SPECIAL CONFERENCE EDITION.

Kent News.

CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND, TUESDAY, MARCH 23. 1897.

M. E. CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS.

Auspicious Opening and Daily Increasing Interest.

The advance guard of the Wilmington M. E. Conference arrived in Chestertown Monday, they being the candidates for examinations and the examining board. Those who presented themselves at Christ M. P. Church for examination were:

First year—C. P. Futcher, W. G. Chance, L. E. Poole, C. E. Hastings, T. G. Eiswald.
Second year—T. R. Vandyke, E. H. Collins, C. I. Stengle.
Third year—J. P. Outten, W. E. West, J. H. Beauchamp, F. E. McKinzey, H. G. Budd.
Fourth year—H. A. G. Westerfield.
Candidates—Harry Taylor, J. W. Prettyman, Thomas S. Holt, W. O. Bennett, J. W. Talley, W. E. Greenfield, W. G. Strickland, W. E. Matthews, J. S. Sparklin.

The examining board were Revs. R. Irving Watkins, S. J. Morris, D. H. Corkran, F. C. McSorely, T. E. Terry, Geo. W. Townsend, W. E. Avery and W. L. S. Murray. The results of the examinations will be announced later.

TUESDAY.

Most of the 200 members of the conference arrived by the train Tuesday and were quickly assigned to their new homes by Bro. Compton assisted by Mr. M. Wilbur Thomas. A brief pentecostal service was held in the afternoon by Dr. J. W. Fowler the conference evangelist.

At 7.30 in the evening a large audience filled the church and listened attentively to a missionary sermon by Rev. H. W. Ewing, Port Deposit. His text will be found in Matthew 28—18,19, 20—"The Church's Power and Her Mission." Her power, said he in brief, is not in truth alone but in God the embodiment of all truth, and a Godless ministry always implies a languishing church. Her mission—to hasten the day when every knee shall bow and every tongue shall speak his praise. There must be a universal religion and that shall have the lowly Nazarene as its God unmixed by any "ism." Its mission is as wide as the world and as comprehensive as the entire race. The speaker than spoke of the power of Mohammed as shown in the firing upon Crete. He foretold the overthrow of Salisbury and his government unless he changes front and exclaimed "this mystery of iniquity must be solved; I admire Greece and King George in their noble stand. Greece with all her grand history, her skilled men and patriotic sons will be the solution of the political problem of Europe and at the same time solve the problem of Christianity, for when Mohammed is overthrown that vast domain, so long held in blackest night will reach out its hand to the crucified Christ and a nation will be born in a day. Even tonight the guns are sounding over the Grecian waters." He spoke of what had already been accomplished and closed with a beautiful peroration picturing the second coming of Christ. The sermon was a most excellent discourse and delivered in a most earnest and polished manner. The services were conducted by Rev. Vaughn S. Collins and closed with an anthem by the choir under the leadership of Prof. R. K. Pippin, Miss Anna G. Lambert, organist.

RECEPTION TO CONFERENCE.

After preaching, the Epworth League gave a reception to the members of the conference in the lecture room. The room was transformed into a scene of much brilliancy with its newly carpeted floor, soft light from among silk shades, and sweet music by the Sunday school orchestra, while the members made everyone feel comfortable by their warm hand-shake and dispensed lemonade and cake to those who were thirsty. The reception committee comprised the following, viz., Rev. W. P. Compton, pastor; Revs. R. K. Stephenson and H. W. Ewing, conference cabinet and the local cabinet, M. Wilbur Thomas, Misses Fannie E. Stuart, Anna G. Lambert, Julia Burchinal, Cora Massey, Mrs. Edw. Ringgold, Thomas S. Bordley and John M. Toulson. Presiding Elder Smith made a short address of welcome to which the Bishop replied in his happiest manner.

WEDNE-DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

When Bishop Walden opened the conference session Wednesday, nearly every seat in the church was occupied and not only did the orb of light shine brightly through the stained windows, but the light from the Heavenly Son shone in and out from each heart. As the communion service progressed the spiritual fire began to grow brighter and to warm up all who partook of the sacred emblems, closing with the Lord's Prayer and the beautiful praise service of the church.

The business session of the conference opened at 10.30 o'clock, Bishop Walden presiding. The learned divine was in his most pleasing mood, not that he has any unpleasant ones, but was very witty and spoke to the point. He stated that it had been his pleasure to preside over every Eastern conference but two and had looked forward with especial interest to the meeting in Chestertown. "I found that in every part of the country that Methodist preachers were very considerate and I feel sure that there will be no exception here. One thing that distresses me is to find our membership absent from the opening services and I trust we will meet promptly, make haste slowly, settle down in these good quarters and remain until all our business has been satisfactorily transacted. We want a *few things* for breakfast, less at noon and a good square meal at 6 o'clock. I notice plenty of Methodist fire in the handshake here, praise God. We want this old fire of early days and we want the trustfulness of our fathers. We are here to advance His Kingdom and whatever is done or in whatever field you are sent keep in mind that He will guide us in all things."

In the calling of the roll there were about twenty absent and two had died during the year. Dr. Ezra Tinker, the new pastor of Asbury Church, Wilmington, was introduced to the conference; also Rev. F. M. Dougherty, transferred from the Northern Minnesota Conference and Rev. Mr. Thurlow, of Baltimore Conference. The hour for opening the session was made 8.30 and to close at 12. Rev. Henry S. Thompson was named as assistant to the Bishop in opening the conference Thursday morning. Rev. G. W. Bounds was named as postmaster and was given his "commission" by the Bishop.

Rev. R. Irving Watkins offered a resolution to the effect that satisfactory certificates from conference schools should be received as sufficient credentials for young men to enter the conference examinations, as laid down in the discipline of the church.

J. W. Fowler, D. D., conference evangelist, was taken quite sick Tuesday and was compelled to return to his home on Wednesday.

The statistical reports of most of the charges were handed to Rev. W. R Mowbray, who will announce the result of same later. After the naming of the following standing committees the conference adjourned until 2 o'clock:

The election of officers resulted as follows: Secretary, A. S. Mowbray, Elkton, Md.; assistants, W. A. Wise, Z. H. Webster; journalist, John D. Rigg; statistical secretary, W. R. Mowbray, Smyrna, Del.; assistants, J. H. Geoghegan, H. A. G. Westerfield, V. P. Northrup, G. P. Jones, Edwin Gardner, W. W. Sharp, W. G. Chance; treasurer, C. A. Grice, Georgetown, Del.; assistants, A. G. Cox, H. S. Goldey, F. C. McSorley, J. M. Lindale, E.C. Atkins, T. F. Beauchamp, W. J. Duhadaway, A. Green, J. A. Brewington.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Public Worship—Alfred Smith, E. H. Nelson, W. P. Compton, T. B. Cooper.
Education—W. L. S. Murray, I. L. Wood, W. J. DuHadaway, H. C. Turner.
Bible Society—James Carroll, W. T. Valiant, H. S. Dulaney, Wilmer Jaggard.
Sunday School Tracts—F. J. Cochran, M. D. Nutter, W. H. Benford, Robert Roe.
Temperance—C. T. Wyatt, J. D. Kemp, G. W. Burke, T. S. Williams.
Woman's Foreign Missionary Society—W. G. Koons, Frank Fletcher, W. E. Avery, Warren Burr.
Woman's Home Missionary Society—E. P. Roberts, T. F. Tabler, W. F. Dawson, O. W. Deverish.
Freedman's Aid and Southern Educational Society—S. J. Morris, G. W. Bounds, T. H. Harding, J. F. Anderson.
Missionary Statistics, Local Preachers and Postoffices—W. B. Guthrie, W. H. S. Loller, J. M. Collins, J. P. Outten, J. F. Beauchamp, G. S. Conway, T. C. Smoot, F. F. McKinsey.
Sabbath Observance—S. M. Morgan, F. F. Carpenter, T. A. H. O'Brien G. T. Anderson.
Periodicals—J. M. Lindale, W. F. West. A. Green, W. P. Taylor.
Epworth League—R. K. Stephenson, C. P. Swain, V. S. Collins, W. O. Hurst.
Stewards' Endowment—T. E. Martindale, J. A. Arters, Robert Watt, C. A. Grise, C. P. Swain, Wm. Taylor, Wm. H. Jackson, H. S. Goldey, Jos. Smithers, Isaac Wright, J. F. Dawson, C. A. McKinney.
Ministerial Qualifications—E. C. Atkins, T. E. Martindale, John France, J. W. Easley, E. H. Nelson, C. S. Baker, H. S. Thompson, C. W. Prettyman.
Auditing Committee—Julius Dodd, J. O. Sypherd, L. P. Corkran, J. M. Mitchell, Adam Stengle.
Conference Stewards—*Ministerial*—Wilmington District, John France; Easton, C.F. Sheppard; Dover, F. H. Rawlins; Salisbury, J. S. Wickline. *Lay*—T. J. Vanneman, J. H. Hoffecker, J. B. Anderson, T. H. Williams.

LECTURE ON AFRICA.

Christ M. P. Church was "packed" with people Wednesday night to hear the lecture on Africa, by Bishop John M. Walden. He spoke for two hours and five minutes! His lecture was replete with information and comprehension, such as only a man who reads history philosophically and is possessed of large experience and deep learning, could give. He dwelt upon the material resources of the dark continent and showed that its mines and products will add to the permanent wealth of the world. The lands of equatorial Africa are the most valuable on the globe and its material resources are almost boundless.

He especially showed how that the opening up of this hitherto unknown continent in the last year of this century was a manifest providence of God. This wonderful country was not to be controlled by the decaying powers of Spain and Portugal, but by other great Christian nations. He conclusively demonstrated that the great educational work that is being done by the Methodist Episcopal Church in the South is to be a prominent factor in the evangelization of the dark continent.

The anniversary of the Conference Historical Society was held in the church at 2 P. M. with Rev. R. W. Todd, president, in the chair. Rev. J. H. Webster was elected secretary. The opening religious services were conducted by Rev. B. F. Price and Dr. Phœbus. Mr. Price then read some interesting reminiscences of a few of his sixty years experience in the active ministry in the M. E. Church. At the conclusion of the reading, the paper was unanimously requested for the archives of the



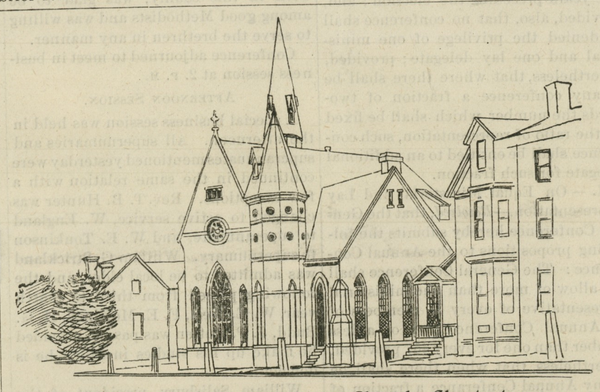
Methodist Episcopal, Church, Chestertown.

society. The president then presented a valuable and deeply interesting paper from the facile pen of Bishop John F. Hurst, LL. D., on the "Transplanted Fruit of Peninsula Methodism," which was read by the secretary and accepted for the society archives with a vote of thanks. Dr. Phœbus then made some interesting remarks.

THURSDAY.

Devotional services lead by Bishop Walden, assisted by H. S. Thompson, were held from 8.30 to 9.

Conference opened with a ten minutes address by the Bishop in which he gave some sharp, practical truths for the consideration of the younger members. The call of districts was taken up and the characters of the presiding elders passed upon, no one having anything against them. The reports in brief follow:



Christ Methodist Protestant Church, Chestertown.

EASTON DISTRICT—ALFRED SMITH, P. E.

The working force on the District during the year has been about the same and while in a few instances the work has been somewhat hindered by the protracted illness of pastors, there has not occurred a single death and the work in the end has all resulted well. But while our working force has been about the same as in former years, the resistance to overcome has been greater than ever before. No year of all these six has presented so many difficulties to the advancement of the temporal and spiritual interests of the church as the one now closing.

Owing to the great scarcity of money but very little has been done in the way of building and improving churches and parsonages. One noted exception is recorded. At Piney Neck, Kent county, Rev. W. G. Chance, pastor, a beautiful and commodious new church has been built at a cost of $1200, nearly all paid for. Six years ago this little society was a part of Rock Hall circuit, promising to pay $150 salary and worshiping in an old dilapidated church. Now they have a new church, support their own pastor, have an Epworth League of 100 and report the largest number of subscribers to the *Herald* of any charge on the District. These magnificent results are due to the courageous and persistent efforts of the pastor assisted by a Spartan band of self sacrificing people. It is a beautiful object lesson to our wealthier and more influential churches. At Easton an old debt of $700 has been entirely wiped out. At Cordova an additional $318 has been paid on the beautiful new parsonage purchased there last year.

In a few instances salaries have been reduced and almost in every instance they have been raised with increasing difficulty and in some instances they have not been raised in full. It is true that there is almost unprecedented financial stringency but if our stewards would adopt some good financial system and faithfully work it, there would be no trouble. Talbot Circuit, Bro. J. F. Anderson, pastor, is an illustration of what can be done. Instead of reducing they have raised the salary and paid it too. If improvement is not made in collecting salaries and the present financial system continues we will simply be driven to return to the old Circuit System of a generation ago.

The Epworth League is everywhere a source of power and helpfulness. The new order of service should be adopted by all the churches but as it is only one-half use it.

Only one-half of the children attend preaching. At large towns with flourishing schools there is a woeful lack of children at public worship. I exhort you to make special efforts along this line.

The time-honored class and prayer meetings are not what they once were. They are thermometers of the spiritual life of the church, and no church can maintain such a means of grace in the absence of the witness of the Spirit.

Revivals have not been as sweeping as heretofore. At Millington, Queenstown, Townsend, Cordova, Oxford, Wye and Starr, Galena and Cecilton there have been large ingatherings. At Middletown a grand revival resulted and the church at Oxford is on a higher plane. The aggregate ingathering is about 1100 as against 1800 one year ago, making a grand total for the six years of 7500.

The benevolences will about come up to last year. The following amounts were reported from Missionary debt paying day: Chestertown $32; Oxford $25; Centreville $20; Smyrna $17; Cecilton $15; Still Pond $12; Galena $10; Sassafras and Massey $6; Pomona $3.40, etc., the aggregate being $225, or the price of 23,000 bushels of corn.

In closing Dr. Smith spoke of his unusual good health for six years, his gratefulness to the brethren and their wives and his lasting obligations to the people, and invoked God's richest blessing upon all.

DOVER DIST.—R. H. ADAMS, P. E.

This district has also suffered from terrible financial depression and the largest deficiency in pastors' salaries yet reported was announced. In benevolences a shortage was regretfully announced but reason was given for a creditable advance next year. Improvements and the payment of church debts have progressed, the crowning achievement being the completion of the church at Georgetown, costing $10,000. The total amount of improvements or debts paid was nearly $20,000, which makes a big showing for this district. About 1400 souls have been converted during the year and many of the churches were quickened.

WILMINGTON DIST.—L. E. BARRETT, P.E.

Rev. Mr. Hubbard reported the demise of Dr. Merritt Hurlbut, one of the ablest members of the conference, during the past year, also the transfer of several members in his district. "In every church the battle against sin has been waged and souls captured for God. We have endeavored for quality rather than quantity. Our Sunday schools are in excellent shape. There are 35 chapters of Epworth League with 1250 members besides 3 Endeavor societies with 300 members. The benevolences were nearly all met, although some did not receive their salaries in full. A substantial advance was made at Elkton, Perryville, Port Deposit, Marshallton, Hopewell and Asbury. A new church has been built at Perryville, cost $7,200 and substantial improvements made to churches in the district costing about $15,500, besides paying debts amounting to $4,757. The reverend gentleman strongly condemned the race tracks of Cecil county and complimented the good people of the county for their plucky fight.

SALISBURY DIST.—W. F. COCKRAN, P. E.

Rev. Mr. Corkran retires from his presiding eldership at this conference having served six years in this capacity. His report was one of the most flattering ones read. He reported the death of Bro. James Connor, of Selbyville, and Rev. Jas. A. Leatherbury, of Onancock, Va., besides several members in the families of his co-laborers. "The salaries of our pastors have been equal and in some cases greater than last year, the advances aggregating $575 or a net gain of $300 over last year. In building and improving church and parsonage property we have marched forward. A new church has been built near Salisbury, cost $800; at Millsboro, cost $,000; Asbury, cost $2,000; at Walson station, a chapel costing $600; on Smith's Isle, two churches, costing $2200 and $2500; a new parsonage has been secured at Laurel, and about $5000 expended on improvements and paying off church debts. The benevolent collections have been greater than ever before amounting to nearly $350. More than 2000 sinners have bowed at our altars and some big revivals have taken place. On other lines this district showed remarkable progress. In a review of six years work he showed that 32 churches had been built of the 112, and 2,000 full members added and a gain of $1760 to missions, and so in other causes great success has attended Rev. Mr. Corkran's term.

At the close of Rev. Mr. Corkran's report, Bishop Walden, on behalf of the ministers of Salisbury district, presented the retiring Elder with a beautiful gold watch. The reverend gentleman accepted the gift in his modest and graceful manner. At the close of the presentation "Blest be the tie that binds," was heartily sung.

Rev. J. D. C. Hanna presented resolutions of thanks for the Bishop's excellent lecture and moved that a collection be lifted which should be donated toward helping the Bishop bear his burden of $18,000, which he assumed in continuing the work of the Missionary Training School in Central Tennessee. The amount raised was $28.

The following were introduced to the conference: J. B. Hamilton, evangelist; J. M. Gill, of Chestertown M. P. Church; N. B. Snowden, of African M. E. Church; Milton L. Hutton, of Scott M. E. Church, transferred from Minnesota Conference; D. W. C. McIntyre, of New Jersey.

The young ministers being examined were notified that these two questions would be asked them: Are you financially embarrassed? Will you abstain from the use of tobacco?

Ten o'clock tomorrow morning was appointed for the vote on constitutional questions.

Drafts on Chartered Fund $22 and on Book Concern for $1,092 were ordered drawn.

T. E. Martindale introduced a resolution petitioning the constitutional convention now in session at Dover to adopt the majority report now pending before that body in reference to the sale of intoxicating liquors in Delaware. It was adopted unanimously.

Rev. Robert Watt was excused to go home to preach a funeral sermon of one of his members.

Session closed with singing, "Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing," etc.

The anniversary of the Woman's Home Missionary Society was held at 2 o'clock, Mrs. C. C. Brown, President. Addresses were made by Mrs. E. L. Weldin, Vaughn S. Collins and others.

Pentecostal services were led by Rev. T. L. Wood.

The Epworth League Anniversary was held at night. Officers elected and an eloquent and interesting address delivered by Dr. J. E. Broadbeck.

Special music was rendered under the leadership of Miss Anna G. Lambert. Miss Mary Hurtt presiding at the organ. Mrs. A. Harris, Miss Mary Beck and Prof. Clarke assisted in the music.

The Missionary Anniversary was held in the M. P. church at night Rev. Robt. Watt presiding. Dr. A. B. Leonard preached an able sermon.

Resolutions lamenting the death of Brother Thomas Mallalieu, president of the society, were passed, new officers elected and the report of the treasurer read, showing a deficiency of over a thousand dollars from the amount raised last year.

FRIDAY.

Conference opened with devotional services lead by Rev. C. S. Baker. The Bishop addressed the conference for ten minutes.

V. S. Collins introduced the following resolution: That the Presiding Elders be instructed to name to this body a committee of nine, to be elected by the conference, who shall proceed at once to secure the requisite charter or articles of incorporation from the Delaware legislature. The following were named: Vaughn S. Collins, C. P. Swain, Adam Stengle, T. E. Martindale, W. L. S. Murray, C. S. Wyatt, E. H. Nelson, P. H. Rawlins, C. W. Prettyman.

Rev. F. B. Shipman, of Virginia conference, and transferred to this conference, was introduced; also Dr. J. A. Roache, of New York; Dr. George E. Reed, of Dickinson College and Dr. A. Leonard, missionary secretary. Dr. Leonard addressed the conference as did Dr. Reed. Dr. Reed reported 400 students at Dickinson College. He is a fine speaker and held his audience spell bound, remarking that the girls were going ahead of the men, and that he was in favor of women entering college with the boys and also of entering this conference.

The effective Elders were then called, their characters passed, and they announced their collections and conversions. Dover district reported $4,613 for missions and for conference claims the assessment was very nearly raised. The number of conversions has amounted to nearly 1000. On Wilmington District $4,613 was raised for missions and 825 accessions; Salisbury District is the banner district having raised $6,612 for missions, $1,280 for conference claims and about 1800 accessions to the church. The missionary collection is now on $1,900,000 line. The report of ministers on Easton District was as follows:

Pastors	Missions.	Conf. Claims.	Conversions.
R. I. Watkins	190	45	48
J. W. Easley	270	60	38
J. W. Fogle	125	30	13
W. P. Compton	375	95	21
G. H. Geoghegan	75	20	27
W. O. Hurst	64	20	10
E. S. Mace	73	20	75
W. W. Chairs	34	10	32
C. A. Hill	350	80	15
Frank Fletcher	135	35	73
J. A. Arters	103	35	..
F. F. Carpenter	150	30	35
J. M. Collins	15	12	30
E. H. Hynson	77	20	18
J. T. Brouse	50	16	40
C. M. Sheppard	90	22	75
J. L. Wood	100	460	19
T. C. Smoot	100	40	88
E. P. Roberts	125	36	11
T. B. Cooper	63	25	7
Jas. Carroll	60	25	26
G. W. Burke	825	50	5
Adam Stengle	500	150	3
W. R. Mowbray	108	30	15
E. H. Nelson	143	70	6
J. M. Lindale	75	40	2
J. F. Anderson	56	17	10
J. H. Wilson	30	3	16
Albert Chandler	105	25	70
Robert Roe	62	25	25

(Continued on Second Page.)

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