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METHODIST EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE COMES TO A CLOSE

Fifty-First Session Adjourned Monday At Noon—Sunday a Great Day In Local Methodism—Town and Papers Given Vote Of Thanks—Appointments

The fifty-first session of the Wilmington M. E. Conference is now only a pleasant memory, it having adjourned last Monday at noon, after the appointments had been read. The central figure of the conference has been Bishop McDowell—not only because of the masterly manner in which he presided over the sessions of the conference, settling all questions with no friction whatever, but because of his extraordinary mental ability, which places him with the nation's most intellectual men; his pleasing manner, which made being in his presence almost a joy of itself; his eloquence, which thrilled his audience to the inspiration of nobler ideals; and his wit, which caused almost uncontrollable mirth, without leaving any strained feelings. Not in many years has a man appeared here who caused such universal satisfaction and pleasure, and his visit in our midst will remain with us all—an oasis fresh and green—as long as memory lasts.

On last Friday evening, Dr. Bowers, secretary of the Centenary Movement, made one of the most brilliant speeches of the conference, when he delivered a lecture in Chestertown M. P. Church and despite the gale which was blowing, the edifice was packed. Dr. Bowers presented his subject in such a manner that all his hearers were pleased. Bishop McDowell also made a short speech, which added impetus to the movement.

On Saturday morning Bishop McDowell spoke to the young preachers in his inimitable style, dwelling on their duties and responsibilities.

Dr. Clarence True Wilson was the principal speaker of the evening on Saturday, which was the Joint Anniversary of the Board of Temperance and the Anti-Saloon League. Hon. Wayne Wheeler was slated to be present also, but was unable to do so. Rev. E. C. Prettyman was the chairman of the meeting. Dr. Wilson made some good points, while the choir of the M. P Church sang some good music, one of the features of which was the male quartet composed of Messrs. A. L. Sparks, T. D. Bowers, F. G. Usilton and J. Hydie Thompson.

Sunday will go down in local history as one of the biggest days of local Methodism in many years in Chestertown. At 9.30 a. m. a love feast, or "experience meeting" was held, which was participated in by over a hundred ministers, and many touching incidents were related by men who have devoted their lives to a great cause of how they had found the faith.

The M. E. Church, the seat of the conference, and the church where Bishop McDowell was slated to preach, held, of course, the center of the interest, and a stream of cars from all over the shore and from Delaware, poured people into Chestertown by the hundreds and by 9.30 the church was packed to the doors and people were standing in aisles and in the rear. It is estimated that about 550 people were in the building. Bishop McDowell, as was expected, delivered a forceful and touching sermon, which aroused a religious fervor among his hearers and touched many to tears. The singing of the choir was also a feature of the morning.

Bishop McDowell took "The Centenary" for his theme and Matthew 18 9th verse, for his text: "I will follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest." Emphasis was put on prayer, stewardship of life and stewardship of property.

And while this great meeting was being held in the M. E. Church, the "overflow" crowd and the regular members of the Methodist Protestant Church had filled that handsome edifice to the doors, and a crowd between 500 and 600 were said to have been present, when Dr. Sumwalt, pastor of Grace Church, Wilmington, delivered the sermon of the morning. He is a forceful speaker and his hearers were delighted with his speech. The choir also rendered good music.

In the afternoon a most impressive service was held in the M. E. Church when the ordination of the young preachers took place. There were eight young preachers added to the M. E. Church and they were officially ushered into the conference. A most impressive memorial service was also held Sunday afternoon.

The following were the ones ordained: Charles H. Atkins, W. S. Grant, William F. Godwin and Blanchard P. Moore deacons and Luther M. Broadway, L. T. McLain, John L. Prettyman and Charles W. Spry elders.

At night the interest was divided between hearing Dr. Boswell, an evangelist of renown, and hearing Dr. Hubbard, pastor of St. Paul's Church, Wilmington, who had preached in the morning at St. James' M. P. Church. Both churches were packed to the doors before services began. Dr. Boswell was here in the interest of the Philadelphia Hospital and reported that one Chestertown gentlemen had donated $500 to the cause. The service was impressive and one convert to Methodism was made. Dr. Hubbard preached a stirring sermon across the street, which was enjoyed by a great majority of the audience.

While these services were in progress Bishop McDowell paid the Janes M. E. Church, colored, on Cross street, a short visit and made a short address to them.

On Monday morning the conference assembled at the usual hour and the building was again crowded by both clergymen and spectators. A feature of this occasion was the address of the President of Morgan College, Dr. Herbert Spencer, followed by a short address by the Bishop in the interest of the same cause. As usual, the Bishop's speech was one of power and was enjoyed by all who heard it. The reports of various departments of the religious work of the conference were read by the various officials and a vote of thanks was read and passed to the pastor of the church, Dr. Beauchamp, to the people of Chestertown, to the Methodist Protestant Church, and to the newspapers. This report was read by Rev. Leonard White, of Centreville.

The appointments were read as follows:

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Bayside, Md.—E. M. Shockley.
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Burrsville, Md.—To be supplied.
Cecilton, Md.—T. R. Van Dyke.
Centreville, Md.—M. E. Wheatley.
Chestertown, Md.—G. T. Alderson.
Cheswold—G. P. Smith.
Church Hill, Md.—O. B. Reed.
Clayton—C. N. Jones.
Concord, Md.—To be supplied.
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(Continued on page 7)

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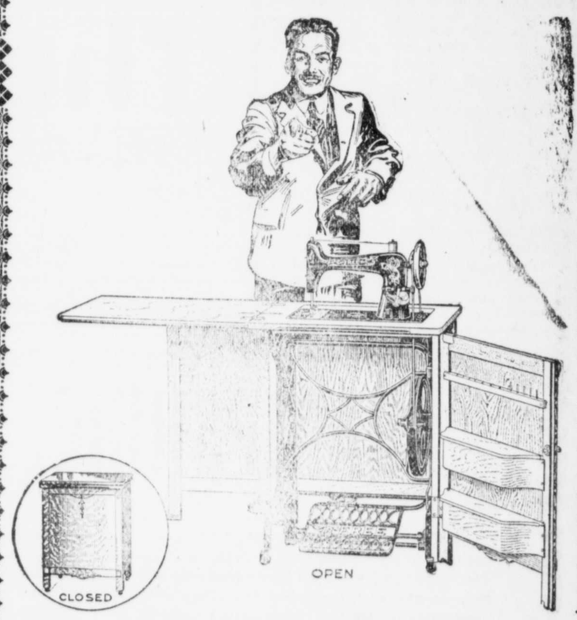

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