Missionary Bishop for Africa. To remove all room for doubt, he moved a suspension of the rule requiring that any proposition to change the Discipline lie on the table for at least one day before action be had thereon, in order to introduce a change of the Discipline fully meeting the case. The motion to suspend the rule prevailed, and the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Change of Dis-  
cipline.  
General Confer-  
ence may au-  
thorize the  
election of a  
Missionary  
Bishop.  
Report on Met-  
ropolitan  
Church.  
Adopted.

*Resolved*, That the words following be inserted in the Discipline, chap. iv, sec. 1, at the end of the answer to question 1: "But the General Conference may authorize the election of a Missionary Bishop in the interim of the General Conference."

On motion of John P. Durbin, the report on the Metropolitan Church was taken up and adopted as reported.

[See pages 57, 58 of this Journal.]

On motion of James Drummond, seconded by George W. Walker, the following preamble and resolution were adopted under the operation of the previous question, namely :

Preamble and  
resolutions re-  
lating to Reed-  
er Smith.

*Whereas*, Rev. Reeder Smith, a local elder of the M. E. Church, has been expelled from said Church by the Quarterly Conference of Appleton Station: and whereas, the decision of said Quarterly Conference was subsequently confirmed by the Wisconsin Annual Conference: and whereas, it has been declared, by a special committee to this General Conference, that new testimony has been elicited going to show the innocence of said Reeder Smith: therefore,

*Resolved* by the General Conference, That the Wisconsin Annual Conference be, and hereby is, authorized to order a new trial of the case of Reeder Smith in the Appleton Quarterly Conference.

On motion, the following protest against the passage of the preceding resolution was admitted to record, namely :

Protest of mem-  
bers of the  
Wisconsin del-  
egation.

The undersigned, delegates from the Wisconsin Conference, protest against the action of this General Conference in taking the previous question on the motion offered by James Drummond, touching the case of Reeder Smith, without allowing them to state the facts, or even to be heard on the question.

P. S. BENNETT,  
I. M. LEIHY,  
H. REQUA.

Motion to take  
up the Report  
on Temporal  
Economy.  
Motion to  
amend.

A. Lowrey moved to take up the Report of the Committee on Temporal Economy.

H. Slicer moved to amend by striking out "Temporal Economy," and inserting instead thereof "Temperance."

Substitute pro-  
posed  
adopted.

George Peck moved as a substitute, to take up the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern. The substitute was adopted.

The Report of the Committee on the Book Concern was then read and adopted as follows, namely :

The Book Committee propose the following revision of the Discipline, namely :

Strike out sections 10 and 11, ch. vi, Part III, pages 204, 205, and substitute the following sections, namely :

10. In addition to the Christian Advocate and Journal and the Western Christian Advocate, there shall be published the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate, at Pittsburgh, Pa. ; the Northern Christian Advocate, at Auburn, N. Y. ; and the Northwestern Christian Advocate, at Chicago, Ill. ; also, as soon as arrangements to that effect shall be completed by the Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati, according to the instructions of the General Conference, there shall be published the Central Christian Advocate, at St. Louis, Mo. ; the Pacific Christian Advocate, at Salem, Oregon ; and the California Christian Advocate, at San Francisco, Cal.

There shall also be a Publishing Committee for each of the above-named papers, to be appointed as hereinafter named, whose duties shall be similar to those of the Book Committees at New-York and Cincinnati, so far as they may be applicable to the establishments under their supervision.

The Publishing Committee of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate shall consist of two members from each of the following conferences, to be chosen annually by the conferences respectively, namely : Two by the Pittsburgh, two by Erie, and two by the Western Virginia.

The Publishing Committee of the Northern Christian Advocate shall consist of one member from each of the following conferences, to be chosen annually by the conferences respectively, namely : Genesee, East Genesee, Oneida, Black River, and Wyoming Conferences.

The Publishing Committee of the Northwestern Christian Advocate shall consist of one member from each of the following conferences, to be chosen annually by the conferences respectively, namely : Michigan, Detroit, Northwestern Indiana, Rock River, Illinois, Iowa, Upper Iowa, Peoria, Wisconsin, and West Wisconsin Conferences.

The Publishing Committee of the Central Christian Advocate shall consist of one member of each of the following conferences, to be chosen annually by the conferences respectively, namely : Illinois, Southern Illinois, Iowa, Upper Iowa, Arkansas, Missouri, and the Kansas and Nebraska Conferences.

The Publishing Committee of the Pacific Christian Advocate shall consist of five members of the Oregon Conference, to be chosen annually by said conference.

The Publishing Committee of the California Christian Advocate shall consist of five members of the California Conference, to be chosen annually by said conference.

11. In case of vacancy by death, resignation, or otherwise, in either of the establishments named in the above sections, the Publishing Committee having supervision of the same shall have authority, with the concurrence of either of the General Superintendents, to provide for such vacancy until the next General Conference.

On motion of George Peck, seconded by Thomas H. Pearne, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Book Committees at New-York and Cincinnati be authorized to estimate the salaries of Editors and Agents connected with those Concerns respectively ; and that the Publishing Committees of the several papers published under the authority

June 8, 1856.  
Report of the  
Committee on  
the Book Con-  
cern taken up.  
Discipline  
changed.  
Publishing  
Committees of  
the several  
General Con-  
ference papers.

Publishing  
Committee of  
the Pittsburgh  
Christian Ad-  
vocate.

Publishing  
Committee of  
the Northern  
Christian Ad-  
vocate.

Publishing  
Committee of  
the North-  
western Chris-  
tian Advocate.

Publishing  
Committee of  
the Central  
Christian Ad-  
vocate.

Publishing  
Committee of  
the Pacific  
Christian Ad-  
vocate.

Publishing  
Committee of  
the California  
Christian Ad-  
vocate.

Vacancies oc-  
curring *ad in-  
terim* : how to  
be filled.

Book Commit-  
tees and Pub-  
lishing Com-  
mittees to esti-  
mate the Sal-

June 3, 1856.  
aries of the  
Editors and  
Agents.

of the General Conference not included in the above, shall be authorized to estimate the salaries of the Editors of said papers.

On motion of E. Thomson, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Charles Elliott  
to receive his  
salary till em-  
ployed.

*Resolved*, That the Agents of the Western Book Concern be, and they are hereby, instructed to pay the salary of Charles Elliott, late Editor of the Western Christian Advocate, until the next session of his conference, unless he shall be previously employed.

Report on Sun-  
day Schools.  
Adopted.

On motion of S. Y. Monroe, the Report of the Committee on Sunday Schools was taken up, and adopted as follows, namely :

Change of Dis-  
cipline.  
In relation to  
Sunday  
Schools.

PART I, CHAP. VI.—*Of Sunday Schools and the Religious Instruction of Children.*

*Ques.* 1. What shall we do for the moral and religious instruction of the children?

*Ans.* 1. It shall be the special duty of preachers having charge of circuits or stations, with the aid of the other preachers, to form Sunday schools in all our congregations where ten children can be collected for that purpose, and to engage the cooperation of as many of our members as they can, to visit the schools as often as practicable, to preach on the subject of Sunday schools and religious instruction in each congregation at least once in six months, and to form Bible classes wherever they can for the instruction of larger children and youth; and where they cannot superintend them personally, to see that suitable teachers are provided for that purpose.

2. It shall also be the duty of preachers to enforce faithfully upon parents and Sunday-school teachers the great importance of instructing children in the doctrines and duties of our holy religion, to see that our catechisms be used as extensively as possible both in our Sunday schools and families, to preach to the children, and publicly catechise them in the Sunday schools and at special meetings appointed for that purpose.

3. It shall be the duty of every preacher in his pastoral visits to pay special attention to the children, speaking to them personally and kindly on the subject of experimental and practical godliness, according to their capacity, pray earnestly for them, and diligently instruct and exhort all parents to dedicate their children to the Lord in baptism, as early as convenient.

4. Each preacher in charge shall lay before the quarterly conference, (see Part I, chap. iii, sec. 4, ques. 4, ans. 8.) to be entered on its Journal, the number and state of the Sunday schools and Bible classes in his charge, and the extent to which he has preached to the children and catechised them, and make the required report on Sunday schools to his annual conference.

5. (To read the same as present answer 2.)

Change of Dis-  
cipline.

To strike out from the answer to ques. 1, sec. 4, chap. iii, Part I, the words,

“But the first male superintendents of the Sunday schools, being members of our Church, shall, by virtue of their office, have a seat in the quarterly conference having supervision of their schools, with the right to speak and vote on questions relating to Sunday schools, and on such questions only,”

And insert instead thereof, after the words “or station,” and before the words “and none else,” the following, namely :



"And the first male superintendents of our Sunday schools, being members of our Church, and approved by the quarterly conference."

To insert in ans. 5 to ques. 4, sec. 2, chap. iv, Part I, after the word "circuit," in the seventh line, the words,

"Or station, and the first male superintendents of our Sunday schools, being members of our Church, and approved by the quarterly conference."

In Part I, chap iv, sec. 11, ques. 1, ans. 16, to strike out the words, "in connection with reporting the Sunday-school statistics," and insert, instead thereof, the words "in his report."

That so much of ans. 1, chap. vi, Part I, page 85, as follows the words, "each quarterly conference shall have supervision of all the Sunday schools and Sunday-school Societies within its bounds," be transferred to Part I, chap. iii, sec. 4, ques. 4, ans. 8, page 39, in place of the present reference thereto.

June 3, 1856.  
Sunday-school superintendents members of the quarterly conferences.

Transferred to a new place in the Discipline.

The following resolution, presented yesterday and laid on the table, was taken up and adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That, in view of the intimate relation which our German Publications at Cincinnati bear to the Sabbath School, Tract, and General English Publications at New-York, as well as to the contemplated German Publications in Bremen by order of the Missionary Board, we recommend the appointment of the German Editor as ex-officio member of the Publishing Committees of the Tract Society, of the Sunday-School Union, and of the Missionary Society, so as to allow him, when it is deemed necessary by those having charge of the above-named interests, officially to consult with them in regard to the Books and Tracts which ought to be published in Cincinnati, or in Bremen, and for properly selecting and procuring the necessary cuts and other typographical requirements.

German editor ex-officio a member of the Publishing Committee of the Tract Society and of the Missionary Society.

On motion of A. J. Phelps, the Publishing Committee of the Northern Christian Advocate were instructed to pay William Hosmer his salary up to the time of the meeting of his conference, and also his moving expenses to the field of labor to which he may be assigned.

W. Hosmer to receive his salary till his conference meets.

On motion of S. Allen, seconded by J. L. Lenhart, the following resolutions were adopted :

1. *Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church in General Conference assembled, That we highly appreciate the services of our respected brother, Rev. Daniel P. Kidder, as Corresponding Secretary of the Sunday-School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church, during the last twelve years, and that the prosperous condition of our Sunday-school cause is largely indebted, under God, to his valuable labors.

Thanks to D. P. Kidder.

2. *Resolved*, That we hereby tender to Brother Kidder our sincere thanks for his services, and our earnest wishes for his future welfare.

Bishop Simpson submitted a course of study for German preachers, and it was adopted as follows, namely :

June 8, 1856.  
Course of study  
for German  
Traveling  
Preachers.

PLAN OF STUDY FOR THE GERMAN TRAVELING PREACHERS.

*First Year.*

- The Theological Compend of A. Binney, translated by L. S. Jacoby.  
N. B. Each doctrine of the Bible is expected to be proved by the Scriptural passages quoted.  
Wesley's Sermons, vol i, from Nos. 1-15.  
Watson's Apology for the Bible.  
The Compendium of Methodism.  
Church History, (according to a manual published by the religious society of Northern Germany,) vol. i.  
Discipline, chapters i, ii, iii, sec. 4; chap. iv, sec. 6-18; chap. viii, sec. 3, 4.  
Elements of German Grammar, by Spittlegarb.  
A written Essay on some religious subject.

*Second Year.*

- The doctrines of the Bible concerning the Sacraments.  
Wesley's Sermons, vol i, from Nos. 15-30.  
Wesley's Plain Account of Christian Perfection.  
Kurtz's Manual of Sacred History.  
Church History, vols. ii and iii.  
Fletcher's Appeal.  
The whole first Part of the Discipline.  
Wurst's Grammar and Logic.  
A written Sermon on the difference between repentance and faith.  
N. B. We recommend, also, the reading of Nelson's Cause and Cure of Infidelity.

*Third Year.*

- Wesley's Sermons, vol. ii, from Nos. 1-15.  
Bogue's Divine Authority of the New Testament.  
Kirchhofer's Introduction into the Holy Scriptures.  
Wesley's Life and Labors.  
Zeller's Psychology; or, Elements of Mental and Moral Philosophy.  
Church History, vols. iv and v.  
The whole of the Discipline.  
Wurst's Grammar and Logic.  
A written Sermon on the difference between justification and sanctification.  
N. B. We recommend the reading of D'Aubigné's History of the Reformation, vols. i and ii.

*Fourth Year.*

- Review of all the doctrines of the Bible, with the Scriptural proofs.  
Wesley's Sermons, vol. ii, from Nos. 15-33.  
Haldane's Genuineness and Divine Inspiration of the Bible.

Bishop Baker's Guide to the Discipline.

June 3, 1856.

Church History, vols. vi and vii.

Natural Theology, according to the Calwer Naturlehre.

Wurst's Grammar and Logic.

A written sermon on the Divinity and Humanity of Christ.

N. B. We recommend the reading of D'Aubigné's History of the Reformation, vols. iii and iv, and Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation.

We recommend, also, that English grammar and composition be studied from the beginning to the end of the course, and that the committee report to the Conference the progress of each candidate in this branch of study.

PLAN OF STUDY FOR GERMAN LOCAL PREACHERS.

I. *For those who wish to be ordained Deacons.*

The Theological Compend of A. Binney, translated by L. S. Jacoby. Course of study for German Local Preachers.

N. B. Each doctrine of the Bible to be proved by the Scriptural passages quoted.

Wesley's Sermons, vol. i.

Wesley's Plain Account of Christian Perfection.

Fletcher's Appeal.

Watson's Apology for the Bible.

The whole of the Discipline.

N. B. We recommend the reading of the Compendium of Methodism; D'Aubigné's History of the Reformation, vols. i and ii; Kirchofer's Introduction into the Bible.

II. *For those who wish to be ordained Elders.*

Review of all the doctrines of the Bible, and especially concerning the sacraments, with Scriptural proofs.

Wesley's Sermons, vol. ii.

Kurtz's Manual of Sacred History.

Haldane's Genuineness and Divine Inspiration of the Bible.

Wesley's Life and Labors.

Church History according to the Calwer Short Manual.

Bishop Baker's Guide to the Discipline.

A written Sermon on Baptism or the Lord's Supper.

N. B. We recommend the reading of D'Aubigné's History of the Reformation, vols. iii and iv; Bogue's Divine Authority of the New Testament, and Zeller's Psychology.

John M'Clintock moved a suspension of the rule requiring any proposed alteration in the Discipline to lie on the table for one day before action be taken thereon, in order to introduce a resolution providing that the next session of the

Motion to suspend the rule in order to change the time of next session.

- June 4, 1856. General Conference commence on the second Wednesday of November, A. D. 1860.
- Motion to suspend the rule laid on the table. On motion of John A. Collins, the motion to suspend the rule for the purpose specified was laid on the table by a vote of 94 to 50.
- Motion to adjourn *sine die*. John A. Collins moved that the Journal be now read, and that, as soon as it is approved, this General Conference shall adjourn *sine die*.
- Journals read and approved. The Journal was then read and approved, and at ten minutes past twelve A. M., June 4, A. D. 1856, Conference adjourned with singing the Doxology, and with the benediction by Bishop Ames.
- Final adjournment.

BEVERLY WAUGH,  
 THOMAS A. MORRIS,  
 EDMUND S. JANES,  
 LEVI SCOTT,  
 MATTHEW SIMPSON,  
 OSMON C. BAKER,  
 EDWARD R. AMES,

*Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church.*

WILLIAM L. HARRIS, *Secretary.*

BENJAMIN GRIFFEN,  
 JOHN S. MARTIN,  
 JEFFERSON LEWIS,  
 JAMES HILL, } *Assistant Secretaries.*

## APPENDIX.

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### A.

#### ADDRESS OF THE BISHOPS.

*To the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church :*

REVEREND AND DEAR BRETHREN,—That so many of us live to see the twelfth quadrennial session of the delegated General Conference, is an occasion of humble thanksgiving to our heavenly Father. In view of the toils and perils incident to our calling, the extensive range of our work, with all its variety of climate and disease, our preservation is more than could reasonably have been expected. We recognize here with pleasure the friendly countenances, and hear the familiar voices, of many senior brethren, with whom we have long been accustomed to mingle on such occasions, while we greet with equal satisfaction the junior members of the body, who are strong to labor, and who inspire hope for the future. This pleasure is sensibly heightened by the presence of honored brethren, who represent in this body the British and Canada Conferences, organizations to which we sustain a fraternal relation—a relation which it is both our interest and delight to strengthen and perpetuate. We also enjoy the pleasure of having with us the members of the Irish deputation, who visit our Churches to solicit sympathy and aid in their laudable efforts to promote the Wesleyan form of Protestant Christianity in Ireland. The distant fields and diversified interests represented by them, clearly indicate that our beloved Methodism, at once expansive and concentric, can adapt itself to all countries without losing its identity, efficiency, or social excellence. We hail these representatives from different branches of our Father's family as brethren beloved, and welcome them to our country, to our conference, to our homes, and to our hearts.

But several distinguished brethren, whose presence cheered our council four years ago, have finished their earthly pilgrimage and entered the promised rest above, thus reminding us that we are all passing away. Among these, our lamented co-laborers, Davis, Clark, and Gary, whose praise is in all the Churches, will long be remembered with gratitude by thousands for their works' sake. The announcement of their names reminds us of their venerable forms, refreshing counsels, and triumphant deaths. May we follow them as they followed Christ. What changes await us in the four years to come, who can tell? It behooves us in all places, especially here, to act in view of our present responsibility and final reckoning.

To make rules and regulations for twelve thousand ministers and preachers, and about eight hundred thousand communicants, is a highly responsible work, and to perform the task aright, requires much wisdom and calm reflection.

In the exercise of this prerogative, you will, of course, have constant reference to two great principles—to ascertain and provide for the real wants of the Church on the one hand, and to do this without infringing her constitutional “limitations and restrictions” on the other.

Such measures as may be evidently needful and clearly constitutional, should be promptly adopted; but no risk should be taken in regard to such as are of a doubtful character, lest the unity of the body ecclesiastic be periled.

It is with profound respect for, and fraternal confidence in, the judgment of this enlightened body, that we venture upon these general suggestions, and trust they will be received as kindly as they are given.

As to the general work among us, its progress since your last session has, upon the whole, been encouraging. This statement is sustained by satisfactory proof. In 1851 our official Minutes reported 4,450 traveling preachers, 5,700 local preachers, and 721,804 members and probationers; while our Minutes in 1855 give us 5,408 traveling preachers, 6,610 local preachers, and 799,431 members and probationers, showing a net increase during the four years past of 958 traveling preachers, 910 local preachers, and 77,627 members and probationers. The numerical table, however, does not exhibit all the fruit. Our brethren and friends have enlarged their means of usefulness, and their liberality in employing them. To name only a few items: they have evinced a commendable zeal in the erection of houses of worship, both as to the number and style of the edifices; they have made better provision for the support of their ministers and their families, and largely augmented their contributions for missions and other benevolent objects; thus showing a growing attachment to Methodism, and an increasing appreciation of its privileges. While devising these liberal things, they have, at different seasons, and in numerous places, enjoyed “times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.”

And now what we need, above all things, is such humble, active prayer and faith, as will secure a general outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all the preachers and their congregations, attended with convincing truth, godly sorrow, and saving mercy, and resulting in Gospel holiness of heart and life throughout our extended connection. Such a visitation of heavenly influence would reanimate our organization at home, and impart a fresh impulse to our foreign work. Then, too, the Church would arise by faith and assume her true aggressive and missionary character, while her ministers would be clothed with salvation. Revivals of experimental and practical religion develop the resources of the Church, and supply her pulpits and mission fields with living ministers—ministers of Christ’s own choosing, converted, called of God, and filled with faith and the Holy Ghost. These are the ministers needed everywhere, in town and in country, in city and foreign stations; to whom, under God, we may confidently look for success, and without them but little may be expected.

When the number of such ministers is insufficient to meet the demand,

let the Church remember the words of Christ: "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth laborers into his harvest." And let all who are thus Divinely called, study to show themselves approved unto God.

In this communication, the general superintendents cheerfully submit for your approval, or correction, their official administration during the last quadrennial term. Our official acts in the annual conferences will be before your committees, as embodied in the journals thereof, and in the General Minutes. Of the thirty-eight annual conferences in the United States and territories, no one has failed to receive our attention, or been left to hold a session without our presidency.

The work on the Pacific coast has been duly attended to, though the fourth annual visit has been postponed until after this General Conference, because of a desired and needful change in the time of holding their annual sessions. In accordance with the recommendation of the last General Conference, that one of us should visit Liberia once or oftener during the last four years, Bishop Scott visited this mission work in the winter of 1852-3, and on hearing his report, and duly considering the subject, we were of the opinion that another episcopal visitation prior to this period was not so important as to require such expense and service.

Thus far our joint superintendence has operated harmoniously, so that in all essential principles and usages of the episcopal administration, as well as in our social relations, we have been blessed with the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace, for which we would be devoutly thankful to our heavenly Father.

#### CHANGES OF DISCIPLINE.

There are some disciplinary regulations collaterally connected with our work, which we judge may properly claim your careful revision; and from the experience secured to us by our official relation to the executive administration, we deem it proper to invite your attention to them.

The rule requiring the concurrent advice of all the annual conferences, to authorize the bishops to call an extra session of the General Conference, we think unnecessarily restrictive. We have now thirty-eight annual conferences, and a probability of more; yet any one of them, though the least of all, might defeat the wishes of all the others in regard to an extra session, whatever might be the necessity for it. We respectfully suggest that any state of affairs which would satisfy three fourths or even two thirds of the annual conferences, and the bishops, that an extra session of the General Conference was really necessary, should be deemed a sufficient reason for calling it.

The number of representatives forming this body renders it too large to transact business with convenience and dispatch, and may perhaps suggest to yourselves, as it does to us, the propriety of reducing the ratio of representation. There is already constitutional provision for such reduction, so as to authorize, at your discretion, not less than one representative for every thirty members of annual conferences.

During the past four years several cases have occurred in which a change of the place of holding the conference has been desired. Two

conferences, the Oregon in 1853, and the Missouri in 1855, were changed from the places appointed at the previous sessions, such a course having been deemed necessary. We commend to your attention the propriety of some disciplinary enactment touching this matter.

Questions frequently arise in our administration respecting the responsibility of trustees of our Church property, and how far they are subject to the control of quarterly conference action, and we would suggest that this relation be defined by some explicit enactment.

The section defining the method of proceeding against accused traveling ministers is attended with much difficulty in its practical application. Among the difficulties complained of are the following: The law of evidence is not well digested or fully defined; of course conferences and parties are liable to be perplexed. The tribunals are too large to hope for the undivided attention of all the members during the progress of a complex case, and the loss of time is afflictive to a large body of pastors, anxious to be with their families and flocks. Some cases require nearly a week to dispose of them, during which all other business is suspended. Suppose a conference of one hundred members spend four days on a trial, then four hundred days of ministerial labor are lost from the great work of their vocation; and so in proportion to the size of the conference, and the time consumed in each case.

We suggest whether a tribunal, consisting of a select number of the conference, might not be formed, and authorized to try all cases of complaint against its members, as private members are tried by a select number of the society, without detaining the bishop and conference from their other duties. A select number, not exceeding fifteen, could investigate a case more conveniently, and secure the ends of justice more readily, if not more certainly, than a conference of one hundred or one hundred and fifty.

Similar difficulties are felt in trying appeals by this body. Cases may come before you so complex and voluminous, that the mere reading of the papers pertaining to one of them could scarcely be accomplished in a whole day, to say nothing of the time spent in the pleadings. And to expect the fixed attention of over two hundred delegates, hurried with other important business, two or three days to one case, is unreasonable. Besides, under the present rule, it often occurs that a brother expelled or suspended, cannot have his appeal heard, and his case finally determined, for three years or more.

To obviate these difficulties two plans have been suggested. One is a delegated annual conference, composed of one member from each annual conference, with authority to try all appeals, whether from the decision of an annual conference or that of a select number of it, without occupying the General Conference with them, or subjecting parties to injurious and needless delay. The same delegated annual conference, if deemed advisable, could be authorized to investigate complaints against a bishop, allowing him an appeal to the General Conference. It will be remembered that attention was called to this subject at your session of 1848, and that it was resumed in 1852, but under the pressure of many interests it was left with a mass of unfinished business. The chief objection we have heard to this plan is the expense and loss of time involved in attend-



ing such conference. But it is doubtful whether it would cost more time or much more money than the present system of trying appeals. The bishops have to meet yearly after the conferences are over, and could easily connect their meeting with that of the delegated annual conference.

The other plan suggested for relief, is a District Conference of Appeals in every episcopal district, composed of two delegates from each annual conference within its jurisdiction, to be held annually after the other conferences are over, and authorized to try appeals from the decisions of annual and quarterly conferences within its bounds, a bishop presiding. This District Conference, while it would not have cognizance of complaints against bishops, as in the other plan, might answer so far as appeals are concerned from the annual and quarterly conferences. If the members and ministers of our Church have the right of trial by committee, and of appeal to a new and competent tribunal, their constitutional rights are secured. These are grave matters, and worthy of patient consideration by the General Conference. As cases of trial and appeal increase in proportion as our ministers, traveling and local, multiply, every year's experience renders some relief more and more desirable.

THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE CHURCH claim a large share of your attention, and we feel assured will receive all the consideration which their admitted importance demands. We will briefly refer to a few of these.

#### EDUCATION.

In presenting to the notice of the General Conference this important subject, it affords us a high degree of gratification to report this department as being in a prosperous condition. The Methodist Episcopal Church, almost simultaneously with its organization, manifested commendable zeal in arranging plans for the diffusion of elementary literature and science. The success of those efforts was not equal to the reasonable expectations of the friends of learning; and after the disastrous fire which destroyed the edifice of Cokesbury College, there was for some years but little progress made in carrying into effect the early design of the Church. Indeed, in connection with, and growing out of, disheartening failures, a state of apparent indifference and inertness supervened. But from this supineness the Church has been fully aroused for the last fourth of a century, and the extent and vigor of its action in the prosecution of this cardinal interest, give good ground for confident expectation that Methodism will never again be second to any of the Churches of Christendom in the prosecution of this grand enterprise. There are, under the patronage and supervision of our Church, fourteen chartered institutions, under the name and style of university or college, in which liberal education is as thoroughly and successfully imparted as in similar schools under the supervision of other denominations, or of state authorities. Hundreds of the sons of our members and friends are being trained annually in these institutions for posts of honor and usefulness in the state and in the Church. In addition to these, we have some seventy or more academies or seminaries, most of them of a high grade, affording ample literary advantages to our youth of both sexes. Several of these institutions, however, some of them with

collegiate powers, are exclusively appropriated to female education. In these institutions there are large numbers of young ladies (and their number is annually increasing) who are being prepared to fill with dignity and ability the very important stations to which they are destined, in the progress of time, in the domestic, social, and religious circles of life. It is cause of devout thankfulness to God that our institutions of learning are so frequently blessed with revivals of religion. We commend to the continued fostering care of the General Conference and of the Church, all our educational interests. We would suggest, and we hope without giving offense, that the number of our colleges may be augmented injuriously to the general cause of liberal education; and, also, if there were a less liberal use of the high-sounding title of university, in connection with our literary institutions, it would bring them into no disesteem with the thoughtful and discriminating.

If Biblical schools were yet to be organized, it is not probable that we should feel called upon to make any allusion to them. But they actually exist at two points, and prospectively, perhaps, at others. Several annual conferences, both East and West, have approved and patronized them, while other conferences are aiming to accomplish similar results by Biblical departments connected with literary institutions. If it be the judgment of the Church that Biblical schools are desirable, then we would suggest, with due deference to all concerned, that they should be of a connectional character, and in some way responsible to the General Conference, so that their management and teaching shall be in harmony with the doctrines and Discipline of the Church.

#### PUBLISHING INTEREST.

It gives us great pleasure to state that the publishing interest has gone forward during the last four years in a course of steady and encouraging prosperity. For details we refer you to the reports of the Book Agents and Book Committees; but the following statements, drawn mainly from these reports, exhibit the present highly satisfactory condition of this great interest.

The number of subscribers to our various periodicals is as follows :

Christian Advocate and Journal.....	29,875
Western Christian Advocate.....	28,718
Northern Christian Advocate.....	15,000
Northwestern Christian Advocate.....	10,033
Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.....	8,000
Sunday-School Advocate.....	114,692
Missionary Advocate.....	34,000
Christian Apologist, (German,).....	6,967
Quarterly Review.....	2,721
National Magazine.....	15,875
Ladies' Repository.....	29,580

The whole number of subscribers to our various periodicals is 285,461; and the whole number of single copies of these useful publications, issued and scattered abroad in a year, is 9,097,840.

The Sunday-school, the Tract, and General Catalogues have been enlarged during the last four years by the addition of 543 new works, including 314 bound volumes, and 229 tracts. The Sunday-school Library, in its various series, now numbers 1,066 volumes.

The list of tract publications has already reached the respectable number of 72 tract volumes, and 585 tracts, including quite a number in the German, Swedish, and Danish languages; and the whole number of separate copies of books and tracts, large and small, issued by the two Conferences during the last four years, is 15,588,926, including 7,226,409 bound volumes, and 8,362,517 tracts and pamphlets.

#### THE TRACT CAUSE.

The action of the last General Conference in reference to the tract cause gave a new impulse to this important enterprise. Nearly all the annual conferences have formed auxiliaries; liberal contributions have been received; and the distribution of tracts and books, both by Churches and colporteurs, has been greatly increased. The system, however, is not yet fully matured, and the uniformity and consistency of action requisite for complete success have not yet been attained. We trust that this subject will receive your careful consideration.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Sunday-school cause is certainly among the most efficient auxiliaries of the Gospel ministry. It is the hope of our children, and they are the hope of the Church. By our published reports, it appears that we have an aggregate of 10,469 Sunday schools, 113,159 officers and teachers, and 579,126 scholars, making a very gratifying increase in this department during the past four years.

We would particularly invite your attention to the section of the Discipline respecting the religious instruction of children, and would suggest that such modifications be made as will place our children more fully under the watch-care and instruction of the Church, and especially that a more detailed plan be devised, which will render the pastoral duty there specified more practical.

#### MISSIONS.

Though the annual contributions to our Parent Missionary Society have not increased during the last year or two, yet the average amount for the last four years greatly exceeds that of any former period. Through the coöperation of this society our itinerant ministry has kept pace with the enlarging fields upon our Western frontier, embracing the work in California, and in the territories of Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Kansas, and Nebraska. Assistance has been given to societies in sparsely settled portions of the country, and new churches have been erected in the suburbs of our growing cities. The foreign population annually crowding our shores and settling in all parts of our territory, has received the attention of the Missionary Board. The work among the Germans has continued to enlarge and prosper. The efforts among the Scandinavian immigrants

have been very successful, and missions among the Welsh and French are still favored with a measure of prosperity.

The foreign department of our missionary work has continued to share largely in the interest and attention, both of the Church and the Board. No stations in foreign lands have been abandoned, and most of them have been enlarged. The Liberia Mission Conference has been prosperous, and is gradually strengthening.

Additional missionaries have been sent to strengthen our important and interesting mission in China, and also to South America. Missionaries have been sent to Norway and Sweden, and already a good degree of success has been enjoyed, and the prospect of usefulness in the future is encouraging. A mission has been established in India, and one of our active and esteemed brethren has recently sailed for that land as superintendent. The mission in Germany has been highly prosperous. There will, probably, be a memorial before you from our brethren there, requesting that they may be constituted a Mission Annual Conference, with authority to receive preachers and elect them to orders under the provision of the Discipline governing such cases. The mission in Germany has ever been regarded with much favor by our brethren and friends, and has been signally owned and blessed of God; and we doubt not that the General Conference will be disposed to promote its interest by all lawful and practicable means at their command. For details we refer you to the superintendent of that mission, who is present.

Your special attention will again be needed to the wants of our brethren on the western coast of Africa, more particularly as to the exercise of episcopal functions. Two points are clear to us: first, that episcopal authority on the spot is very desirable for the interest of the mission in Liberia; secondly, that it cannot be regularly furnished from this country without embarrassing our home work. How it may best be supplied is for you to determine. Three modes have been suggested: first, for the General Conference to appoint a bishop, and send him to organize them as the Methodist Episcopal Church of Africa; second, to let them organize themselves, elect their bishop, and send him to us for ordination; third, to appoint a missionary bishop to take charge of that work, we retaining jurisdiction over it. As this subject has received much attention from you heretofore, we shall not dwell upon it; but we trust you will be able to make such provision as will secure the best interests of all concerned. But whatever disposition may be made of the case, we hope the brethren of Liberia will never cease to receive our Christian sympathy, and that the missionary dividend will be continued to them as long as they need and properly use it.

The chief obstacle encountered in prosecuting our foreign work, arises from the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient number of missionaries of suitable qualifications. There are frequent and embarrassing delays in organizing missions, and getting them under way; and when on the spot, active movements in beginning the work are necessarily deferred for want of sufficient information as to the language, laws, customs, and manners of the inhabitants. In some instances, before these difficulties are overcome, and the work fairly commenced, the missionaries become discouraged on account of the climate, or the small prospect of immediate success, and

quit the field. Thus double expense is incurred in going and returning; much time is lost, and the enterprise embarrassed, if not defeated, and the natives still left in the darkness and misery of sin, and on the way to perdition. We need a class of brethren who will deliberately make up their minds to take this work for life, and adhere to it through weal and woe.

Some look for relief to a Missionary Seminary, where, under competent preceptors, candidates might be directed in such a course of reading and study as would prepare them for their particular fields of labor, and where brethren set apart for the foreign work would be comparatively free from temptation to turn aside to other pursuits.

Having thus adverted to the embarrassments connected with this subject, we submit it to your consideration to provide a remedy.

#### SLAVERY.

In compliance with the request of the Troy, Erie, North Ohio, and Wisconsin Conferences, different resolutions, asking a change in the General Rule on slavery, were laid before all the annual conferences for their concurrence. The result will be found by inspection of the Journals; but, we believe, no one of these resolutions received the constitutional majority of the members of the annual conferences. In view of this fact, the question may arise, whether this body has authority to change the Discipline upon this subject so as to affect membership in the Church. We are aware that it is difficult to separate the consideration of the desirableness of any measure from its constitutionality, and especially so where deep feeling on the subject may exist. Yet we think it to be our duty to express our strong doubts whether, in view of the restricted powers of a delegated General Conference, any measure equivalent to a change in the General Rules can be constitutionally adopted without the concurrence of the annual conferences. As to the propriety of any modifications not of such a character as to conflict with the constitutional economy of the Church, while opinions and views may be various, we can fully confide in the wisdom of this General Conference as the supreme council of the Church.

In our administration in the territory where slavery exists, we have been careful not to transcend in any instance, or in any respect, what we understood to be the will and direction of the General Conference. That body having retained its jurisdiction over conferences previously existing in such territory, and having directed the organization of additional conferences, it became our duty to arrange the districts, circuits, and stations, and to superintend them as an integral part of the Church. As the result, we have six annual conferences which are wholly or in part in slave territory. These conferences have a white Church membership, including probationers, of more than one hundred and forty-three thousand, with the attendants upon our ministry making a probable population of between five and six hundred thousand. They have a colored Church membership, including probationers, of more than twenty-eight thousand, with the attendants upon our ministry making a probable population of upward of a hundred thousand. A portion of this population are slaves. The others are mostly poor. They are generally strongly

attached to the Church of their choice, and look to it confidently for ministerial services, religious sympathy, and all the offices of Christian kindness. The white membership in these conferences, in respect to intelligence, piety, and attachment to Methodist Discipline and economy, will compare favorably with other portions of the Church.

In our judgment, the existence of these conferences and Churches under their present circumstances, does not tend to extend or perpetuate slavery. They are known to be organized under a Discipline which characterizes slavery as a great evil; which makes the slaveholder ineligible to any official station in the Church, where the laws of the state in which he lives will admit of emancipation, and permit the liberated slave to enjoy freedom; which disfranchises a traveling minister who by any means becomes the owner of a slave or slaves, unless he executes, if it be practicable, a legal emancipation of such slaves, conformably to the laws of the state wherein he lives; which makes it the duty of all the ministers to enforce upon all the members the necessity of teaching their slaves to read the word of God, and allowing them time to attend upon the public worship of God on our regular days of Divine service; which prohibits the buying and selling of men, women, and children with an intention to enslave them, and inquires what shall be done for the extirpation of the evil of slavery.

With this Discipline freely circulated among the people, or certainly within the reach of any who desire to examine it, and with other Churches existing in the same territory without these exactments, these societies and conferences have, either by elective affinity adhered to, or from preference associated with, the Methodist Episcopal Church. In a few instances their Church relations have exposed them to some peril, and in numerous cases to sacrifices. But such have been their moral worth, and Christian excellence, and prudent conduct, that generally they have been permitted to enjoy their religious immunities, and serve and worship God according to their consciences.

And now, brethren, in conclusion, will you suffer the word of exhortation? We have long regretted two things connected with General Conference proceedings, namely, needless loss of time in the early part of the session, and too much haste toward its termination. We trust that on this occasion both will be avoided; that the Conference will enter upon its duties promptly, and that every member will patiently remain at his post until every part of it is duly considered and regularly disposed of. We trust your deliberations will be characterized by fraternal courtesy and a devotional spirit. May the Spirit of all grace descend upon you, and upon the whole Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BEVERLY WAUGH,  
THOMAS A. MORRIS,  
EDMUND S. JANES,  
LEVI SCOTT,  
MATTHEW SIMPSON,  
OSMON C. BAKER,  
EDWARD R. AMES.

INDIANAPOLIS, *May 3, 1856.*

## B.

## ADDRESS OF THE BRITISH CONFERENCE.

*To the Reverend the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States :*

LONDON, April 1, 1856.

REV. AND DEAR BRETHREN: This letter will, we trust, be delivered to you by the Rev. John Hannah, D. D., the representative appointed by the Conference held at Leeds, in August last, to attend the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Indianapolis, and the Rev. Frederic James Jobson, appointed to accompany and assist Dr. Hannah. The ministers assembled at the Conference had sincere pleasure in thus deputing two of their highly esteemed brethren to visit your General Conference, and to convey to you in person the assurance of that affectionate and respectful regard which they cherish for the Church over which you preside, and their cordial desire for the maintenance of such relations between the two bodies as befit their common origin and their substantial unity. We have sincerely regretted the occurrence of any circumstances capable of being so misconstrued, as to seem indicative of a diminished regard for you and your Church; and we take this opportunity of again assuring you that, notwithstanding the absence of a representative from us at your last General Conference, and the accidental and inexplicable failure of our communication in 1849, we have never ceased to love you as brethren, to honor you as the Lord's instruments for accomplishing a great spiritual work, to rejoice in your stability and increase, and to wish you all possible comfort and usefulness. But on these matters we will not further enlarge, nor do we think it needful now to enter into extended statements concerning the circumstances and prospects of our connection. These will be fully represented to you by our representative and his companion. It has afforded us much satisfaction that this mission of fraternal love has been undertaken by brethren so eminently qualified to convey all needful information respecting our affairs and our habitual sentiments toward you. Still less necessary is it for us to bespeak for them your confidence and kindness. Dr. Hannah is not unknown to you, having accompanied the venerable Mr. Reece to your General Conference more than thirty years ago; and were he without this advantage, we are persuaded that you would not fail to "receive him and his companion in the Lord as cometh saints." A recent instance of your kindness in this respect to the deputation sent by the last Irish Conference to solicit help for the work of God in Ireland, is fully appreciated by us, and will doubtless be (in due time) suitably acknowledged by the proper parties. During the last few weeks we have heard with deep concern rumors of disagreements, involving apprehensions of hostility, between the United States and Great Britain, but we trust that they are rather to be regarded as arising from complications of political partisanship than as implying a prevalent national sentiment, or even a grave purpose or tendency on the part of

the rulers of either country. Most sincerely should we (and we doubt not you also) deplore that any misunderstanding should be allowed to sever those bonds of fraternal amity and common interest in which our respective countries have so long been held, and to plunge into war the two nations who ought to be most closely united. Our mutual prayers will, we trust, avail with the great Ruler of nations to avert so dire a calamity. Accept, dear and reverend brethren, in conclusion, our best wishes for the blessing of God upon yourselves and your approaching Conference, and for the continual prosperity of his work throughout the widely-extended region over which your charge extends. May he make you perfect in every good work, to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever, Amen.

Signed in behalf and by order of the Conference,  
ISAAC KEELING, President.

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C.

REPLY TO THE ADDRESS FROM THE BRITISH CONFERENCE.

*The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States to the Wesleyan Methodist Conference of Great Britain, to assemble at Bristol on Wednesday, July 30, 1856 :*

REVEREND AND DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHERN : Your fraternal letter from London, of April 1, 1856, addressed to our bishops, was presented and read to this Conference on the second day of our session. At the same time were introduced to the Conference your and our highly-esteemed brethren, Dr. Hannah and Mr. Jobson ; now much more highly esteemed in love, for their works' sake, since they have exercised among us the "ministry of reconciliation," proclaiming to us "the love of Christ which passeth knowledge," and have gone in and out among us, socially and officially, for many days.

We cordially thank you, dear brethren, for sending among us, for a season, these "servants of the Most High God." In Dr. Hannah many of our elder brethren have rejoiced to meet a minister of Christ in the full maturity of years and wisdom ; whom you have now twice made your president ; whom they saw and heard in the fervor of his youthful zeal.

In Mr. Jobson, his clerical companion, we found a Wesleyan minister, whose cultivated taste, genial spirit, fervent mind, and evangelical ministry, enshrined him in our warmest love, and led us to hope that we, or our successors, may again see and hear him in our "delightful land."

These brethren beloved have told us of the times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord, with which you have been favored since the last "troublous times" in which you have been tried. In this we do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice. God has also sent us prosperity. In the



four years since our last General Conference we have greatly enlarged our bounds and increased our numbers. Our Minutes show a net addition of nine hundred and fifty-eight traveling preachers, nine hundred and ten local preachers, and seventy-seven thousand six hundred and twenty-seven members and probationers. Our missionary contributions have exceeded former times, and our missions, domestic and foreign, have been signally honored by the One Father, who is above all, and through all, and in us all.

You will learn from the proceedings of this Conference, that we have taken measures to aid our brethren and yours in Ireland, by men and means, and instructed the delegates who may be elected to attend your Conference also to visit the Irish Conference.

We heartily reciprocate your prayers for unbroken peace between our kindred and Protestant nations, to whom the God of all the families of the earth has committed so many great trusts. May the Prince of Peace continue to avert war, and unite us *forever* in "the bond of peace." Thus may we,

"One in heart, in interest, and design,  
Gird up each other for the race divine;"

until God, by us,

"Shall fill the earth with golden fruit,  
With ripe millennial love."

We have chosen as our honored representatives, Rev. Matthew Simpson, D. D., one of our seven bishops; and as co-delegate, John M'Clintock, D. D., well known on your side of the ocean: men who have been highly approved among our Churches, and honored of God.

In conclusion, reverend and dear fathers and brethren, we commend you to God, and pray that our love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment, that we may approve things that are excellent, that we may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

INDIANAPOLIS, *June 3, 1856.*

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D.

ADDRESS OF THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CONFERENCE IN CANADA.

*To the Reverend the Bishops and Members of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in conference assembled:*

REVEREND AND DEAR FATHERS AND BROTHERS: "Grace be unto you, and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ."

Permit us, your sons and brethren in the Gospel, to present to you our respectful acknowledgments for the kind and affectionate manner in which you received our representative, the Rev. Dr. Green, as well as

for the appointment of a distinguished member of your body to represent you in our Conference. We anticipated with much pleasure the visit of Mr. Gary to our country, but have to regret that he was removed from his high position in the Church militant, before our anticipations were realized. We sympathize with you in this bereavement, which has not only removed from your ranks "a brother whose praise was in all the Churches," but in the absence of any substitute to fill his place, has for a season deprived us of that interchange of personal communication which is so desirable and beneficial.

It is a matter of much thankfulness to the Divine Being, that while, year after year, he is removing to their eternal reward the fathers of the Church—those holy, self-denying veterans who first planted Churches in the wilds of America—he is also raising up a promising class of young men, filled with faith and the Holy Ghost, to carry on the glorious warfare.

We regret that no address has reached us from the last session of your venerable body; but the want of a letter from you has, in some degree, been supplied by the good tidings brought back by our own representative, and from other authentic sources, by which we rejoice to learn that you have peace in all your borders, and are blessed with a good degree of prosperity throughout your entire work.

Your noble efforts in the cause of religious and collegiate education are above all praise. These combined and continued efforts to form and elevate the moral and intellectual character of the rising generation, cannot fail, we think, to inspire confidence in the wisdom of your councils, and confer lasting and untold benefits upon the country at large.

We have looked with the liveliest interest upon your missionary operations, and especially upon the extension of your work in *foreign lands*. The position you occupy is onerous and commanding. For a long time the first Church in your country in point of *numbers*, and now also in point of *wealth*, it cannot but be gratifying to all the lovers of our Zion, to notice the zeal with which you employ the appliances at command in sending abroad the "glad tidings" of salvation.

At home, God has enabled you to turn a barren wilderness into a fruitful field, and make the "desert rejoice and blossom as the rose;" and we praise God on your behalf, that he has enabled you to send back the pure flame of the Gospel truth, to bless the country of Luther, and re-illumine the land of the Reformation.

Accept, dear brethren, our best wishes and fervent prayers, that in these and in all other departments of your great and widely-extending operations, the blessings of the Lord may continue to rest upon you, causing you to abound more and more in every good word and work; for, while he is your leader, "ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir-tree, and instead of the briar shall come up the myrtle-tree; and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

It will, we doubt not, afford you much pleasure to learn that the present is a happy and prosperous day with us in Canada. The demon

of discord is not permitted, as formerly, to scatter his "firebrands, arrows, and death." Peace reigns in our Church; joy dwells in our hearts, and God, even our God, is causing us to triumph in every department of the work committed to our care. Our people take a deep interest and manifest a growing liberality in supporting the institutions of the Church. Since we last addressed you they have doubled their contributions for the sustentation of our missions. All our connectional funds are well sustained, and we can recollect no period in our Church's history when so many beautiful and commodious edifices were being erected for Divine worship as at the present time.

Victoria College is increasing in popularity and usefulness, and we are making arrangements for a more thorough and liberal training of such young men in our Church as are called to the Christian ministry.

The field of our operations has been greatly enlarged of late, by the union and consolidation of Wesleyan Methodism in the two Canadas and the Hudson's Bay Territory. By mutual arrangements between us and the British Conference, all the Wesleyan societies throughout this vast region of country have been placed under our care. A wide field for benevolent and Christian enterprise is thus opened up before us—a field extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, and from the great Lakes to the Arctic regions, everywhere dotted with human beings waiting for the bread of life.

We have much reason to be thankful for the measure of success which has crowned our missionary efforts among the Indian tribes and newly-settled portions of country. Our missionaries are pioneering these rough and rugged portions of the field, as did your fathers aforetime; new missions are being every year formed, and yet the cry is continually heard, "Come over and help us." In the strength of Divine grace, and in constant dependence upon that assistance which such grace alone can impart, we hope to continue our efforts until the "wilderness shall" indeed "become a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest." But we are not ignorant of the difficulties that lie in our way, and the combinations of error with which we must constantly contend.

We have the most unwavering confidence in the Gospel we preach. We know it to be the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, and must eventually subdue the world to the obedience of Christ. But, while we are thus confident, and can have no doubt of the final issue, we are reminded by the increasing boldness of our foes, and the dangerous leaven of error which is working in different portions of the community, that we have something more to do than to "hold fast the form of sound words," which our fathers have left for our guidance. Popery, with its kindred errors, is still rampant in our land. The bold manner in which its emissaries are endeavoring to revive that ancient heresy which seeks to extinguish that light which *the Reformation with an open Bible* has shed upon the world, admonishes us, not only to contend earnestly for the "faith once delivered to the saints," but carefully to watch over our own spirits and affections, that we may constantly experience the rich benefits of deep personal piety, and preach

the incorruptible truths of the Gospel under the abiding influences of God the Spirit.

We have appointed as our representatives to your venerable body, our honored and much respected brethren, the Rev. Enoch Wood, President of the Conference, (should he be able to attend, or the Rev. John Ryerson, co-delegate,) and the Rev. Richard Jones; brethren beloved, in whose piety and judgment we have the utmost confidence; and to whom we refer you for any further information which you may desire concerning our affairs.

That you may abound more and more in every good word and work, and see the Church committed to your care rise still higher in piety, liberality, and general usefulness, is the constant prayer, dear brethren, of your sons in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Signed in behalf of the Conference.

LONDON, C. W., June, 1855.

S. D. RICE, Secretary.

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## E.

### REPLY TO THE ADDRESS FROM THE CANADA CONFERENCE.

*To the Members of the Canada Wesleyan Methodist Conference :*

REVEREND AND DEAR BRETHREN : We rejoice in another opportunity of renewing our former assurances of love and good-will.

The presence among us of the two honored representatives of your Conference, the Rev. John Ryerson and the Rev. Richard Jones, has had the effect to bind our hearts more closely to yours in the strong bonds of Christian charity, while their public ministrations among us have also tended, we trust, to draw our affections more and more to heavenly things. The familiar Christian intercourse and fellow-feeling of these excellent brethren, united with similar manifestations of the same spirit, from the delegates of the British and Irish Wesleyan Conferences, have, both by word and deed, brought home to our hearts in all its sweetness, the truth of that often repeated, but always refreshing declaration, that "Wesleyan Methodism is *one* in all the earth."

We have learned, with unfeigned gratitude to the Giver of all good, both from your fraternal letter, and also more in detail from your representatives, of your continued and even increasing prosperity. Your zeal and your success, in your great enterprises of Christian benevolence, inspire a glorious hope for your future. The peace that reigns in all your borders; the liberality of your contributions to benevolent purposes; your increasing educational facilities; your self-sacrificing ministry; your rapidly-multiplying Churches; your success in saving souls; your wide-spreading missionary fields; your unshaken confidence in "the God of our fathers," all impress upon us the pleasing conviction that your growth is rapid, symmetrical, and healthy. May

“the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus,” prosper you yet more and more.

You will rejoice, we doubt not, to learn, that, through God’s blessing upon our labors, we have been able, through each succeeding year, to push forward our Christian enterprises with increasing activity and power. Our periodicals, our missionary, tract, and Sunday-school reports, so available to you, make it unnecessary that we should, in this paper, go into particular detail in relation to these interests. Suffice it to say, that in all these departments there is increasing activity throughout our connection. The blessing of God upon the faithful labors of our fathers, has placed within our reach the means of carrying forward these enterprises, on a scale of larger dimensions than their founders would have dared to anticipate.

The increasing attention everywhere given to the erection of commodious and substantial church edifices, while it has afforded but an inadequate supply to an increasing demand, is yet, we trust, an encouraging indication of that permanence which must ever be an object dear to every enlightened friend of our Zion.

The last four years have witnessed a gratifying increase in the membership of our Church. From 1851 to 1855, the average net increase per annum was more than nineteen thousand souls; and from the cheering accounts of revivals in all parts of our wide-spread connection, we judge that the Minutes of 1856 will show a much larger annual increase. These fruits of the Gospel, we think, afford evidence that “God is with us.” The conversion of the soul to God through our instrumentality, the restoration of the fallen spirit to the Divine image, is to us a cheering indication that God owns our labors. May we never be destitute of this evidence of Christ speaking in us.

We trust the same gracious Providence, which has guided our more directly religious movements, has also led our way in the educational departments of our Church.

Within the memory of men now living, there have grown up in our midst, and under our own control, nearly one hundred literary institutions of a high rank, embracing universities, colleges for both sexes, and first-class seminaries. Perhaps in no other department has so large a ratio of conversions taken place as in these institutions of learning.

You will doubtless be gratified to learn that an effort to more thoroughly infuse the religious element into our colleges and universities, meets with great favor from all parts of our Church. We allude to the establishment of *Biblical Departments* in these institutions.

While an antiquated and sickly superstition leads its votaries to withhold from the multitude a book, whose teachings are of infinitely higher value to the race than those of all other books of all ages, we are determined that the Bible, *The Book*, shall have a prominent place in all departments of education within our control. We fear the word of God has not hitherto exerted that influence in molding the character, tastes, and habits of our students of learning, which would have made them wiser and better men. While the student communes with heathen poets, heathen philosophers, and heathen historians, shall he fail to find in the college course that most sublime poetry, that most pure philoso-

phy, that most ancient and most reliable history, given by God's own inspiration? While heathen gods are everywhere speaking to the student, shall not the living God utter his voice? While the student sees everywhere heathen sacrifices smoking upon heathen altars, shall he not lift up his eyes to the great atoning Sacrifice whose blood cleanseth from all sin? While all science, truly so called, imparts a knowledge of God, unfolding his methods in the earth and in the heavens, the science of salvation, God's method of bringing earth's teeming millions to glory, is infinitely above all else, and deserves the corresponding attention of mankind.

We congratulate you on the confidence you express in the Gospel of the Son of God, as altogether suited to human wants. We rejoice in the same confidence. The Gospel in its simplicity—the Gospel as “the power of God unto salvation”—the Gospel proclaimed by men who feel its saving power—preached with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven, is God's remedy for this world's woes. The only thing that is wrong in this world is the human heart. The only remedy for this wrong is the “Gospel of the grace of God.” “Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.”

Finally, dearly beloved brethren, may you, and we, and all ministers of the Lord Jesus, in every place, preach these doctrines fully, faithfully, earnestly; “warning every man, and teaching every man, in all wisdom: that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” Then shall we, in our day and generation, contribute something toward the ushering in of that happy period, when “The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf, and the young lion, and the fating together, and a little child shall lead them.” \* \* \* \* When “they shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

We have selected as our delegates to your reverend body, our much-esteemed brethren, the Rev. Minor Raymond, the Rev. William Hamilton, and the Rev. L. W. Berry, who will bear to you, by God's good providence, our Christian salutations, and whose intercourse with you, we trust, shall tend to our mutual love and edification.

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## F.

### ADDRESS OF THE IRISH CONFERENCE.

*To the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America:*

REVEREND AND DEAR FATHERS AND BROTHERS: We, the ministers of the Methodist Connection in Ireland, now assembled in our Annual Conference, beg leave respectfully to commend to your fraternal regards the Rev. Robinson Scott, an accredited member of our body, and deputed

by us to visit your country on an important mission, the object of which is set forth in the "Minutes" of our present sittings, and which he is able more fully to explain.

As a religious body, both we and our beloved people, in common with other evangelical denominations, have, for some years past, been more than ordinarily impressed with the conviction that the recent visitations of Providence upon this, in many respects unhappy land, are a loud call for more vigorous efforts on our part to develop to the utmost every possible *resource*, in order to give the Gospel to the masses of our fellow-countrymen. We have, however, labored under circumstances of great discouragement. By emigration, and the estrangement of our youth, through want of educational institutions, in which they might receive a religious training, in accordance with our own views, our numerical strength has been greatly diminished. Besides, our connectional funds, designed to extend the work of God in the neglected and destitute parts of the country, being required to sustain our ministry on depressed circuits, such extensive aggressive operations as are required by the circumstances of our country, and which we are persuaded would be attended with the Divine approbation and much success, have hitherto been impossible.

Calling to mind, however, the successes which attended the labors of our fathers, the vitality of the truths committed to our trust, and to which the Lord continues most encouragingly to set his seal, the adaptation of our system for a yet more extensive appliance of those truths, together with the advantages of a position, from which, were the means at our disposal, it would be easy to embrace every hamlet in the land, we, in conjunction with many of the more influential members of our societies, have been led not only to endeavor after an improved state of things in our existing circuits, but to aim at a connectional movement, whereby, through the Divine blessing, a new impulse might be given to the energies of our whole system.

In the meantime private communications from several Irish emigrants, together with editorial and other articles in Methodist publications, which circulate widely in the United States, encouraged the assurance that such a movement would meet with extensive practical sympathy from our American brethren, and that a deputation on its behalf would be favorably received, an assurance which was otherwise naturally induced by the consideration that numbers now in the American Churches are the children of Irish Methodists, or themselves the direct fruit of Irish Methodist labors.

A meeting was accordingly held in connection with our present Conference, composed of all its members and of lay friends from different parts of the kingdom, and a subscription opened, which reached the cheering amount of £8,800, as the basis of a fund for the increase of the Wesleyan Methodist agency in Ireland; nor will that meeting be less remembered for the spirit of simple piety and fervent gratitude, than for the noble expression of liberality which characterized its proceedings. Deputations have been appointed to visit all our circuits and missions, and we confidently expect that the amount will be considerably augmented. We have named £20,000 as a *minimum*; but if, by

the liberality of our friends in Ireland and in America, a much larger sum could be obtained, we should be able to carry out our aggressive operations upon the masses of our countrymen, upon a scale more extensive and permanently efficient.

To secure the required amount it was resolved to request the Conference to appoint a deputation to the United States and Canada, and, in compliance with that request, Brother Robinson Scott has been set apart for this service. He possesses the full confidence of his brethren, and is followed by their prayers, that the cause which he pleads may obtain favor among your people, and that his ministry and intercourse may be the means also of imparting some spiritual benefit.

The Conference have also addressed a letter to the Missionary Committee in London, requesting that the valuable services of their gifted countryman, the Rev. William Arthur, A. M., one of the General Secretaries, may be granted for the purposes of the deputation; and as he has kindly signified his willingness to undertake this labor of love for his native country, it is confidently hoped that at a period of the year most suited to the convenience of the committee, this request will be granted.

At the request of the Conference, Alderman M'Arthur, of Londonderry, who takes a deep interest in our cause, has consented to afford his services also for a short time during the spring of next year.

Our highly esteemed friend and father, the Rev. Thomas Waugh, who, we have reason to believe, is well known to you by character, in connexion with the services which he has so long rendered to Wesleyan Methodism in Ireland, has been requested to write a private note to each bishop individually, and it is expected his communication will have arrived before the presentation of this document.

We cherish the confidence, venerable brethren, that you will receive our deputation affectionately, and, by your counsel and the influence of your high position, facilitate the object of their mission, bearing as it ultimately must on the well-being of your own Churches and nation, which will continue to receive yearly accessions from the population whose moral and spiritual interests it is designed more immediately to promote, as well as upon the interests of Methodism in this benighted land.

Signed on behalf and by order of the Conference.

JOHN FARRAR, *President.*

JOHN F. MATTHEWS, *Secretary.*

BELFAST, June 28, 1855.

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## G.

### REPLY TO THE ADDRESS OF THE IRISH CONFERENCE.

REVEREND FATHERS AND BRETHREN: Your fraternal letter, presented to us by your representative, the Rev. Robinson Scott, was received with the highest gratification, and the kind greetings of your deputation have met with a most hearty response. We trust that the intercourse



which you have commenced will continue, and always be to our mutual edification and comfort.

You have already, we presume, been advised of the kind reception with which Rev. Messrs. Scott, Arthur, and Cather, have met in this country, both from our beloved superintendents, and our hospitable people.

All our bishops have commended *them* to the fraternal regards of our membership, and their *cause* to the consideration of an enlightened Protestant public.

Every annual conference before which they have appeared has promptly, cheerfully, and strongly given its commendation to their mission, and every Church to which they have applied has received them kindly. Already have forty-three thousand dollars been subscribed, and we have not the least doubt that this amount can easily be raised to one hundred thousand.

We look with the deepest interest and sympathy upon Irish Methodists. Were we in your circumstances, and you in ours, we should probably take the liberty to draw upon you for aid on the warrant of the golden rule, and expect the draft to be honored. We cannot, therefore, blame you for making a check upon us, nor hesitate to cancel it. We thank you for the confidence you repose in us. You honor us; and had Providence given us the gold as He has to our people, we would pour it out to your messengers as God pours the streams at our feet.

We commend your deputation anew to American Protestantism generally, and American Methodism specially. Your effort is an attempt to purify one of the great fountains of our foreign population, and you have a claim upon all Protestants, while you have a particular demand upon us, founded not only upon our common origin and common faith, but upon the fact that the very foundations of our American Methodist Church were laid by Irishmen, and that a large portion of her ministry and membership are natives of your island.

We humbly trust that your deputation will continue in this country until the sum named shall have been realized, although it may detain them for months to come. It may be the order of Divine Providence that we should derive largely of your spiritual gifts, before you derive largely of our temporal gifts.

It is cheering to us to see your grand connectional movement: it shows the vitality of our doctrines. May you continue your efforts, under the blessing of God, until your missionaries and schoolmasters shall preach and teach in every district, your colporteurs read the word of God in every hamlet, and your college supply the educational wants of all your youth.

Should it be in our power, at any time, to aid you by men or means, in spreading Scriptural holiness over your land, we trust that you will readily and confidently command us.

## H.

## ADDRESS FROM THE FRENCH CONFERENCE.

DEAR AND HONORED FATHERS AND BRETHREN: Your brethren, "the pastors and ministers of the Methodist section of the Church of Christ in France and Switzerland," gladly embrace the opportunity of your meeting in General Conference, to convey to you their cordial greetings, and to confer with you officially, on matters pertaining to the work of God among them. We are united to you, not only by the ties of a common faith, and of similar religious institutions, but likewise by the co-operation which you have, by means of your Missionary Board, so generously afforded us in the prosecution of our evangelical labors. May you be rewarded from on high, dear brethren, for "the riches of your liberality." To these you have doubtless added your sympathies and prayers, and have thus given to your pecuniary assistance an additional value and efficacy.

Addressing you for the first time, we deem it right to enter into some details respecting our labors, our difficulties, and our prospects.

It is now full half a century since Methodism unfurled, for the first time in France, the banner of the "glorious Gospel of the blessed God." The beginnings were small indeed, but remarkably well timed and providential. In the year 1791, a pious tradesman, member of the Methodist Society in one of the Channel Islands, came on business to a village on the coast of Normandy. There was in that neighborhood a small community of Protestants, almost entirely deprived, through the awful state of public affairs in France, of the services of a minister, and of the public means of grace.

Nevertheless, they usually met among themselves on the Sabbath day, and our friend gladly embraced the opportunity of joining with them in their social worship. In the afternoon meeting he was requested, in the absence of the usual reader, to conduct the service, which he did in the fervent spirit of true Methodism, by simply relating his conversion to God, exhorting the people to accept salvation, and praying with them.

From that period, at the earnest request of the little flock, preachers from the Island of Guernsey visited them at stated intervals, until one of their number became, at length, a resident missionary.

But it was soon found impracticable to carry on the work. Through one of those mysterious dispensations, with which we have almost become familiarized in France, and which seem, for a time, to blast every hope of success, our preachers were obliged to retire. During the prolonged wars of the republic and the empire, all attempts to spread the truth proved ineffectual. Nor was it till twenty-five years afterward, in 1816, on the arrival of the Rev. Charles Cook in France, that the mission was finally reëstablished. This became, in reality, its starting point.

The work soon began to take root, and to spread. Doors of usefulness were successively opened to us, both in the north and south of France, as well as in Switzerland, and on the frontiers of Italy.

In the South our missionaries have been received among the Protestant or Huguenot populations in the vineyards of Languedoc, and the mountains of Dauphiny. Stations have been established in the Cevennes, in whose rugged hills the martyred Protestants once found a refuge and a stronghold. We have likewise penetrated into those distant and almost inaccessible valleys of the French Alps, where dwell the remains of the old Waldensian Churches; and we have visited their more favored brethren, the Vaudois, in the fertile valleys of Piedmont, on the southern declivity of the Alpine range. At a later period, labors have been undertaken in the Island of Corsica, and on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

In the North we have been enabled to form stations among the Roman Catholic populations in some important centers. Doors of usefulness have thus been opened to us in the provinces of Champagne, of Normandy, Flanders, and Auvergne, and more especially in the capital of the French empire, in Paris.

The present statistics of our work are as follows: There are under the direction of the French Conference one hundred and forty preaching places, twenty-two ordained ministers and probationers, nine evangelists, forty-five local preachers, one thousand one hundred and seventy-eight members meeting in class, and seventy-three on trial; thirty-three Sabbath-schools, in which are one hundred and ninety-eight teachers, and one thousand six hundred and six scholars; two training schools for day-school teachers, containing about fifty scholars.

The result indicated by these figures may be, perhaps, considered by some of our friends as a very small return for so many years' labor and outlay. But this impression will vanish when they become better acquainted with our situation, and shall have examined more fully the difficulties with which we have to cope. Of these a very brief enumeration will suffice.

Some of the hinderances to our outward progress arise from the evangelical strictness of our teachings and Discipline. The due observance of the Lord's day, stated attendance on class-meetings, and regular subscriptions in favor of the work of God, are some of the duties cheerfully complied with by the members of our societies. But they prove to be obstacles to many persons in a country where the Sabbath is generally reserved for easy labor or for pleasure, where religious habits are neither readily formed, nor easily retained, where the true spirit of sacrifice is a rarity, and the united influences of popery and infidelity have cast, as it were, a spell over the conscience and religious habits of the people. Many, therefore, either stand altogether aloof from such Christian fellowship as enforces duty, or else choose the easier path, and unite themselves to those denominations who are less stringent than ours in their conditions of membership.

Again, our work in France has had to go through a preparatory process. Being of foreign origin, it has had to be first implanted, and then naturalized on the continent. We have had to impress on our friends the value of our institutions, to train native agents for their special callings, to prepare our own religious literature, and to provide places of worship, by the erection of which our cause might more easily acquire the confidence of the public as to its stability and permanence.

We are far from having attained these various objects. There are legal difficulties in the way of our building chapels; few young men in our societies are at all sufficiently educated to become preachers among us, while various obstacles have prevented the publication of suitable Methodist books in the French language.

To these various difficulties may be added another, which is not, in fact, the least. We allude to the absence of that full amount of religious liberty which would afford us access to the masses of our population. Our labors are, therefore, of necessity, circumscribed within the limits of comparatively small congregations, for every one of which a special authorization is invariably required, sometimes refused, and easily withdrawn.

These various facts will doubtless explain our numerical weakness, will help you to understand more fully our situation, and to sustain us in our struggles.

But the success of Methodism in France has not been entirely, nor, indeed, chiefly confined to the thousand members who stately attend our class-meetings. Having been unable (from the various causes which we have enumerated) to reap the full fruit of our toils, the work in France, as a distinct ecclesiastical organization, reveals but a small proportion of our full success.

This success has been considerable: it can be said without exaggeration, that the revival of the present day, in France, is chiefly due to Methodism. Its principles and labors have been the means of inspiring new life into a slumbering Protestantism. It has furnished it with some of its best pastors, of its most devoted and successful evangelists. It has contributed to the formation of new centers in the midst of Roman Catholic populations, and to the establishment of the Bible, Tract, and Home and Foreign Missionary Societies, which now flourish in this empire. And last, but not least, it has been instrumental in the conversion of thousands of immortal beings. In all these respects Methodism has been a blessing to France, so that its withdrawal, or the weakening of its influence, would undoubtedly, even as to mere general results, be one of the greatest calamities which could befall evangelical religion in this country.

We are, nevertheless, convinced that our task is not accomplished; that, in reality, it has only just commenced. Methodism will assuredly strike deeper root, and extend a still wider influence throughout France, Switzerland, and Italy. To this great and holy work our Master has evidently called us, by furnishing us with the means of its accomplishment. We hold those evangelical doctrines which portray a full, free, and present salvation for every individual of the human race; we are inspired with that missionary spirit which is so well suited to the spread of the truth, and to the conversion of sinners; our Church organization is amply sufficient to meet the wants of our converts; and we have friends who, even from beyond the seas, sustain and encourage us in our labors. But more especially we may and do look up to the "hills from whence cometh our help." The God in whom we trust can, in a moment remove, the obstacles which appear insurmountable, and make our way plain. He can, and will, send down the

“healthful spirit of his grace,” and cause us to triumph, even over the greatest difficulties.

Until the year 1852 the work in France was carried on at the expense of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and under the direction of the British Conference. At that period it was newly organized. The missionary district of France, of Switzerland, was, therefore, erected into a district conference, having the entire control and management of its own affairs; but being still affiliated to the older conference. We continue to depend principally on the annual grant of our benefactors in England for the sustentation of our older stations, while the help afforded by our American friends is chiefly devoted to the extension of the work.

We feel assured, dear and honored brethren, that the grant apportioned to our Conference by your Missionary Board, will not fail us. Indeed, it has now become indispensable; some of our most important stations, those especially on the Italian frontiers, depending entirely on your allowance.

We likewise lack two important institutions: a Theological School for the training of our native ministry, and a Book Society, for publishing in French and Italian a religious literature, purely Methodistical. Our cause on the continent will not be placed on a firm basis until these two indispensable auxiliaries to our work shall have been established among us.

We had entertained the hope that this address would have been handed you by the President of our Conference, the venerated Dr. Cook, who had been appointed at our late session, held in Paris last September, as our representative to your venerable assembly. The duties of his ministry among us deprive him, however, of the pleasure of meeting you in person. Accept, therefore, honored fathers and brethren, in their present imperfect form, the cordial greetings of your brethren in France, Switzerland, and Italy. They have heard tell of the glorious progress of that great work, which is confided to your pastoral oversight, and it creates in them a just cause of glorying in the Lord, and of devout thankfulness to his holy name. Accept, likewise, our most earnest wishes, and most fervent prayers, that the blessing of God may abundantly rest on your persons, your families, your Churches, and your country, as well as on the momentous proceedings of your present important session.

Should you, at any time, think it proper to appoint a representative to our Conference, be assured that it will be considered as an honor conferred on us; and that a most cordial reception would await him on the French territory.

We have been exceedingly happy to see at our late Conference the Rev. Abel Stevens, of New-York. We were greatly pleased and profited by our intercourse with him, and it has increased our desire that this first interview with brethren from beyond the Atlantic may not be the last.

Meanwhile, we feel assured that neither the ocean that rolls between, nor the difference of language or of country, can separate those whom Christ unites in one. Strong in this sacred unity, and in entire obe-

dience to our adorable Head, may we, each and all of us, labor undaunted and untired, even unto the end.

For, and in behalf of, the French Conference.

HENRY DE JERSEY, *Secretary.*

MATTHEW GALLIENNE, LUKE PULSFORD, *Sub-secretaries.*

NISMES, SOUTH OF FRANCE, *April 5, 1856.*

## I.

### REPLY TO THE ADDRESS FROM THE FRENCH CONFERENCE.

*To the Pastors and Ministers of the Methodist Section of the Church of Christ in France and Switzerland :*

DEAR AND HONORED BRETHREN: Your brethren, the bishops and ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, represented in their General Conference, in Indianapolis, embrace the opportunity afforded them, in acknowledging your excellent Address, conveying to them your cordial greetings, to express to you their warmest Christian salutations. This is especially agreeable to them at the present time, as they ardently hope and trust the formal interchange of brotherly feelings and sympathies, now introduced between the Methodist Section of the Church of Christ in France and Switzerland, and the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, will be repeated and continued in all coming time.

We have read with much interest the History of the Introduction of Methodism into France, and its subsequent progress; and we cherish the hope that the work, so providentially begun and so faithfully fostered, will increase in extent and power.

You speak, dearly beloved brethren, of your work thus far as "preparatory," and beset with numerous difficulties. So we understand it. But as light increases, and the principles on which a just and permanent government is based are better understood, your circumstances in this particular will change. The obstacles to your success will, one after another, be removed, as the fears of those in authority subside, and they begin to see that what the masses most need to make them loyal, industrious, and virtuous, is the Gospel of the Son of God in its purity and simplicity.

Free as we are, in this country, to meet together when and where we choose to worship God, to preach the Gospel, to organize Sabbath schools, to disseminate tracts, periodicals, and books, and to establish Churches, we sympathize with you in the disabilities under which you are placed by your government; and while, as faithful Christian subjects, you "submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake," you may, nevertheless, pray—and we join you in the prayer—that God will dispose those who are in authority, as they witness your exemplary lives and pious zeal, to throw around you that protection

which will enable you to prosecute, without molestation or fear, your godly work.

We rejoice to recognize you as brethren beloved, one with us in the doctrines of our holy religion, and in all that is essential to constitute you a branch of the great Methodist family. And, so long as you "walk by the same rule, and mind the same thing," we shall continue to cherish a lively regard for whatever pertains to your welfare on earth and your final salvation in heaven. With these views and feelings, thus freely expressed, we rejoice also in the measure of success you have had in the work of your Divine Lord and Master. And we desire and pray that your godly zeal may be crowned with still more abundant success.

During the last four years the Great Head of the Church has granted us much prosperity in both the home and foreign work. We have now five thousand four hundred and eight (5,408) traveling preachers, six thousand six hundred and ten (6,610) local preachers, and seven hundred and ninety-nine thousand four hundred and thirty-one (799,431) members and probationers. Our net increase, for the last four years, is nine hundred and fifty-eight (958) traveling preachers, nine hundred and ten (910) local preachers, and seventy-seven thousand six hundred and twenty-seven (77,627) members and probationers. In view of the greatness of the work accomplished, and the weakness of the human instrumentality employed, we are constrained to say, *God hath wrought it.*

We are pleased to learn that the aid which our Missionary Society affords you has enabled you to extend your missionary work; and we have confidence that our Board will continue to assist you as long as they have ability to do so, and are assured of the faithful and useful appropriations of the funds they place at your disposal.

We regret that circumstances, requiring his presence at home, have deprived us of the pleasure of receiving, in person, your honored president, the Rev. Dr. Cook. We hope he may be long spared to labor for the promotion of Methodism in France.

And now, dear and honored brethren, we commend you and the beloved members of your Church in France and Switzerland, "to God and the word of his grace." Devoutly do we thank Him for his good hand upon you thus far, and earnestly do we pray that all grace and mercy may abound unto you. Let us hear from you again by address, and also by a messenger, if it is your pleasure to send one to us; and be assured that he will meet with a cordial reception; and we shall be happy to reciprocate your Christian courtesy and fraternal Christian greetings.

J.

ADDRESS FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

*To the Methodist Episcopal Church of the Northern States of America :*

CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY, BLOOMFIELD-STREET, FINSBURY, }  
LONDON, January 29, 1856. }

DEAR AND HONORED BRETHREN : We are encouraged to address you in our corporate capacity as the Committee of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, on a subject of great interest and importance to the Churches we represent, by a remembrance of the fact that one of the objects contemplated in the formation of our Union was to establish fraternal correspondence with Congregational Churches and other bodies of Christians throughout the world ; and that, in pursuance of this design, the Assembly of the Union and its executive have on several occasions addressed letters to the Congregational and other Churches of the United States of America, and on one occasion sent two of their brethren as delegates to visit you, while they have in return cheerfully received representatives from your various ecclesiastical bodies, and have been favored with fraternal epistles of great value from many of your annual gatherings. We believe that in various ways the interchange of sentiment and Christian feeling thus effected has been of great value, and we shall be happy, as occasion arises, from time to time, to aid in the maintenance of such correspondence.

It has been with great concern that we, in common with an overwhelming majority of our fellow-countrymen, have witnessed the springing up of anything approaching to a misunderstanding between the government of Great Britain and that of the United States of America, and have been compelled to listen to rumors of possible contentions between the two nations. We are devoutly thankful to the God of peace that there is now reason to believe that the apprehensions, whether well or ill founded, which were thus entertained, will not be realized, and that, on the contrary, there is ample encouraging ground of hope for concluding that the amicable relations which have been so long maintained between the two countries will continue undisturbed. Still we think that the present occasion, while calling us to congratulation and praise, is one which should urge us to do all that we can to promote and perpetuate the concord now happily existing.

Without propounding any theory on the unlawfulness of war in the abstract, we hold that its inevitable disadvantages to nations are so great, and its calamities to individuals so awful, that Christian men and Christian Churches are most legitimately employing their influences when they exert it in favor of peace. Recognizing the unity of the human race, and the consequent brotherhood of mankind, descended from the one great Parent, and redeemed by the one only Saviour, we would earnestly deprecate an appeal to arms in every case in which it can be avoided, and would seek by all honorable and Christian means to main-



tain the peace of the whole world ; but we feel that, in addition to these general considerations, there are special motives which urge us to cultivate strong and peculiar affection to the people of your land. For the most part they speak our language, and retain a love for many of our social habits. You, beloved brethren, have sprung with us from a common ancestry. Your fathers left our shores from necessity, in search of liberty to worship the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and having happily secured that boon for themselves, bequeathed the legacy of religious freedom to you and your children. You have many of our best civil institutions incorporated with yours ; you possess a literature of varied and growing worth, which we appreciate and enjoy ; you hold with us the great principles of Protestant evangelical truth, and you are strenuously laboring, as we are, to spread the Gospel in heathen and other lands. The alienation of two such countries, even for a time, would be an incalculable calamity. Their hostility would be a spectacle over which angels might weep, and demons triumph. The memory of the Pilgrim Fathers, the bond of a no very remote common origin ; the ties of a common Christianity, and the love of an adorable Saviour, all give weight to the apostolic injunction to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace.

Without unsuitably interfering in political affairs, we believe that Christian Churches, in their separate and associate capacity, can most effectually influence and mold public opinion on moral and social questions such as the one we now venture to present to your attention. Cheerfully undertaking for ourselves to exert our utmost ability to perpetuate kind and brotherly feelings between the people of our country and of America, we feel assured that you, sympathizing with our views and emotions, will earnestly aid our endeavors to promote this momentous object. The mere mention of the subject will awaken in all Christian hearts a conviction of its importance. In the social circles of life, in your sanctuaries of worship, through your periodical literature, and through other approved channels, you will employ your holy influence for the maintenance of peace. In all such efforts we will join you, and at the throne of our heavenly Father we will mutually supplicate his blessing on the peace makers, and on the things which make for peace, and pray for the time when war shall be no more.

Thankfully recognising the large amount of good which God has made you the honored means of effecting in the world by the agency of your voluntary Christian endeavors, and praying that all peace and prosperity may increasingly abound in your Churches, we have respectfully to request that you may adopt such means as to you may appear desirable for bringing this letter under the notice of the denomination or Churches with which you are connected, and remain, dear and honored brethren, on behalf of the Committee of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, yours faithfully,

ROBERT HALLY, *Chairman.*  
BENJAMIN HANBURY, *Treasurer.*

GEORGE SMITH, }  
ROBERT ASHTON, } *Secretaries.*

## K.

## REPLY TO THE ADDRESS FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

DEAR BRETHREN: Your communication, bearing date January 29, 1856, was duly received by our General Conference, which convened in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 1st, 1856.

Responding, as we do, with great cordiality, to the excellent sentiments of your address, we assure you that we were much encouraged by your fraternal letter, to hope that the day was rapidly approaching when the honest differences which may exist among Christians will not prevent the fellowship of those who hold the "unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." If the disciples were "glad when they saw the Lord," then, surely, all Christians may rejoice when they see such exemplifications of his spirit as your letter affords.

Various considerations render your communication grateful to our feelings. Representing a people who have no denominational ties uniting them to our own communion, you have crossed over the ordinary line of separation, and, constrained by the love of Christ, have tendered us your warmest Christian salutations, thus giving us a lovely illustration of the sacred truth, that "he who loveth God, loveth his brother also." This is the union for which the Saviour prayed, and for the consummation of which all Christians should most fervently pray. Your message of Christian affection is no less interesting when we remember that the particular sphere of your ecclesiastical operations is remote from our own. A mighty ocean rolls between us, yet your Christian sympathy, which many waters cannot quench, reaches to these lands, and in spirit we are permitted to hail you as "brethren beloved." It is the diffusion of this spirit, which is ultimately to draw all men unto him, by whom the whole "family of God is named."

The countries which you represent, England and Wales, are endeared to all Protestants, by the recollection of their struggles in the maintenance of the great principles of the Reformation. In support of these principles, and in efforts to promote the evangelization of the world, we feel that one object is before us, and trust that one destiny awaits us.

You have alluded, with deep emotion, to the indications which existed some time since, of an interruption of the peaceful relations which have heretofore held in friendly intercourse the governments of our respective countries. Similar solicitude has pervaded our own country. No less than yourselves should we deprecate any unsettling of that peace which is so closely blended with the happiness of our respective nations.

Though there are some causes still existing to excite, in some slight degree, these disconcerting apprehensions, let us not doubt that they will be so adjusted as to render more firm our mutual regard as Christian nations. To effect this, let all Christians unite in the work of "the peace maker," and the prayer of love.

At the date of your letter, the war in which your country was involved,

had not entirely ceased. To the political aspects of that war it would not be proper for us to refer, nor have we any desire so to do; yet we cannot refrain from congratulating you that your warfare is over, and that your land once more reposes under the reign of the "Prince of Peace." Long may that repose remain unbroken, and may your prayers blend with ours, that our endeared countries may more and more exemplify the beauties of that charity which seeks to give the world an open Bible, and to bring all into the brotherhood of Christ.

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## L.

### REPORT OF THE BOOK AGENTS AT NEW-YORK TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1856.

*To the Bishops and Members of the General Conference :*

DEAR BRETHREN : In obedience to the requirements of the Discipline of the Church, we beg leave respectfully to present our quadrennial report of the condition of the Book Concern.

In submitting this report, we not only feel called upon to recognize our obligations, but to express our grateful thanks to God, the Father of all mercies, for his kind providence toward us during the period which has elapsed since the last session of the General Conference. Death has but once invaded this department of the Church during our agency. Our entire Zion has, with us, recently been called to mourn the loss of the venerable Dr. THOMAS E. BOND, Editor of the *Christian Advocate and Journal*. Though he had so nearly completed the work assigned him, as an officer of the General Conference, and it would seem as though his long and useful life had been providentially spared; yet, ere the last month of the term for which he was elected had come, full of years and ripe for heaven, he was summoned away from the toils he loved and the conflicts he shunned not, as a defender of the Church, to the rest and enjoyment of the general assembly and Church of the first-born in heaven. "Though dead, he yet speaketh;" and his works and words will live, as the rich and enduring inheritance of our Zion, in all coming time. More than this, in regard to the death of our venerable brother, we need not say; less than this, as a just tribute to departed worth and greatness, we could not say.

#### CHURCH SUIT.

Your Agents have the pleasure to report the long and vexed question in dispute between the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, about the division of the property of the Book Concern, amicably settled; and from your commissioners you will doubtless, in due time, receive a full report.

## CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

At the last session of the General Conference, it was

“*Resolved*, That a weekly paper, to be denominated the California Christian Advocate, be established in San Francisco, under the patronage and control of the General Conference; and that the Conference accept the paper of that name now published in San Francisco as the nucleus of the enterprise.”

Subsequently to this action the following resolution was passed :

“*Resolved*, That there shall be a Publishing Committee, consisting of five members to be selected by the California Annual Conference and one from the Oregon Annual Conference, whose duties shall be similar to those of the Book Committees at New-York and Cincinnati, so far as they may be applicable to the establishment.”

Soon after the adjournment of the General Conference, and before any publishing committee had been appointed, and even prior to the organization of the conferences contemplated in the action, whose province it was to accept the terms of the transfer of the paper, a draft for \$2,591 06 was made upon your Agents by D. L. Ross, chairman of the publishing association. This being a much larger amount than had been represented as the indebtedness of the paper, and being drawn at the time and under the circumstances it was, your Agents were induced to examine into the action of the General Conference in relation to the subject. In that action it will be seen that there is not so much as an allusion to the aforesaid parties. Under the circumstances, the whole subject was laid before your attorney in the suit then pending between the Book Concern and the commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The attorney, after a careful examination of the whole matter, gave it as his opinion, that the General Conference had failed to give your Agents any authority to pay the debts of the California Christian Advocate, or to make any appropriation of funds to aid in its publication. And he further gave it as his judgment, that they would not only make themselves personally responsible, if they honored the above draft, but the Court would be very likely to grant an injunction, which had already been applied for by the prosecuting attorney, and thus very much embarrass your Agents, if not suspend, for a time, the operations of the Concern. In accordance with this advice, the draft was returned unpaid and protested.

On the 20th of October, 1852, Rev. Messrs. Isaac Owen and John D. Blain drew on the Rev. T. Carlton, Treasurer of the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, for the sum of \$3,000, adding, in their accompanying letter, that if the draft was honored they could go on with the paper. After mutual consultation with the officers of the Board, it was finally agreed to pay the amount, provided the bishop having charge of the California work, would make a draft to that effect. This was done, and the money was paid.

On the 14th of February, 1853, your Agents received another draft, drawn by the agent of the California Christian Advocate, for the sum of \$2,005, which was represented by the committee appointed by the California Conference to be the whole of its indebtedness at that time;

the committee consisted of the Rev. Messrs. Taylor, Owen, Blain, and Stratton. Your Agents were at a loss to know what to do with this draft. The suit with the South had not yet been settled; and they had been forced, by circumstances over which they had no control, to borrow large sums of money to enable them to carry on the business of the Concern, and to meet the liabilities which were falling due. In addition to all this, the General Conference had given them no authority to make such payments. Nevertheless, being desirous to aid the California brethren in their embarrassment, and place them in a position in which they might go on with the California paper, without making any further demands on the Book Concern; and believing that the absence of a grant of authority on the part of the General Conference was an omission not designed, your Agents ventured, on their own responsibility, to pay the said draft of \$2,005; and not until the final settlement with the Church, South, was it charged to the Concern.

In the communication forwarded with the above draft, the Rev. W. Taylor says: "We think the paper this year will be self-supporting; and if not, it will be the duty of our conference, at its next session, to wind it up, as per Discipline."

Thus things continued until February the 8th, 1854, when the Publishing Committee reported the paper failing to meet its expenses by \$4,116; and a draft was made on your Agents for the amount. The same committee stated, that they would be unable to proceed with the publication of the paper without an additional advance from your Agents of the sum of \$5,884, making a total of \$10,000.

Your Book Committee was called together; and all the documents pertaining to the subject were placed in their hands for examination and deliberation. As the result of their careful and mature deliberation, we present the following, as the resolutions passed by that body:

"1. The repeated assurances which have been given to the Agents, that, on conditions which they have met with all reasonable promptness, the paper would be able to support itself, and upon failing to do so it would be discontinued; and from the latest reports of the Publishing Committee, the support of the paper, from its own income, appears to be more doubtful than ever, the committee believe it wholly inexpedient to continue its publication as a General Conference paper.

"2. The Agents are, therefore, advised not to advance the \$10,000 desired by the Publishing Committee."

Acting in accordance with the above advice, we furnished the Committee of Publication of the California Christian Advocate a copy of the same; and stated in our accompanying communication that the Agents held themselves responsible for the present liabilities, and when the accounts were properly adjusted, as provided for in the Discipline, they would be paid.

The paper, by resolution of the California Conference, was discontinued; and your Agents paid off all its debts, amounting to \$4,116, for which they took a receipt from the agent, showing payment in full for all demands growing out of the publication of the California Christian Advocate. The whole amount paid by the Concern, and the Missionary Society, for the publication of said paper, was \$9,121.

## BOOK DEPOSITORY IN CALIFORNIA.

Your Agents were instructed, by the action of the last General Conference, to establish a Depository in San Francisco, California. Accordingly, with all "reasonable promptitude and dispatch," which the importance of the enterprise demanded, they proceeded to take the necessary preliminary steps for carrying out its instructions. Inquiries were immediately instituted as to the price of rents, clerk hire, &c.; and also as to the cost of ground and price of building, as well as the probable amount of books that could be sold. This information was sought from the most reliable sources; and, after thorough investigation of all the facts in the case—both in reference to the enterprise in California and the financial condition of the Concern—we were brought to a deliberate conviction that the instructions of the General Conference could not be carried out without a great loss to the Concern. This conclusion was not, however, arrived at without a consultation with our constitutional advisers, who, after being put in possession of all the facts in the case, gave it as their deliberate judgment that the General Conference would, under the circumstances, exonerate its Agents from any blame for not establishing a Depository in San Francisco.

The Book Committee, however, advised that arrangements be made, if practicable, by which a supply of our books should be kept on sale in that city. Accordingly, as soon as it could be effected, we made a contract with a firm engaged in the book business; and, through that house, a good supply of our publications are kept on sale, and at as good rates as they could be sold by a Depository, unless it should be at a sacrifice to the Concern.

We have thus presented a simple statement of the facts in relation to the California Christian Advocate, and Depository; and respectfully submit them to your judgment.

## CHANGES IN REAL ESTATE.

At the last session of the General Conference, your Agents were instructed to dispose of the real estate belonging to the Concern, situated in Crosby-street, whenever a favorable opportunity for effecting its sale should present itself. The property consisted of four houses on leased lots. Such was the unfavorableness of the location, and the condition of the property, that, though the Book Agents had been instructed at a previous Conference to dispose of said property, a sale could not be effected, and the consequence was that it had been in the market for several years. The object in securing a sale was for the purpose of erecting more suitable houses in a better locality. At length, on the 1st of February, 1853, an offer was made, which was accepted, after due deliberation and consultation with the Book Committee; and the contract was closed for the sum of \$12,000.

At the time of the sale it was thought advisable to erect houses on vacant ground belonging to the Concern, in Mulberry-street; but so rapidly and extensively was the business increasing, and so much were your Agents pressed for want of room in the establishment, to enable them to carry on the business successfully, that the idea was aban-

done, and the grounds reserved for the future enlargement of the Concern, which must be attended to at no very distant day.

Instead of building, as was contemplated at first, it was ascertained, after careful examination, that it would be much cheaper and better to purchase property already improved. Accordingly, a house and lot was purchased on Sixth-street, for the sum of \$9,000, and another on Seventh-street, for the sum of \$9,500. This property is quite accessible to the Book Concern, and is situated in a desirable part of the city. Its value is increasing every year, and could now be sold at a considerable advance on the original cost.

In connection with this, your Agents have been under the necessity of expending several thousand dollars in repairs of the buildings of the Book Concern; repairs demanded, not only for preservation, but to facilitate the business in the various departments.

#### NEW MACHINERY.

The increase of business has been such as to render it necessary for your Agents to purchase a large amount of machinery, all of which has been of the latest and most improved kind.

To the printing department have been added five Adams & Co.'s best power presses, at a cost of \$7,798 69. There has also been purchased one of Hoe & Co.'s hydraulic presses, of six hundred tons pressure, the price of which was \$1,517 45.

For the bindery there have been procured one cutting machine, at a cost of \$400; three backing machines, at a cost of \$350; three standing presses, at a cost of \$400; four embossing presses, at a cost of \$1,600; and embossing stamps, rolls, dies, &c., costing \$2,000.

Within the past year electrotyping has been introduced into the Concern, by which plates and cuts are cast with copper face, adding very much to their durability, as well as to the convenience of multiplying engravings, and the perfection of printing; and the short experience your Agents have had, has convinced them that this is far preferable, for many kinds of work, to the old mode of stereotyping. This improvement has been made at a cost of only about \$400. Total for new machinery, \$14,466 14.

#### PERIODICAL DEPARTMENT.

Your Agents deeply regret that they are under the necessity of reporting a loss upon all the periodicals published by the Concern, except the Christian Advocate and Journal.

The following shows the cost and receipts of each for the last four years, together with the average number of subscribers:

##### *Christian Advocate and Journal.*

Average number of subscribers.....	29,875
Cost of publication.....	\$124,749 22
Receipts.....	141,731 67
	<hr/>
Profits....	\$16,982 45

*Sunday School Advocate.*

Average circulation.....	83,500	
Expenses.....		\$95,831 85
Receipts .....		81,497 27
Loss .....		<u>\$14,334 58</u>

*National Magazine.*

Average circulation.....	15,875	
Expenses.....		\$92,265 61
Receipts .....		69,347 93
Loss .....		<u>\$22,917 68</u>

*Quarterly Review.*

Average circulation.....	2,721	
Expenses.....		\$17,236 08
Receipts .....		10,975 94
Loss .....		<u>\$6,260 14</u>

Expenses over receipts on National Magazine, Quarterly Review, and Sunday School Advocate .....		\$43,512 40
Deduct the profits on the Advocate and Journal ...		<u>16,982 45</u>
Balance of expenses over receipts on all the periodicals .....		\$26,529 95

In the above estimates of cost, the composition, stereotyping, press-work, &c., are calculated at the usual master's prices; prices which we should have to pay if the work was done out of the house.

It is but just to ourselves, and to others specially interested, to say that no small part of the loss indicated in the balances of the Sunday-School Advocate and the National Magazine, is chargeable to a great advance in the price of paper. While this advance in the cost of material, and a corresponding increase in the wages of workmen, were wholly unlooked for at the time when the terms of those periodicals were fixed, yet they occurred soon after, and have continued during the intervening period. As these high prices of material and labor still prevail without prospect of diminution, the question arises, in the judgment of your Agents, as to the expedience of continuing, at least in their present form and at present rates, those periodicals upon which there is so great a loss to the Concern.

In considering this question, we would suggest,

1. The advantages to the Book Department in advertising through these mediums, which otherwise would cost the Concern a very large amount, while all departments of the Church would not be reached as at present.

2. The influence of such periodicals upon the Church and the world, devoted as they are to morality and religion.

3. We would further suggest whether there could not be some change in the form and size of the National Magazine and Quarterly Review, so as to lessen the expense, and at the same time meet the wants of the Church; and also whether, in view of all things, it may not be best to reduce both the size and the price of the Sunday School Advocate, so that it may become more strictly a children's paper.



There is reason to hope that on this plan its circulation might be very greatly increased.

Even in their present form and at their present rates, the whole difficulty would be relieved, if the General Conference could devise some means by which to increase their circulation. If the National Magazine had twenty-five thousand paying subscribers, the Quarterly Review four thousand, and the Sunday School Advocate one hundred thousand, the Periodical Department would not only support itself, but yield a small profit to the Concern.

#### BOOK DEPARTMENT.

Your Agents take pleasure in reporting that, in regard to the Book Department of the Concern, the last four years have been years of prosperity. It was stated by our worthy predecessors in their last report to the General Conference, that in the year 1850 the sales amounted to \$202,358 27, being the largest business ever done by the Concern in one year. This large amount of sales they attributed, however, to the issue of our new Hymn Book. At the same time, they gave it as their opinion, that the business of the Concern should be increased to \$250,000 per year, or \$1,000,000 every four years. It affords your Agents no little pleasure to state that the opinions of our excellent predecessors have been confirmed, and that the point has not only been gained, but an advance has been made upon it. The following are the annual receipts: 1852, \$182,757 80; 1853, \$256,911 78; 1854, \$300,655 44; 1855, \$260,409 16; making a total of \$1,000,734 18, being an increase over the preceding four years of over 53 per cent., or \$347,543 40. This large increase in the sales may be in part attributed to the improved quality and style of the books. The paper used has been of the first quality, while the typographical execution, together with the binding, has been equal to that of any publishing house in the country. Your Agents flatter themselves that they have met the wants and tastes of the religious community and the reading public in the works issued from your Concern. Your Agents have published 45 new books for general sales, 185 Sunday-school books, and 17 Tract books, making in all, for the four years, 247. Besides, there have been added to the Tract Catalogue 198 New Tracts.

Your Agents would further state, that they have issued, in muslin and leather binding, 4,378,376 volumes, and in paper covers, 2,079,733; making the whole number of volumes for the four years, 6,458,109. There have also been issued, 8,297,517 Miscellaneous books, Sermons, Pamphlets, Children's small books, &c.; these, added to the above, make 14,755,626, which would be an average per day of 12,296 volumes, allowing three hundred working days per year. Besides this, there has been an average issue of 9,974 Tracts per day, of from 4 to 48 pages each, making, during the four years, 11,968,800.

Your Agents think, if the proper means are used for the coming four years, the sales may be greatly increased, and that the day is not far distant when the business of the Concern may be double what it now is.

One thing ought specially to be borne in mind, namely, that great advantages are secured by a unity of interest and action. It is this which has given to the Book Concern of our Church its great efficiency hitherto.

In some other denominations the habit has obtained of having one publishing-house for general or doctrinal books, another for tract publications, and a third for Sunday-school publications, while their periodicals are published and controlled by private individuals. This multiplication of establishments makes necessary the employment of many more men and larger amounts of capital than are called for on our plan, while the different interests are thus made to conflict with each other. In every way our plan is more advantageous, and hence it becomes the General Conference carefully to classify and arrange the several departments so as to harmonize with and aid each other.

#### CIRCULATION OF BOOKS.

Since the last session of the General Conference much has been said and written, and many plans have been proposed, with a view of getting our publications more extensively in the market. To a consideration of some of these we invite your attention: It is proposed that the Agents adopt a system of advertising in the secular papers. This plan was recommended by your Book Committee, and was, accordingly, to some extent adopted; but, after having expended hundreds of dollars in this way, we became satisfied that it was a losing operation. We were careful to watch the results; and though we received orders, again and again, for books outside of our ordinary agencies, from persons who saw our advertisements in the Church papers, yet we have not, to our knowledge, received one from any person who obtained information of our publications through the secular press.

The importance of establishing Depositories in our larger towns and cities has been urged. To the consideration of this plan we have also directed our attention. Though we could not establish such Depositories, yet we have made arrangements, in several cities and towns, by which an assortment of our books has been kept on sale at wholesale prices. The result, however, of this arrangement has thoroughly convinced your Agents that, in many places where both preachers and people have asked for Depositories, there could not be a sufficient amount of books sold to pay the expenses connected therewith, while the idea of profit is entirely out of the question. Others have proposed a general system of colportage. The adoption of such a system, all must be aware, would be attended with many difficulties, and involve an amount of hazard which would require the most mature deliberation before entering upon it. The experience of the last four years has demonstrated most clearly to our minds the inutility of this plan. It is perfectly obvious that, if we were to adopt this scheme for the circulation of our literature, it would be impossible to carry it out successfully, from the fact that the right kind of men could not be obtained to act as colporteurs. No man of much reliability or business tact could be found to engage in such a work at the compensation afforded, such

being occupied in other and more profitable employments. Colporteurs, engaged in the work of Tract distribution by the Tract Society, have, no doubt, accomplished much good by the circulation of religious literature among the masses, and by their personal religious efforts; but if the Concern were left to depend upon these agencies, it would soon have to stop its presses, at least so far as its general business is concerned.

Another class of our friends suggest the propriety of leaving the whole matter of the sale of our books to the trade. They would have us place our books in the trade sales, and let them be sold, as those of other publishing houses, under the hammer, to the highest bidder.

We have not been unmindful of the interests connected with the book trade in general, and have, as judiciously as possible, effected many sales through the trade; but if this were the only agency upon which we had to rely, our business, instead of being increased, would be greatly diminished.

Finally, on this subject: Quite a large number are altogether favorable to the old plan of leaving the circulation of our books and periodicals with the preachers, who are constituted, by the Discipline of the Church, as the proper agents to supply our people with our book and periodical publications. Were this generally attended to, no plan could be devised that could approximate, in the remotest degree, its efficiency, as every city, town, village, and district of country would have an agency at once prompt and reliable; but, as it is, many places would be wholly unsupplied, if its dependence were to be placed alone upon the preachers.

We respectfully suggest, that, as all the plans proposed have more or less in them worthy of consideration, your Agents be left, in addition to the wise and wholesome regulations of the Discipline, to avail themselves of such parts of these plans as may be adapted to our economy, and will serve to facilitate our operations.

In regard to Depositories already established, we would say that they have proved themselves useful auxiliaries to the Parent Concern, though we are thoroughly convinced that it would be injudicious to multiply them, especially in those sections of the country where the facilities for transportation are such as to enable purchasers to procure their books from New-York, Cincinnati, and elsewhere, in a few days; and, besides, our arrangements with the trade are such, that our books can be had at almost all the larger places, at the regular catalogue prices. Though the trade has a larger discount, yet the market is thus kept supplied with our books; and the preachers can purchase our publications of those booksellers who keep them on sale, at our wholesale prices. Through this agency, many of our books get a wider circulation than they otherwise would. The colporteurs employed by the Tract Society have made sale of a large number of books and tract publications; and, we doubt not, this system is susceptible of such arrangements and regulations, that it may become quite effective, in the hands of skillful managers, in supplying the demand for our books in those sections of our work where the preachers are unwilling to carry out the provisions of the Discipline in supplying our people. The great

agency, after all, upon which the Concern must chiefly rely for accomplishing its mission, in the diffusion of a sound religion and a pure literature, is that which is to be found in the traveling preachers; and we shall regret exceedingly if that agency is withdrawn, or lessened to any extent.

The age is emphatically a reading age; and never, in the history of the country, did the presses in the great book mart teem with such an amount of light literature. That the minds of our widely-extended community may not be left unoccupied by the pure and the true; or, what is much worse, filled with the corrupt and fictitious, it becomes every minister of the Gospel to see that his flock are supplied with such books as "tend to the knowledge and love of God."

#### CAPITAL AND REVENUE.

On the first of January, 1852, the books of the Concern showed the Capital to be: Real Estate, \$130,568 63; Personal Property, \$511,978 37; total amount of Capital, \$642,547.

From this sum deduct the following appropriations made by the General Conference of 1852: Expenses of said Conference, \$3,364 59; Pittsburgh Christian Advocate, \$3,598 31; and dividends for 1852, \$11,457 50; making the sum of \$18,420 40. This deducted, leaves \$624,126 60. Add to this the profits of the year 1852, \$49,383 30, and you have, at the close of the year 1852, \$673,509 90.

In the settlement with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1853, we agreed to pay the sum of \$191,000 in cash, and \$40,648 51 in notes and accounts, making \$231,648 51. Expenses in said suit, \$2,063. Total, \$233,711 51; leaving the nominal Capital, in 1853, \$439,798 39.

Profits for the last three years are as follows: 1853, \$54,354 83; 1854, \$54,844 75; 1855, \$32,679 99. Total, \$141,879 47. This shows a fraction less than 11 per cent. per annum on the whole capital, after the division of the property with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Your Agents feel impelled to say, that while the above shows the nominal Capital in 1852 and 1853, its real value was much less, there being, after the settlement with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, not less than \$50,000 of notes and book accounts against persons from whom the first dollar could not be collected; and, besides this, there was a large amount of old, soiled, and unsalable books and sheet stock, which had been accumulating for many years. Of the sheet stock which was inventoried at cost, your Agents have sold over 47 tons, at an average price of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  cents per pound, or \$55 per ton. Here is a deduction to be made of at least \$15,000. The bound stock has been sold at a loss of about \$500. After deducting from the notes and book accounts the amount which was transferred to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in the settlement, and the \$50,000 of bad debts, there remained, in notes and accounts, \$101,928 87, upon which your Agents judge there should be a deduction of at least 15 per cent., making \$15,289 38. These several sums, taken from the nominal amount of Capital

in 1853, left the real Capital, after the division of the property with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, \$359,009 01, allowing the real estate, presses, stereotype plates, &c., as then inventoried, which was evidently too high, and more than the property was worth. Instead, then, of reckoning the per centage as above, on the sum of \$439,798 39, it should be on \$359,009 01, which would show a profit on the Capital, for the last three years, of a fraction over 13 per cent. per annum.

This result, your Agents think, cannot but be satisfactory, considering the embarrassing circumstances under which they entered upon their duties; and though it has been said by some that it would be better to dispose of the property, and invest the proceeds in stocks that would be more productive, yet, as a mere financial operation, your Agents doubt if a better investment could be made in any stocks now in market, or if the money could be loaned, with any degree of safety, so as to yield to the Church an equal amount of profit.

But your Agents have not been accustomed to look upon the Methodist Book Concern merely as a money-making institution. This they have regarded as incidental, while the great object has been to furnish the Church and the world with a sound religious literature. And yet it may be doubted whether there is any book-making establishment in our country which has succeeded better financially. If the whole amount paid out at different times, per order of the General Conference, together with the dividends to the several Annual Conferences, had been invested in stocks, or loaned out on annual interest, we doubt if the Methodist Book Concern would not this day possess a larger capital than any other manufacturing establishment in this land. And though your Agents have not declared any dividends to the several Annual Conferences during their agency, yet they have met certain demands growing out of the action of the last General Conference, including the salaries and traveling expenses of the bishops, together with the dividend of 1850, amounting to the sum of \$71,100 15.

If this sum had been appropriated by way of dividends, it would have given to the conferences annually \$17,775 03.

But, notwithstanding this large appropriation, your Agents were very desirous to continue the long-established practice of declaring dividends to the several Annual Conferences; and it was not until they had made a full exhibit of the financial condition of the Concern to the Book Committee, and obtained their advice on the subject, that they abandoned the idea. Your Agents were members of the Book Committee the four years preceding the last General Conference, and knowing, as they did, the embarrassing condition of the Concern, growing out of the suit with the Church, South, they were then of the opinion that it was inexpedient to declare a dividend for 1852; but, under the circumstances which existed in 1853, it would have been ruinous to the best interests of the Concern. By borrowing money and by strict economy, your Agents have been able to meet all the liabilities of the Concern thus far as they became due, and they now have good hope that in a few years the Concern may be able to free itself from its indebtedness; and your Agents do most sincerely hope that this General Conference will not, further than is absolutely necessary for the interest of the Church, tax the

Book Concern for the coming four years, or, at least, until its liabilities are so far redeemed that they can be managed with safety, even if there should come a more stringent time for money than we have had for the last two years.

In closing this article on capital and revenue, we give the exhibit of January 1, 1856, which was made in accordance with the long-established usage of the House, to be presented to the several Annual Conferences; together with one so modified as to show a cash valuation of the property of the Concern.

ASSETS.		
	Exhibit, Jan. 1, 1856, to be pre- sented to the An- nual Conferences.	Comparative Ex- hibit, showing the cash valuation of the property.
<i>Real Estate.</i>		
House and lot in Sixth-street.....	\$9,000 00	\$9,000 00
Do. do. Seventh-street.....	9,500 00	9,500 00
Buildings and lots in Mulberry-street .....	120,112 84	100,000 00
<i>Cash.</i>		
Cash in Bank and in hand.....	23,851 10	23,851 10
New-York and Erie Railroad Bonds.....	4,000 00	4,000 00
<i>Periodicals.</i>		
Amount due on Periodical Accounts.....	10,000 00	
<i>Merchandise.</i>		
Sunday-school Books, Books of General Catalogue, Sheet-stock, &c.....	154,688 18	139,200 00
<i>Printing-Office.</i>		
Presses, Type, Stereotype Plates, Wood Cuts, Furni- ture, White Paper, &c.....	116,836 08	105,153 00
<i>Bindery.</i>		
Presses, Tools, Sheet-stock, &c.....	106,573 56	95,916 00
<i>Notes and Book Accounts.</i>		
Notes and Book Accounts.....	\$230,519 49	138,311 70
Deduct bad debts, estimated.....	46,103 89	
	184,415 60	
Total.....	\$738,977 36	\$624,931 80
LIABILITIES.		
Book Accounts and Notes, including Bonds due M. E. Church, South.....	170,704 60	170,704 60
Capital Stock.....	\$568,272 76	\$454,227 20

## REMARKS.

The comparative exhibit is modified so as to present a cash valuation upon the property, a valuation which could be realized in case of sale, and differs from the exhibit to the Annual Conferences in the following

items: Real Estate, less, \$20,112 84; amount due on Periodical account is thrown out, because subscriptions received in advance would about offset the same, \$10,000; Merchandise, 10 per cent. deducted, \$15,488 18; Printing-office stock, 10 per cent. deducted, \$11,683 08; Bindery stock, 10 per cent. deducted, \$10,657 56; Notes and Book Accounts, 25 per cent. additional deducted, \$46,103 90. Total, less than the showing made to the Annual Conferences, \$114,045 56.

#### PRICES OF BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

Much has been said and written, especially in the past, about the high price of the publications of the Book Concern. The advantages, however, of such high prices, if they were so at the time, did not accrue to the Concern as much as to those who purchased to sell again, from the fact that the most liberal discount was allowed. But, without any abatement of that discount to the preachers and wholesale purchasers, the publications have from time to time been reduced in price to such an extent that we may safely challenge the world of book publishers in this respect. We are perfectly willing the publications of the Concern, so far as mere mechanical execution is concerned, should be compared with those of any house in the country. We have taken the pains, in some instances, to institute a comparison, more for the purpose of satisfying our brethren than ourselves; and we find that they are cheaper than several of the New-York publishing houses, particularly our recent publications; that works which we sell for one dollar, a book corresponding in size, and frequently much inferior in paper and binding, is sold by others for one dollar and a quarter. This fact can be verified by any one who will take the pains to make the comparison. So much have our books been reduced in price, that, instead of the allegation that they are dearer than those of any other establishment, it may be affirmed, as a general thing, that they are from twenty to twenty-five per cent. cheaper, notwithstanding the discounts we are obliged to allow to wholesale purchasers are much larger.

As regards our periodicals, it may be asserted that, when compared with others, whether literary or religious, they are much cheaper; and it may be affirmed, upon the whole, that our Church furnishes its members, and the reading public at large, with books and periodicals on religion and literature, cheaper than is furnished by any other Church.

Frequent remarks are made about the cheapness of the publications of the American Tract Society and the American Sunday-School Union; but our Tract and Sunday-School Departments furnish books which will compare favorably with either in this respect, notwithstanding these societies are sustained by contributions from the various Churches, amounting annually to thousands of dollars. Our Tract and Sunday-school books, both for cheapness and variety, are not excelled by any similar productions; and the most thoroughly progressive among us, when all the facts are brought before them, could not find it in their hearts to charge the Concern with dereliction in duty in anything pertaining to a sound and healthy progress.

Fill every department with the right kind of men—men who will

stand by their posts and work up to the extent of their ability for the promotion of the interests of the Institution, and there can be no calculating the results. What has already been done will be but the beginning of greater things for God and for the Church.

CARLTON & PHILLIPS.

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M.

REPORT AND EXHIBIT OF THE AGENTS OF THE WESTERN BOOK CONCERN.

*To the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church :*

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN: It becomes our duty, according to Discipline, to submit to you a report of the business of the Western Book Concern for the past four years.

In doing this, it is scarcely necessary to say they have been years of unprecedented solicitude and care to your Agents; growing principally out of the Church Suit and the unparalleled financial difficulties that have passed over our country—all of which have called for the exercise of our best skill to save the Concern, if not from suspension, from the most serious embarrassment.

We are happy, however, in making up our account, to find that the Concern, though necessarily reduced in its resources, is still in a healthy and safe condition, as will appear from the accompanying Exhibit up to November 30, 1855.

And here it may be proper to give the reasons, already set forth in our Circular, sent to some of the Annual Conferences, for changing the time of getting out our Exhibit from March 31st to November 30th. The reasons are the following: 1. March 31st was not the most suitable time, being in the midst of our business year. 2. Ever since the first of January has been the period for the commencement of our periodical subscriptions, we have been compelled, in making our Exhibits to the above-named date, to embrace portions of two years of the periodical business, which has always been the occasion of considerable trouble; while the period now adopted is as near the close of our contracts with subscribers as can possibly be fixed upon. 3. Our Exhibits made to that time were more than one year old when presented to some of the Conferences.

The Exhibit now presented, being the commencement of a new series of Exhibits, growing out of the recent settlement with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, shows the condition of the Concern November 30, 1855—from which you will perceive that the capital stock of the Concern has been reduced from \$216,203 53 to \$150,405 74, by the deduction of the debt due the Church, South, the expenses of the Church Suit, and the reduction in our inventory of the entire stock on hand to its cash value. But for these extraordinary reductions, the



capital stock would have been, at the date of our Exhibit, \$250,816 62 ; which would show a profit in our business, from March 31, 1852, to November 30, 1855—a period of three and two-third years—of \$34,613 09.

Our sales of books, including those sold to the Chicago Depository, for the last four years, ending March 31st, amount to.....	\$346,886 80	
Being an increase over the previous four years of....		\$86,057 27
Periodical sales for the same time, including those sold to the Depository, amount to .....	302,953 93	
Making an increase over the past four years of.....		90,804 63
	<hr/>	
Total book and periodical sales .....	\$649,840 73	
Total increase.....		\$176,861 90

We are compelled to say that the Tract organization, in its present form, has been rather prejudicial to our sales at the Western Book Concern, from the fact that we have declined credit sales to the Conference Tract Agents, except to very limited amounts, for the following reasons: 1. The Annual Conferences were unwilling to assume the responsibility of paying said debts. 2. We did not think it safe either for brethren themselves or the Concern to extend credit to individuals for large amounts. This has, in some instances, induced the Tract Agents West to turn their trade to the New-York Concern. To colporteurs we have made no sales on time.

The increasing demand on us for books and periodicals has rendered it necessary that we should add to our facilities for publishing, etc., to enable us to meet said demand.

We have, therefore, added, during the past term, two stories to the Book Room Building, cornering on Main and Eighth streets, and removed the wooden columns, and supplied their places with iron, making the building much more permanent, at a cost of about \$5,500; and have remodeled the internal arrangements of the building, so as to adapt it to the wants of our business, at a cost of say, \$1,000.

We have also introduced into our Book Room Building the necessary apparatus for warming the entire building by steam brought from our Printing-Office, which cost \$1,350.

We have added to our Bindery a sawing and a cutting machine, and one embossing press, at a cost of \$1,000.

We have also added to our Printing Department a small building, for wetting paper, mailing-room, and a room in which we run two presses, at a cost of about \$700.

We have added during the past four years two Adams's improved presses, and one Taylor's improved cylinder press.

At this time we are running seven presses—six for printing books, and one for printing the Western Christian Advocate and the Christian Apologist.

We are now in a condition to do a large amount of printing, binding, etc.; and yet, should our business enlarge as it has, we shall soon find ourselves crowded for room.

We have printed during the past term:

Bound volumes for the Concern .....	768,300	copies
Tracts for the Concern .....	745,750	"
Bound volumes for others .....	71,500	"
Pamphlets, consisting of Minutes of Conferences, Catalogues, etc. ....	65,000	"
Total.....	1,650,550	"

We have added to our Catalogue during the past four years thirty-six new works in the English language, and have several more in press; we have also stereotyped and issued during the same time thirty-one volumes and thirty-one tracts in German; making a total of sixty-seven new works and thirty-one tracts.

Our periodicals are all in a most flourishing condition :

We are sending out now of the Western Christian Advocate ....	28,718	
Giving us an increase in the past four years of .....		7,718
The Ladies' Repository has a subscription list of.....	29,580	
Which is an increase of .....		16,580
The Christian Apologist has a subscription list of.....	6,967	
Being an increase of.....		3,593

Our other periodicals have subscription lists as follows :

Sunday School Advocate .....	31,192
Missionary Advocate.....	5,055
National Magazine .....	2,163
Quarterly Review .....	442

All the periodicals published at the Western Book Concern are now yielding an annual profit.

Among other duties assigned us by the last General Conference, we were instructed to establish a paper and Depository of books at Chicago; the paper to be called the Northwestern Christian Advocate. This we proceeded to do; and although the rush of conferences came upon us immediately after the General Conference, and our Church Suit with the South was also pending, involving great care and anxiety, as may be seen by reference to the report of the Commissioners of the Church Suit for the Western Book Concern, yet we had our Depository established and stocked with books for the trade early in the fall of the same year; and in carrying out the provisions for a weekly paper, we effected our arrangements so as to send out a specimen number in the fall of 1852; and the first number of the Northwestern Christian Advocate was issued in the first week of January, 1853.

The Depository has exceeded our most sanguine expectations.

The sales of books at that place, since the establishment of the Depository, in October, 1852, up to March 31, 1856—a period of three years and five months—have been .....	\$142,209 67
Periodicals for the same time.....	85,164 28
Total book and periodical sales.....	\$227,373 95

The number of subscribers to the periodicals at the Chicago Depository is as follows :

Northwestern Christian Advocate .....	10,033
Ladies' Repository .....	7,200
National Magazine .....	2,400
Sunday School Advocate .....	13,300
Missionary Advocate .....	3,000
Quarterly Review .....	218

The Northwestern Christian Advocate has been published at a loss of \$4,653 30 ; but will, no doubt, soon pay for itself and yield a profit to the Concern. But for the heavy debt due the South, and the consequent importance of husbanding our finances, we should not hesitate to suggest to the General Conference the propriety of ordering the purchase of a suitable lot, and the erection of such a building or buildings as would answer for the Depository and the printing of the paper in Chicago.

We were also authorized to establish, at our discretion, a Depository and a paper at St. Louis, when, in our judgment, it would be safe to do so. In view of the heavy liabilities upon us, there has been no time when we have thought it would be safe to the Concern to establish a Depository of books at that place. Under date of August 21, 1854, we proposed to the patronizing Conferences, upon their advising it, to publish a paper, commencing January 1, 1855 ; but, about the time of the meeting of the Publishing Committee for the final settlement of the question, we were in the midst of the great financial shock which was upon the country, and was so severely felt in the West, and especially in our own city. The farmer and mechanic were suffering alike with the merchant. In fact, an overwhelming panic had seized upon the people, such as had never been felt before in the United States.

In our own city, by suspensions and failures, a large amount of capital was locked up, including about \$9,600 of the funds of the Book Concern and the Missionary Society ; and at the very time that we were setting out to attend the meeting of the Publishing Committee, the news reached us that \$3,000 of our funds were shut up in the Union Bank of Chicago, which had suspended ; and on the very day that we started for St. Louis, the run commenced on the Ohio Life Insurance and Trust Company of Cincinnati, in which nearly all of our remaining funds were deposited. In this state of things, although we had pledged ourselves to the Conferences to commence the paper, we felt ourselves compelled to abandon it, and so reported to the Publishing Committee at a meeting held at St. Louis, November 22, 1854. This was done with the concurrence of the members of the Committee present after hearing the facts in the case.

It may be proper, before closing our Report, to call the special attention of the General Conference to the encouraging increase of the German publications and sales, from which it will be seen that the German books are no longer published at a loss to the Concern, but, on the contrary, some profit. Our German brethren have earnestly desired a much larger increase in the variety of German publications. This demand we have not been able to meet, from the fact that Dr. Nast, in connection with his other editorial duties, has not been able, without such assistance as he could not procure, to do more than he has done

in preparing German books for the press. In view of this expressed desideratum of a larger supply of German books, and the request for the publication of a semi-monthly Sabbath-school paper in the German language, we would respectfully suggest to the General Conference to consider the propriety of appointing an assistant editor in the German department, as it is thought the desired help can only be procured from among the German traveling preachers.

With regard to the Sabbath-school paper in the German language, we are told that our sister German Protestant denominations are publishing such a paper for their Sabbath schools, and if we do not provide our children with a periodical of this kind in the German language, our schools will be compelled to supply themselves elsewhere. It is thought by our German brethren that there will be a sufficient patronage from the beginning to save the Book Concern from loss. The great variety of cuts that we have accumulated from year to year, in publishing the English Sunday School Advocate, will enable us to furnish a cheaper and better periodical in German than any other Church can do.

With regard to the German Commentary on the New Testament, which the last General Conference instructed the German editor to prepare for publication, "and for which the Book Agents at Cincinnati were authorized to provide the editor with the help he might need to any amount not exceeding \$1,000," we have to report, that the editor found it impossible to undertake this great work alone, and that neither he nor the Agents could succeed in finding aid suitable to so responsible a work; and besides this difficulty, the editor wishes us to say that he would have hesitated to proceed in this great work for the following considerations:

1. The great disproportion between the expense of the work and our limited German membership.

2. The fact that the General Conference ordered a brief Commentary, and the almost unanimous judgment of our German brethren that, in order to obtain the object of the proposed Commentary, it should not be brief, but full and large, and that the publication of a large Commentary would pay cost better.

3. The hope that before long the Church would publish a new Commentary, compiled by abler men and clothed with proper authority, which might then be translated into German.

Finally, we beg leave to say that, as your Agents in the performance of the highly-responsible duties devolving upon us during our Agency, we claim to have acted for the time being with reference to the best interests of the Concern we represent.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

SWORMSTEDT & POE, *Agents.*

CINCINNATI, *March 31, 1856.*

EXHIBIT, NOVEMBER 30, 1855.

DEAR BRETHREN : The late settlement with the Commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, renders it necessary for us to commence a new series of Exhibits ; and having for some time felt the inconvenience of making them up to March 31st, the former date, we have thought this the most suitable time for making a change. We therefore now present you an Exhibit of the condition of the Western Book Concern at this date.

Very respectfully, your servants in Christ,  
 SWORMSTEDT & POE, Agents.

RESOURCES.

Stock on hand :

Books, bound and in sheets, Stationery, etc. ....	\$48,627 35
Presses, Plates, Type, Printing Paper, etc. ....	34,258 80
Materials and Tools in Bindery .....	7,073 07
Editors' Libraries, Furniture in Offices, etc.....	1,000 00

\$90,959 22

Notes and Accounts ..... \$67,054 01

Deduct 15 per cent. for probable losses..... 10,058 10

\$56,995 91

Real Estate in Cincinnati ..... \$75,000 00

Stock in Cincinnati Fuel Company ..... 100 00

Stock in Fireman's Insurance Company ..... 100 00

Cash and Drafts on hand ..... 10,871 71

\$234,026 84

LIABILITIES.

Notes and Accounts, including the balance due the Methodist Episcopal Church, South..... \$83,621 10

Net Capital, November 30, 1855..... \$150,405 74

N. B. The amount which the Western Book Concern, according to adjustment between the Commissioners, agreed to pay the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was :

In cash payments ..... \$60,000 00

In Books ..... 20,000 00

In Southern Notes and Accounts ..... 12,926 61

\$92,926 61

On this amount the Agents have paid :

In cash ..... \$15,000 00

In Books..... 9,046 17

In Notes and Accounts..... 12,926 61

\$36,972 78

\$55,953 83

This balance is to be paid :

In cash payments ..... \$45,000 00

In Books..... 10,953 83

\$55,953 83

But for the settlement with the Church, South, and the expenses of the suit since the General Conference of 1852, the Concern would now have a net capital stock of.....\$250,816 62

## N.

## REPORT OF THE BOOK COMMITTEE OF THE WESTERN BOOK CONCERN.

*To the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church :*

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN: We have met annually at Cincinnati to attend to the duties with which we were charged by the General Conference of 1852, and have given to the interests committed to our watch-care, such attention as will authorize us to speak with confidence and pleasure of the prudent and faithful management of the Concern by your Agents, Brothers Swormstedt and Poe.

With our advice and approval, the Agents have made very important improvements to the property by adding two stories to the main building, and by furnishing increased facilities for carrying on the business of the Book Room.

So far as we have been able to learn, there has been no want of economy or of attention to the pecuniary interests of the Concern by your Agents. They have had to grapple with the difficulties accruing from the unsettled state of the monetary affairs of the country, and the additional perplexities of the settlement with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Your Agents have been successful, under these disadvantageous circumstances, in maintaining the character of the Western Book Concern, in regard to its ability and promptitude in meeting all its liabilities. The books of the Concern are neatly and correctly kept, and the premises are in good order, and the working apartments are conveniently and comfortably arranged.

There have been added to the regular catalogue sixty-seven books and thirty-one tracts during the four years, and several additional volumes are in the course of publication.

We refer you to the report of the Book Agents for the amount of sales during the four years past.

We are gratified in being able to report that all the periodicals published at the Western Book Concern are in a highly prosperous condition, and you will, doubtless, appreciate the efforts of the editors of these periodicals, as contributing to this result.

By the report of the Agents, you will be pleased to learn that the Depository at Chicago is doing a good work, and that the prospect is good for the success of the Northwestern Christian Advocate, as a self-supporting member of the family of Church Periodicals.

We deem it not improper to suggest to the General Conference that the Tract Society, as at present organized and operating, is not accomplishing the design of its creation, and respectfully suggest the propriety of some better and more efficient and profitable arrangement.

We commend all these interests to your fostering care, praying that

the blessing of God may rest upon these important auxiliaries in spreading Scriptural holiness all over these lands.

G. W. WALKER, President, *Cincinnati.*  
PETER CARTWRIGHT, *Illinois.*  
LUCIEN W. BERRY, *Iowa.*  
R. SAPP, *Michigan.*  
JOS. M. TRIMBLE, *Ohio.*  
S. C. COOPER, *N. Indiana.*

CINCINNATI, April 29, 1856.

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REPORT OF THE MINORITY OF THE BOOK COMMITTEE OF THE  
WESTERN BOOK CONCERN.

*To the Bishops and Members of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in General Conference assembled :*

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN: The undersigned, a member of the Book Committee of the Cincinnati Book Concern, respectfully begs leave to present the following as a Minority Report. This measure is not prompted by any unkind feelings among the members of the committee, but by an honest difference of opinion respecting the powers and duties of the Book Committee. Nor is it intended, in this statement, to complain of any one, or to examine the matters treated of in the report presented by the majority, but mainly to bring to the notice of the General Conference the ground of difference between us and other members of the committee, which, in the judgment of the undersigned, requires the decision of the General Conference. The following preamble and resolutions, containing our views on the subject, were presented to the committee at its last meeting, April 29th, with the hope that the matter might be adjusted without reference to this body, but the majority did not see fit to acquiesce in the measure.

"Whereas, it is provided in the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church, that 'It shall be the duty of the Book Committee to examine into the condition of the Book Concern, to inspect the accounts of the Agents, and to make a report thereof, yearly, to all the Annual Conferences, and to the General Conference; and,

"Whereas, the interests of the Concern on the one hand, and the protection of the administration on the other hand, require that such 'examination' and 'inspection' should extend to, and include, the annual receipts and expenditure of the funds of the Concern; and,

Whereas, a difference of opinion exists among the members of the Book Committee, in respect to their authority to audit the accounts of the Agents, and the practicability of the measure; and as information

has been received from the Agents, that the books of the Concern are not so kept and arranged as to render such an inspection of the accounts practicable; and,

"*Whereas*, all the interests involved require that those differences of opinion should be fully settled, and the obstacles (if any exist) in the way of a thorough inspection of the accounts of the Agents should be removed; therefore,

"1. *Resolved*, That it is the duty of the Book Committee to inspect the accounts of the Agents, to the extent of ascertaining the amount of funds annually received, and the objects and purposes for which such funds have been expended.

"2. *Resolved*, That the Book Committee respectfully request the Agents of the Cincinnati Book Concern so to arrange and keep the books and accounts of the Concern, together with any vouchers that may be deemed necessary, as to render the above examination and inspection as easy and practicable as possible."

A majority of the committee declining to adopt the above resolutions, or to take any action on the subject, left the undersigned no other course to pursue than either, 1st, to sign the report of the majority, which, in his opinion, was not the result of such an examination of the Concern, and inspection of the accounts of the Agents, as the rule of Discipline contemplates; or, 2d, to neglect what he conceived to be an official duty, and allow this subject still to remain in doubt; or, 3d, to submit it for final decision to the judgment of the General Conference. The latter course has been chosen, with the humble request that the Conference will definitely express its views, whether it is not the duty of the Book Committee, under the rule of Discipline, to "inspect the accounts of the Agents," in the sense of auditing those accounts; and whether the books of the Concern should not be so arranged and kept as to render such inspection as practicable and easy as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. POWER.

May 3, 1856.

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P.

REPORT OF THE BOOK COMMITTEE AT NEW-YORK.

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN: The Book Committee appointed by the General Conference, at its session in 1852, in accordance with the provisions of the Discipline, make their Report to the General Conference, to be held in Indianapolis in May, 1856.

The committee having given all the attention to the important duties assigned them, which their limited time would permit, are happy to say, that so far as they are able to judge, the business of the Book Concern has been faithfully conducted. The Agents have proved themselves fully adequate to the management of the varied interests of the Concern,



under the new and pressing emergencies through which it has passed, arising from increasing demands for our publications, great pressure in the monetary concerns of the country, and heavy liabilities arising from the settlement of the claim of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. It would not have been matter of wonder, if in a path to them so new, and so large a portion of it entirely untrodden, our brethren, intrusted with this great interest, had made some material failures; but your committee are free to say that the administration of the agency has been such as to entitle them to the approbation and gratitude of the General Conference and the Church at large.

The buildings of the Book Concern are in a state of excellent repair, improvements having been made which add much to the convenience of the establishment, and afford increased facilities to those who are engaged in prosecuting the various branches of its business. The machinery has been much improved. New and improved presses have been substituted for such as were antiquated and comparatively inefficient. By these means the power of the Concern has been greatly increased at a comparatively small expense.

There have been added to the catalogue of books, during the past four years, two hundred and forty-seven volumes, and several of these are volumes of considerable size, and of great importance to our literature. The sales of the Concern have amounted to \$1,000,734 18, and the business has yielded a profit of \$191,262 77. These are results which your committee think should be regarded as highly satisfactory.

#### DEPOSITORIES.

The Depositories established, in conformity with the action of the General Conference, at Boston, Pittsburgh, and Buffalo, are in successful operation. The amount of sales for four years is as follows: Boston, \$129,814 17; Pittsburgh, \$49,425 66; \*Buffalo, \$12,000.

An experiment of a Branch of the Concern in the city of New-York has been in progress for some six years, and the results, as your Committee think, have not been such as to warrant the conclusion that such an establishment is expedient. The question, it is presumed, will receive due attention from the General Conference.

Your committee are of opinion that there may be danger of establishing too many depositories. Such are the increased facilities for transportation at the present time, that it would seem to be a measure of common prudence not to increase the risks and expenses of separate establishments much beyond what they are at present.

#### PERIODICALS.

Your committee regret to say that all the periodicals published at New-York come short of supporting themselves, excepting the Christian Advocate and Journal, and that has fallen off in the number of its subscribers during the last year.

° This Depository has been in existence about twenty months; hence the report of sales is for only one year.

The Advocate now has 27,600 upon its subscription list, and yielded a profit for the current year, ending December 30, 1855, of \$3,063 15.

The Quarterly Review has somewhat increased its number of subscribers, now having a list of 2,600, but still has run the Concern in debt \$2,416 97 for the current year.

The National Magazine has a subscription list of 15,500, and was a loss to the Concern, the past year, of \$4,438 57.

The Sunday-School Advocate has a circulation of 80,000, and failed to meet its expenses, in 1855, by \$5,887 70. The mechanical execution and the quality of the paper are evidently too expensive for the present price of the paper. It will be a question for the General Conference to settle, whether it will be good policy to reduce the quality of the paper, number, and expenses of the cuts, &c., or continue to publish the paper at a loss.

#### TRACT SOCIETY.

The Tract Society is an important branch of our economy, and may be considered as having fairly commenced its career of usefulness. It only becomes us to speak of the institution as an instrumentality through which the Book Concern can act upon the public mind. The relations of the two, perhaps, are not yet quite sufficiently defined. Your committee would respectfully suggest that the relation of the Book Concern and the Tract Society should be so adjusted, and responsibility for the debts contracted for books should be so located, as that the Tract Society should not be a source of loss to the Book Concern. The General Conference will, doubtless, carefully examine into the whole question, and make all necessary and suitable provision for the harmonious and effective action of the two departments.

#### SUGGESTIONS.

Facts and circumstances have arrested the attention of the Book Committee, during the past four years, which have brought us to certain conclusions, which we feel bound to present to the General Conference for its consideration. We shall not undertake to sustain our opinions by a lengthened argument in this report, but should the General Conference be induced, by our suggestions, to look at the reasons upon which they are based, or, if they are not obvious, should our suggestions elicit them from any quarter, so that they may be fully appreciated, our object will be answered.

We would suggest the possibility of multiplying General Conference papers beyond the necessities of the Church.

We would also suggest that the editors at New-York should reside in that city, or in its immediate neighborhood, and occupy offices in the Book Room. Also, that editors should not, at their own motion, leave the country, and devolve their duties upon others.

Finally: That the General Conference editors should not disparage the Book Concern in their publications. We believe that the importance of the Concern, as a tributary to the Church's power, can scarcely be overrated, and we think that it is entitled to the sympathy and hearty

coöperation of the whole Church; and certainly we think it ought to be protected from the assaults of our own editors.

During the past four years a great crisis has taken place in the history of the Book Concern. We refer to the settlement of the litigation with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the consequent heavy liabilities of the Concern. The present financial condition of the Concern, we presume, will be presented by the Agents in their report, and must not be entered into by us.

This brief survey of interests committed to us for our annual inspection and advisement, we now submit to the General Conference as our report.

GEORGE PECK, *Wyoming Conference.*

C. B. TIPPETT, *Baltimore Conference.*

T. J. THOMPSON, *Philadelphia Conference.*

J. PORTER, *New-England Conference.*

S. ALLEN, *Maine Conference.*

M. CROW, *East Genesee Conference.*

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Q.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CHURCH SUIT IN  
THE WEST.

THE Commissioners appointed to attend to the Church Suit in the West beg leave to report. They attended the trial in the Circuit Court of Ohio, where the case was argued by able counsel on both sides, and the decision was in favor of the defendants. No sooner was the decision rendered than notice of an appeal was given.

At an early period after this decision was rendered, Judge M'Lean voluntarily mediating between the parties, proposed an amicable settlement with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

The judge in his letter of October 29, 1852, says, "As the late decision places the Methodist Episcopal Church on its proper ground, and must vindicate its course in the estimation of all intelligent and unprejudiced men, I advise strongly and decidedly that a compromise be proposed by it."

The Commissioners of the suit in the East resolved, "That if the commission in the West should take measures for an amicable settlement, and succeed in obtaining such a settlement as the following, namely: that all proceedings in the civil courts between the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, forever cease, then and in case the decision of the Court in New-York shall be satisfactory, we will give it our sanction, provided also the Book Agents at Cincinnati will allow an assessment upon the Western Concern, in proportion to the amount of property at New-York and Cincinnati."

To which the Commissioners of the West answered:

"That while we regret the litigation before the civil courts occasioned by the suits brought by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and feel disposed to do everything that justice, equity, or a Christian spirit may demand, we do not think we are required to make any proposition for compromise, or that it would be proper for us to do so.

"That we hold ourselves in readiness respectfully, and patiently, to consider any further suggestions which may be made by the Eastern commission of the Methodist Episcopal Church, touching a proposition for compromise, or to confer with them on this subject."

In communicating the foregoing, we suggested reasons why a proposition for compromise might with more propriety come from them.

Early in December, 1852, your Commissioners, acting upon suggestions of counsel, addressed a circular letter to the Bishops, containing in substance the following inquiries, namely: 1. Would you advise that the Bishops be requested to submit a proposition to make a division of the property of the Book Concern according to the "Plan of Separation" before the Annual Conferences, in order to ascertain whether the requisite majority could be obtained. 2. Do you believe such a proposition would be carried in the Annual Conferences? 3. If an attempt should be made to settle the claim of the South and it should fail, would our position before the public be better or worse?

The Bishops were unanimous in advising against submitting the proposition, and in declaring their opinion, that if it were submitted it would fail, and render our position worse.

The brethren of the Eastern Commission, who were also consulted, returned answers in harmony with those of the Bishops. Your Commissioners, therefore, concluded that nothing could be gained by submitting the question to the Annual Conferences, and they so informed their counsel. In May, 1853, the Eastern Commissioners were convened, at the instance of Judge M'Lean, and they agreed to a basis of settlement, subject to the condition that the Western Commissioners unite in the proposition. This "basis" was communicated to the Southern Commissioners, and after they had assented to it, it was submitted to us.

Before determining whether we could unite with our brother Commissioners in the East, we requested a meeting with them, which was held at Pittsburgh, Pa., July 6, 1853. Meanwhile we consulted counsel as to our powers, and received the following answer from Mr. Ewing:

"There is, to my mind, a very clear distinction between the powers of the Commissioners over the funds involved in the suit in New-York and the suit in Ohio.

"An interlocutory decree having passed against the Methodist Episcopal Church in New-York, settling the question of right against them, it is in the power of the Commissioners to compromise and settle the details of the final decree in such manner as in their opinion will subserve the interests and promote the well-being of the Church which they represent. The Annual Conferences have no voice in this matter of adjustment and detail. All rests with the General Conference, whose powers are not in this restricted by any organic law, and the General Conference has vested all its powers over this subject-matter in the Commissioners. They therefore have full power to adjust the details of the final decree, not departing

from the principles settled by the interlocutory decree, in such manner as they think proper, and their acts will be binding upon the Church and all else interested by connection with it.

"But the case is totally different with the suit in Ohio, and the property which is affected by it.

"Without criticising too closely the powers granted by the General Conference to the Commissioners over the suit in Ohio, and suffering it to extend, as I think it does, not only to the suit, but with it to the subject-matter in controversy, the property involved in the suit, and the settlement of all matters in litigation concerning it, we yet find the Commissioners clothed only with the power which the General Conference has over the Book Concern before any litigation commenced concerning it.

"It cannot be well argued that the power of the General Conference over the property in, and proceeds of, the Book Concern was enlarged by the fact that there was controversy and litigation concerning it, and that the General Conference was the appropriate repository to conduct and settle litigation. The whole controversy rested and rests on the power of the General Conference to apply this fund in a particular manner. If they have that power, I think, on a liberal construction of their act, they have *quoad hoc* transferred it to the Commissioners. But if they had it not as an original and distinct power, they cannot have acquired it by an abortive attempt (if they did attempt it, which I by no means admit) at its exercise, and by such attempt giving rise to litigation. To hold that this could be done, would be to nullify at once all constitutional restrictions.

"The power of the Commissioners then over the subject-matter of the controversy in Ohio rests upon the power of the General Conference over the proceeds of the Book Concern, subject to the saving of the 6th restrictive article, and there is no decree in the case in Ohio changing the relation of the parties to the property.

"I have heretofore expressed my opinion that the General Conference had no power to change the application of the proceeds of the Book Concern without the consent of the Annual Conferences. This opinion remains unchanged. I have no doubt whatever on the subject. The Circuit Court in the district of Ohio, in the direct case, expressed the same opinion unhesitatingly. In the New-York case, it was held that the effect had been produced, not by a direct exercise of power, which it was not intimated that the General Conference possessed, but that by the destruction of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the organization of two Churches out of its original elements, the rights to the proceeds of the Book Concern followed the persons entitled into the new organization. In my opinion, therefore, the Commissioners have not power to enter into the proposed arrangement, as to the property involved in the suit in Ohio, without first obtaining the consent of the Annual Conferences. But as they have now vested in them all the powers of the General Conference, over the matters in litigation, if the consent of the Annual Conferences could be obtained, the arrangement proposed by Judge M'Lean might safely and properly be entered into."

This opinion settled in our minds the question of power, as the opinion

of the Bishops had settled the question of reference to the Annual Conferences.

At the meeting at Pittsburgh, we received communications from Judges M'Lean and Nelson, advising us of the mode by which the settlement proposed by the former might be carried out.

This is briefly stated in the words of the latter :

"If the Western Corporation voluntarily appear and become parties to the New-York suit, there can be no doubt as to the jurisdiction of the Court over it, nor that the decree would bind it; and as to the powers of the Western Commissioners over the subject-matter, it seems to me the resolution of the General Conference, a copy of which you inclosed, is ample for that purpose."

We never doubted that we might acquire legal power to make the proposed compromise by voluntarily going out of the Circuit Court of Ohio and into the Circuit Court of New-York. This we did not think proper to do. 1. Because it would seem to repudiate a decision which we believed to be right. 2. To endorse a decision that we believed to be wrong. 3. We had no evidence that the principal for which we acted desired us thus to settle the matter in dispute.

We were informed upon inquiry, that the Circuit Court of New-York would not admit a caveat against its own decision, and that the Supreme Court of the United States would not make a decree in the Ohio case by consent of parties, and direct a distribution that might be agreed on.

Solicitous prudently to go to the limit of our power for an amicable settlement, we resolved, 1. That it is inexpedient to unite with our brethren of the Eastern Commission in the proposition for a settlement with the South. 2. That we agree to submit to an arbitration; the arbiters to be chosen in the usual mode, each party choosing one, and the two thus chosen selecting a third; their decision to be final. 3. That while we deeply regret the litigation into which the Methodist Episcopal Church has been forced, we cannot conceive any good reason why the Church we represent and serve, or the cause of religion, should suffer disgrace by our being sued, especially under the circumstances under which the suit was brought, and our appearing as defendants before the Courts of the country. 4. That in case the Commissioners decline our propositions for an arbitration, and will not suspend the prosecution of their appeal to allow us time to take the vote of the Annual Conferences, we consider ourselves shut up to the necessity of calmly awaiting the decision which the Supreme Court of the United States may make in our case.

These resolutions were transmitted to the distinguished gentleman who acted as mediator between the parties, and he was informed that it was understood by us that the proposed arbitration was to be under the sanction of the Court. He having declined to present our proposition to the Southern Commissioners, we made it directly, and received from them a direct but respectful refusal.

Mr. Ewing, at one time, in view of the settlement of the New-York case, and the uncertainty respecting the issue of ours in the Court of ultimate resort, although he felt confident that the law was with us, expressed a wish that there might be a compromise of the matter; but subsequently, under date of February 1, 1854, he writes:

“On full reflection, I am satisfied that the conclusion you have come to is the best. You are trustees, and you follow the law of your trust both as it was expounded to you by your counsel and adjudged by the Court; and nothing but a general consent of the ministry would warrant your departure from the straight line marked out by the law.”

Your Commissioners attended the trial at Washington. The result is known to the country. Soon after the decision of the Supreme Court was published, we proposed to the Southern Commissioners an amicable liquidation of their claim against the Western Book Concern, with a view to save both delay and cost in the appointment of a Master Commissioner.

We are happy to observe that no unkind feelings have influenced us in the discharge of the duty assigned us, and that our intercourse, both with the Eastern and Southern Commissioners, has been most friendly. The former proposed to us the question, whether we had any objection to the separate adjustment of the claim of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, against the New-York Book Concern, and were assured that we had not. We felt every disposition to accommodate, but were determined not to transcend our powers. Although we were forewarned of the result, we are not responsible for it. Indeed, the same authority which predicted the issue, proclaimed Judge Nelson's decision in the New-York case to be wrong, and Judge Leavitt's decision in ours to be right. For ourselves, we do not regret that the Supreme Court has decided the case. If it has decided according to the law, it is well for us, for the Southern Methodist Episcopal Church, for the whole country, that the law should be proclaimed by our highest judicial tribunal. If it has decided otherwise, it behooves us all to know how far the Supreme Court of the United States can be relied upon.

The Commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, having responded favorably to our proposition for an amicable adjustment, a meeting was arranged for that purpose.

After a calculation of the claim of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, against the Western Book Concern, we proposed to give them seventy thousand dollars.

This proposition was declined, on the alleged ground that the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, according to the exhibit of the Western Book Concern, and the mandate of the Supreme Court, was entitled to from ninety to ninety-six thousand dollars.

It should be observed that, according to the mandate of the Court, the capital, up to 1845, was to be divided *pro rata* by the number of the traveling preachers, which would give the South from 28 to 30 per cent. on the capital; but that, instead of dividing the profits since 1845 upon the same principle, it directs that they shall be divided *pro rata* by Conference, which raised the proportion of the South to 42 per cent. on the amount divided.

We subsequently received from the Southern Commissioners a proposition, proposing to take eighty thousand dollars and the Southern debts, amounting to \$12,926 61. To this proposition we acceded. Indeed, when we reflect that the Southern debts were all past due, many of them outlawed, some worthless, and all, while in the hands of the Book Concern, of little or no value; and that the South claimed, and could collect,

under the decree of the Court, the interest on their portion of the capital since the rendering of the decree, and which was not taken into account in our calculation, although it would raise their proportion about three thousand dollars; and that the extension of credit beyond ordinary business limits and the proffered offer of purchases, with which the Southern propositions were accompanied, were greatly advantageous to the Concern at this crisis, we did not perceive that their proposition materially varied from our own.

The mandate required that all the expenses attending the suit, including charges of counsel and solicitors, and traveling expenses of Commissioners, as well of plaintiffs as defendants, should be a common charge on the Concern; but in our settlement it was agreed that each party should bear its own costs, except the taxable costs, amounting to, say \$400, which should be paid by the Concern; and considering the difference in the expenses of the parties, we deemed this arrangement no inconsiderable advantage to us.

Moreover, a separation without a settlement, when there was no principle involved, would have been little less than disgraceful.

We, therefore, drew up and signed the following final decree, namely:

<p>“ WILLIAM A. SMITH, <i>et al.</i>,  <i>vs.</i>          LEROY SWORMSTEDT, <i>et al.</i> }  </p>	<p>U. S. CIRCUIT COURT FOR OHIO,          April 7, 1855.</p>
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“ And now come the said complainants, and, on their motion, the following decree, rendered by the Supreme Court of the United States at the December Term thereof, A. D. 1853, and the mandate thereon, are ordered to be entered, and the same is accordingly done, as follows:

<p>“ WILLIAM A. SMITH, <i>et al.</i>,  <i>vs.</i>          “ LEROY SWORMSTEDT, <i>et al.</i> }  </p>
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“ Appeal from the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Ohio.

“ This cause came on to be heard on the transcript of the record from the Circuit Court of the United States for the district of Ohio, and was argued by counsel. On consideration whereof it is ordered, adjudged, and decreed by this Court, that the decree of said Circuit Court in this cause be and the same is hereby reversed and annulled; and this Court doth further find, adjudge, and decree,

“ 1. That under the resolution of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, holden at the city of New-York, according to the usage and Discipline of said Church, passed on the eighth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-four, (in the pleadings mentioned,) it was among other things, and in virtue of the power of the said General Conference, well agreed and determined by the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, as then existing, that in case the Annual Conferences in the slaveholding states should find it necessary to unite in a distinct ecclesiastical connection, the ministers, local and traveling, of every grade and office in the Methodist



Episcopal Church, might attach themselves to such new ecclesiastical connection, without blame.

“2. That the said Annual Conferences in the slaveholding states did find and determine that it was right, expedient, and necessary to erect the Annual Conferences last aforesaid into a distinct ecclesiastical connection, based upon the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church aforesaid, comprehending the doctrines and entire moral and ecclesiastical rule and regulations of the said Discipline, (except only in so far as verbal alterations might be necessary to or for a distinct organization,) which new ecclesiastical connection was to be known by the name and style of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and that the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was duly organized, under said resolutions of the said General Conference, and the said decision of said Annual Conferences last aforesaid, in a convention thereof held at Louisville, in the State of Kentucky, in the month of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-five.

“3. That by force of the said resolutions of June the eighth, eighteen hundred and forty-four, and of the authority and power of the said General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church as then existing, by which the same were adopted, and by virtue of the said finding and determination of the said Annual Conferences in the slaveholding states therein mentioned, and by virtue of the organization of such conferences into a distinct ecclesiastical connection as last aforesaid, the religious association known as the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, as then existing, was divided into two associations, or distinct Methodist Episcopal Churches, as in the bill of complaint is alleged.

“4. That the property denominated the Methodist Book Concern at Cincinnati, in the pleadings mentioned, was, at the time of said division and immediately before, a fund subject to the following use, that is to say, that the profits arising therefrom, after retaining a sufficient capital to carry on the business thereof, were to be regularly applied toward the support of the different traveling, supernumerary, superannuated, and worn-out preachers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, their wives, widows, and children, according to the rules and Discipline of said Church, and that the said fund and property are held under the act of incorporation in the said answer mentioned, by the said defendants, Leroy Swormstedt and John H. Power, as Agents of said Book Concern, and in trust for the purposes thereof.

“5. That, in virtue of the said division of said Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, the deficient, traveling, supernumerary, superannuated, and worn-out preachers, their wives, widows, and children, comprehended in, or in connection with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, were, are, and continue to be beneficiaries of the said Book Concern, to the same extent and as fully as if the said division had not taken place, and in the same manner and degree as persons of the same description who are comprehended in, or in connection with, the other association, denominated since the division, the Methodist Episcopal Church, and that as well the principal as the profits of said Book Concern, since said division, should of right be administered and managed by the respective General and Annual Conferences of the said two associations and

Churches under the separate organizations thereof, and according to the shares or proportions of the same as hereinafter mentioned, and in conformity with the rules and Discipline of said respective associations, so as to carry out the purposes and trusts aforesaid.

“6. That so much of the capital and property of said Book Concern at Cincinnati, wherever situated, and so much of the produce and profits thereof, as may not have been heretofore accounted for to said Church, South, in the New-York case hereinafter mentioned, or otherwise, shall be paid to said Church, South, according to the rate and proportions following, that is to say: In respect to the capital, such share or part as corresponds with the proportion which the number of the traveling preachers in the Annual Conferences which formed themselves into the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, bore to the number of all the traveling preachers of the Methodist Episcopal Church before the division thereof, which numbers shall be fixed and ascertained as they are shown by the minutes of the several Annual Conferences next preceding the said division and new organization in the month of May, A. D. eighteen hundred and forty-five.

“And in respect to the produce or profits, such share or part as the number of Annual Conferences which formed themselves into the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, bore, at the time of said division in May, A. D. 1845, to the whole number of Annual Conferences then being in the Methodist Episcopal Church, excluding the Liberia Conference, so that the division or apportionment of said produce and profits shall be had by conferences, and not by numbers of the traveling preachers.

“7. That said payment of capital and profits, according to the ratios of apportionment so declared, shall be made and paid to the said Smith, Parsons, and Green, as Commissioners aforesaid, or their successors, on behalf of said Church, South, and the beneficiaries therein, or to such other person or persons as may be thereto authorized by the General Conference of said Church, South, the same to be subsequently managed and administered, so as to carry out the trusts and uses aforesaid, according to the Discipline of said Church, South, and the regulations of the General Conference thereof.

“8. And, in order more fully to carry out the matters hereinbefore settled and adjudged, it is further ordered and decreed, that this cause be remanded to the said Circuit Court for further proceedings; that is to say,

“That the same be referred to a master to take and state an account as follows:

“(1.) Of the amount and value of the said Book Concern at Cincinnati, on the first day of May, 1845, and of what specific property and effects (according to a general description or classification thereof) the same then consisted, whether composed of real or personal estate, and of whatever nature or description the same may have been, and a similar account as of the date or time, when the said master shall take this account.

“(2.) Of the produce and profits of said Book Concern from the time of the General Conference of May, 1844, as reported thereto, (if so reported,) up to the time of the said division in May, 1845, and from the last mentioned date down to the time of making up his report, specifying how

much of said profits and produce have been transferred to said Book Concern at New-York, and accounted for to said Church, South, in the settlement of the case there, and how much remains to be accounted for to said Church, South, on the basis settled by this decree.

“ And in taking said accounts, and in the execution of said reference, the said defendants shall produce on oath all deeds, accounts, books of accounts, instruments, reports, letters, and copies of letters, memoranda, documents, and writings whatever pertinent to said reference, in their possession or control, and the said defendants may be examined on oath, on the said reference, and each party may produce evidence before the master, and have process to compel the attendance of witnesses.

“ And the said master is further directed, in respect to any annual profits of said Concern, not heretofore accounted for to said Church, South, to allow to said Church, South, interest at the rate of six per cent. upon such unpaid balances from the date at which the same ought to have been paid.

“ And, in respect to all the costs in this case, including the costs of the reference, and all other costs from the commencement of the case until its conclusion; and in respect to the fees of counsel and solicitors therein of both parties, so far as the same may be reasonable; and in respect of just and necessary expenses, as well of plaintiffs as of defendants, in conducting the suit, the same ought to be paid out of said Book Concern, as a common charge thereon, before appointment and division; and the master is accordingly directed to allow and pay the same to the respective parties entitled thereto, and then to apportion the residue according to the principles fixed in this decree.

“ And the master is further directed to return his report to the said Circuit Court with all convenient dispatch, which Court shall then proceed to enforce the payment of whatever sum or sums may be found due to said Church, South, on the confirmation of the master's report, in such installments as may be by said Court adjudged reasonable, each party having due opportunity of excepting to the master's report; and all questions arising upon said report, and not settled by this decree, may be moved before said Circuit Court, to which Court either party shall be at liberty to apply on the footing of this decree.’

“ And thereupon came, as well the said complainants, by their solicitor, as also the said defendants, and make known to the Court that they have mutually settled and adjusted the various matters which, by the terms of said decree, were to be ascertained by the reference to a master, as therein directed, as follows, to wit:

“ Sec. A. That there be paid by the said Book Concern at Cincinnati to the said William A. Smith, Alexander L. P. Green, and Charles B. Parsons, Commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the sum of eighty thousand dollars, in manner hereinafter specified, and that there be assigned and delivered by said Book Concern to said Commissioners, or their appointee, all the debts due to said Book Concern from persons living in Southern States, according to a schedule now made out.

“ Which said sum of eighty thousand dollars, and said assignment of

debts, is to be in full discharge of all right, interest, and claim, either in respect of capital or profits, of said Methodist Episcopal Church, South, or the said Commissioners thereof, in and to the said Book Concern, upon the footing of said decree of the Supreme Court of the United States, or otherwise; and it is hereby admitted that the said assignment and delivery of debts has been made in conformity with the above agreement.

“That said sum of eighty thousand dollars shall be payable as follows:

“Sec. B. Fifteen thousand dollars thereof in cash in hand, which sum the said Commissioners of said Church, South, acknowledge to have received from said Book Concern, on the fifteenth day of February, A. D. 1855, being the date of said settlement.

“Sec. C. Ten thousand dollars on the first day of November, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-six, with interest, at the rate of six per cent., from the fifteenth of February, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-five, payable annually.

“Sec. D. Ten thousand dollars on the first day of November, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-seven, with interest, at the rate of six per cent., from the fifteenth of February, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-five, payable annually.

“Sec. E. Ten thousand dollars on the first day of November, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-eight, with interest, at the rate of six per cent., from the fifteenth of February, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-five, payable annually.

“Sec. F. Ten thousand dollars on the first day of November, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-nine, with interest, at the rate of six per cent., from the fifteenth of February, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-five, payable annually.

“Sec. G. Five thousand dollars on the first day of November, A. D. eighteen hundred and sixty, with interest, at the rate of six per cent., from the fifteenth of February, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-five, payable annually.

“Sec. H. Twenty thousand dollars in books of the said Book Concern, payable and deliverable within the term of two years from said fifteenth of February, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-five, upon such terms as to price and rate of discount upon the usual retail prices as have heretofore been established between the said Book Concern at Cincinnati and the Book Concern of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, for which said sum of twenty thousand dollars so payable in books, the said Book Concern at Cincinnati has this day, to wit, on said fifteenth February, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, entered on its books a credit in account with Messrs. Stevenson & Owen, as Agents of the Book Concern of said Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

“Sec. I. That a decree be entered in conformity with the foregoing terms, and to enforce the performance thereof; and that all taxable costs be paid by said Book Concern at Cincinnati.

“And thereupon, in conformity with said terms, it is ordered, adjudged, and decreed by the Court, that all and singular the terms of said settlement be well and truly kept and performed; and that the said Book Concern at Cincinnati do pay the said several sums of money and interest, as stipulated in sections C, D, E, F, and G, of said settlement, or

in default thereof, that execution issue therefor, or for such part or parts as may be in arrear; and that said Book Concern at Cincinnati do well and truly pay and discharge the said sum of twenty thousand dollars in the manner specified in said Section H; and in default thereof, that said complainants, or said Commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, have leave to apply to this Court for such order or process to enforce the payment, as may be right and according to the usages of Courts of Equity; and it is further ordered, that the said Book Concern at Cincinnati pay all the costs of this suit.

"We, the undersigned, have, on this fifteenth of February, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, settled the various matters left open by said decree of the Supreme Court of the United States, in the manner specified in the foregoing Sections, from Section A to Section I, inclusive; and we do request the Court to enter the same of record, and also the draft of the decree following said Sections.

(Signed)

"W. A. SMITH,  
"A. L. P. GREEN,  
"C. B. PARSONS,

*"Commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.*

"JOHN F. WRIGHT,  
"E. THOMSON,  
"M. MARLAY,  
"LEROY SWORMSTEDT,  
"ADAM POE,

[L. S.]

*"Commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church.*

*"SWORMSTEDT & POE, Agents."*

Conscious that we have served the Church with faithfulness and integrity, and rejoicing that we have done so with unanimity, we respectfully submit our report.

JOHN F. WRIGHT,  
E. THOMSON,  
M. MARLAY,  
LEROY SWORMSTEDT,  
ADAM POE.

CINCINNATI, February 28, 1856.

## R.

## REPORT OF THE WESTERN BOOK AGENTS IN RELATION TO A BOOK DEPOSITORY AND A PAPER AT ST. LOUIS.

*To the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church :*

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN : The following resolutions were passed by the General Conference of 1852, May 22 :

1. *Resolved*, That the Book Agents at Cincinnati be, and they are hereby, authorized, and instructed to establish a Depository for books and a weekly Paper, to be denominated by such title as they may select, in the city of St. Louis, Mo. ; to be under the direction and control of the Book Agents at Cincinnati. *Provided* that, in the judgment of the Agents, such Depository and periodical can be established and sustained with safety to the interests of the Book Concern.

2. *Resolved*, That a Committee of one from the Illinois, one from the Southern Illinois, one from the Iowa, one from the Arkansas, and one from the Missouri Conference, to be selected by the Conferences respectively, be appointed to superintend the publication of the paper authorized to be published at St. Louis, Mo., and that upon the nomination of said committee, and recommendation of the Missouri Conference, the presiding Bishop be requested to appoint an editor for said paper, when the Book Agents at Cincinnati shall have determined upon its publication.

The conferences named in the last resolution, each appointed a member of the Publishing Committee during their sessions, in the month of October, 1852. A. Poe, being present at all these conferences, informed them that it would be impossible for the Agents to take any steps toward publishing a Paper or establishing a Depository at St. Louis, before the spring of 1853, and for the following reasons :

1. The conferences which our business required us to attend did not close till November 2.

2. We had been unconditionally instructed, by the same General Conference, to establish both a Depository and Paper at Chicago, which had to be done immediately at a very heavy outlay.

3. The expense and toil of the Church Suit in progress would take all of our time and means that could be spared from the regular business of the Concern at Cincinnati till May, 1853.

Notwithstanding this, the committee nominated Rev. W. D. R. Trotter for editor, and proceeded immediately to St. Louis, and issued a circular and prospectus, promising a Paper, to be called the "Central Christian Advocate," and to be commenced the first of January, 1853. A copy of this circular, and letters from Brother Trotter and Dr. Cartwright, member of the committee from Illinois Conference, reached us about the 10th of November, 1852. Bishops Morris, Simpson, and Ames, being in Cincinnati at the time, we laid the circular before them, with the following questions :

1. Have not the committee appointed by the several Western conferences transcended their powers in issuing the accompanying circular, in which they fix the time of publishing the Paper, and also the terms?

2. Can said committee appoint the editor without the concurrence of the Missouri Conference?

3. Was it the design of the General Conference that this committee should take the course they have, before the Agents determined on the publication of the Paper?

CINCINNATI, November 10, 1852.

To which the Bishops promptly replied as follows:

In answering the questions this day submitted by Brothers Swormstedt and Poe, we reply:

1. We understand the Discipline to give the Agents, and not the Book Committee at St. Louis, the power of determining the time and terms of the publication of the proposed Paper.

2. The committee appointed by the several conferences to superintend the publication of a Paper at St. Louis may nominate an editor, but the presiding Bishop cannot appoint him until the Agents have determined upon the publication of the Paper.

3. We should not infer from the reading of the rule that the General Conference designed the committee to proceed in making any arrangements without the previous action of the Agents.

T. A. MORRIS,  
M. SIMPSON,  
E. R. AMES.

CINCINNATI, November 10, 1852.

After duly considering the question in all its bearings, we wrote the following letter to Rev. W. D. R. Trotter.

CINCINNATI, Nov. 15, 1852.

DEAR BROTHER,—Yours, accompanied with your circular, was received on the eve of the meeting of the Bishops and Book Committee.

We herewith send you copies of the questions which we submitted to the Bishops on reading your circular, and also their answers. From these you will perceive that it is the opinion of the Bishops that you have been premature in your proceedings. We have telegraphed you that we cannot endorse your course.

This we must decline for the following reasons:

1. Because you have gone in advance of the order of the General Conference.

2. It is wholly impracticable for us to make the necessary preparation for issuing a Paper at St. Louis by the 1st of January, 1853.

3. The General Conference having made us responsible for the establishment of a Depository and Paper at St. Louis, we cannot permit others to do this for us.

Our understanding with regard to the action is, that we were to establish a Paper and Depository at Chicago unconditionally, and that the establishment of a Depository and Paper at St. Louis was at our discretion. In compliance with the order and wish of the General Conference, we

have proceeded to open a Depository at Chicago, and arrangements are made for issuing the Paper the 1st of January, 1853. This, with our other duties as Agents, has employed the whole of our time since the General Conference. So that it was impossible for us to take any steps toward doing anything at St. Louis. This our A. Poe was requested to state to the conferences at their late sessions. It has been, and is now our purpose, unless prevented by your movements, to visit St. Louis and inquire into the whole matter, so that we may be able to determine whether we can with "safety to the Concern" establish a Paper and a Depository at that place.

We now respectfully suggest that you suspend your proceedings until we can look into this matter, which we may do some time next spring; and should things be favorable, we may get ready to publish the Paper for you by the first of January, 1854, which, we think, will be as early as you could reasonably expect, in view of all the circumstances.

After a review of this subject, should you resolve on issuing your Paper, the responsibility must be yours, and not ours. We hope you may see your way clear to stop further proceedings. We suspend the publication of your circular in the *Western Christian Advocate* until we hear from you again. If we publish your circular, we must also publish our questions and the Bishops' answers. This, we think, not best, and therefore await further orders.

Yours truly,

SWORMSTEDT & POE, *Agents.*

We also wrote substantially the same to Dr. Cartwright at the same date.

The editor and committee, however, determined to issue their Paper the first of January, 1853, and did so, of course, on their own responsibility.

In the spring of 1853, we visited St. Louis to ascertain whether we could establish a Depository and Paper, or either of them, with safety to the Concern. After a careful examination, we were satisfied that neither could be done.

And furthermore, we learned that the brethren engaged in publishing the *Central Christian Advocate* were in debt largely beyond the whole amount of their subscription list, and that they were unwilling to close with their first volume unless we would assume their debts, and purchase their type and fixtures. This we also declined doing, believing that we were not authorized by the action of the General Conference to assume any debt not contracted by ourselves.

In the spring of 1854, we were informed by Dr. Cartwright, at the meeting of the Book Committee in Cincinnati, that the Publishing Committee of the conferences had concluded to give up their Paper at the close of the current volume, and desired that we should commence a Paper; and as our Book Committee advised us, in compliance with their request, to commence said Paper, we issued a circular to the patronizing conferences, informing them that we had concluded, if they would recommend the publication of a Paper at St. Louis, and give us their aid in the enterprise, we would issue a prospectus at the earliest possible period after their sessions should close, and endeavor to be ready to commence the



Paper the first week in January, 1855. The Arkansas Conference did not meet till the first week in November, 1854, and the earliest time we could therefore fix upon, for a meeting of the committee for the final settlement of the question, was the 22d of November. Just before this meeting occurred, an unparalleled crush in money matters took place all over the country, many banks and extensive business houses suddenly failed, and many more suspended. Two banks in Cincinnati, and one in Chicago, where we had funds deposited, suspended, and thus locked up our Book and Missionary Funds to the amount of \$12,000, though at the time our deposits were made all had full confidence in them. At the meeting of the committee we had to inform them of these facts; and the members present, together with Bishop Ames, who was also in St. Louis at the time, agreed with us that, however desirable it might be under more favorable circumstances to issue the paper, we could not incur the expense at that time with probable safety to the interests of the Concern. All of which is respectfully submitted.

SWORMSTEDT & POE, *Agents.*

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, *May 7, 1856.*

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S.\*

## REPORT OF THE GENERAL MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.

The General Missionary Committee of the Methodist Episcopal Church submit to the General Conference the following report of its acts and doings for the four preceding years.

There being seven effective superintendents, the work was divided into seven mission districts, and the Bishops constituted the committee by appointing one from each district as follows:

No. 1, Including Baltimore, Philadelphia, New-Jersey, New-York, and New-York East Conferences—N. Bangs.

No. 2, Including Providence, New-England, New-Hampshire, Maine, East Maine, and Vermont Conferences—George Webber.

No. 3, Including Black River, Troy, Wyoming, Oneida, Genesee, and East Genesee Conferences—George Gary.

No. 4, Including Western Virginia, Pittsburgh, Erie, Ohio, Cincinnati, and Kentucky Conferences—John F. Wright.

No. 5, Including North Ohio, Michigan, Northwest Indiana, North Indiana, Southeast Indiana, and Indiana Conferences—Wellington H. Collins.

No. 6, Including Wisconsin, Rock River, Iowa, Illinois, and Southern Illinois—Henry W. Reed.

No. 7, Including Missouri, Arkansas, Oregon, and California Conferences—Christopher J. Houts.

\* For Report on the Bible Cause see *Appendix S*, on page 266.

The first meeting of the committee commenced at the mission rooms, New-York, on November 8, 1852. All the members of the committee were present at the opening except C. J. Houts, who failed to reach New-York until after the close of the session. Thomas Carlton, Treasurer, and John P. Durbin, Corresponding Secretary, were present, and also Bishops Waugh and Scott. Bishop Janes was with us also in the afternoon of the first day. On motion, N. Bangs was elected Chairman, and John P. Durbin, Secretary. Religious services by George Gary.

The committee entered upon their work with care and great deliberation; conscious of their dependence on the Head of the Church, they explored his guidance and help at every step, and applied themselves closely to their important duties; making appropriations for the year 1853 as follows:

#### APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1853.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.—*Africa*.—Aggregate amount appropriated, \$26,000.

*South America*.—Buenos Ayres Mission, \$1,000. For the extension of the work in the interior, \$1,000. At the discretion of the Board and Bishop having the charge, for establishing a mission at Monte Video, \$2,000.

*China*.—For the entire expenses of the mission, including the sending out of an additional missionary, \$10,000.

*Germany*.—Foreign German Mission, \$10,000.

DOMESTIC MISSIONS.—*Domestic German Missions*, \$43,300.

*Foreign Population* other than German, \$10,250.

*Indian Missions*, \$13,500.

*Domestic Missions* in the several Annual Conferences to extend the work among such as use the English language, \$74,250.

Of this amount, \$15,000 were appropriated to the California Conference, \$2,000 to be applied within their own bounds, and the remainder placed under the direction of the Board, for paying the expenses of such men as may be transferred by the Bishops to that Conference. \$8,000 were appropriated to Oregon, \$3,000 to be applied to the work at home, and \$5,000 placed at the disposition of the Board to meet the expenses of transfers to that Conference.

The Committee resolved to place at the discretion of the Board, and the Bishop having charge of Foreign Missions, for promoting the work in France according to the previous action of the Board and the letter of the Corresponding Secretary to Dr. C. Cook, dated in August, \$2,500.

The Corresponding Secretary then reported to the General Missionary Committee a voluminous correspondence concerning a mission to Bulgaria, and among the Greeks in Constantinople and vicinity, and also called their attention to opening a mission in India; whereupon it was resolved that a fund be created and placed at the discretion of the Board, and the Bishop having charge of Foreign Missions, for the commencement of a mission in Bulgaria, to the amount of \$5,000.

*India*.—Resolved, that a fund be created and placed at the discretion of the Board and Bishop for commencing a mission in India to the amount of \$7,500.

Special appropriations were made to *Sweden* and *Norway*, at the disposal of the Board and Bishop having the charge, \$750.

Contingent, at the discretion of the Board and Bishop for German Mission in California, \$2,000.

For second preacher on Warren Mission, Missouri District, Illinois Conference, German work, \$75.

It was ordered that the Michigan Conference be allowed a credit on the Treasurer's books to meet a certain deficiency of \$566 42.

There was appropriated toward the expenses of the Mission Rooms the amount of \$308 58.

Making a total of \$210,000.

These appropriations met with the concurrence of the Board of Managers, and all the Bishops in attendance. Adjourned.

J. P. DURBIN, Secretary.

#### APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1854.

The General Missionary Committee met at the Mission Rooms, New-York, at nine o'clock A. M., November 3, 1853. Present, of the *General Missionary Committee*.—N. Bangs, John F. Wright, G. Gary, G. Webber, H. W. Reed, W. H. Collins, C. J. Houts.

*Committee of the Board*.—F. Godine, H. Bangs, W. Truslow, P. E. Coon, F. Hall, E. L. Fancher.

Bishops Waugh, Janes, and Simpson present.

On motion, N. Bangs was elected Chairman, and John P. Durbin Secretary. Opening religious services by Brother G. Gary.

The joint committee proceeded to consider, first, the appropriations necessary to sustain our Foreign Missions.

*Africa*.—It was resolved that the sums in detail be appropriated as set forth in an official report of the Liberia Annual Conference made in January, 1853, and signed by L. Scott, Bishop presiding, and J. S. Payne, Secretary, amounting, in all the items, to \$23,957.

It was agreed to add, for finishing the Church at Cape Palmas, by the advice of Bishop Scott and action of the Board, \$3,000; and for the institution of a Day and Boarding School at Cape Palmas, \$2,000. It was also resolved to place at the discretion of the Board, for the rebuilding of the missionary house at Monrovia, the sum of \$4,000. Total for Liberia Mission, \$32,957.

*China*.—Appropriated for the support of the China Mission, \$12,000.

Appropriated for *Foreign German Mission*, \$10,000.

Placed at the disposition of the Board to aid the work under the care of the Methodist Conference in *France*, \$5,000.

Appropriated for the support of Missions in *Norway*, *Sweden*, and vicinity, \$2,000.

*South America*.—Appropriated toward the salary of the missionary, if necessary to be drawn for, the sum of \$1,000. A contingent fund was allowed for re-opening the Mission at Monte Video to the amount of \$2,000.

For commencing a Mission in *India*, \$7,500.

Contingent for Mission in *Bulgaria*, \$5,000.

*German Domestic Missions*, \$46,850.

*Foreign population*, other than German, \$12,850.

Contingent for the Chinese in California, \$2,000.

*Indian Missions*, \$13,440.

*Domestic Missions* in the several Annual Conferences, including expenses of transfers to California and estimated support for six months, \$15,000; and a similar appropriation to Oregon of \$11,000; and also a Mission to New-Mexico of \$7,500.

Contingent Expenses of the Office, \$353.

Making a grand total of \$260,000.

The foregoing appropriations were concurred in by the Board of Managers and three of the bishops, namely: Waugh, Janes, and Simpson.

John F. Wright presented a communication, addressed to the committee, from Dr. C. Elliott, asking to have action in favor of influencing Congress to use its influence to obtain liberty for American citizens to enjoy their religious liberty in Italy and in other countries, and in favor of sending a missionary to Rome. Whereupon it was resolved that the Corresponding Secretary be charged with expressing to Dr. Elliott, in behalf of the committee:

1. That we heartily approve of using influence with the government to induce it to use its best endeavors to procure such liberty as desired above, but doubt the expediency of this committee taking action on that subject.

2. That we are ready to institute a mission to Rome so soon as it is practicable, and to set forth the reasons why the committee do not now deem it to be practicable.

Our Secretary made the communication ordered by the committee to Dr. Elliott, assigning many reasons why we could not at this time establish a mission at Rome, and we presume those reasons were entirely satisfactory. Adjourned. J. P. DURBIN, Secretary.

#### APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1855.

The General Missionary Committee, in conjunction with a committee of the same number from the Board, met in the Mission Rooms, New-York, November 15, 1854, at 9 o'clock A. M. Present, of the

*General Missionary Committee*—N. Bangs, J. F. Wright, H. W. Reed, C. J. Houts, G. Gary, W. H. Collins, and G. Webber.

*Committee of the Board*.—H. Bangs, W. Truslow, Dr. Phelps, P. E. Coon, F. Hall, and E. L. Fancher.

On motion of Brother Wright, Dr. Bangs was elected Chairman, and Dr. Durbin Secretary.

Reading of the Scriptures and prayer by Bishop Waugh.

Bishops present, Waugh, Janes, Scott, and Simpson.

The joint-committee first considered the necessities, and made appropriations for Foreign Missions.

Appropriated in the aggregate, embracing money items detailed in our Minutes, for *Africa*, \$36,407.

Appropriated for the *China Mission*, \$10,000.

Appropriated for *Germany*, \$10,000.

Appropriated for *Norwegian* and *Swedish Missions*, \$2,000.

Appropriated for the support of Wesleyan Missions in *France*, \$5,000.

*South America*.—For Buenos Ayres, \$2,000; for service in the New Mexican Mission and Extension, \$3,000.

Appropriated for *Domestic German Missions*, including \$2,000 contingent for establishing a new Mission in California, \$46,700.

*Foreign populations* other than German, \$17,850.

Appropriated to *Indian Missions*, \$16,340.

Appropriated to *Domestic Missions*, English population, \$100,145.

Appropriated for a Mission in *India*, \$7,500.

Appropriated for incidental Expenses for Office, &c., \$3,058.

Making a grand total of \$260,000.

These appropriations were concurred in by the Board of Managers with great unanimity, and also by all the bishops present, Waugh, Janes, Scott, and Simpson.

We say, in closing our labors at this session, "The General Missionary Committee, acting with the Committee from the Board, have carefully reviewed our Missionary work, aided by the counsels of Bishops Waugh, Janes, Scott, and Simpson, and letters from the other superintendents, and beg leave to report from the joint committee the following appropriations. The whole amount which may be drawn, for the service of all our Missions, Foreign and Domestic, during the year 1855, and for special purposes as set forth in the report in detail herewith submitted, \$260,000."

At this session of the committee the following was unanimously adopted, namely:

*Whereas*, the work of appropriating missionary funds judiciously is often much embarrassed by ministers and people taking incipient steps, and creating expectations in small settlements of American or foreign population, which it is injurious to disapprove; therefore, *Resolved* by this joint committee, That we respectfully advise our brethren, in the ministry and laity, to refrain from any measures that will create any such expectations, but defer all action that will in any way commit the authorities of the Church, until the meetings of the Missionary Committees of the Annual Conferences.

On motion adjourned.

J. P. DURBIN, *Secretary*.

#### APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1856.

The General Missionary Committee, and the Committee in behalf of the Board, met in the Mission Rooms, New-York, at half past nine o'clock A. M., November 7, 1855.

Present of the *General Missionary Committee*, N. Bangs, George Webber, John F. Wright, Henry W. Reed, W. H. Collins, J. C. Houts, and G. Baker.

Brother Baker was appointed since our last meeting to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Brother Gary.

Of the *Committee of the Board*, were present, J. S. Porter, J. Floy, H. M. Forrester, H. Moore, W. B. Skidmore, and H. Bangs.

J. P. Durbin, Corresponding Secretary, and Thomas Carlton, Treasurer, present, and Bishops Scott, Baker, and Ames; Bishops Janes and Waugh afterward arrived.

On motion, Dr. N. Bangs was appointed Chairman and Dr. Durbin Secretary.

Religious services by Bishop Scott.

Upon taking the chair, Dr. Bangs very appropriately alluded to the death of Rev. George Gary, a member of the General Missionary Committee, who died since our last meeting.

On motion of J. F. Wright, Dr. Bangs was requested to prepare and report to this joint committee a suitable minute for entrance on their records, in relation to the death of our beloved Brother Gary.

The committee then proceeded to make appropriations for Foreign Missions.

*Africa.*—After providing for the salaries of the missionaries, the committee adopted the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That we require that each charge in Liberia shall raise something toward the support of its pastor as a part of his salary, and that the conference in their estimates be required to have respect to the ability of the local Church, or charge, which is to be served, and aim in the estimates to enable each Church to support its own pastor for the time being, and report the same to the Board of Managers in New-York.

The entire appropriations for Liberia embraced eighteen items, amounting to \$31,500.

*China Mission*, \$8,500.

*Foreign German work*, regular service, \$10,000; contingent to pay the expenses of Brother Jacoby's return to the United States, \$500.

Appropriated to *France*, payable quarterly, \$5,000.

Appropriated to *Norway* for regular service, \$1,000; appropriated for extension of the work at the discretion of the Board and Bishops for *Norway* or *Sweden*, \$1,000; appropriated to *Sweden* for Brother Larsen, \$400.

*South America.*—Contingent for support of missionary at *Buenos Ayres*, \$1,250; appropriated for an assistant in view of extending the work into the country, \$1,000; appropriated toward sending a teacher and instituting a school under the patronage of the mission at *Buenos Ayres*, \$500; appropriated for instituting a mission in the Northern portion of *South America*, \$3,000; appropriated to *New Mexico* for concluding the mission, \$1,250; appropriated to *Central America* for instituting a mission, \$1,500.

*India.*—Appropriated for instituting a mission, \$7,500.

*Turkey.*—Appropriated for commencing a mission in *Turkey*, \$5,000.

*German Domestic Missions.*—Appropriated to the *New-York Conference*, \$12,000; appropriated to the *Cincinnati Conference*, \$11,000; appropriated to the *Southeast Indiana Conference*, \$5,000; appropriated to the *Illinois Conference*, \$7,500; appropriated to the *Rock River Conference*, \$9,000; appropriated to the *California Conference*, \$4,000; making a total of \$48,500.

In connection with these appropriations, the joint committee adopted the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That in case of the division of any of the Annual Conferences, or of the Missionary work under their care, the members of the present Missionary Committee, who may be at the next General Conference, be, and are hereby, constituted a committee to divide the general appropriations made to such conferences according to equity, in their best judgment.

Appropriated to foreign populations other than German, total \$15,975.

Appropriated to *Indian Missions*, \$13,250.

The aggregate amount appropriated to Domestic Missions in the English work, \$97,150.

Making a total to all Domestic Missions of \$174,875.

This amount for Domestic Missions in the English work includes appropriations for transfers to California and Oregon, as well as to be used within the bounds of those conferences. And also an appropriation of \$6,000 to the territories west of Iowa, Missouri, and Arkansas Conferences. And in taking this action, the committee say, *if a new conference* is organized in these territories, the amount shall be drawn for by the Mission Committee and presiding Bishop of said conference. If a new conference be not formed, the members of the General Missionary Committee present at the seat of the next General Conference shall apportion the amount to the Iowa and the Missouri Conferences respectively.

Of the seven thousand dollars appropriated to the Wisconsin Conference, the committee recommended, in case of a division at the General Conference, that Minnesota have *four thousand* of the amount.

Of the \$3,500 appropriated to Iowa Conference, the committee recommend, in case of a division at the General Conference, that the Territory of Upper Iowa receive \$2,000, and Iowa \$1,500.

One thousand dollars was appropriated contingently at the discretion of the New-York Conference, at its next session, for a mission to the Jews in New-York. The appropriations were divided as follows, namely: Domestic Missions, \$174,875; Foreign Missions, \$78,900; add contingent under the constitution, \$5,000; expenses of administration, \$6,225; making a grand total of \$265,000.

These appropriations were concurred in by the Board of Managers and all the Bishops present: Bishops Waugh, Janes, Scott, Baker, and Ames.

The following resolution was adopted:

*Resolved*, That we refer to the Bishops having the charge severally of our Foreign Missions the number of missionaries to be employed, they and the Board having strict respect to the specific appropriation to each of said missions."

Rev. Dr. Bangs read his report on the death of G. Gary, which was adopted by the committee, and ordered to be entered on the minutes as follows:

REV. G. GARY. Whereas, it hath pleased Almighty God to receive to himself our late brother, the Rev. George Gary, who has been a laborer in his vineyard for the space of 46 years or more, several of which were spent in the service of this society as a superintendent of our mission in the Oregon Territory, and more recently, and at the time of his death, as a member of the General Missionary Committee. And whereas our departed brother hath with "meekness of wisdom" adorned, both in his private and public life, "the doctrine of God our Saviour," and hath by his labor of love all along the years of his ministerial course, commended himself to the highest respect and esteem of the friends of our Lord Jesus Christ; therefore, *Resolved*, That while with the Church at large we bow with reverence under the bereaving stroke which hath removed

so eminent and valuable a laborer to his eternal reward; we also adore the God of all grace for the bestowment of so bright a light in his Church, and so devoted a friend to the missionary cause.

*Resolved*, That we thankfully adore the grace of God, which gave his beloved rest, throughout the severe and protracted illness by which he was finally removed.

*Resolved*, That we deeply sympathize with the surviving widow, and other members of the family, and tender them our affectionate condolence in this bereaving event.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions be forwarded to the widow and family of the deceased, and that a copy also be furnished to our several Church papers for publication.

The following was also adopted:

*Resolved*, That we recommend the Board to take measures to cause the constitution to be so amended as to render it clear that this General Committee and Board may grant aid to other Methodist bodies in carrying on their missions, and that such appropriations shall in effect constitute such missions foreign missions in the view of the constitution.

Adjourned.

. JOHN F. WRIGHT,  
HENRY W. REED,  
W. H. COLLINS,  
G. BAKER,  
C. J. HOUTS.

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S.\*

## REPORT ON THE BIBLE CAUSE.

THE Committee on the Bible Cause, in making their report to this body, are anxious to bring very prominently to your notice the American Bible Society. This noble institution, recognized in the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as the great agency for the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, we are happy to be able to say, is still successfully prosecuting its work, and richly deserves the confidence and support of the Church and the public. During the last four years its career has been one of progress, and, we believe, of increasing usefulness. Each year, except one, a year of general pecuniary embarrassment, it has steadily increased in its receipts and in its issues. Four years ago the receipts of the society, from donations, legacies, and sales, amounted to \$308,144 81; the last year's receipts, from all sources, were \$393,167 25. In 1852 the report of the society stated its issues at 666,015 volumes; the present year they report 668,225. But it should be remembered that for two years preceding, the auxiliary societies had drawn very largely on the Parent Depository for books, had thereby become very

\* For Report of the General Missionary Committee, see *Appendix S*, page 259.



heavily in debt to the treasury of the Parent Society; and during the past year, instead of ordering books, they have been reducing their indebtedness. This has naturally led to an augmentation in the receipts of the Parent Society, and a diminution in its issues. We are now happy to learn that the Parent Society has thereby been enabled to relieve itself of embarrassments contracted to meet the demands of the few preceding years, when its issues were unusually large; and being now relieved of all embarrassment by debt, it is prepared to go much more extensively into the manufacture and distribution of books than ever before.

Thus prepared, and moved by a consideration of the wants of the country, the Board of Managers, we learn from the doings at the late anniversary, have made arrangements to call the attention of the auxiliary societies to a complete reexploration and re-supply of the entire country. They are satisfied that there is room for a large amount of distribution in the country, many, very many, families and individuals having no Bible. It is high time that this work should be resumed among us. But to accomplish it it is necessary that auxiliary societies, Bible committees, and pastors and ministers generally, should take hold of the work with energy and zeal. It is also highly important that all ministers should cooperate with the auxiliary societies. We suggest that the ministers of our own Church may aid materially this great work by identifying themselves with the auxiliary societies, by cooperating with them, and as far as possible strengthening and encouraging them. Much of the prosperity of the Parent Society, and the success of its benevolent aims, depend on their so doing.

While the main object of the American Bible Society is to supply our own country with the Holy Scriptures, it is also devoting considerable attention to foreign nations. This Conference is well aware that unexpected openings have occurred in lands hitherto inaccessible to the Bible. In China and Turkey remarkable events have occurred to open the way for Bible distribution; and of late Italy, and even Spain, have become accessible. Owing to its heavy indebtedness, the Board has not done as much as was desirable for foreign lands the past year, but it expects very largely to increase its contributions to this object hereafter. In regard to appropriations to meet the wants of our Church, we are able to report very satisfactorily. We believe no application from our Church, that has come within the principles of its constitution, has been disregarded by the Board of Managers; and it has shown a gratifying liberality in regard to our Missionary Society for the foreign work, as well as for the Sunday-school and Tract Society, and to individual ministers and others, for private, benevolent distribution.

We are happy to learn that the Society is taking great pains to publish the Scriptures in different languages, of the most correct translations. It publishes the Bible, or parts of the Bible, in about ten of the principal modern languages, besides portions in several Indian dialects of this country, and in the Grebo dialect in Africa. Besides these, it is prepared to furnish imported copies in many more, besides printing the entire Bible in embossed letters for the use of the blind. To all these translations our Church has access, on the terms and conditions of the Society.

We think the American Bible Society entitled to our gratitude, for the pains it has taken to give us a pure and perfect version of the English Bible. Rejecting all attempts at a new translation, which they deem eminently unwise, as both uncalled for and hazardous to the best interests of Bible truth, they have taken great pains to give us a perfect copy of our unrivaled and inimitable English Bible. With this we should not only be fully satisfied, but more, it calls for our grateful acknowledgment.

Impressed with these views, your committee would beg leave respectfully to present, for adoption, the following resolutions :

1. That this General Conference cherishes the most cordial and undiminished confidence in the American Bible Society, and hereby recommends to the ministers and members of the Methodist Episcopal Church to cooperate with it, and exert themselves to carry out its noble and benevolent designs.

2. That we highly approve of the intention and effort of the Managers to secure a systematic and general, as well as thorough, re-exploration and re-supply of the entire country, and that we recommend our ministers and members everywhere to cooperate in this work, and help to carry the plan into effect in their several fields of labor.

3. That inasmuch as the successful carrying out of the designs of the American Bible Society depends on the efficiency of its auxiliaries, we recommend all under our charge to cooperate with those auxiliaries, to encourage, strengthen, and assist them.

4. That in declining all attempts or movement toward a new translation of the Bible, the Society is entitled to our warmest thanks, and for its pains to furnish an entirely pure and correct edition of the Bible in our commonly received English version.

5. In view of the importance of this whole subject, we hereby recommend to each minister in the connection to preach at least once a year on this subject, and generally at the time when he makes his annual collection for the Bible cause.

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## T.

### REPORT OF THE PUBLISHING COMMITTEE OF THE NORTHERN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

THE Publishing Committee of the Northern Christian Advocate having attended to their duties in making personal and minute examination of the office, including the books of accounts, which they audited, beg leave to make the following report to the General Conference :

That the Northern Christian Advocate, in regard to its subscription list and finances, is in a very flattering condition, proving the editor and printer, who have the daily management of its affairs, to have been competent and successful.

The proof of this general statement will be found in the following particulars:

1. The subscription list consists now of nearly fifteen thousand paying subscribers, against about twelve thousand at the time of the last session of your body.

2. The office is entirely out of debt; and there is a surplus of \$6,845 32 on deposit, against \$1,931 42 four years ago. There is also due from agents the sum of \$2,224, at the date of this report. There is, on the other hand, due to our subscribers about \$7,000. At the close of the year, therefore, the office will have, as nearly as can now be foreseen, about \$2,000, after all expenses of repairs and enlargement are reckoned in, as a clear profit.

3. The cost of the above-mentioned enlargement, which was called for by the necessities of the work, has been \$1,610 98.

4. The cost of repairs for the four years has been \$727 91.

We find the building, lot, and fixtures, to be worth about \$10,000. Everything seems to be in good repair. The type is about one year old; and it will be necessary to purchase a new dress for the paper, and, perhaps, change all the type of the office at the close of the present year.

As the building up of a sound and prosperous establishment, with the intention of gradually enlarging to meet the increasing demands made upon the paper by the patronizing conferences, would seem to be the policy of said conferences, the office has been conducted under the idea of *low prices and extensive circulation*, that we may scatter intelligence rather than hoard money; and we are, therefore, able to report, in conclusion,

That the Northern Christian Advocate is safe in its finances, offering no occasion of anxiety to the Church at large, or to your reverend body; and is cooperating more and more efficiently with the preachers and people of this region of country, in spreading the knowledge of a perfect salvation to the ends of the world. Respectfully submitted,

B. F. TEFT,  
F. REED,  
E. B. TENNY,  
A. J. PHELPS,  
J. M'EWEN.

May 1, 1856.

P. S. The tardiness of this report is owing to the fact, that these reports are customarily made up to the first of May inclusive, after which the work of collecting the data is performed, from which data the chairman makes out his returns.

B. T. TEFT.

## U.

## REPORT ON THE EDUCATION OF COLORED YOUTH.

The committee to whom were referred certain papers relating to the "Education of Colored Youth," have carefully considered the subject, and respectfully submit the following report:

## HISTORY OF THE MOVEMENT.

For many years the unhappy condition of the colored people of this country has excited the sympathy of the benevolent; and the inquiry has been anxiously revolved, What can be done for the improvement of that condition? In the fall of 1853, the attention of the Cincinnati Conference was directed to this subject; and a committee of seven members was appointed to inquire and report some plan of operations at the next session. This committee reported to the Conference in 1854, urging the immediate adoption of measures for encouraging the education of colored youth, so as to fit them for any position or pursuit in life to which God in his providence might call them. This report was adopted by the Conference, and an agent was appointed to carry into effect the objects contemplated. This agent, the Rev. John F. Wright, in addition to his ordinary duties as presiding elder of East Cincinnati District, labored quite extensively, by correspondence and otherwise, in the work of the agency. He succeeded in awakening a lively interest on the subject, and in arousing the attention and exciting the hopes of the colored people themselves, who began to see opening out before them the prospect of respectability and usefulness. The Ohio Conference entered with great cordiality into the project; and, at its session in 1855, resolved to cooperate with the Cincinnati Conference, and such other conferences as chose to engage in the enterprise, in establishing "a literary institution of a high order for the education of colored youth, male and female." A committee was also appointed, headed by the venerable Dr. Young, to cooperate with the committees from the other conferences in carrying into effect the objects contemplated. The agent of the Cincinnati Conference, in person and by letter, communicated with the three western conferences of the African Methodist Episcopal Church upon the subject; and they entered heartily into the measure. He has also visited the General Conference of that Church, which is now in session in Cincinnati; and has received assurance of the most cordial cooperation. This body of Christians has great influence with the colored people of this country; and the ministers, and many of the leading members of that Church, have for some years manifested a laudable zeal for the literary as well as religious culture of their people.

## LOCATION OF THE INSTITUTION.

At the last session of the Cincinnati Conference definite action was taken, the agent was re-appointed with enlarged powers, an able com-

mittee of four brethren was associated with him; and they were authorized to raise funds, and procure a suitable site and buildings for an institution of learning. Provisionally, as it seemed, just at the opportune moment, a most beautiful location, with appropriate buildings, furniture, &c., was offered to them upon terms as favorable as could reasonably be desired. It is known as the "Tawawa or Xenia Springs" property; and is situated in Greene county, Ohio, some three and a half miles northeasterly from the town of Xenia, in a community where such an institution will be cherished, and where it will enjoy every possible facility for meeting the wants which have called it into being. It embraces fifty-four acres of land, on which there is a large and beautiful edifice, containing about two hundred rooms, which are well adapted to the purposes of a boarding-house, school and class-room, chapel, &c.; also several cottages equally well adapted to the use of private families—the furniture for both the main edifice and the cottages being included in the purchase. There are several mineral springs on the premises; and the whole had been fitted up for a fashionable watering-place, at a cost of over forty thousand dollars. This property was offered to the committee for thirteen thousand five hundred dollars. The offer was accepted; and the committee now look to this General Conference for its approval, which will materially aid them in meeting the pecuniary responsibilities of the enterprise, and in carrying into effect the great objects contemplated.

#### THE OBJECTS CONTEMPLATED.

As already intimated, the great object had in view is *the elevation of the entire colored race*, by means of literary, social, and religious culture. And in order to accomplish this object, it is proposed to encourage and assist them in their efforts at self-improvement, by means of Sabbath and week-day schools, and also by means of at least one institution of learning of a high grade, which the colored people may regard as their own; and where they may feel that they have no superiors, unless superior merit makes them such. The character and objects of this institution are thus explained by the agent of the Cincinnati Conference: "A leading feature will be to educate and train colored persons, male and female, for professional teachers, that they may be thoroughly qualified to go forth wherever their services are needed, and impart to their own race a good Christian education. It is to be open to both sexes, and persons entering may pursue and accomplish a partial or thorough collegiate course, as they may choose; and, in its maturity, we design that it shall include and furnish all that is common to the best universities of the country."

#### PRESENT STATE OF THE ENTERPRISE.

It has been stated already, that a most desirable location and buildings have been procured, which will, in a short time, be ready for occupancy. The project is regarded with great favor by all the prominent friends of the colored race, so far as their views have been ascertained; and the committee are informed, upon reliable authority, that the colored people

themselves, especially in the neighborhood where the institution is located, are delighted with the enterprise. It has also attracted the attention of some wealthy gentlemen in the south, who have slaves whom they wish to emancipate and educate; and two such slaves have been emancipated already, and are now in Xenia awaiting the opening of the school. It will, probably, be necessary to place the institution under the superintendence of a white principal for the present; but the design is to make it emphatically *the colored people's college*.

In conclusion, your committee respectfully recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved* That, in the judgment of this General Conference, the religious education of the people of color in our land, will tend most effectually and speedily, under God, to their elevation in this country, and to prepare the way for the restoration of the benighted millions of down-trodden Africa, to all the blessings of civilization, science, and religion.

2. *Resolved*, That we look upon the proposed plan for the education of the colored youth of our land as of God, and as promising great good to the people of color among us, and untold blessings to the land of their ancestors; and we do most earnestly recommend this noble work to the sympathy, the prayers, and the generous benefactions of all who desire the elevation of the entire family of man.

3. *Resolved*, That we bespeak for the agents of this enterprise a cordial reception on the part of all Christians and philanthropists, hoping that they may be successful, not only in awakening sympathy and enlisting prayers, but also in gathering funds to pay for the property purchased, and to afford a liberal endowment of the institution, so as to place it on an equal footing with the best institutions of learning in our country.

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## V.

### REPORT ON THE SMITH ARNOLD FUND.

THE Committee to whom a memorial from the New-York East Conference, in relation to the "Smith Arnold Fund," was referred, beg leave respectfully to report that, from the memorial, and the communications made to them,

It appears that, about twenty-five years ago, a sum of money was collected within the bounds of the New-York Conference, and by said Conference the money was ordered to be invested, and the proceeds appropriated to the use and benefit of Rev. Smith Arnold and his wife, during their lives.

It appears, also, that the proceeds of the said fund were regularly paid to the said Arnold and his wife, agreeably to the order stated above.

It further appears that, after the decease of the aforesaid beneficiaries, the said Conference, at its session in June, 1840, ordered that the proceeds of the said fund should be appropriated to the use and benefit of Rev. N. W. Thomas and his wife, during their lives; and the said proceeds were appropriated in conformity with this order, until the year 1848, when the New-York East Conference was organized by the division of the New-York Conference, and as the residence of the said Thomas was within the bounds of the New-York East Conference, he then became, and is now, a member thereof.

It appears, also, that the New-York Conference, prior to the division above-named, had accumulated certain other funds for various benevolent objects, and that, subsequent to the organization of the New-York East Conference, an equal division of these funds was made between the two bodies, with the exception of the particular fund which is the subject of the present memorial, and which remains in the possession of the New-York Conference, the proceeds having been administered by said Conference for the benefit of parties other than the said N. W. Thomas and his wife.

From the foregoing facts the committee are of opinion that the General Conference has no jurisdiction over the question submitted in the memorial from the New-York East Conference. Nevertheless, in view of the resolution adopted by the New-York Conference, at its session in 1840, and of the expectation thereby created, we recommend the New-York Conference so to administer the proceeds of the fund in question that they may in future inure to the benefit of the said N. W. Thomas and his wife during their lives, provided they shall remain members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

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## X.

### REPORT OF THE PUBLISHING COMMITTEE OF THE PITTSBURGH CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

THE Publishing Committee of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate would present the following report:

At the commencement of the four years just closing the paper was seriously embarrassed in its fiscal concerns, so that after appropriating the amount ordered by the General Conference of 1852, to the payment of old and long-standing claims against the paper, it was found that this did not, by a considerable amount, even pay the debts of the paper up to the 1st January, 1852, after including the cash received from subscribers, in advance, for their papers for the current year. It will be seen from the statement that the paper had to be carried on principally on credit for the year.

Notwithstanding, we were necessitated to renew the type during the

early part of the second year. There was a considerable improvement in the condition of the paper each year, so that, as will be seen from the exhibit which follows, we shall have sufficient means to carry us on until August, or perhaps September, without incurring any debt, excepting the balances due to subscribers.

The following presents the present condition of the paper :

ASSETS.		
Office Furniture, including Type, &c.....	\$516 50	
Due from Sundries .....	790 21	
Bills Receivable .....	1,735 00	
Cash on Deposit.....	1,792 00	
	\$4,833 71	
LIABILITIES.		
Due to Sundries.....	\$1,225 34	
Bills Payable .....	1,466 92	2,692 26
		\$2,141 45
Balance in favor of Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.....		\$2,141 45

It is to us truly gratifying that we are able to show such a favorable improvement in the financial condition of the paper. We have now nearly 8,000 subscribers, and it is hoped that in the course of one or two years more the paper will be able to liquidate every claim by the commencement of the year, having on hand the subscription price of the whole year to come.

We may say that, during the existence of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate, it has never been in so prosperous a condition.

All which is respectfully submitted.

I. N. BAIRD,  
J. C. PERSHING,  
WM. A. DAVIDSON,  
*Publishing Committee.*

*May, 1856.*

## Y.

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTERED FUND.

*To the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States of America :*

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN : The Trustees of the Chartered Fund of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States of America respectfully submit the following report :

The amount of invested funds, as per report, made to the General Conference in 1852, was \$41,635 29.



The dividends to each Annual Conference, since that time, have been as follows:

1853 to 36 Conferences, each	\$76 00	Total,	. . .	\$2,736 00
1854 to 35	" " 35 00	Total,	. . .	1,225 00
1855 to 36	" " 36 00	Total,	. . .	1,332 00
1856 to 38	" " 38 00	Total,	. . .	1,140 00

A division of the assets of the Chartered Fund, under a decree of the Supreme Court of the United States, was made in January, 1854, in which the Methodist Episcopal Church was made owner of a proportion of the assets, equal to about 29 per cent., which ratio was based upon the number of preachers, and was as 4,632 is to 1,329.

The net valuation of the assets, at the time of settlement,			
was,	. . . . .		\$38,324 31
Of which amount was paid to Commissioners of Church,			
South,	. . . . .		17,051 05
			<hr/>
Leaving balance of reliable assets,	. . . . .		\$21,273 26

The Board of Trustees regret to state that the late Treasurer, Brother J. J. Boswell, appropriated to his own use about \$6,000 of the funds of this corporation, and being unfortunate in his business, and being unable to pay over the amount to the Treasury, and with a desire to save the fund from loss, assigned to the Board of Trustees certain book debts, notes, &c., which, if realized, will be ample to pay the deficiency.

Brother Boswell made, at the same time, a general assignment for the benefit of his creditors. The assignees have resisted payment of the assignment made to the Chartered Fund. A suit has been instituted by the Board of Trustees against the assignees, and judgment obtained in the court below. The parties have carried the case to the Supreme Court. The Trustees have been in daily expectation of receiving the decree of said court, affirming the previous decision. They have no time to wait longer, and this is their apology for detaining the report to so late a day of the session of the General Conference.

The amount of this deficiency, about \$6,000, or any portion of it, when collected, is to be divided with the Commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, *pro ratio*, as the former division, say 4,632 is to 1,329.

During the past four years Brothers J. J. Boswell and Solomon Townsend have resigned as trustees, and the vacancies have been filled by the election of Brothers Colson Hieskill and T. K. Collins, which elections the Board ask the General Conference to confirm.

The amount of invested funds, as per statement of Treasurer, on 1st January, 1856, is \$22,182 50.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the Board,  
W. P. HACKER, *Secretary*.

Z.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CHURCH SUIT IN NEW-YORK.

The undersigned, surviving members of the commission appointed by the General Conference of 1852, "with full powers to act," in reference to the claims preferred by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, upon certain property of the Methodist Book Concern in New-York, would respectfully report,

That under the friendly advice of the Hon. Judge M'Lean, after a careful examination of all the facts, and in full view of their responsibilities, they, at as early a time as practicable, effected an amicable adjustment of all the matters referred to them.

The decree of the court, given December 8th, 1853, entered on motion of both parties, contains the particulars of the adjustment.

It was agreed to pay the South \$191,000 in cash, together with the Richmond, Charleston, and Nashville printing establishments, and all the debts on the books and periodicals as per schedule submitted, due the New-York Book Concern, from individuals residing within the geographical limits of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

The sum of \$70,000 was to be given as follows: \$10,000 on the filing of the decree, \$40,000 on the fifth day of January following, and the remaining \$20,000 on the first of March succeeding. The residue of the \$191,000, amounting to the sum of \$121,000, was to be paid as follows: \$16,000 on the first of February, 1855; \$15,000 on the first February, 1856; \$15,000 on the first of February, 1857; \$15,000 on the first of February, 1858; \$15,000 on the first of February, 1859; \$15,000 on the first of February, 1860; \$15,000 on the first of February, 1861; \$15,000 on the first of February, 1862. We, the defendants, were to pay the interest every year on all deferred payments, at the rate of seven per cent., and at the same rate on the payments to be made on the fifth day of March. We were also to pay the taxable costs of the suit, within ninety days from the filing of this decree.

Your committee beg to assure the General Conference, that while this arrangement was effected in full view of the legal decisions already made, and the moral certainty of those destined to follow, they were also prompted by the strictest economy, upon the part of the Methodist Episcopal Church, a very considerable sum being saved to the Book

GEORGE PECK,  
THOMAS CARLTON,  
JOHN S. PORTER.

## AA.

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHURCH EXTENSION.

THE committee to whom the memorial on Church Extension was referred, beg leave to report that they have had the subject under consideration; and while they deeply feel the importance of securing early attention to the purchase of lots for churches and parsonages, especially in the new districts of country, and in towns and villages that are springing up in almost every part of our widely-extended country, yet we cannot think it advisable, at this time, for the General Conference either to organize a society for the purpose, or adopt any one thus organized. Believing, as we do, that the desired end would not be the most successfully arrived at by any one local society, or the employment of agents to go through the country at large, therefore,

1. *Resolved*, That we appreciate and commend the zeal of our brethren at Chicago; yet we do not think it practicable, at this time, to organize such a society as they desire.

2. *Resolved*, That we earnestly recommend the Annual Conferences, as having this work more immediately under their supervision and control, to adopt such measures as are best calculated, according to the circumstances and necessities, and by all prudential measures, to secure the desired end.

## BB.

## REPORT ON BOUNDARIES.

## PART III.—TEMPORAL ECONOMY.

CHAP. I.—*Of the Boundaries of the Annual Conferences.*

1. THE NEW-YORK CONFERENCE shall consist of the territory now included in the New-York, Poughkeepsie, Newburgh, Prattsville, Monticello, and Rhinebeck Districts, including East Chatham.

2. THE NEW-YORK EAST CONFERENCE shall consist of the East New-York, the New-Haven, the Hartford, and the Long Island Districts, including in the city of New-York all those charges lying east of a line running through the Third Avenue, Bowery, Chatham-street, and Broadway.

3. THE PROVIDENCE CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of Connecticut lying east of the Connecticut River, all the State of Rhode Island, with Millville and Blackstone Stations in Massachusetts, and also that part of the State of Massachusetts lying southeast of a line drawn from the northeast corner of the State of Rhode Island to the mouth of

Neponset River, which line shall so run as to leave Walpole Station and Quincy Point within the bounds of the New-England Conference.

4. THE NEW-ENGLAND CONFERENCE shall include all the State of Massachusetts lying east of the Green Mountains, not embraced in the New-Hampshire and Providence Conferences.

5. THE MAINE CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of Maine lying west of the Kennebeck River, from its mouth to the Great Bend below Skowhegan, and of a line running from thence north to the State line, (including Skowhegan and Augusta Stations in Maine Conference,) and that part of New-Hampshire lying east of the White Hills, and north of the waters of the Ossipee Lake.

6. THE EAST MAINE CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of Maine not included in the Maine Conference.

7. THE NEW-HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE shall include all the State of New-Hampshire not embraced in the Maine Conference, that part of the State of Massachusetts northeast of the Merrimac River, and also that part of the State of Vermont lying east of the top of the Green Mountains. *Provided*, that at the next sessions of the Vermont and New-Hampshire Conferences, the members of the same, or a majority of them, shall agree to the reunion of the two; otherwise, the Vermont Conference shall include, as now, that part of the State of Vermont lying east of the top of the Green Mountains.

8. THE TROY CONFERENCE shall include the Troy, Albany, (embracing Richmondville Station,) Saratoga, Poultney, Burlington, Plattsburgh, and St. Albans Districts.

9. THE BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE shall include, together with Rose Circuit, that part of the State of New-York west of the Troy Conference, not embraced in the East Genesee Conference, as far south as the Erie Canal, and all the Societies on the immediate banks of the Canal, except Utica, Canestota, Montezuma, and Port Byron.

10. THE ONEIDA CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of New-York south of the Black River Conference and east of Cayuga Lake, and north of a line running east from Newfield to Ithaca; from thence following the Catskill turnpike to Greene, and from thence following the same line of road through Masonville to the New-York Conference, including all the charges through which said line passes, excepting Lisle and Whitney's Point Charge; from thence, on the west line of the Troy Conference, to the Erie Canal, including Fort Plain.

11. THE WYOMING CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of New-York not included in the Oneida, East Genesee, and New-York Conferences, including Lisle and Whitney's Point Charge; together with that part of Pennsylvania bounded on the west by the East Genesee, south by the Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Newark Conferences, and east by the Newark and New-York Conferences.

12. THE EAST GENESSEE CONFERENCE shall contain all that part of the State of New-York west of Black River, Oneida, and Wyoming Conferences, and east of Genesee River, including the whole of the city of Rochester, together with so much of the State of Pennsylvania as is included in the Elmira, Troy, and Corning Districts, except Laporte Circuit.

13. THE GENESSEE CONFERENCE shall include all that part of the State of New-York west of the East Genessee Conference, except so much as is included in the Erie Annual Conference; and also so much of the State of Pennsylvania as is embraced in Olean District.

14. THE ERIE CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the north by Lake Erie, on the east by a line commencing at the mouth of Cattaraugus Creek, thence up said creek to the village of Gowanda, leaving said village in the Genessee Conference, thence to the Alleghany River, at the mouth of the Tunungwant Creek, thence up said creek eastward to the ridge dividing between the waters of Clarion and Sinnamahoning Creeks, thence south to the head of Mahoning Creek, thence down said creek, exclusive of the Milton Society, but including Putneyville in the Bethlehem Circuit, to the Alleghany River; thence across said river in a north-westerly direction, to the Western Reserve line, including the north part of Butler and Newcastle Circuits, and also including Petersburg; thence west to the Ohio Canal, thence along said canal to Lake Erie, including Akron, and all of Cleveland lying east of the Cuyahoga River.

15. THE PITTSBURGH CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the north by the Erie Conference, on the east by a line running along the tops of the Alleghany Mountains to the southern line of the State of Pennsylvania, thence west along the line of the Western Virginia Conference to the Ohio River, thence down said river to the mouth of the Muskingum River, thence up said river, exclusive of the towns of Marietta and Zanesville, to the Tuscarawas River, thence up said river, including the town of Massillon, to the line of the Erie Conference.

16. THE WESTERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE shall be bounded as follows: Beginning at the southwest corner of the Pennsylvania line, thence along said line to the northeast corner of Ohio county, Virginia, so as to include Wheeling Creek Mission and Triadelphia Circuits; thence the most direct way to Short Creek, so as to include the Short Creek and Liberty Circuits; thence down said creek to the Ohio River, thence down said river to the mouth of Big Sandy River, thence up the Big Sandy River, so as to include the Guyandotte District; on the south and east it shall be bounded by the Baltimore Conference to the Pennsylvania State line, thence westward by said line to the place of beginning.

17. THE OHIO CONFERENCE shall commence at the southeast corner of the North Ohio Conference, and thence south, following the course of the Muskingum River to its junction with the Ohio River, including the city of Zanesville and the town of Marietta; thence down the Ohio River to the mouth of Ohio Brush Creek, thence north to the southeast corner of Fayette county, leaving Sinking Spring Circuit, and Bethesda, and Rapid Forge societies in Highland Circuit, west of this line, and Washington Circuit east, except Fairfield, which shall be left west of said line; thence northwest to the western boundary of said county of Fayette, thence in a due north direction to the southern boundary of Delaware Conference, leaving Vienna Circuit west of said line, thence east with southern line of the Delaware Conference in part, and of the North Ohio Conference to the place of beginning.

18. THE CINCINNATI CONFERENCE shall commence at the mouth of the Ohio Brush Creek, and shall be bounded on the south by the Ohio

River, and on the west by the Indiana State line to the southern bounds of the Delaware Conference, at the southwest corner of Dark County; thence eastwardly along said line, so as to exclude the Sydney and Delaware Districts of the Delaware Conference, to the boundary of the Ohio Conference at its junction with the southern line of the Delaware Conference; thence in a southeasterly direction with said western line of the Ohio Conference to the place of beginning.

19. THE KENTUCKY CONFERENCE shall include the State of Kentucky, excepting so much of said state as is included in the Western Virginia Conference.

20. THE NORTH OHIO CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the north by the north line of the State of Ohio, east by the Erie and Pittsburgh Conferences, on the south by the Ohio Conference, and on the west by the Delaware Conference.

21. THE DELAWARE CONFERENCE shall be bounded by a line commencing at the northwest corner of the State of Ohio, thence east by the north line of the state to a point north of the mouth of Sandusky River, thence south to the mouth of Sandusky River, excluding Port Clinton Circuit, thence up said Sandusky River to Upper Sandusky, excluding Tiffin City, and including Fremont and Upper Sandusky, thence along the Ohio and Indiana Railroad to Crestline, including Bucyrus Station and Crestline, thence along the Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati Railroad to the north line of the Ohio Conference, including Cardington village, Waldo, and Westfield, and Galena Circuits; thence west along the north line of the Ohio and Cincinnati Conferences to the west line of the state, thence north along the west line of the state to the place of beginning.

22. THE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE shall include all that part of the State of Michigan lying west of the principal meridian lines, and the Indian Missions, in the lower peninsula, shall be connected with Michigan Conference.

23. THE DETROIT CONFERENCE shall include all that part of the State of Michigan lying east of the principal meridian line, and the upper peninsula shall be connected with the Detroit Conference.

24. THE INDIANA CONFERENCE shall be bounded as follows, namely: Beginning at the mouth of Silver Creek on the Ohio River, thence with said creek to the Jeffersonville Railroad, thence by said railroad to Rockford, thence by the east fork of White River to Columbus, thence by the Madison and Indianapolis Railroad to Franklin, thence by the plank road to the Bluffs of White River, thence north by said river to the Donation line of Indianapolis, thence east by said line to Meridian-street, thence north by said street to its intersection with Market-street, thence west by Market-street to the Donation line, thence south by said Donation line to the National Road, thence by the National Road west to the Greencastle State Road, one and a half miles west of Stilesville, thence with said State Road to the town plat of Greencastle, thence due south to Seminary-street, including the second charge in Greencastle, together with lot No. 153; thence due south to the southern border of the college grounds, upon a line equally dividing the college campus and building, thence due west to the Walnut Fork of Eel River, thence down said river to its intersection with the National Road, thence with said road to the

western line of the state, including all the towns on the National Road west of Indianapolis in Indiana Conference, except Terre Haute; thence by the state line to the mouth of the Wabash River, thence by the state line to the mouth of Silver Creek, the place of beginning.

25. THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA CONFERENCE shall embrace all of Northwestern Indiana, bounded north by the State and Lake of Michigan, east by the Michigan Road and St. Joseph River, south by Indiana Conference, and west by the State of Illinois, also the city of Terre Haute, with so much of the city of Indianapolis within the Donation as lies north of Market-street and west of Meridian-street, with all towns on the Michigan Road, except Logansport.

26. THE NORTH INDIANA CONFERENCE shall include all of Northeastern Indiana, bounded north by Michigan, east by Ohio, including Union City, south by the National Road, and west by the Michigan Road as far north as South Bend, thence down St. Joseph River to the Michigan State line, also the town of Logansport, all towns on the National Road east of Indianapolis, and so much of the city of Indianapolis within the Donation as lies north of Market-street and east of Meridian-street.

27. THE SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA CONFERENCE shall include all of Southeastern Indiana, bounded north by the National Road, east by Ohio, south by the Ohio River, and west by the Indiana Conference; so much of the city of Indianapolis within the Donation as lies south of Market-street and east of Meridian-street, and all the towns and societies on the line between Indiana and Southeastern Indiana Conferences.

28. THE ROCK RIVER CONFERENCE shall embrace all the north part of the State of Illinois north of the north line of the Peoria Conference, so as to include the city of Peru, and excepting that portion of Spring Grove Circuit lying in the State of Illinois.

29. THE PEORIA CONFERENCE shall embrace all that part of the State of Illinois north of the north line of the Illinois Conference, and south of the following line, namely: Beginning on the Mississippi River at Rock Island, thence with the Rock Island and Chicago Railroad to Lasell, thence with the Illinois River to the mouth of the Kankakee River, thence with the Kankakee River to the Indiana State line, so as to embrace Rock Island City, Moline and Port Byron Circuits, and Lasell Station.

30. THE WISCONSIN CONFERENCE shall include all that portion of the State of Wisconsin which is not included in the Minnesota and West Wisconsin Conferences.

31. THE WEST WISCONSIN CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of Wisconsin which lies south and east of the Minnesota Conference, and west of a line beginning on the south line of the State of Illinois at the southeast corner of Green county, and running north on the Range line to the north line of Town Twenty, (20,) thence west on the north line of Town Twenty to the fourth principal meridian, and thence north on said meridian to the line of Minnesota Conference, with the addition of that portion of Spring Grove Circuit which lies within the State of Illinois.

32. THE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE shall include the Minnesota Territory, and that part of the State of Wisconsin which lies north and west of a line beginning at the mouth of Black River, and running up said river to the mouth of Beaver Creek, up said creek to its source, thence by the

dividing ridge between the waters of Black and Trempellan Rivers to the line between Towns Twenty-three and Twenty-four, thence east along said line to the fourth principal meridian, and thence north on said meridian line to Lake Superior.

33. THE IOWA CONFERENCE shall embrace all that part of the State of Iowa lying south of a line commencing at Davenport, on the Mississippi River, and running on the line of railway to Iowa city, thence up the Iowa River to the corner of Iowa, Benton, Taucas, and Poweshiek counties, thence due west to the Missouri River, leaving Davenport and Iowa city in the Upper Iowa Conference, and the intermediate towns on the line in the Iowa Conference.

34. THE UPPER IOWA CONFERENCE shall embrace all that part of the State of Iowa not embraced in the Iowa Conference.

35. THE KANSAS AND NEBRASKA CONFERENCE shall embrace the Kansas and Nebraska Territories, and also that part of the territories of New Mexico and Utah lying east of the Rocky Mountains.

36. THE ILLINOIS CONFERENCE shall include that part of Illinois not included in the Southern Illinois Conference, south of the following line, namely: Beginning at Warsaw on the Mississippi River, thence to Vermont, thence to the mouth of Spoon River, thence up the Illinois River to the northwest corner of Mason County, thence to the northeast corner of said county, thence to the junction of the Central, and Alton, and Chicago Railroad, leaving Macanaw Circuit in the Peoria Conference, thence to the southwest corner of Iroquois County, thence east to the Indiana State line.

37. THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE shall include all that part of the State of Illinois south of the following line: Beginning at Gilead on the Mississippi River in Calhoun County, thence to the northwest corner of Jersey County, thence to the northeast corner of said county, thence to Honey Point, thence to Hillsborough, leaving Hillsborough Station in the Illinois Conference, thence east through Fayette and Effingham Counties to the northwest corner of Jasper County, thence with the north line of Jasper and Crawford Counties to the Wabash River.

38. THE MISSOURI CONFERENCE shall include the State of Missouri, except that part lying south of the Osage River, and west of Miller, Pulaski, and Ashley Counties.

39. THE ARKANSAS CONFERENCE shall include the States of Arkansas and Texas, and so much of the State of Missouri as is not included in the Missouri Conference.

40. THE BALTIMORE CONFERENCE shall include all that part of Virginia not embraced in the Western Virginia, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia Conferences, and which is bounded by a line commencing at the mouth of the Rappahannock River, running with said river to the head waters thereof, (including Fredericksburg,) thence by the Blue Ridge to New River, taking in Floyd Circuit, thence by New River to the boundary of the Western Virginia Conference, and the western shore of Maryland, except a small portion included in the Western Virginia Conference, and that part of Pennsylvania lying east of the Alleghany Mountains, and west of the Susquehanna River, including Huntington and Northumberland Districts.



41. THE PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE shall include the eastern shore of Maryland and Virginia, the State of Delaware, and all that part of Pennsylvania lying between the Susquehanna and Delaware Rivers, except so much as is included in Baltimore, Wyoming, and Newark Conferences, including Naglesville, in Philadelphia Conference.

42. THE NEW-JERSEY CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of New-Jersey lying south of the following line, namely: Beginning with Raritan Bay, and running up said bay and river to New-Brunswick, thence along the turnpike road in a direct line to Lambertville on the Delaware River, including the city of New-Brunswick and Lambertville Station.

43. THE NEWARK CONFERENCE shall include all that part of the State of New-Jersey not included in the New-Jersey Conference, Staten Island, and so much of the States of New-York and Pennsylvania as is now included in the Paterson and Newton Districts.

44. THE OREGON CONFERENCE shall embrace the Territories of Oregon and Washington.

45. THE CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE shall embrace the State of California, the Sandwich Islands, and so much of the Territories of New-Mexico and Utah as lies west of the Rocky Mountains.

46. THE LIBERIA CONFERENCE.—There shall be an Annual Conference on the western coast of Africa, to be denominated the *Liberia Mission Annual Conference*, possessing all the rights, powers, and privileges of other Annual Conferences, except that of sending delegates to the General Conference, and of drawing its annual dividend from the avails of the Book Concern and of the Charter Fund.

47. THE GERMAN CONFERENCE.—There shall be an Annual Conference in Germany, to be denominated *The German Mission Annual Conference*, embracing also the missions in France and Switzerland where the German language is spoken; which Conference shall possess all the rights, powers, and privileges of other Annual Conferences, except that of sending delegates to the General Conference, and of drawing its annual dividends from the avails of the Book Concern and of the Charter Fund.

#### GERMAN WORK.

1. The Cincinnati and Ohio Districts are connected with the Cincinnati Conference.

2. The North Ohio and Michigan Districts are connected with the North Ohio Conference.

3. The German work now connected with the Southeastern Indiana Conference shall remain connected with that Conference.

4. All the German Missions north of the 42d parallel of latitude, in the State of Iowa, with Galena Station, and Freeport Mission in Illinois; also all the western part of the State of Wisconsin, not now included in the Wisconsin German District, with Minnesota, shall belong to the Upper Iowa Conference.

5. The Wisconsin and Chicago German Districts as they now are, with the exception of Freeport Mission; also all the German Missions in Iowa south of the forty-second parallel of latitude, including Burlington Station

and Farmington and Desmoines Missions, from Quincy District, Illinois Conference, shall belong to the Rock River Conference.

6. The Missouri and Quincy Districts, except so much as lies in Iowa, and so much of Bellville District as lies in the bounds of the Illinois Conference, shall belong to the Illinois Conference.

7. The St. Louis District and so much of the Bellville District as is in the Southern Illinois Conference, shall belong to the Southern Illinois Conference.

8. The German Missions in the East shall remain in connection with the New-York Conference.

9. The German Missions in California are to belong to the California Conference.

The committee present the following resolutions for adoption by this Conference :

1. *Resolved*, That the Bishop presiding at the next session of the New-Hampshire and Vermont Conferences, respectively, be requested to present the question of a re-union of these two Conferences for the action of each ; and if a majority of each of them shall so determine, the two Conferences shall thereafter be one, under the name of the New-Hampshire Conference :

2. *Resolved*, That this General Conference consent that the New-Jersey and Newark Conferences shall hold their next session together, according to their request.

3. *Resolved*, That we deem it inexpedient to publish a map of our several Conference territories.

4. *Resolved*, That Orange Chapel be transferred from the Delaware Conference, and be attached to Cincinnati Conference, and that Plattville be transferred from the Cincinnati Conference and be attached to the Delaware Conference.

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## CC.

### REPORT IN THE CASE OF REUBEN ALDRIDGE.

THE Committee on Itinerancy, to whom was referred the memorial of Reuben Aldridge, beg leave to report that the memorialist was a member of the Missouri Annual Conference in 1844 ; but by the action of the General Conference of that year, and the administration which followed, was left without an appointment until the reorganization of the Missouri Annual Conference of 1848. By virtue of a resolution passed by the General Conference of 1848, the memorialist was allowed, by the Illinois and Missouri Annual Conferences, which held their session together in 1849, the sum of one hundred dollars ; he having been employed, during the interval, in missionary labors. The aforesaid Illinois and Missouri Conferences authorized their Committee on Missions to present the above claim to the Parent Board of Missions at New-York for liquidation, which amount the memorialist avers has never been paid ;

subjecting him to inconvenience and embarrassment. The committee, in view of these facts, recommend for adoption the following resolution, viz. :

*Resolved* by the General Conference in conference assembled, That we recommend to the Parent Board of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church to pay to the order of Reuben Aldridge the sum of one hundred dollars, (\$100,) with interest from the time said claim was allowed, to wit, the month of October, 1849.

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## DD.

### REPORT RELATING TO JOURNALS OF ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

THE Committee on Itinerancy beg leave to report that they have examined the Journals of the several Annual Conferences with care. Some of those Journals are kept with neatness and precision ; in others there were discovered blemishes and inaccuracies which require to be corrected, viz. :

*First.* In some cases the Journals are not paged.

*Second.* In one instance the Journal does not state who presided during most of the sessions of the Conference ; nor is there any statement that the Conference closed with religious services.

In the proceedings of the last two years, there are no tables to indicate the numbers in society, &c., nor any reference to any such statistics.

*Third.* The marginal notes and references are omitted in one of the Journals.

*Fourth.* On one occasion the Journal closes without showing that the minutes of the preceding session were read and approved ; nor do they make any allusion to the appointments of the preachers, as being read out in the usual way.

*Fifth.* One of the Journals presents blots, verbal inaccuracies, and the absence of figures indicating dates and pages.

*Sixth.* There is a failure in some of the Journals to make proper reference to papers, in cases of trial, so as to identify them.

*Seventh.* We record, as exceptionable, the case of a local elder who was received as such into our Church without taking upon him our ordination vows.

We conclude by recommending for adoption the following resolutions, viz. :

1. *Resolved* by the General Conference in conference assembled, That the statistics of the Conference should be entered on the Conference Journals.

2. *Resolved*, That the Secretaries of the several Annual Conferences be instructed to observe greater precision in referring to papers, documents, charges, testimony, &c., so that they may be certainly identified.

## EE.

## ADDRESS ON MISSIONS.

*The General Conference to the Pastors and People of the Methodist Episcopal Church:*

DEAR BRETHREN: We wish to appeal to you in behalf of the missionary cause; and we do this the more earnestly because the missionary treasury is deeply in debt. Next to the regular pastoral work, we regard the missionary cause as by far the most important interest committed to the Church. Indeed, it participates directly and largely in the essential work of the ministry, whose chief duty is to preach the Gospel to every creature under heaven. The missionary cause is intended to aid the ministry to do this great work, under the proper authority and direction of the Church, by calling forth from her bosom the men whom God hath chosen to execute this great commission, and by providing the means necessary to sustain them in their work. This is the high and Divine end which the missionary cause purposes to accomplish. We commend it, dear brethren, to your careful consideration in the sight of God. We believe you will regard it as the most important enterprise which God hath led the Church to propose for the accomplishment of her great commission, which is expressed in these words, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." You will not let temporary embarrassments, or pressing demands for other purposes, interfere with your steady and liberal support of this great essential cause.

But in order to execute this great enterprise wisely and successfully, the Church must act as a body, under some general organization, and not as local Churches, or voluntary societies. This is the judgment of the Church as expressed in her book of Discipline, in the chapter "On the Support of Missions." We earnestly advise and enjoin that this judgment be seriously and universally respected, and that the provisions in the Discipline be prudently applied until all the people are trained to this great work. We will assign some reasons to induce you, dear brethren, to take these our well-considered instructions.

1. The provisions in the Discipline, during four years' experience, have been found, whenever prudently and faithfully applied, to have greatly advanced the missionary spirit and the piety of the Church, and to have increased the missionary contributions from twenty-five to a hundred per cent., and even more.

2. These provisions call into action a large number of the laity, both old and young, under the direction of a judicious committee, of which the pastor is chairman.

3. The whole enterprise is carried on at an expense, *for administration, of not exceeding two per cent. on the whole amount of missionary appropriations.* We think this is unexampled in the history of benevolent enterprises, and it is a weighty reason why you should give your cordial support to the cause; as all you contribute goes directly to it,

with the trifling deduction just named. This very small expense is owing to the fact that no *agents* are employed abroad in the Churches and congregations; but the work is done by the pastors and their people severally; and they do it cheerfully, not only because it is enjoined by the Discipline, but chiefly because it is properly and legitimately the work of the pastor and the Church of which God hath made him the overseer.

4. Because the appropriation of the funds and the appointment of the missionaries are made in a way to command the confidence of the whole Church. The funds are appropriated by a general Missionary Committee, convened once a year from all parts of the Church, from Maine to Missouri, in concurrence with the bishops and the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society. By this joint action the appropriations are made to the foreign missions generally, and to each annual conference. Each conference distributes its own funds among its own domestic missions, according to its judgment. The appointment of the missionaries, both at home and abroad, is made by the bishops, without the interference of the Board of Managers at New-York. The bishops know the men. Thus you will see, the spiritual administration of the missions is entirely distinct from their financial affairs. The bishops, aided by their proper advisers, appoint the missionaries, and look to the Missionary Society to provide the funds. The Missionary Society looks to the Church, from whence alone the funds can be obtained. Just in proportion as the Church falls short in supplying the necessary funds, will the spiritual work, which is in the hands of the proper Church authorities, be curtailed. But we trust in God that no part of the Church will be delinquent in this matter. How simple, how beautiful, how economical, is our missionary system! How great and glorious the end which it proposes! an end in regard to which all are agreed, and to accomplish which every one should regularly and faithfully do his part.

But while we thus commend the missionary cause to your constant and liberal support, and while we say that our hearts have been glad at remembering that it has advanced steadily for years past, in all parts of the Church, we are obliged to confess to some apprehension in regard to the future. This apprehension is a feeling rather than a matter to be clearly stated; and it is possible that it is not well founded. The apprehension has respect to the supply both of missionaries and money. We look to God to raise up the men, while the proper authorities of the Church shall take due care to recognize them, and, if necessary, prepare them somewhat for their great work; and we look to you, dear brethren, for the money necessary to sustain the men whom God shall call to this work.

As we have expressed some apprehension in regard to the regular and sufficient supply of funds, we think it proper to indicate one or two of the causes which we think may be now interfering, and may interfere still more hereafter, with the supply of funds to the missionary treasury. We have learned with regret and serious apprehension that voluntary missionary societies are multiplying in our Churches, which societies not only reserve to themselves the right to dispose of a part or the whole of the funds which they raise for missionary purposes, but

that they do actually so dispose of them independently, and without the knowledge of the missionary authorities of the Church, according to the Discipline. To such an extent is this carried, that the Minutes of some conferences will show that some Churches have contributed some hundreds of dollars, not twenty-five per cent. of which has reached the missionary treasury of the Church, the remainder having been disposed of by these local voluntary missionary societies of which we speak. These missionary societies are, frequently, the only active missionary organizations in their respective Churches; and they apply to the congregations, and obtain contributions on the credit of the general missionary cause, which contributions we judge and advise should be paid into the treasury of the Parent Missionary Society, through the missionary treasuries of their respective Churches, to whose missionary interests these voluntary missionary societies should be auxiliary. This is the true relation of such voluntary missionary associations to the Church and the missionary cause; and in this relation they would be of great service, especially as Sunday-School and Juvenile Missionary Societies.

We further judge and enjoin that each Church, aided by its own presiding elder and pastor, take care that the provisions of the Discipline for the support of missions be carried out, as far as is practicable, among them severally; and that the funds so raised be paid into the treasury of the Parent Society, through their own conference treasury. We do not, by what we have advised and enjoined above, object to the formation of voluntary missionary societies for specific purposes, which are of a local character, and to which individuals and Churches will contribute as they may judge proper, when the specific object of such contributions is presented to them. But we do enjoin that all funds contributed for the general missionary interests of the Church, shall be paid into the treasury of the Parent Society, as directed above. We are of opinion that the failure to do this is one principal cause of the decrease in the missionary contributions of the Church to the general treasury during the last two years; and it is still a cause of serious apprehension with regard to the future steady supply of funds. We are satisfied that the Churches in which these independent missionary societies have been formed, and also the societies themselves, have not been aware of the serious embarrassment which their policy produces. As true friends of the missionary cause, we ask their attention to it. Their example, if they continue their policy, may be followed by other Churches, until, in self-defense, it may become general, and our whole missionary system be materially weakened, and our missionary work curtailed.

We might allude to the seeming withdrawal of the attention of the Church from the missionary cause, by the intense excitement which has recently prevailed in the Church on side issues or secondary questions. We trust that the discussions at this General Conference may abate this intense excitement, and allow the spirit and action of the Church to flow again smoothly and strongly in their proper and legitimate channels. Particularly do we hope and believe that this will be the case as it regards the missionary cause, which seeks to aid the living ministry to "go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every

creature." Whatever may be our differences of opinion on other questions, we do not disagree on this point. The holy missionary cause, we believe, is above all subordinate or secondary interests and plans, and finds the first and warmest place in the hearts of the people.

In conclusion, allow us to say, our honor, as well as our duty as a Church, is involved in our missionary cause. Our sister Churches and the world are looking to us, and inviting and expecting us to take that place in the great missionary movement of Protestant Christendom, to which our numbers, our wealth, our rapid rise and past energetic action point us. Shall we fail of this just expectation? If our missionary system is executed according to the enlarged plan indicated by the action of this General Conference, it will become the bond of union to the Methodist Episcopal Church in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America. And we see not why it may not become the common bond of union of the whole family of legitimate Methodism throughout the world, by which each part will help the other, as need may be. We ask you, dear brethren, not to let the temporary inconveniences to yourselves, nor the demands of other interests, interfere with your contributions to the missionary cause; but remember that our work is laid out; the missionaries are in the field, and others are called for; the drafts of the bishops are drawn against the appropriations authorized, and they must not be protested. Will you protect them?

Further, and finally, dear brethren, we ask you to think of the grandeur and glory of this missionary work, and let it have a place in your hearts and in all your plans. In your last wills and testaments let it be one of your heirs for Christ's sake, who has left it to us as a legacy in *his* last will and testament.

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## FF.

### REPORT ON LAY DELEGATION.

THE committee to whom was referred the papers relating to Lay Delegation, beg leave to report:

These papers consist, first, of a communication, signed by sixty-seven laymen in the city of Philadelphia; second, a duplicate of the above from the same place, signed by fifty-six, making one hundred and twenty-three signatures to both papers; third, a memorial from the city of Buffalo, N. Y., signed by seventy laymen and six preachers; fourth, a communication from Geneva, N. Y., signed by the Presiding Elder of the Geneva District, the preacher stationed in Geneva, and sixteen official members of the Church in the same place; fifth, resolutions passed by the Pittsfield Quarterly Conference in the Troy Annual Conference; sixth, resolutions passed by the Quarterly Conference of New-York Mills Station, Oneida Annual Conference; seventh, a petition from two members of Christ Church, Pittsburgh; eighth, one from thirty-one members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Ovid, East Genesee Conference, N. Y.; ninth, one from ten

members in the Elyria Station, North Ohio Conference; and also two communications from Edgar Conkling, a member of Union Chapel, Cincinnati.

Your committee have read all these papers, and carefully considered the suggestions they contain. The first two papers do not purport to be a "petition," but a statement of their "sentiments," by respected and honored brethren, in relation to Lay Delegation in the *General Conference*. The third corroborates the statements of the above, and asks for the same changes. The fourth paper asks that provision may be made in the Discipline for a "Lay Representation" in our Annual Conferences. The fifth asks the General Conference "to so alter the General Rules as to admit of Lay Delegation in that body, and also that of the Annual Conferences." The sixth requests that the Discipline be so amended that the General and Annual Conferences shall be composed of as many lay delegates as clergy. The seventh, eighth, and ninth petition, also, for Lay Delegation in both the General and Annual Conferences. The last two communications pray for sundry modifications in our economy; and also for the General Conference "to provide for lay representatives equal in number to the delegates in the General Conference, the membership in the bounds of each Annual Conference to elect their representatives; and that the General Conference adjourn for one year, when the lay representatives should unite, at which time the secular matters of the Church shall be acted on."

Your committee entered upon the matter before them with a sincere desire to ascertain what is the mind of the Church upon the subject, and what will contribute most to its efficiency and success. No motives of personal interest, they trust, have influenced them; nor have they been influenced by any want of consideration for the character and rights of the laity. The assumption that the lay element fails of recognition in our ecclesiastical economy, or that there is any lack of coöperation between the ministry and the laity in carrying forward the great work of the Church, finds no warrant in our experience as ministers, nor in our history as a Church. Yet your committee are free to say, that could they see any method by which the element of lay influence could be brought into a wider and more active sphere, without destroying the harmony of our organization, and thus periling its stability and efficiency, we would most cheerfully and heartily recommend such method for your adoption. We are happy to learn that some of our Annual Conferences have already, under existing provisions of the Discipline, associated with themselves Lay Stewards, who act as counselors, and participate in discussions upon the financial and temporal interests of the Church. Sufficient time has not yet elapsed to determine the practical workings of this system, nor yet the results to which it will finally lead; but your committee believe the subject is worthy of the favorable consideration of all our Annual Conferences.

Again, your committee have not sufficient evidence that the change desired by your memorialists, is demanded by the membership of the Church, nor, indeed, by any considerable portion of them, to warrant present action. In fact, they are convinced that though some wise and good men desire the proposed change, the great body of the Church do not desire it. The subject has been discussed repeatedly in different periods of our history; it was largely discussed four years since, and the attention of our entire membership was called to the subject by circulars,



newspaper discussions, and resolutions passed by conventions. Since then the matter has died away; and the general judgment of the Church, so far as we have the means of ascertaining it, has settled down in the conviction that such a change in our economy is not desirable, or at least not practicable under the circumstances.

For these reasons, and many more, which we find it impossible to embody in a brief report, we are brought to the conclusion that the change in our economy desired by your memorialists, is demanded neither by the exigences of the case, nor by the voice of the Church; and, therefore, we recommend the passage of the following resolution:

*Resolved,* That any change in our economy relating to the constitution of our General and Annual Conferences is inexpedient at the present time.

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## GG.

### REPORT RELATING TO A REVISION OF THE RITUALS OF THE CHURCH.

THE Committee on Revision of Discipline, to whom was referred the memorials and resolutions asking for a revision of the rituals of our Church, having maturely considered the subject, beg leave to report:

That they are deeply impressed with the importance to be attached to the ritual forms of the Christian Church, in order to the decency, order, and solemnity of her various administrations. The Church has always had her forms, nor is it possible, in the nature of things, that ordinances should be duly administered and religious worship solemnized without form. But that form should be simple, natural, and appropriate, adapted to convey the meaning and moral of the administration, suggesting to the devout worshiper those sentiments and feelings which the particular occasion was originally intended to inspire. We believe with St. Chrysostom, that as God has made man not an incorporeal being, but with a material body, so he has delivered unto us his truth, not in a spiritual and abstract manner, but clothed in a visible form of words and symbols. The Church, like a living plant, as it develops and enlarges takes on, by a natural law of fitness, just so much of external form and organism as is necessary to give freedom and scope to the operation of the principle of life within it, and which in its turn also may afford protection and nourishment to that fountain of vitality. But if the external organism and form do not naturally grow out of the principle of life, and do not naturally nourish and protect that life, they are only a disease and a burden. And this analogy is corroborated by all the past history of the Church of Christ.

The rituals of our Church relate to the baptism of infants and adults, the Lord's Supper, the ordination of bishops, elders, and deacons, the solemnization of matrimony, and the burial of the dead. Two principal defects attach to them: first, in several instances their simplicity is

impaired by a cumbrous amount of unnecessary verbiage; and, secondly, their pertinency and salutary influence are in a much more serious degree affected by the declaration of sentiments, which are not only irrelevant to the occasion, but in some instances adverse to the genius of our faith and of our Church polity. Nor is this matter of surprise when we consider that our denominational and our Church polity both were borrowed from the rubrics of a foreign Church.

Another fact of great importance affecting the question of revision is, that the irrelevant sentiments which they now express are so interwoven throughout the entire texture of their language as to render it necessary in many instances to take apart its entire structure, and recast the sentences in a different mold. This, we need not remind you, is a very delicate and difficult work, not to be accomplished in a General Conference Committee during the brief and hurried days of a session. It is a work for the private study, to be performed only by long meditation, study, and prayer, and to be finally completed only by the most experienced, deliberate, and competent counsel of the Church.

The idiom of the Prayer Book of the English Church is to be preserved; it is the idiom of our English Bible, sanctified in the hearts and memories of the great Saxon family, and with the history of that Prayer Book, and the venerable forms of the old and half-obsolete English, the mind of the revisers must be thoroughly imbued. Then, when the sentiments which are to be incorporated in our rituals are logically and familiarly mastered, they must be clothed in the smooth, solemn, and stately Saxon, and arranged in an easy, natural order.

The errors in our rituals are greatly mitigated and neutralized on the one hand by the softening terms which we have from time to time introduced, and on the other from important omissions from the English Prayer Book. They do not, therefore, threaten any immediate injury, and with the modifying sense which our denominational faith and piety affix to the language, may continue safely for a while to be used. But their tendency is to beget, by imperceptible advances, a faith in our membership contrary to our standards, and if suffered to remain in future as now, and should our Church ever decline from her present spiritual life and relapse into an inert formalism, she would find in her Discipline the materials to vindicate baptismal regeneration, the apostolical succession of bishops, and the doctrine of three priestly orders.

A large portion of our ministry and membership are grieved to find in our most solemn forms the sanction of doctrines which neither we nor our fathers believe. That baptismal regeneration is the doctrine of the English Prayer Book is constantly admitted and maintained by the ablest standard writers of the Anglican Church; that in a modified form we have copied the Prayer Book in this respect cannot be denied. The Church of England is this day in a state of schism, and even the civil institutions of that country are threatened, strange as it may seem, by the controversy on baptismal regeneration. What the final result will be, both in that country and our own, cannot now be determined. It is a struggle between dead formalism and spiritual life in the Church. And can we bequeath to the next generation the elements of this sad and ill-fated controversy? Can we safely, and we might almost ask, innocently, retain

in our most solemn formularies, with which we wish to imbue the holiest feelings of our membership, these latent elements of superstition? Your committee are frank to declare that it is their conviction that the future peace and edification of the Church require a revision. In view of all the facts in the case, your committee would therefore respectfully submit the following resolutions for the consideration and adoption of the General Conference, to wit:

1. *Resolved*, That a committee of *five* be appointed by the chair to revise the rituals of our Church.

2. *Resolved*, That this committee be instructed to prepare a circular at their earliest meeting, in which all the points involved in the proposed revision shall be stated, and to send a copy of this circular to each member of the present General Conference, who shall consider the same, and return his opinions and suggestions to the committee within three months.

3. *Resolved*, That when the committee shall have received the returned circulars from the members of this Conference, with their opinions and suggestions on the points therein contained, they shall avail themselves of all the information thus suggested, and prepare a revised copy of our rituals, which they shall then lay before the bishops, and the bishops shall have power to make any verbal alterations, and when the rituals shall receive the final approval of the bishops, they shall cause the same to be published, and the rituals thus revised shall thereafter go immediately into use.

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## HH.

### REPORT RELATING TO THE QUARTERLY REVIEW, NATIONAL MAGAZINE, AND SUNDAY SCHOOL ADVOCATE.

THE Committee on the Book Concern, to whom was referred certain alleged errors in the Report of the Book Agents in regard to the Quarterly Review, National Magazine, and Sunday School Advocate, beg leave to report,

That they have examined the subject in the presence of the Agents and Editors, and, after careful investigation of the *items* of the accounts, and the manner of making them up, they find that these periodicals are charged master's prices on composition, stereotyping, and press-work, and deducting the profits to the Concern on these items, the loss on these publications will be materially reduced. A further reduction of the loss charged will be made if we credit these periodicals with certain assets which belong to them. We also find that the time of making up the accounts prevented these publications from receiving credit for outstanding subscriptions and claims. Yet, after all fair credits are made, it appears they have not fully met the cost of publication.

This may be accounted for, in part at least, by the great advance in price of paper and of labor after the subscription price had been fixed;

and that such an increase in their subscription list as may be reasonably anticipated, and such as their great merits demand, will carry them safely through coming years. From reliable data, the committee would furthermore say that, in their judgment, two thousand seven hundred paying subscribers would fully sustain the Quarterly Review.

In view of these facts, we therefore recommend to the General Conference the continued publication of these periodicals.

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## II.

### PASTORAL ADDRESS.

BELOVED BRETHREN: "Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father, and from Jesus Christ our Lord," be unto you now and forever.

While we have many reasons to humble ourselves before God, and to mourn over our failures in gaining the benevolent ends so manifestly indicated in the singular providences which brought the Methodist Church into existence, and the extraordinary blessings vouchsafed to us through every period of our history, yet in the present state of the Church there are many grounds for thanksgiving and praise. The Spirit of all grace has been poured out afresh upon our Zion. In the past four years numerous and extensive revivals have been enjoyed throughout the Church; and thousands have experienced "the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost." That our Church is in a high state of prosperity, is sufficiently indicated in the cheering facts, that our effective traveling ministers have increased from four thousand four hundred and fifty to five thousand four hundred and eight, or nine hundred and fifty-eight; and membership, including probationers, from seven hundred and twenty-one thousand eight hundred and four to seven hundred and ninety-nine thousand four hundred and thirty-one, or seventy-nine thousand six hundred and twenty-seven.

But this is not all. The Church has been quickened; many of its members, we trust, are "hungering and thirsting after righteousness," and are "going on to perfection;" thus evincing that the doctrine of entire sanctification is not with them a mere theory, but a substantial and saving reality. And looking over the whole ground, and availing ourselves of every means of information within our reach, *we cannot avoid the conviction* that, though some of our societies may be in a languishing state, the piety of the Church generally is deepening, its faith is becoming more active and comprehensive, its moral power is largely increased, and the blessing of God abideth with us even as in former years, *and more abundantly*. This all-pervading, energizing, and saving grace may not now be manifested precisely in the same manner as in other years. Some of the peculiarities that characterized the work

of God in the early history of the Church, will now be sought for in vain ; but all of the essential features are still visible. The *glory* hath not departed. We have many examples of the same converting power, the same witnessing Spirit, the same grace and purity, and the same glorious triumphs in death, which distinguished the early Church. God is as manifestly with us as with our fathers. The Gospel is still a Gospel of *power*, and is yet preached "with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven;" and the great Head of the Church yet visibly owns us as his people, and reveals his sovereignty among us in directing his own work, and in vindicating and honoring his own appointed means and instrumentalities. Thus united with Christ, and thus enjoying his covenant blessings, we may gratefully exclaim, "Happy is the people that is in such a case; yea, happy is that people whose God is the Lord."

Among the many reasons that may be enumerated, calling for devout praise and gratitude, we may mention prominently the cheering fact that the Church yet retains "the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." We can conceive of nothing more hostile to the spirituality and prosperity of the Church, and to personal piety, than dissension and strife. "Forgiving one, another, if any man have a quarrel against any," is the inspired direction; and, in the inimitable prayer which our Saviour taught his disciples, we are directed to pray, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." We judge no true Christian can look upon schism in "the body of Christ" in any other light than as a fearful and desolating calamity; and the careless manner in which the disunion and rending of the Church are frequently spoken of, betokens a great want of "the meekness and gentleness of Christ," and ill comports with our relations to God as redeemed sinners. Nothing but evils of the greatest magnitude—evils that can neither be controlled nor extirpated, but which threaten the vitality and integrity of the Church—can ever justify such propositions. We have reason to fear that the division of the Church, which under almost all conceivable circumstances is the greatest of all possible calamities, has been contemplated by some with entire composure; and instead of being deprecated with true Christian foresight and zeal, has, under certain contingences, been invited and encouraged. This has been unfriendly to those relations which lead us to "dwell together in unity."

Our unity has also been assailed in other directions. We have fallen upon singular times. New and subtle issues are continually forced upon us. Reform is the watchword of all parties—the universal passport of error to popular favor. Radical changes, antagonizing the social system of the Gospel, have been proposed; error has assumed new forms, and bland, conciliating aspects; infidelity has abandoned its gross materialism, and now makes its insidious advances under the guise of spiritualism; unexplained facts, arising either from mysteries in our own *natures*, or from the misleading teaching of laws, of which, as yet, we have no adequate knowledge, have been resorted to, to render this spiritualism palatable; and it has been claimed that religious truth opens as legitimate a field of discovery as science, and that man, in the exercise of his own powers, aided by spiritual agents which he can com-

mand, is capable of traveling further into the inscrutable and invisible, than it has pleased the Divine mind to take us.

These insidious errors have been the more dangerous because oftentimes admitting religious truths, and assuming them as a garb, or appealing to well-known physiological laws and mental phenomena, and building its theories upon them. Thus lulling the fears of the unwary, and appealing to the perverted principles of our natures, particularly to human pride and vanity, they have succeeded in leading a few astray, who have either fallen into hopeless and open infidelity, rejecting altogether the teachings of the Gospel, as below their attainments, or have become the victims of insanity. But it is a matter of rejoicing how few have been deceived and turned from their steadfastness. In no instance has any considerable defection been brought about. Our membership "stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath set them free," and have not suffered themselves "to be entangled again with the yoke of bondage." They have "tried the spirits" by Bible rules, and have thus escaped these gross delusions. And general revivals of religion, contrasting directly with the results of error, "bringing forth the peaceable fruits of righteousness," elevating and saving men from sin, have fortified their minds against these soul-destroying errors. There has been agitation in the Church itself; and, in some instances, this may have been exhibited in a manner not quite in harmony with Christian meekness. But this very agitation has betrayed, in most instances, the ardent love of our people for the old paths, the land-marks of our beloved Methodism, the institutions, usages, and teachings of our fathers, under which God has vouchsafed us so long and so extensive prosperity. We rejoice that these monuments of the wisdom, zeal, and piety of our fathers have not, amid the rapid changes everywhere marking modern movements, fallen into desuetude. The lessons of the past have not been lost upon our people. In their minds, as it should be, the presumption is against that which is new, and the burden of proof is with its advocates. New measures must either be tried in the balances of the sanctuary or tested by the experience of the past. Bold and rash experiments, though assuming the names of progress and reform, have been justly regarded with suspicion; and as a whole populous Church is to be affected thereby, even where, as in reference to Church usage and polity, real improvement is admissible, it is certainly proper that this rigid surveillance and earnest solicitude should be exercised. With such vigilance and godly jealousy, the agitations of the past four years have been, we trust, on the whole, healthful, developing on one hand a love for Methodism as it is, and on the other leading to the adoption of such well-digested plans for carrying out our great evangelical designs as a mature and godly judgment will approve. Thus, what seemed adverse, has been friendly to our unity; and thus it ever will be while "the God of love and peace dwells among us." Continuing to "walk by the same rule, and to mind the same thing," God will continue to honor us with the same hallowed instrumentality for good; and the energy, activity, and efficiency of the Church will be commensurate with its high vocation, as a Church raised up "to spread Scriptural holiness over these lands."

During the present session of the General Conference many subjects, some of them involving great, if not radical changes, have been under consideration. Petitions and memorials from almost every part of our extended work, have been presented and referred to appropriate committees, where they have received respectful consideration. This has been especially the case on the subject of Slavery.

The position of our Church from the beginning has been that of an anti-slavery Church; and in both slave and free states this is our present attitude. So we are regarded by pro-slavery men, as the persecution of our ministers in some parts of our work, and the apparent necessity of changing the seat of one of our conferences, in order to avoid the notified violence of a mob, clearly prove. The subject has been largely discussed in our periodicals, patiently considered in the Committee on Slavery, and has occupied a large portion of the time of the General Conference, where it has been debated, as you have seen, with eminent ability and the greatest freedom. With its action upon this subject you are already acquainted. The debates brought out fully the fact, that none of the members of this General Conference entertained pro-slavery sentiments, and that little or no mercenary slaveholding exists in the Church. And the effect of such action upon the interests of the border conferences, probably alone prevented a constitutional majority from voting to recommend a change of our General Rule on the subject of slavery. On this subject be temperate and firm; resisting evil, not with carnal weapons, but with immutable truths—"weapons that are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds."

And now, beloved brethren, will you suffer us to exhort you to prompt and vigorous coöperation with your ministers, in carrying forward the work of God committed to us? "Ye are workers together with him." To this high dignity and honorable distinction in the presence of God, and "a great cloud of witnesses," is every Christian called. And if we "stir up your pure minds, by way of remembrance," it is that we may present you before Christ "holy, and unblamable, and unreprouvable in his sight."

And first we exhort you to give the "most earnest heed" to the training of your children. It is your high privilege as well as your solemn duty, while they are yet infants, to consecrate them to God in baptism. "The promise is unto you and to your children;" and to the mind of the Christian it cannot be a matter of indifference whether or not covenant blessings are secured for his offspring. Bring your "little children to Christ" in baptism, that that heavenly benediction which conveys covenant grace to the soul may fall upon them.

In the early and most eventful period of life, when the conscience is tender and the heart susceptible, instruction devolves upon the parents, and they cannot transfer their duties and responsibilities to others; but, subsequently, the Sabbath school, the common school, and the college, become valuable auxiliaries. We *must* educate. We are shut up to this necessity. Mind will be educated; and we are only to choose as to the manner and direction of its education.

Experience has furnished ample proofs that the Sunday school is the

nursery of the Church. Many of our most eminent ministers, and hundreds of our laymen, whose faith and morals proclaim them living Christians, received their early religious impressions in the Sabbath school. Minds, that otherwise would be employed in every evil work, receiving an education fraught with mischief, are thus, on the Lord's day, directed to religious truth and devotion. Interest is excited, new trains of thought are opened to the mind, religious truths are impressed, books are furnished adapted to the juvenile taste, and calculated at the same time to entertain and improve both the heart and the mind.

Great improvements have been made in our Sabbath-school libraries; and now, in cheapness, variety, and adaptation, they may challenge comparison with any other Sunday-school libraries in this country. Our statistics furnish indubitable evidence of prosperity in this department. We have now ten thousand four hundred and sixty-nine schools, one hundred and thirteen thousand one hundred and fifty-nine officers and teachers, and five hundred and seventy-nine thousand one hundred and twenty-six scholars.

While we rejoice in view of the growing interest and efficiency of Sabbath-school instruction, and while we express our hearty praises to God for the frequent outpouring of his Spirit upon our schools, we can but deplore the indifference manifested by many in regard to this most potent instrumentality for good. To secure the greatest efficiency for our schools, it is essential that all the members of our Church should give them their countenance and aid. He would prove himself unworthy of the name of a Christian who deemed Sabbath-school instruction beneath him; for Christ not only said, "Suffer little children to come unto me," but "took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them." We cannot better imitate our Saviour, or more directly advance our own spiritual interest, than by laboring to direct the youthful mind to Christ, and to implant therein great and influential moral and religious truths, that, in the hour of darkness and spiritual conflict, shall hold the soul steady in its high resolves, amid the successive shocks of temptation. It is surely Christ-like to be thus employed in preparing an immortal being for a life of usefulness and purity, and for bliss in the heavenly world. And it is surely matter of serious regret that many members of the Church seem satisfied to commit this important interest entirely to youth, and in many instances to unconverted youth. Not that we would object to the employment of young persons in our schools; but we would have them sustained by the wisdom and counsel, the large experience and mature piety of age. Surely this is a most inviting field for Christian labor, a "field white to the harvest;" and here, if anywhere, we should feel the force of the exhortation, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might."

We have reason to fear due prominence is not given in our schools to teaching a personal spiritual Christianity. Mere intellectual teaching, however thorough and extensive, will not accomplish the end proposed, and is, in our judgment, a desecration of the holy day. The array of officers and teachers, complete discipline, diligent application, all the apparatus and external appliances of the school, cannot secure the end



contemplated in their establishment. We are to teach the lost condition of man, the necessity of the new birth, justification by faith; and we are to guide the youthful mind, penitent through our instrumentality, to Christ, as its only Saviour. Every Sabbath-school teacher, as he enters his class, should hear the voice of Christ saying, "Feed my lambs;" and having furnished the young mind with the simple and saving truths of the Gospel, he should retire to seek God's blessing upon the seed he has sown, that it may yield a harvest, "some thirty, some sixty, and some a hundredfold," to the "praise of the glory of God's grace."

We cannot be too deeply impressed with the importance of educating our sons and daughters. You need not be told that genuine education is as favorable to the progress of Christianity as to the development of mind, and to the health and happiness of the physical man. It should be directed to all our powers; and man is only truly educated when all his powers are thus harmoniously developed. In this country especially, where every individual is charged with high social and civil responsibilities, and where free speech and the pen exert so wide and beneficial an influence, it is the duty of every parent to educate. But there are higher and more influential reasons than even these. God has committed immortal spirits to our charge, and has furnished in their economy, reasons of the most weighty and imperative character, in favor of educating them. It is not because your child is to pursue one of the learned professions, or to prosecute this or that particular business, or for any other merely earthly reason chiefly, that he should be educated, but because he is an *immortal* being. A man's pursuits in this world, though often regarded as the only reason for educating, is, comparatively, a trivial one, and every *Christian* must feel that the weighty and commanding reason is to be found in man's immortality.

We rejoice to see seminaries and colleges rising up on all sides under the sole care and direction of our Church. There are now some seventy seminaries of the first grade, and fourteen colleges and universities under the patronage of the several Annual Conferences. Our educational enterprises have received the manifest approbation of the great Head of the Church. Hundreds of the pupils of these institutions have been brought to Christ, and while learning earthly sciences, have become "wise unto salvation." Extensive revivals of religion have gladdened the hearts of their professors and teachers, and most significantly indicate the approval and favor of God. We trust you will sustain them with your contributions, and that your sons and daughters will enjoy, through them, the advantage of a thorough literary and scientific training. And with Heaven's blessing upon these institutions, subordinating them to our great evangelical work, we doubt not, will largely contribute to our denominational power and efficiency.

The enlargement of our Zion, and the aggressive character of a missionary Church, opening fields of usefulness which it becomes our duty to occupy, lead to increasing calls upon the liberality of our people.

God has given us ability to meet these demands, and there is no reason why, for want of means, the Gospel should be hindered. To this great work of evangelizing the world "we are called in one body." "No man liveth unto himself." Selfishness stands as directly opposed

to the prosperity of man as it does to his happiness; and both the one and the other are greatly promoted by liberally and systematically sustaining the onward movements of the Church. Almost without means Methodism has accomplished a wonderful work. What, then, will it effect when all the institutions and appliances now being established and adjusted to each other, and to our holy Christianity, are brought into full play, and directed against the strongholds of sin? If throughout all our history Methodism has doubled itself every thirteen years, with such enlarged and multiplied means and opportunities, with a nicely adjusted and harmonious machinery, reaching every interest, and with "the Spirit of the living God in the wheels," may we not hope to treble and quadruple both our numbers and our usefulness in the same length of time? A perishing world calls us to greater activity, to more comprehensive plans, to more numerous instrumentalities, to larger sacrifices; "the love of Christ constraineth us" to undertake new and bolder enterprises for the glory of God, and the salvation of man; and the great Head of the Church requires us to press every agent, and every available means consistent with rectitude and moral freedom, into the work of evangelizing the world. We trust you will respond to these calls in the spirit of self-denial and enlarged benevolence.

Without referring to many local interests which will naturally fall under your observation in every part of our extended work, and which will be sustained by those immediately connected with them, permit us to call your attention particularly to the cause of missions, both in the domestic and foreign fields. We have to notice here a most commendable liberality, evinced in the increased collections of the past four years over any other quadrennial period. But to maintain our ground, and enter those great and effectual doors opened to us by the providence of God, our general collections must be largely increased. Here, if anywhere, is God's word peculiarly applicable, a Divine truth with countless living illustrations, "The liberal soul deviseth liberal things, and by liberal things shall he stand." Everywhere, both in our own and in foreign lands, success attends us. "The fields are white to the harvest." But as a Church, missionary in its origin and spirit, we are capable of doing much more. In answer to our prayers, God will raise up laborers, who will boldly respond to the call of the Church, "Here am I; send me." And we ask that the "riches of your liberality may abound more and more," that this great and glorious work of God may not be hindered. With your ministers enter the mighty conflict with the powers of darkness, and sustain them as God's servants doing his will, until "the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ."

But we should never forget that the mere external movements of the Church, its wealth, numbers, triumphs, do not constitute its strength. "On all the glory there shall be a defense." This defense is found in its living union with God. "The branch cannot bear fruit except it abide in the vine." Mere activity will not supply the want of this union. The parade of means and ordinances, the sound of preparation and the array of agents may all exist, and still the Church be powerless. To be truly aggressive it must be a living Church; we must walk with God in

order to obtain the moral power to save men. More than to all other instrumentalities combined we owe the success which has marked our history, and which constitutes our distinction in the sight of men and angels, to the fact that our membership have been living Christians. And while this continues to be the case, our progress will continue to be "like the going forth of the morning," and God will still visit us with his blessing, "even as the early and latter rain upon the earth."

That this may be your happy experience, suffer us to warn you against the spirit of speculation now so extensively prevailing throughout the country. Many persons have lost, through this means, their union with God. Many have made "shipwreck of faith and a good conscience," and have proved by sad experience that "they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition."

With painful feelings we have sometimes noticed neglect of the ordinances of God's house, particularly the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. This we deem inconsistent with growth in grace and a life of piety. We can consistently expect Heaven's blessing, the presence and agency of the Holy Spirit, by which spiritual life can only be retained in the soul, when we are living in obedience to God's commandments.

We exhort you to the regular observance of family devotions. In the absence of family religion there is likely to be a low state of personal piety. Love to God and a proper regard for domestic harmony and happiness, which are essentially promoted by regular family devotions and a true Christian solicitude for the welfare of your children, all combine to render this duty imperative. And experience has shown the wisdom of the declaration made by one now with the blessed in heaven, "The prayerless family has God's curse."

You can only hope to enjoy union and communion with God by the use of the means of grace, such as prayer and class-meeting. Whatever may be urged against class-meetings, experience has shown that, at least in the Methodist Church, they are intimately connected with the spirituality and religious prosperity of its members. This needs no better attestation than what is often seen when "times of refreshing come from the presence of the Lord." Then the class-room, long neglected, is filled with Christians eager to enjoy this means of grace. It requires no urgent appeals to induce you to attend the class-meeting. You joyfully exclaim, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go up to the house of the Lord." As you value your own relations to God, and the progress and spirituality of your Church, be faithful in the use of this most interesting and improving means of grace. We cannot, it is true, declare, in this precise form, it is of Divine authority, but we can assert that you are under obligations, as Methodists, to observe it while you continue in your present Church connections. "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together, as the manner of some is." We close with the language of Paul to the Corinthian Church: "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the love and peace of God shall be with you."

## JJ.

## REVISED CONSTITUTION OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

## ARTICLE I.

THIS association, denominated "The Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," is established for the express purpose of enabling the several Annual Conferences more effectually to extend their missionary labors throughout the United States and elsewhere; and also to assist in the support and promotion of missionary schools and missions in our own and in foreign countries.

## ARTICLE II.

The payment of twenty dollars at one time shall constitute a member for life. Any person paying one hundred and fifty dollars at one time into the treasury shall be an honorary manager for life, and the contribution of five hundred dollars shall constitute the donor an honorary patron for life, both of whom shall be entitled to a seat and the right of speaking, but not of voting, in the Board of Managers.

## ARTICLE III.

The management and disposition of the affairs and property of this Society shall be vested in a Board of Managers, consisting of thirty-two laymen, all being members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and so many clerical members, not exceeding that number, as shall be determined at each annual meeting called for that purpose, each of whom shall be a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and all of whom, both the lay and clerical members, shall be elected at the said annual meeting.

## ARTICLE IV.

The Corresponding Secretary shall be appointed by the General Conference. He shall reside in New-York, and conduct the correspondence of the society, under the direction of the Board. He shall be subject to the direction and control of the Board of Managers, by whom his salary is to be fixed and paid. He shall be exclusively employed in conducting the correspondence of the Society, and, under the direction of the Board, in promoting its general interests, by traveling or otherwise. Should his office become vacant by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Board shall have power to provide for the duties of the office until the Bishops, or a majority of them, shall fill the vacancy.

## ARTICLE V.

The Board shall have authority to appoint all the officers required by the charter, and to make by-laws for regulating its own proceedings, to

appropriate money to defray incidental expenses, to provide for the support of superannuated missionaries, widows, and orphans of missionaries, who may not be provided for by their Annual Conferences, respectively, it being understood that they shall not receive more than is allowed by the Discipline to other superannuated ministers, their widows and orphans; and to print books for the benefit of Indian and Foreign Missions, and missions in which a foreign language is used, fill vacancies that may occur in their own body during the year, and shall present a statement of its transactions and funds to the Society at its annual meeting, and also shall lay before the General Conference a report of its transactions for the four preceding years, and the state of its funds.

ARTICLE VI.

The annual meetings for the election of officers and managers shall be held on the third Monday in November, in the city of New-York, and the term of the service of the officers and managers so elected shall commence January the first following.

ARTICLE VII.

At all meetings of the Society, and of the Board, the president, or, in his absence, the vice-president first on the list then present, and in the absence of all the vice-presidents, a member appointed by the meeting for that purpose, shall preside.

ARTICLE VIII.

Twenty-five members of each meeting of the Society, and thirteen at each meeting of the Board of Managers, shall be a quorum.

ARTICLE IX.

The minutes of each meeting shall be signed by the chairman of the meeting at which the minutes are read and approved.

ARTICLE X.

It is recommended that within the bounds of each Annual Conference there be established a Conference Missionary Society, auxiliary to this institution, under such regulations as the conferences shall respectively prescribe.

ARTICLE XI.

Any auxiliary society or donor may designate the mission or missions, under the care of this Society, to which they desire any part, or the whole of its funds to be appropriated, which special designation shall be publicly

acknowledged by the Board. But, in the event that more funds are raised for any particular mission than are necessary for its support, the surplus shall be at the disposal of the Society for its general purposes.

#### ARTICLE XII.

The Annual Conferences shall be divided into as many mission districts as there are effective superintendents, and there shall be a committee consisting of one from each mission district, to be appointed by the Bishops, and to be called *The General Missionary Committee*. It shall be the duty of this committee to meet annually in the city of New-York, between the 1st and 15th of November, as shall be determined by the Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, to act jointly with the Board of Managers, the Corresponding Secretary, and the Treasurer, in fixing the amount which may be drawn for during the ensuing year, and the division of said amount between foreign and domestic missions. Said committee shall, with the concurrence of the Board of Managers, and with the concurrence of at least two of the Bishops, determine what fields shall be occupied or continued as foreign missions, and the number of persons to be employed on said missions, and shall, in conjunction with the Board, estimate the sums necessary for the support of each mission, subject to the approval of two or more of the Bishops. Said committee, with the concurrence of the Board and Bishops as aforesaid, shall determine the amount for which each Bishop may draw for the domestic missions of those conferences over which he shall preside, and he shall not draw on the Treasurer for more than said amount.

*Provided, nevertheless,* That in the intervals between the meetings of the General Missionary Committee, the Board of Managers, with the concurrence of the Bishop who has charge, or is to have charge of the work proposed, may, if they shall deem it important, adopt a new missionary field, and also provide for any unforeseen emergence that may arise; and to meet such demands, may expend any additional sum not exceeding ten thousand dollars.

Should any of the members of said committee, in the interval of the General Conference, go out of office by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Bishop presiding in the conferences where the vacancy shall occur, shall appoint another to fill his place.

Said committee to be amenable to the General Conference, to which it shall make full reports of its doings.

Any expense incurred in the discharge of its duties shall be met by the Treasurer of the Society.

#### ARTICLE XIII.

The sums allowed for the support of a missionary shall not exceed the usual allowance of other itinerant preachers. The Bishop or president of the conference, (if the mission be domestic,) and the superintendent, where there is one, and if not, the missionary, (if it be foreign,) shall draw on the Treasurer for the same, in quarterly or half-yearly installments, and they shall always promptly notify the Treasurer of all drafts made by them.

ARTICLE XIV.

Each superintendent of missions, and where there is no superintendent, each missionary, shall make a regular quarterly report to the Corresponding Secretary at New-York, giving information of the state and prospects of the several missions under his care.

ARTICLE XV.

Each missionary shall report to his superintendent once a quarter, in writing, the state and prospects of the special work in which he is engaged.

ARTICLE XVI.

No one shall be acknowledged a missionary, or receive support from the funds of this Society, who has not some definite field assigned to him, or who could not be an effective laborer on a circuit, except as provided for in Article V.

ARTICLE XVII.

This Constitution shall not be altered but by the General Conference upon the recommendation of the Board of Managers, or by the Board, on the recommendation of the General Conference.

A true copy, as approved by the Board of Managers at their meeting, June 18, 1856. D. TERRY, *Secretary pro tem.*



KK.

FISCAL REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EXPENSES OF DELEGATES.

The Committee on "Expenses of Delegates" present the following as their fiscal report:

Delegations.	Expenses.	Receipts.	Deficiencies.	Surplus.	Reported as being in Chicago.
New-Hampshire.....	\$412 62	\$ 88 12	\$324 50		
New-York.....	417 44	376 53	40 91		
Troy.....	465 88	226 07	239 81		
New-York East.....	461 48	316 88	144 60		
California.....	909 91	191 60	718 31		
Maine.....	318 85	125 64	193 21		
Vermont.....	280 00	65 88	214 12		
Black River.....	410 50	257 50	153 00		
Western Virginia.....	90 00	110 38		\$20 28	
East Maine.....	352 93	172 02	180 91		
Pittsburgh.....	226 00	354 30		128 30	
Wyoming.....	126 54	73 94	52 60		
Erie.....	240 78	271 58		30 80	
Oneida.....	330 79	248 80	81 99		
		20			

Delegations.	Expenses.	Receipts.	Deficiencies.	Surplus.	Reported as being in Chicago.
East Genesee.....	\$253 44	\$69 73	\$183 71		
North Western Indiana...	42 20	195 60		\$153 40	
Oregon .....	1,168 17	75 90	1,092 27		
Genesee.....	173 98	173 98			
Michigan.....	137 50	149 63		12 13	\$14 12
Ohio.....	98 20	372 48		274 28	
Indiana.....	48 00	142 35		94 35	
North Indiana.....	10 40	101 57		91 17	
Wisconsin.....	180 69	103 08	77 64		34 10
Rock River .....	232 07	307 71		75 64	101 46
North Ohio.....	106 16	259 59		153 43	
Cincinnati.....	53 94	257 82		203 88	
Iowa .....	189 85	162 91	126 94		7 00
Southeastern Indiana.....	27 50	126 75		99 25	
Southern Illinois.....	73 07	173 82		100 75	
Illinois .....	157 05	261 03		103 98	
Kentucky .....	27 00	23 40	3 60		
Missouri .....	72 80	41 95	30 85		
Arkansas .....	128 80	13 10	115 70		
Baltimore .....	781 25	294 98	486 27		
Philadelphia .....	425 00	516 85		91 85	
New-England.....	465 02	93 09	371 93		
Providence .....	368 44	114 10	254 34		
New-Jersey.....	428 17	446 51		18 34	
	<u>\$10,693 27</u>	<u>\$7,267 17</u>	<u>\$5,095 18</u>	<u>\$1,651 93</u>	<u>\$156 68</u>

## RECAPITULATION.

Whole amount of expenses.....	\$10,693 27
Whole amount of receipts.....	<u>7,267 17</u>
Whole amount of deficiency.....	\$3,426 10
Reported as being in Chicago.....	<u>\$156 68</u>

JOHN S. PORTER, *Chairman.*

## LL.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The Committee on Education beg leave to submit this as their final report.

The view of our institutions of learning exhibited in the tabular statement annexed, imperfect as it is, affords matter of congratulation. It is presumed that no Church in our country has done more than our own, in proportion to her means, to promote sound learning.

It is very desirable that our literary institutions should report regularly and fully to the General Conference, in order that we may have, as far as possible, a reliable history of our labors, expenditures, and progress, in the department of education.

Your committee suggest that a yearly Educational Register, containing



financial and educational statistics, and reports of the colleges, seminaries, and academies, under the care of the Methodist Episcopal Church, be published by our Book Concern. Perhaps an appendix to the usual calendar would answer the purpose for the present. It should contain, in addition to general information, answers to the following questions concerning each of our institutions, namely :

1. What are the names, salaries, and labors of the president, professors, and tutors ?
2. What is the course of study ?
3. What are the plans of instruction and government ?
4. What is the total number of pupils ?
5. How many are pursuing the regular course ?
6. How many are pious ?
7. How many are connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church ?
8. How many are preachers or exhorters ?
9. How many have in view the missionary work ?
10. How many are looking forward to the ministry ?
11. How many were converted after they entered the institution ?

Such an addition to our calendar would afford hints to improvement and matter of encouragement ; while it would awaken interest and call forth the prayers of the Church for our seats of learning, and serve as a vehicle of important information to the superintendents, and to such institutions as are in need of instructors. It is presumed that the increased profits of the calendar thus enlarged, would more than justify the additional expense. Though this would not fully meet the wants of our educational interests, it would, we trust, lead, sooner or later, to a weekly or monthly publication devoted to education, and, perhaps, to an Educational Secretary to superintend the interests of this department of our work, which in importance, perhaps, yields to no other. For want of such guidance we have, in many parts of the land, entered upon plans of doubtful expedience ; called into existence institutions that were not needed and could not be sustained ; employed instructors ill adapted to their vocation ; adopted courses of study greatly defective ; lowered and varied the standard of education, and wasted much of the resources of the Church.

Time, it is true, applies the corrective to these evils, but not without much loss and mortification. Much as we have done, there is a wide field before us. It is, therefore, difficult to set limits to the number of our literary institutions in the newer portions of our country. Your committee think it advisable for our Annual Conferences to keep in mind the distinction between universities and colleges, restricting the former term to institutions that have courses of study additional to the ordinary classical curriculum ; and, also, to distinguish between institutions which have the latter course and the mere academy or preparatory school.

We respectfully suggest, also, that our Annual Conferences fix upon some minimum foundation to be acquired by each institution hereafter to be established, before it shall assume its title, or take rank among our seminaries of learning, and that such foundation be sufficient to give it respectability and a fair prospect of permanence. Although we have no right to limit the number of literary institutions, we have a right to limit our responsibility for their character and support.

In regard to the "course of study," your committee remark that we should not make any material variation from that which has received the sanction of ages, and trained the best minds of modern times. The additions to this course, rendered necessary by the progress of modern science, does not justify any diminution of attention to classical and mathematical studies; and when we consider the improvements in the methods of education which have been made of late years, we cannot think that these additions call for any great increase of the time to be devoted to the course.

One of the greatest demands of the age is for teachers of common schools. Your committee think that our Church has not done what it should to answer this call, and would respectfully ask whether we should not establish, either separately, or in connection with our colleges, Normal Schools for the special purpose of training youth for the profession of teaching. We have in the Normal School of Westminster, England, an excellent model, and in its results, an impressive illustration of the benefits of such an institution.

It is deemed indispensable to press upon the Church the importance of giving all our literary institutions a decidedly religious character. That this has not been overlooked heretofore is evident from the revivals which have occurred within them, but it is presumed that more may be done, by giving greater prominence to the Bible in our courses of study, by establishing a more intimate connection between the seminary and the Church, by organizing Bible classes in connection with the former as well as the latter, and perhaps by establishing catechumen classes for advanced scholars, to train them in that critical period when the passions glow and the world assumes its most attractive forms. Such classes differ from Bible classes in a more thorough organization and a more extended plan; they would develop systematically the truths of Holy Scripture, and the glories of the Christian religion, and thus prevent the young from being attracted by the imposing forms of a spiritless religion and the poetical spiritualism of a Christless faith.

Your committee express the hope that our Church will not fail to observe the annual concert of prayer for colleges, or to offer up daily intercession for all our institutions of learning.

We trust that our ministers will feel increased interest in our seminaries of literature, and manifest this interest by visiting them, and inquiring earnestly how they may serve them. They ought not, however, to limit their attention to schools under our own control. It is our duty to feel a deep concern for the common schools and academies of the republic. Much may be done by Methodist ministers to elevate, to purify, and to extend them, especially in the newer portions of our country. Our agency in this respect should be employed prudently, and in such a manner as to show that we have no sectarian or selfish end in view, but merely desire to do our share in the great work of educating the nation. A large proportion of the youth belong to families under our ministry, and if we fulfill our obligations to them we shall have our full share of influence in the management of common schools and other state literary institutions accorded to us by a public sense of justice without any solicitation on our part.

Your committee beg leave to call attention to a clause in the Discipline, disqualifying teachers for admission into full connection in our Annual Conferences. If the sacred office is not compatible with that of the educator, it is clear that our ministers should not be appointed to institutions of learning. If they are in the discharge of ministerial duties while occupying professors' chairs, why should they be ineligible to take rank with their brethren who are in situations no more sacred? Although they are not recognized as pastors, it is presumable that they do as much pastoral work as those who are so recognized, and receive as much fruit of their labor. Indeed, it may be doubted whether any portions of our work are more blessed by the great "Head of the Church" than our Methodist schools and colleges.

We respectfully submit the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That our institutions of learning be requested to be more prompt and full in reporting their condition to the General Conference.

2. *Resolved*, That the attention of the Book Agents be called to this report.

3. *Resolved*, That our seminaries of learning be commended to the prayers of the Church, and that the annual concert of prayer for colleges be observed in all our congregations.

4. *Resolved*, That the several Annual Conferences be directed to discourage the further multiplication of Methodist colleges and other seminaries of learning, unless when additional schools may be imperatively required for the education of the youth of our Church, and unless these schools may be maintained without materially diminishing the patronage and efficiency of existing institutions.

5. *Resolved*, That in the judgment of this Conference, no institution should hereafter be received as a college under the patronage of our Church until it shall have secured an endowment of one hundred thousand dollars.

6. *Resolved*, That preachers appointed by our bishops to our institutions of learning shall not be deemed ineligible to full connection in our Annual Conferences, if otherwise qualified, and that the Discipline be conformed to this principle.

LITERARY INSTITUTIONS OWNED OR EDUCATIONALLY CONTROLLED BY THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Colleges and Universities.	When Inaug- rated.	Presidents.	Location and Patronizing Conference.	No. of Teachers employed.	Whole number in 1855.	Value of Col- lege buildings, grounds, and fixtures.	Endowment.	Other property.	Cost of Appar- atus and Cab- inet.	No. of Volumes in Library.	Amount of In- debtedness.	The Relation of the Church to the property.
Wesleyan University.....	1831	Augustus W. Smith, L.L.D.	Middletown Conn.— N. Y., N. Y. E., N. E., P., M., E., M., N., H., V., T., O., and B. E. Conferences.....	7	149*	\$56,000	\$106,000	....	\$8,025 \$4,000	13,000	None.	{ Held by Trus- tees for the Conferences..
Dickinson College.....	1832	Rev. Chas. Collins, D. D....	Carlisle, Pa.—Balt., Phil., and N. J. Con- ferences.....	9	210†	65,000	110,000	....	6,000	27,500	\$17,000	{ Trustees and Conferences.
Alleghany College.....	1838	Rev. John Barker, D. D....	Mechanicville, Pa.—Pitts- burgh, Erie, and W. Virginia Conferences.	7	228†	25,000	66,000	....	2,000	8,000	None.	{ Trustees for M. E. C.
Indiana Asbury University.	1839	Rev. Daniel Curry, D. D....	Greencastle, Ind.—All the Indiana Confer- ences.....	7	325†	25,000	65,000	\$5,000	800	6,000	None.	{ Held by Trus- tees for the Church.
Ohio Wesleyan Univers- ity.....	1843	{ Rev. Edward Thomson, D. D., L. L. D.....	Delaware, O.—Ohio, Chn., N. Ohio, and W. Vir. Conferences.....	8	511†	50,000	110,000	500	6,000	8,800	2,000	{ Held by Trus- tees for pa- tronizing Con- ferences.
McKendree College.....	1834	Rev. P. Akers, D. D.....	Lebanon, Ill.—Illinois Conference.....	5	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	.....
Lawrence University.....	1849	Rev. Edward Cook, D. D....	Appleton, Wis.—Wis- consin and W. Wis- consin Conferences..	7	50† 190§	50,000	50,000	20,000	2,500	3,000	37,000	{ Trustees for Conferences.
Genesee College.....	1850	Rev. Jos. Cummings, D. D.	Lima, N. Y.—Genesee and E. East Genesee Conferences.....	6	80†	35,900	105,000	5,000	5,240	3,250	None.	{ Held by Trus- tees for Con- ferences.
Illinois Wesleyan Uni- versity.....	.....	Rev. C. W. Sears.....	Bloomington.....	..	....	15,000	25,000	3,000	....	....	....	.....
Ohio University (origin- ally 1804).....	1850	{ Rev. Solomon Howard, D. D.....	Athens, O.—Ohio Con- ference.....	7	176†	25,000	80,000	10,000	1,500	5,000	None.	{ Owned by the State.
University of the Pacific..	1851	Rev. M. C. Briggs, A. M....	Santa Clara, Cal.—Cal. Conference.....	8	190†	21,000	**40,000	....	500	....	5,000	{ Conf. appoints the Trustees.
Brookville College.....	1852	Rev. John W. Locke, A. M.	Brookville, Ind.—S. E. Indiana Conference.	4	125†	10,000	....	....	....	....	8,000	{ Owned by the Stockholders.
Iowa Conference Univers- ity.....	1854	Rev. Lucien W. Berry, D. D.....	Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.— Iowa Conference.....	9	360†	85,000	50,000	....	....	....	10,000	{ Iowa Conference.
Hamline University (pre- paratory department or- ganzed).....	1854	{ Rev. Jabez Brooks, A. M., Preparatory Department.....	Red Wing, Min.—Wis- consin Conference...}	3	190§	88,000	10,000	....	....	500	....	{ Trustees for Conference.
Northwestern University..	1855	{ Rev. C. T. Hinman, D. D. (deceased),.....	Evanston, Ill.—Rock River, Michigan, N. Indiana, N. W., Indi- ana, Iowa, and Illinois Conferences.....	3	10†	16,000	800,000	....	....	1,000	....	{ Held by Trus- tees for Con- ferences.....

1855	Fort Wayne College.....	Rev. R. D. Robinson, A. M.	4	100§	25,000	...	...	...	800	...	Owned by N. Ohio Conference.
1856	Baldwin University.....	Rev. John Wheeler, A. M.	6	238	25,000	60,000	1,000	...	2,000	...	M. E. Church.
1856	Wallacet University.....	Rev. F. S. Hoyt, A. M.	3	100§	14,412	6,000	...	...	8,442	...	{ Majority of the Ch. Trustees, } { Owned by the Conference. }
1856	Troy University.....	Rev. T. H. Sines, A. M.	6	399	30,000	80,000	500	...	600	...	Joint Stock.
1859	Albion Wesleyan Seminary and Female College... ate Institute.....	Rev. T. H. Sines, A. M.	7	846	18,500	...	1,200	...	1,852	11,600	M. E. Church.
1855	Annonia Seminary.....	Rev. C. D. Foss, A. M.	4	125	20,000	...	...	...	...	10,000	{ Trustees for Church. } { Private Stockholders. } { Owned by Principal. }
1850	Asbury Female College.....	Rev. B. F. Rawlins, A. M.	8	175	3,000	...	500	400	...	...	M. E. Church.
1853	Asbury Seminary.....	Ira Smith, A. M.	4	180	1,200	...	...	...	...	...	M. E. Church.
1844	Bakersfield Academy.....	G. S. L. Starks, A. M.	4	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	Joint Stock Co.
1850	Baltimore Female College..	N. C. Brooks, A. M.	4	46	7,500	...	...	...	...	...	{ Trustees for Conference. }
1855	Beaver Female Seminary..	Rev. S. Baker.....	..	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
.....	Bloomington Seminary.....	Mrs. Alexander.....	8	100	1,000	...	...	...	...	...	...
1853	Bloomfield Male and Female College.....	Hiram Lips, A. M.	16	400	50,000	...	400	...	...	10,000	...
1854	Cooperstown Seminary and Collegiate Institute	Rev. P. D. Hammond, A. B.	4	200	10,000	...	...	...	...	...	...
1853	Cassville Seminary.....	{ Rev. A. Summerfield } { Frank, A. M. }	4	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1845	Dickinson Seminary.....	Rev. T. Bowman, D. D.	..	...	8,000	...	...	...	...	...	...
.....	Danville Seminary.....	— Wood, A. M.	8	370	25,000	8,500	1,000	280	4,000	...	...
1851	East Maho Conference Seminary.....	Rev. Loren L. Knox, A. M.	12	285	50,000	40,000	500	...	...	...	...
.....	Illinois Conference Female College.....	Rev. E. Andrus, A. M.	..	...	10,000	...	...	...	...	...	...
.....	Evansville Wesleyan Seminary.....	.....	5	205	15,000	...	2,000	...	...	...	...
1849	Female Collegiate Department of Lawrence University.....	Mrs. Eleda A. Blair.....	6	285	13,000	...	1,500	428	7,000	...	...
1849	Falvey Seminary.....	J. Henry Mansfield, A. B.	6	292	15,000	...	5,000	...	3,000	...	...
1859	Female Col. and Springfield High School.....	John W. Weakly, A. M.	20	1,000	62,000	...	...	925	600	8,000	...
1854	Fort Edward Institute.....	Rev. Joseph E. King, A. M.	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

\* College proper, † College and preparatory, ‡ College, § Preparatory, ¶ College—average, \*\* Notes, †† College proper and preparatory, ††† Cabinet.



1824	Onelda Conference Seminary	Rev. Henry Bannister, D.D.	8	500	60,000	....	....	700	500	Trustees for Conference.
1840	Pennington Seminary and Female College	Rev. J. T. Crane, A. M.	7	150	25,000	....	....	400	800	Conf. appoints Trustees.
1854	Perry Academy	H. E. Daniels, A. B.	7	150	16,750	....	1,273	221	386	....
1852	Paris Seminary	C. W. Bowen, A. M.	3	100	7,000	....	....	....	....	....
1840	Portland Academy	C. L. Kingsley	3	100	....	....	....	....	....	....
1855	Providence Conference Seminary	Rev. G. W. Quoreau, A. M.	10	500	7,000	....	12,000	700	500	Owned by Conference.
1855	Pittsburgh Female College	S. L. Yourtee	7	160	40,000	....	....	....	....	....
....	Quincy English and German Seminary	J. H. Moore, A. M.	..	....	20,000	....	....	150	....	....
....	Richmond Collegiate Institute	....	..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1852	Rogersville Union Seminary	W. S. Hall	5	156	5,000	....	742	185	145	....
1854	Salon Academy	W. H. Covington, A. B.	100	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1843	Springfield Wesleyan Seminary	Rev. —, Wheeler, A. B.	5	320	8,000	....	....	400	300	Owned by Vt. Conference.
....	Shelbyville Academy	C. W. Jerome	3	....	5,000	....	....	....	....	Private property.
1834	Troy Conference Academy	Rev. Wm. H. Poor	8	103	15,000	....	....	1,000	750	....
....	Urbana Seminary	Rev. —, Miller, A. M.	3	....	8,000	....	....	....	....	....
1855	Walworth Academy	H. Vosburgh	4	100	6,000	5,500	....	1,000	....	Controlled by the Church.
1853	Walsburgh Female Seminary	Samuel H. Nesbit	4	80	6,500	....	....	....	....	Stockholders.
1840	Wesleyan Female College	Rev. Geo. Loomis, A. M.	8	180	36,000	....	3,000	....	25,000	Held by Trustees for Conf.
1842	Wesleyan Female College	Rev. Ferlee B. Wilber, A. M.	15	444	51,000	....	....	3,000	1,260	Stockholders.
1825	Wesleyan Academy	Rev. Minor Raymond, D.D.	10	631	40,000	....	6,000	3,000	2,000	Trustees for Conference.
1851	Wesleyan Female Institute	Rev. John Wilson, A. M.	..	....	10,000	....	....	....	....	....
1850	Western Reserve Seminary	James Grier, A. M.	5	250	12,000	....	....	....	....	Trustees for Church.
1850	Whitewater Collegiate Institute	J. Edward, A. M.	3	75	7,000	....	....	1,000	900	M. E. Church.
1846	Wyoming Conference Seminary	Rev. Reuben Nelson, A. M.	8	400	30,000	....	....	600	1,200	Conf. appoints Trustees.

THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTES.

1847	Methodist General Biblical Institute	Rev. David Patten, D. D.	3	60	12,000	25,000	....	....	5,000	Trustees appointed by Conferences.
1855	Garrett Biblical Institute	Rev. John Dempster, D.D.	3	49	6,000	300,000	....	....	1,000	....

\* Scholarships. † Average.

INSTITUTIONS OWNED OR EDUCATIONALLY CONTROLLED BY THE METHODIST  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH, AND UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

**Colleges and Universities.**

1. Whole number of Colleges and Universities.....	19
2. Whole number of Teachers employed.....	105
3. Whole number of Pupils both in Collegiate and Preparatory courses for 1855.....	2,962
4. Value of Buildings, Grounds, and Educational Fixtures.....	\$516,342
5. Amount of Endowments.....	\$1,558,000
6. Value of other Property.....	\$45,000
7. Cost of Apparatus and Cabinets.....	\$36,565
8. Whole number of Volumes in Libraries.....	75,860
9. Whole amount of Indebtedness.....	\$79,442

**Academies, Seminaries, Female Colleges, and Collegiate Institutes.**

1. Whole number.....	68
2. Whole number of Instructors.....	306
3. Pupils in attendance for the year 1855.....	14,572
4. Value of Academic Buildings, Grounds, and Fixtures, estimated....	\$959,850
5. Endowments.....	\$151,000
6. Other Property.....	\$51,515
7. Cost of Apparatus and Cabinets.....	\$27,688
8. Volumes in Libraries.....	22,969
9. Whole Indebtedness.....	\$212,870

**Biblical Institutes.**

1. Whole number of Biblical Institutes.....	2
2. Whole number of Professors.....	6
3. Whole number of Students in 1855.....	109
4. Value of Buildings and Grounds.....	\$18,000
5. Amount of Endowments.....	\$27,688
6. Whole number of Volumes in Libraries.....	6,000

Several blanks. Some of the figures are approximate estimates.

**For all Institutions.**

Total of assets above liabilities.....	\$3,030,395
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**MM.**

**REPORT RELATING TO THE BEQUEST OF JAMES BOURDET.**

The Committee on the Bourdet Bequest, having considered the subject referred to them, submit the following as their report:

In A. D. 1841, James Bourdet, of Champlain, Clinton county, New-York, in his last will and testament, left to the Methodist Episcopal Churches of the United States, one undivided half of his real and personal estate, to be expended by them in Christian and charitable purposes: provided that his nephew, Warren Chapman Dickinson, died without issue.

Said Warren Chapman has since died, having no issue. The committee has no means of knowing the exact amount of the aforesaid legacy, but recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved* by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That Solomon Fisk, of Chazy, New-York, and George L. Clark, of Plattsburgh, New-York, be, and they hereby are, appointed commissioners on the part of the Methodist Episcopal Churches, to settle with the executor or executors of the aforesaid estate.

2. *Resolved*, That they pay over the money remaining in their hands, after defraying all necessary expenses, in the manner following, namely: Five hundred dollars to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Chazy, New-York, and the balance, be the same more or less, to the Treasurer of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.



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