

MINUTES

OF THE

Thirteenth Quadrennial Session

OF THE

GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America,

HELD AT

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., OCT. 21-29, 1891.

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SYRACUSE, N. Y.:

WESLEYAN METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE,

1892.

## OFFICERS.

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PRESIDENT :

REV. NATHAN WARDNER,  
Syracuse, N. Y.

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VICE-PRESIDENTS :

REV. E. TETER,  
Sheridan, Ind.,

A. W. BRIM,  
Seneca Falls, N. Y.

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SECRETARY :

REV. E. W. BRUCE,  
Rome, N. Y.

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ASSISTANT SECRETARIES :

REV. A. T. JENNINGS,  
Syracuse, N. Y.,

REV. J. L. BENTON,  
Ricard, N. Y.

# GENERAL CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS.

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## FIRST DAY.

The thirteenth quadrennial session of the General Conference convened in the Wesleyan Methodist church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, commencing October 21st, 1891, at 2.30 p. m. A season of prayer preceded the opening of the session, led by Rev. J. H. Canfield, after which Rev. N. Wardner, President of the Conference, took charge of the opening exercises, and made appropriate introductory remarks. The congregation sang the hymn, "Showers of Blessing," and a Scripture lesson was read by Rev. T. K. Doty, consisting of parts of the fourteenth chapter of St. John, and the last chapter of Luke. The hymn, "All hail the power of Jesus' name," was then sung, after which Revs. J. Levington, H. D. Inman and G. W. Story offered prayer.

Conference was declared open for business, and Rev. T. K. Doty moved that the Chair appoint a Committee on Enrollment. Rev. U. D. Lathrop moved as an amendment that Rev. H. D. Inman be appointed Chairman of a Committee on Enrollment, and Rev. L. S. Cooper moved as a substitute that all credentials be presented to the Secretaries, and that they constitute said Committee. The substitute was adopted.

On motion by Rev. J. Levington the Secretaries were requested to read the names of delegates on presentation of credentials, giving members of the Conference the privilege of objecting to the admission of any delegate should they choose to do so. During the reading of the names objections were raised to certain

delegates from Champlain, Syracuse and Pacific Conferences, and on motion of Rev. A. T. Jennings, J. H. Canfield, H. D. Inman, J. L. Bush, P. D. Cutshall and A. W. Brim were appointed to consider the contested cases.

The Roll of the Conference as afterward completed is as follows :

*Allegheny Conference* :—Rev. T. K. Doty, Rev. P. B. Campbell, P. D. Cutshall, Almira Ellett.

*Central Ohio Conference* :—Rev. J. H. Teter, Rev. H. R. Smith, A. W. Greer, George E. Thompson.

*Champlain Conference* :—Rev. N. Wardner, Rev. James Dayton, Rev. U. D. Lathrop, A. C. Cook, H. H. Rickert, G. H. Mattoon.

*Dakota Conference* :—Rev. M. R. Baldridge, Myron Bromaghin.

*Indiana Conference* :—Rev. E. Teter, Rev. W. H. Kennedy, Rev. W. J. Seekins, Rev. A. Worth, Rev. J. Hester, O. J. Davis, H. Pickett, I. Unger, J. R. Gettys, S. Kennedy.

*Illinois Conference* :—Rev. Wm. Pinckney, L. W. Mills.

*Iowa Conference* :—Rev. G. W. Story, Rev. A. W. Hall, W. B. Towner, Homer Frink.

*Kansas Conference* :—Rev. L. S. Cooper, E. White.

*Lockport Conference* :—Rev. B. S. Laughlin, Rev. G. W. Sibley, E. R. Weaver, R. E. Harwood.

*Miami Conference* :—Rev. H. Ackers, Lottie Anderson, F. L. Ballard.

*Michigan Conference* :—Rev. J. H. Canfield, Rev. J. Livingston, Rev. H. A. Day, Rev. J. L. Bush, R. Bird, H. M. Rorabacher, E. J. Curtis, E. Pennock.

*Minnesota Conference* :—Rev. H. E. Walker, James Arnold.

*New York Conference* :—Rev. E. Perhacs, Clara Tear.

*North Michigan Conference* :—Rev. H. D. Inman, Rev. George Smith, Marcellus Palmer, M. A. Sprague.

*Pacific Conference* :—Rev. D. Lesh.

*Rochester Conference* :—Rev. A. T. Jennings, Rev. E. E. Curtis, A. W. Brim, S. J. Dudley.

*South Kansas Conference*:—Rev. J. A. Richards.

*Syracuse Conference*:—Rev. E. W. Bruce, Rev. J. L. Benton, G. S. Mead, G. G. Rich.

*Tennessee Conference*:—Rev. J. W. Plunk, J. J. Baldrige.

*Wisconsin Conference*:—Rev. O. S. Warner, M. Ayers.

The bar of the Conference was made to include the first seven seats in front of the pulpit, extending across the house.

The following order of exercises for daily proceedings was presented by Rev. G. W. Story, and adopted :

I. Time of opening and closing : The forenoon sessions of the Conference shall begin at 8.30 and adjourn at 11.30, and the afternoon sessions shall begin at 2 o'clock and adjourn by vote.

II. Order of business : 1. Devotional service. 2. Roll call. 3. Reading and approving of minutes. 4. Unfinished business. 5. Presenting amendments to the Discipline, petitions, memorials or resolutions. 6. Reports of Committees. 7. Miscellaneous business. 8. Adjournment.

On motion the following brethren were appointed a Committee on Religious Services :—M. J. B. Ilder, T. K. Doty, S. J. Dudley, R. E. Harwood, and the President of the Conference.

It was voted that the opening sermon of the Conference, by Rev. N. Wardner, be preached this evening.

On motion each Conference delegation was requested to present the name of one of their number as a Committee on Revisals.

Conference adjourned.

Benediction by J. Levington.

## SECOND DAY.

### MORNING SESSION.

Conference called to order by the President, and religious services were conducted by Rev. H. Ackers.

Roll was called, and minutes read and approved.

Rev. R. W. Hawkins, Conference Evangelist of the Allegheny Conference, was introduced to the Conference.

The following resolution was presented by Rev. P. B. Campbell, and adopted :

*Resolved*, That all visiting brethren and sisters of our own denomination, and those of other denominations who are not connected with secret societies, who have been, or may be, introduced to this body, be invited to honorary seats.

The Committee appointed to consider the cases of delegates whose seats were contested submitted their report, which was adopted.

Revs. G. W. Townsend, D. A. Richards, S. C. McClanathan, M. J. Badder and A. S. Bunnell, of Michigan Conference; E. E. Sprague, L. D. Conklin and G. W. Heator, of North Michigan Conference; S. A. Gilley, of the Iowa Conference; W. D. Rickerts and W. Van Dressen, of Minnesota Conference; C. G. Buck, of the New York Conference; J. M. Scott, a layman from the Central Ohio Conference, and Rev. F. A. Smith, of the Free Methodist Church, were introduced to the Conference, and each made appropriate remarks.

Rev. G. W. Story submitted the following, which was adopted :

*Resolved*, That all petitions to this General Conference concerning disciplinary changes be read, and without debate referred to the Committee on Revisals.

On motion the roll of Conference was called, giving opportunity to nominate members of the Committee on Revisals, as suggested in a former action, and the following persons were named as said Committee :—P. B. Campbell, J. H. Teter, E. Teter, G. W. Story, L. S. Cooper, B. S. Laughlin, H. Ackers, John Levington, H. D. Inman, E. E. Curtis, Clara Tear, H. E. Walker, J. A. Richards, J. J. Baldridge, O. S. Warner, Wm. Pinckney, J. L. Benton, A. C. Cook, D. Lesh, Myron Bromaghim.

On motion by T. K. Doty the roll of Conferences was again called, and opportunity given for each in turn to present propositions for revisals. Propositions were presented by T. K. Doty and P. B. Campbell of the Allegheny Conference.

A Committee on Boundaries was appointed, consisting of E. Teter, T. K. Doty, G. W. Story, S. J. Dudley, L. W. Mills.

Somewhat extended remarks were made concerning the disposition of papers to be presented to the Committee on Revisals, in

the midst of which, on the suggestion of P. B. Campbell, Conference was led in prayer by A. W. Hall.

Conference adjourned by limitation.

Benediction by Rev. W. H. Kennedy.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

President Wardner in the Chair, and religious services conducted by Rev. J. L. Benton.

Minutes of morning session approved.

Revs. J. R. Wylie, of the Champlain Conference; George Fry, of the Iowa Conference; Isaiah Martin, of the Michigan Conference; H. W. McDowal and R. F. Dutcher of the Lockport Conference, were introduced.

On motion it was voted that each proposition for revisals be accompanied by the name of the author, said papers to be preserved by the Committee on Revisals, and returned to the individuals presenting the same.

On motion E. E. Curtis, Wm. Pinckney and L. W. Mills were appointed Committee on Statistics.

A Committee was also appointed to nominate the various Standing Committees of the Conference, consisting of H. A. Day, T. K. Doty, A. Worth, A. W. Brim and G. H. Mattoon.

Propositions for Revisals were presented by H. R. Smith and J. H. Teter, of the Central Ohio Conference; W. H. Kennedy, of the Indiana Conference; Wm. Pinckney, of the Illinois Conference; O. S. Warner, of the Wisconsin Conference; A. W. Hall and G. W. Story, of the Iowa Conference; H. E. Walker, of Minnesota Conference; Myron Bromaghim, of Dakota Conference, and L. S. Cooper, of Kansas Conference.

Rev. G. W. Story presented a memorial from the Tennessee Conference, concerning a division of said Conference, and the paper was referred to the Committee on Boundaries. A motion to instruct the Committee concerning said memorial was lost.

Rev. George Smith requested leave of absence from to-morrow's session of Conference to attend a funeral on his pastoral charge, which was granted.

Rev. H. D. Inman, of North Michigan Conference, submitted a proposition for disciplinary revision.

On motion it was made the order of the day to-morrow afternoon at three o'clock to elect General Conference officers, and it was also made the order of the day for Saturday afternoon, immediately following the opening religious services, to elect Connectional Editor and Agent.

Rev. G. P. Riley, of the Illinois Conference, was brought forward to be introduced, but his introduction was objected to on account of information received that he had recently joined a secret society. When questioned concerning it he gave evasive answers, but finally admitted the truth of the statement, hence was not introduced.

Conference adjourned.

Benediction by Rev. R. W. Hawkins.

### THIRD DAY.

#### MORNING SESSION.

Religious services were conducted by Rev. R. W. Hawkins, and a pentecostal wave swept over the audience, in the midst of which the people shouted praises to God, and wept for joy.

Roll was called, and minutes of the former session read, corrected and approved.

On motion Rev. J. L. Benton was appointed Conference Reporter to the WESLEYAN METHODIST.

Rev. T. K. Doty presented the following, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That no paper designed for the Committee on Revisals be received after Saturday afternoon.

Rev. E. E. Curtis moved that a Committee be appointed to nominate a Book Committee, and T. K. Doty, G. W. Sibley, L. S. Cooper, P. D. Cutshall, S. J. Dudley, were appointed said Committee.

A motion to make the hour of 9.30 to-morrow the time for hearing the Connectional Agent's report was carried.

A resolution presented by Rev. U. D. Lathrop, touching our



rule on secret societies in relation to individual members of such societies, was tabled.

Brother L. W. Mills presented a resolution relating to the use of the columns of the *WESLEYAN METHODIST* by members of our denomination, which was also laid on the table.

The following presented by Rev. T. K. Doty was adopted :

*Resolved*, That the organs of the Wesleyan denomination are not designed to promote heresy, but to further and support the doctrines and institutions of the Connection.

In view of an apparent feeling on the part of some that a free use of the columns of the *WESLEYAN METHODIST* had been denied members of the denomination, the following resolution was presented by Rev. E. Teter, and adopted :

*Resolved*, That we now hear and discuss the editorial management of our Connectional paper.

The following was offered by Rev. G. W. Story, and adopted :

*Resolved*, That in the examination of editorial management the Editor make his report, and then any member who desires may speak to said report fifteen minutes, and when all have spoken the Editor may reply.

Rev. A. W. Hall was called to the Chair, and Brother Warner made somewhat extended remarks concerning the editorial policy and practice, after which Conference adjourned.

Benediction by Rev. J. Hester.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Called to order by the President, and religious services were conducted by Rev. G. W. Sibley.

Roll called and minutes approved.

Rev. T. K. Doty offered the following :

*Resolved*, That we approve of the administration of the *WESLEYAN METHODIST* during the past quadrennium, as outlined in the report of the Editor to the General Conference.

Rev. A. W. Hall was called to the Chair, and Brother Warner raised the point of order that he was entitled to a full investigation concerning the matters charged against him.

On motion by Rev. E. Teter the Chair was requested to give one minute for any one to rise and speak on the subject of editorial management, and if at the end of that time no one has arisen

to speak the Editor shall be permitted to close up the case as he deems best, and at the close of his remarks Brother Doty's resolution shall be in order. The full time was given and no one arose to speak, whereupon the Chair declared the discussion closed, except closing remarks by the Editor.

Brother Wardner made a continuation of his case, and at the close of his remarks Rev. R. F. Dutcher led the Conference in prayer.

Brother Doty's resolution was renewed, and a motion to adopt by rising vote was carried, 49 voting for, and 12 against.

The order of the day was called, and Conference proceeded to the election of officers.

Rev. E. E. Curtis and O. S. Warner were appointed tellers.

On first formal ballot 67 votes were cast, of which Rev. N. Wardner received 35, and was declared re-elected.

While the ballots were being counted Brother Annanias Frazier, a colored brother from Indiana, sang several soul-stirring songs to the edification of all present. Sister Clara Tear likewise entertained the audience with song.

Rev. E. Teter was elected ministerial, and A. W. Brim lay, Vice-President, and E. W. Bruce was re-elected Secretary ; Revs. A. T. Jennings and J. L. Benton were made Assistant Secretaries.

Conference adjourned.

Benediction by Rev. J. Dayton.

## FOURTH DAY.

### MORNING SESSION.

Called to order by the Chair, and religious services were conducted by Rev. W. H. Kennedy.

Minutes of former session read and approved.

The Committee to nominate Conference Committees submitted their report, which was adopted.

The following Standing Committees were appointed :

ON REFORMS :—H. R. Smith, D. Lesh, J. H. Canfield, G. S. Mead, James Arnold.

ON MISSIONS :—J. Hester, George Smith, E. Perhacs, H. H. Rickert, Almira Ellett.

ON THE SABBATH :—W. J. Seekins, U. D. Lathrop, H. E. Walker, Clara Tear, O. J. Davis.

ON BOOK CONCERN :—G. W. Sibley, Wm. Pinckney, W. H. Kennedy, H. M. Rorabacher, P. D. Cutshall.

ON CONFERENCE RECORDS :—J. Dayton, W. J. Seekins, U. D. Lathrop, A. W. Grier, M. R. Baldridge.

The roll of Conferences was called, and propositions for revision were presented by Clara Tear, of the New York Conference, also a communication from said Conference, through its Secretary ; P. B. Campbell, R. W. Hawkins and P. D. Cutshall, of the Allegheny Conference ; H. R. Smith, of the Central Ohio Conference ; G. W. Story, of the Iowa Conference ; L. S. Cooper, of Kansas Conference ; G. W. Sibley and R. F. Dutcher, of the Lockport Conference ; J. H. Canfield of the Michigan Conference ; D. Lesh, of the Pacific Conference, and A. T. Jennings, of the Rochester Conference.

On motion it was voted to allow the presentation of propositions for revisions directly to the Committee without reading to the Conference.

On motion the following change of Discipline, presented by Rev. H. R. Smith, was adopted under suspension of rules : In Sec. XXIII., page 137, after the word government in eighth line, add, “and the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ as King of nations as well as King of saints.”

A Committee on Course of Study was appointed, consisting of A. T. Jennings, B. S. Laughlin, A. W. Brim, H. Frink.

The order of the day was called, and Rev. A. W. Hall, our Connectional Agent, gave a very encouraging report concerning our Connectional interests. The parts of the report referring to Sabbath-school supplies and editorial work was referred to the Committee on Book Concern.

The report of the Auditing Committee appointed by the Publishing Association was called for and read, after which the Agent's report was unanimously adopted by rising vote.

The following paper presented by Rev. H. R. Smith was adopted:

*Whereas*, There was in existence at the time of the last General Conference an educational institution known as Wheaton Theological Seminary, for the support of which our people had contributed a large sum of money, and from which our people were expecting pastors thoroughly schooled in the principles of reform advocated by the Wesleyan Methodist Church ; and,

*Whereas*, Said educational institution has ceased to exist, and this expenditure of money has brought but little fruitage to the Wesleyan Church ; and,

*Whereas*, It is charged that the Connectional officers and the controlling board did discriminate against said educational institution to its hurt, and that there was due to the President of said institution, on his salary at the time of his resignation, over two thousand dollars ; and,

*Whereas*, There are counter charges to the effect that the President's salary was paid each year in full, and that the President had borrowed from the Educational Funds one thousand dollars on his own personal obligation ; and,

*Whereas*, It is further reported that there did come into the knowledge and possession of the Connectional officers and the controlling board certain letters and evidences that did seriously implicate the moral and Christian character of the President of said institution, to the extent of justifying the asking of his resignation ; and,

*Whereas*, It has been charged that the attributing the authorship of these letters to the President of said institution is unjust, and not well founded in fact, and that they are a forgery, the result of a conspiracy on the part of designing persons to destroy the character and blast the reputation of the accused party ; therefore,

*Resolved*, That there be created by this General Conference a committee of seven persons who shall investigate *pro* and *con* as fully as possible the above rumors and charges, and shall ask the said Connectional officers and Educational Board to furnish to the said Committee a full statement of the cause of their action in regard to this institution, together with all letters, evidences, etc., that may be in their possession, and said Committee shall report to this body as soon as practicable during this session, and said report, including said letters and evidences, shall be published in the Minutes of the General Conference, or as an appendix thereto.

The following Committee was appointed in harmony with the provisions of the foregoing paper :—H. R. Smith, H. Ackers, U. D. Lathrop, J. L. Benton, J. L. Bush, G. H. Mattoon, L. W. Mills.

At this juncture Rev. G. W. Story came forward with a quilt presented by the ladies of the Church at Whitehall, Michigan, to the Bible Training Class of Houghton Seminary, and placed it in the hands of Brother Houghton, as Agent for said Class.

The Church at Whitehall being in straitened circumstances, occasioned in part by a recent extensive fire in the city, and desiring to raise money for putting a suitable roof on their house of worship, a collection was taken for their benefit, amounting to \$18.64, which was placed in the hands of their pastor, Rev. Geo. Smith.

Rev. A. W. Hall made some general remarks concerning a plan that is being formulated, looking toward the founding of a Normal School at Marengo, Iowa, and at the conclusion of his remarks a committee was appointed to consider the feasibility of said enterprise, consisting of A. W. Hall, G. W. Story and H. E. Walker.

Rev. J. L. Benton asked to be released from the Committees on Conference Records and Wheaton Theological Seminary, on account of his appointment to the position of Conference Reporter, and his request was granted. Rev. W. J. Seekins was appointed in his stead on the former, and Rev. W. H. Kennedy on the latter Committee.

Conference adjourned.

Benediction by Rev. R. F. Dutcher.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Called to order by the President, and religious services were conducted by Sister Almira Ellett.

Roll called and Minutes approved.

Rev. J. G. Terrill, pastor of the Free Methodist Church in Ithaca, N. Y., and Rev. J. N. White, a District Chairman of the Free Methodist Church in Michigan, were introduced to the Conference.

The order of the day was called and Conference proceeded to the election of Connectional Editor and Agent.

E. E. Curtis, O. S. Warner and A. C. Cook were appointed tellers.

One informal and seven formal ballots were taken, resulting in no election, and Conference adjourned until Monday morning.

Benediction by O. S. Warner.

## FIFTH DAY.

### MORNING SESSION.

Conference convened at 8.30 o'clock, and religious services were conducted by Rev. L. S. Cooper.

Roll was called, and minutes read and approved.

In order to give opportunity for Committees to do their work Conference adjourned until 2 P. M.

Benediction by E. W. Bruce.

### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Called to order by Rev. E. Teter, ministerial Vice-President, and religious services were conducted by J. R. Gettys.

Roll was called and minutes approved.

Myron Bromaghim was appointed a Committee to draft resolution of thanks to the citizens of Grand Rapids for the entertainment of Conference.

A resolution was presented by Rev. D. Lesh, favoring the appointment of a committee of seven, to be known as a Committee on Disciplinary Revisals, to whom propositions for revisals shall be submitted, and by them presented to the next General Conference, which was laid on the table.

On motion by H. R. Smith it was voted to adopt the five minute rule for speeches on recommendations for revisals, and the rule was afterward made to apply to all matters of discussion.

Fixing the place of holding the next General Conference was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning, immediately after the opening exercises.

Further time being required for Committees to perform their work, it was deemed best to take a short recess, and Conference adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Benediction by Rev. E. E. Curtis.

During the recess Rev. S. A. Gilley, of Iowa, was called upon

for a temperance speech, and he entertained the audience with a masterly address on that subject.

At 4.30 P. M. the Conference was called to order, and immediately adjourned until to-morrow morning.

Benediction by Rev. Wm. Pinckney.

## SIXTH DAY.

### MORNING SESSION.

Called to order by the President, and religious services were conducted by Rev. M. J. Badder.

Roll was called and minutes approved.

The order of the day was taken up, and Conference proceeded to fix the place of holding the next General Conference.

Invitations were received from Fairmount, Indiana, Ada, Ohio, Rome, N. Y., and Houghton, N. Y., and on calling the roll, giving members the privilege of indicating their choice, Fairmount was chosen, 29 votes having been cast for that place. Houghton was next, having received 24 votes.

A committee was appointed to arrange a place for holding the Conference, if for any reason a change is deemed advisable, consisting of P. B. Campbell, W. H. Kennedy, U. D. Lathrop, Geo. Mead, J. R. Gettys.

The Committee on Revisals recommended the following changes in the Discipline :

Concerning Love-feasts, page 80, paragraph 9.

Concerning election of Class-leaders, page 80, next to last line.

"Appointed" changed to "elected," page 80, paragraph 9.

Concerning Burial Service, page 111.

Concerning Licentiates, page 69, paragraph 2.

Recommendations from Quarterly to Annual Conferences, page 70, end of 4th line.

Concerning Elders and Licentiates, page 71, paragraph 4.

Concerning Committee on Itinerancy and Orders, page 55.

Concerning Voting by Ministers and Laymen in General Conference, page 49, paragraph 7.

Concerning Pastoral Charges and Licentiates, page 51, paragraph 1.

The words "may be omitted," changed so as to read, "may be changed," page 113, 5th line.

Part of a paragraph stricken out, page 132.

The words, "of the neighborhood," stricken out, page 128.

Revs. Samuel Shirk and H. S. Cressman, of the Society of Menonite Brethren in Christ, were introduced to the Conference.

The order of the day was taken up, and Conference proceeded to ballot for Connectional Editor and Agent.

On first formal ballot for Editor 69 votes were cast, of which Rev. A. T. Jennings received 36, and was declared elected. His election was made unanimous by rising vote.

The Secretary was authorized to cast a vote for Rev. A. W. Hall for Connectional Agent, and he was unanimously re-elected.

A collection was taken for the benefit of the Secretary, to cover expenses incurred, and \$7.87 was raised.

On motion the Agent was authorized to purchase a new book in which to record General Conference proceedings, the old book having been filled up.

The President called attention to the fact that the fraternal delegate appointed by the Free Methodist Church to this body will not be able to meet with us, and on motion Rev. J. G. Terrill of that Church was invited to act in that capacity.

Brother Terrill was again introduced, and extended the greetings of his denomination in a brief but very interesting address.

The Committee on Statistics submitted their report, which was adopted.

Conference adjourned.

Benediction by Rev. M. R. Baldrige.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference called to order by Vice-President Teter, and religious services were conducted by Rev. J. Levington.

The Committee on Book Concern submitted a partial report, which was considered item by item.



An item in the report advising the exclusion of secular advertisements from the columns of the *WESLEYAN METHODIST* was amended so as to allow the Agent to use his judgment in the matter.

An item referring to the *GOSPEL RECORD* was referred back to the Committee.

An item referring to Assistant Agent was amended by substituting "General Missionary Superintendent."

In harmony with the provisions of the report just adopted Conference proceeded to ballot for General Missionary Superintendent, the same tellers acting who officiated in former elections of this body, and on the second formal ballot Rev. R. W. Hawkins received a majority of votes, and was declared elected.

During the balloting Rev. Lura A. Mains, Principal of the Mishpah Academy, located at Dutton, Michigan, was introduced to the Conference.

Portions of the report of the Committee on Book Concern contemplating changes in the Discipline were referred to the Secretaries of the Conference.

The report of the Committee on Boundaries was presented by Rev. T. K. Doty, and adopted.

A memorial was presented from a Board of Trustees appointed by the Iowa Conference, relating to the establishment of a denominational school at Marengo, Iowa, and the paper was referred to the Committee on a Western School.

On motion it was made the order of the day for to-morrow at 2 P. M. to hear from Rev. R. W. Hawkins concerning missionary interests, and 3 P. M. was designated as the hour for Rev. W. J. Houghton to present the interests of Houghton Seminary.

Conference adjourned.

Benediction by Rev. T. K. Doty.

## SEVENTH DAY.

### MORNING SESSION.

Conference convened at the usual hour and was called to order

by the President, and religious services were conducted by Rev. W. J. Seekins.

Minutes read, corrected and approved.

The President made some remarks concerning the relation of General Conference officers to the Connection, and ruled that since the Presidents of the General Conference hold their offices during the interim of Conference they are Presidents of the Connection, and at liberty to use their names in that relation.

The Committee on Book Concern submitted their complete report, which was considered item by item and adopted.

The item referring to the GOSPEL RECORD was amended so as to give the Publishing Association power to act in the matter.

Rev. A. W. Hall submitted the following paper, which was adopted :

*Whereas*, The lodge system has interwoven into it all that is Christless in religion, selfish in morals and treasonable to government, binding its devotees, by horrible oaths and unchristian pledges and promises, into present and eternal fellowships, which pertain not alone to life but to immortality ; and,

*Whereas*, It gathers of every kind, bringing into communion the good, bad and depraved, thereby seeking to establish fellowship between Christ and Belial, believer and infidel, righteousness and unrighteousness, light and darkness, therein dishonoring Christ, rejecting his sacrificial merits, and by its baseless counterfeits contemning his authority by supplanting truth with falsehood, and by its arrogancy asserting for itself all the functions that pertain to the Church of God ; thus leading men away from Christ, and proving in our day one of the most subtle enemies to the advancement of his Church. Therefore be it

*Resolved*, 1. That it is the sense of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in General Conference assembled, that the lodge system is from its character not only anti-Christian and sinful, but that it is highly unbecoming the Church of Christ to receive to its communion and fellowship members of the same, and a sin in the sight of God ; and we therefore exhort all such to be separate, and "come out from among them and touch not the unclean thing."

*Resolved*, 2. That while we hail with joy every testimony from whatever source against this foe of Christ, we cannot recognize as consistently and scripturally testifying against it those who, while denouncing its unchristian character, remain in open Christian fellowship with the same.

The Committee on a Western School submitted their report, which was adopted.

On motion Rev. G. W. Story was appointed to take charge of the matter of raising funds, as proposed in the report.

W. J. Seekins and U. D. Lathrop were released from the Committee on the Sabbath, and G. W. Sibley and Sister M. A. Sprague were substituted.

The Committee on Revisals submitted further report. A proposition in the report favoring woman's ordination called forth a spirited discussion, and a substitute was finally presented proposing to strike out of the Discipline all that now refers to the matter, which was carried.

A motion by Rev. T. K. Doty to re-consider the vote just taken was lost.

The report as amended was adopted.

Conference adjourned by limitation.

Benediction by Rev. J. Levington.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Religious services were conducted by Rev. George Fry.

Minutes of the forenoon session read and approved.

Brother L. W. Mills requested to be excused from further attendance at the Conference on account of ill-health, and his request was granted.

On motion Rev. A. T. Jennings was appointed to preach the opening sermon at the next Conference, and Rev. R. W. Hawkins was chosen alternate.

The Committee on Course of Study submitted their report, which was amended by substituting Steele's "Love Enthroned" for the "Life of Wm. Carvosso," and "Wayland's Moral Science" for "Fletcher's Checks," after which the report was adopted.

Rev. A. W. Hall called the attention of the Conference to the fact that Brother J. J. Baldrige, lay delegate from the Tennessee Conference, was unfortunately without sufficient means to return home, and a collection was taken for his benefit, amounting to \$13.90.

The order of the day was taken up, and Rev. R. W. Hawkins, General Missionary Superintendent, gave a very interesting address, outlining somewhat the work connected with the position to which he has been chosen.

Rev. P. B. Campbell submitted the following propositions for changes in the Discipline, which were adopted :—Change paragraphs 3 and 4 on page 146, so as to include the General Missionary Superintendent as well as the Editor and Agent.

Rev. W. J. Houghton presented the interests of Houghton Seminary in an able and interesting address, and made a call for help to defray the expenses of the school, which was responded to by the audience in cash and pledges, amounting to \$62.57.

Rev. E. P. Hart, one of the Superintendents of the Free Methodist Church, was introduced to the Conference, and expressed words of Christian greeting.

On motion it was voted to hold an evening session, commencing at 7 o'clock.

Conference adjourned.

Benediction by Rev. R. F. Dutcher.

#### EVENING SESSION.

Called to order by the ministerial Vice-President, and religious services were conducted by Rev. R. F. Dutcher.

Roll was called, and minutes of the afternoon session read, corrected and approved.

Brother P. D. Cutshall moved to send the articles in our Discipline on Regeneration and Sanctification to the Conferences and Churches for their ratification.

Rev. L. S. Cooper moved to amend by substituting a new article, as follows :

**SANCTIFICATION.**—Sanctification is that work of the Holy Spirit by which the child of God is cleansed. Entire sanctification is the perfect cleansing of the heart of the child of God from all sin, and is received by faith in the blood of the atonement.

Rev. J. H. Teter offered the following as a substitute to take the place of corresponding articles now in the Discipline :

**REGENERATION.**—Regeneration is that work of the Holy Spirit by which the pardoned sinner becomes a child of God. This work is received through faith in Jesus Christ, whereby the regenerate are delivered from the power of sin which reigns over all the unregenerate, so that they love God, and through grace serve him with the will and affections of the heart, receiving the Spirit of adoption, whereby they cry Abba Father.

**SANCTIFICATION.**—Entire sanctification is that work of the Holy Spirit by which the child of God is delivered from all inbred sin through faith in Jesus Christ. It is subsequent to regeneration, and is wrought when the believer presents himself a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, and is thus enabled through grace to love God with all the heart, and to walk in his holy commandments blameless.

The substitute was adopted by almost unanimous vote, and ordered sent to the Conferences and Churches for their adoption or rejection.

The matter of deciding whether the articles are adopted or not was referred to the Book Committee.

A paper expressing thanks for the entertainment of Conference was presented by Brother M. Bromaghim, which was adopted by rising vote, the pastor, Rev. M. J. Badder, being especially referred to as worthy of thanks for his untiring energy in providing for the needs of delegates and visitors.

The Committee on Moral Reforms submitted their report, which was adopted.

Rev. W. H. Kennedy moved that as a denomination we hold ourselves under the law of our Discipline on the articles of Regeneration and Sanctification as expressed prior to 1887, and that we regard no action legal in connection with said articles since 1844. The motion was carried.

The Committees on Conference Records, Missions, and Wheaton Theological Seminary submitted their reports respectively, which were adopted.

Conference adjourned.

Benediction by Rev. E. Teter.

## EIGHTH DAY.

## MORNING SESSION.

Called to order by the Chair, and religious services were conducted by Rev. J. Dayton.

Roll was called, and minutes read and approved.

On motion by Rev. H. Ackers the Secretaries were authorized to insert the new articles on Regeneration and Sanctification in the new Discipline, with a foot-note stating that they are not law until adopted by the Annual Conferences and Churches, and that they are in process of adoption.

The Committee on Boundaries submitted their report. On motion the part of the report recommending the creation of a South Ohio Conference, was amended so as to make said creation dependent upon the action of the Miami Conference consenting thereto. The report was then adopted.

The Committee to nominate a Book Committee submitted their report, which was amended by substituting the name of G. L. Paine for E. E. Curtis, and then adopted.

The following named brethren comprise the Book Committee : N. Wardner, A. W. Brim, J. L. Benton, S. J. Dudley, E. W. Bruce, G. S. Meade, G. W. Sibley, M. F. Smith, W. H. Kennedy, S. Dubois, G. L. Paine, F. S. Joslin, with the Editor, Agent, and General Missionary Superintendent.

Voted that we proceed to incorporate the General Conference, and that five trustees be elected, three of whom shall be ministers and two laymen.

Rev. A. W. Hall submitted the following paper relating to the incorporation of the Conference, which was adopted :

*Resolved*, That the Conference now proceed to elect a Committee of five discreet persons as a Board of Trustees, to take charge of the estate and property belonging to the "Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America," and to transact all the affairs relating to the temporalities thereof.

*Resolved*, That said Board of Trustees shall be called and known as the "Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America."

*Resolved*, That the place of general business of this Board of Trustees shall be Syracuse, N. Y., where the meetings of said Board of Trustees shall also be held.

*Resolved*, That said Board of Trustees form a body corporate by complying with the requirements of chapter 60 of the laws of 1813 of the State of New York, and the several acts amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto.

*Resolved*, That membership in this body corporate shall be created and regulated from time to time as may be deemed expedient by the General Conference of the "Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America," but said trustees must be members of the Book Committee of the "Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America," as elected by the General Conference of the same.

Conference proceeded to elect trustees by ballot, and Alvin W. Hall, Nathan Wardner, Arthur T. Jennings, Alfred W. Brim and Monroe F. Smith were unanimously elected.

Rev. E. Teter presented a paper recommending changes in the Discipline concerning the Book Concern, on page 145, which was adopted.

A communication was received from Rev. G. P. Riley, which was by vote rejected, on the ground that he is a member of a secret society, hence not entitled to the privilege of petitioning this body.

Mr. Riley persisted in speaking against the ruling and protests of the Chair and members of the Conference, and on motion Rev. E. E. Curtis was appointed Sergeant-at-arms to compel him to observe order.

A communication was received from J. M. Scott, setting forth personal grievances, which was also rejected, on the ground that matters involved pertained to the last General Conference, and not to this body.

The Committee on Sabbath-schools submitted their report, which was adopted,

Conference adjourned to meet at 1 o'clock P. M.

Benediction by Rev. E. E. Curtis.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference was called to order by the President, and religious services were conducted by Rev. J. H. Teter.

Roll was called and minutes read and approved.

On motion a former action of this body rejecting a communi-

cation from J. M. Scott was reconsidered, and the Secretary was authorized to spread said communication upon the records of the Conference. The communication reads as follows :

*To the General Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection, in session at Grand Rapids, Mich.*

DEAR BRETHREN :—As the General Conference of our Connection in the year 1887 published my name, and by resolution condemned my statements, motives and methods when I was not present, and without giving me notice of charges, or the action against me, without the right of facing my accusers or their witnesses, or of calling witnesses or making any defense, and by resolution requested the Auditing Committee to publish in the columns of the *WESLEYAN METHODIST* a sufficiently itemized showing of said interests, “that the further circulation of said reflections may appear to all as untruthful in statement and unchristian in spirit and purpose ;” and as the report has been published in the columns of the *WESLEYAN METHODIST* that it was to make it “appear to all” that the further circulation of said reflections (my claim of loss in business, and statement of delinquent *WESLEYAN METHODIST* subscribers), was untruthful, and unchristian in spirit and purpose, I most respectfully ask, and beg this assembly to make my untruthful statements and unchristian conduct “appear to all,” or do a Christian duty and undo as far as possible the injury done my reputation, that it may “appear to all” that we respect the rights and reputation of others as we would wish others to respect ours.

J. M. SCOTT,

Layman from the Central Ohio Conference.

*Grand Rapids, Oct. 24, 1891.*

It was voted that in further reports of the Committee on Revisals each item be read, and if no objections are offered shall be declared adopted.

The Committee then completed its report, recommending several changes in the Discipline, all of which passed without objection.

The Committee on Church Extension submitted their report through G. W. Story, which was adopted.

Rev. H. R. Smith presented a recommendation for revision, consisting of a new section to be known as Sec. XXXI., on Temperance and Prohibition, which was adopted.

Rev. A. W. Hall called attention to the fact that the walls of the old Publishing House in Syracuse are giving way, and liable to be condemned by the city authorities, and asked whether the



building should be torn down if condemned, or that part of the property sold.

On motion the matter was left in the hands of the Book Committee to act according to its best judgment.

Rev. G. W. Story was appointed Agent for Marengo School.

Rev. E. E. Curtis was appointed fraternal delegate to the next Free Methodist General Conference, and Rev. J. L. Benton was chosen alternate.

On motion it was voted to make the General Missionary Superintendent member of the General Conference, the same as the Editor and Agent.

The following memorial to Congress and the Managers of the Columbian Exposition was presented by Clara Tear, and adopted :

We, the General Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America, now assembled in Grand Rapids, Michigan, hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States and the Managers of the Columbian Exposition, asking them to forbid the opening of said Exposition on the Lord's Day, and also to exclude the display and sale of all intoxicating liquors from its grounds.

Copies of the memorial were ordered sent to the Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, President of the World's Columbian Exposition, and the **WESLEYAN METHODIST**.

Rev. E. Perhacs gave an interesting account of his work in Brooklyn, N. Y., in furnishing homeless girls with employment, and instruction in works of art, thus fitting them for usefulness, and turning them from what otherwise might be lives of vice and shame, and asked the endorsement of the General Conference, which was given by unanimous vote.

The officers of the Conference were ordered to give him a written statement of said endorsement.

Votes of thanks were given to the President, Vice-Presidents and Secretaries for services rendered, also to Brother Wardner for efficient editorial services ; to the reporters of Grand Rapids daily papers for reports of the proceedings of this body ; to the railroad companies who granted reduced rates to delegates, and to the proprietor of the Eagle Hotel in Grand Rapids for courte-

sies in the line of entertainment, and religious privileges granted to delegates in connection with said entertainment.

On motion the Agent was requested to arrange and keep on hand at the Publishing House a supply of blanks for Church letters, and licenses to preach and exhort.

Rev. E. Teter presented a memorial touching the decease of Rev. D. S. Kinney, which was unanimously adopted by rising vote.

The business of the Conference having been completed the President made a few closing and well-chosen remarks, and called upon Rev. E. E. Curtis and Clara Tear to offer prayer, after which Conference adjourned *sine die*.

Benediction by Rev. J. Levington.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

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### THE SABBATH.

Viewing, as we do, with pain, the fact that there is in our land, and that often in high places, and among the professedly Christian, a growing prostitution of the Lord's Day to purposes of business and pleasure, therefore,

*Resolved*, That we, the General Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection, express our condemnation of such prostitution, especially by the press, railroad corporations, and other public institutions, and beseech our people to be clean from the evil, and pronounced in their position against it.

W. J. Seekins, U. D. Lathrop, H. E. Walker, Clara Tear, O. J. Davis, Committee.

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### MARENGO COLLEGE.

Your Committee to whom was referred the matter of a college within the bounds of the Iowa Conference, beg leave to submit the following :

1. That this General Conference recognize the college to be founded at Marengo, Iowa, as a part of the educational system of our denomination, and commend it to the liberal patronage and support of our people.

2. That we ask co-operation on the part of the members of this General Conference in their various Conferences in the circulation of subscriptions in their several Conferences to secure funds to aid in endowing and equipping said institution.

H. E. Walker, G. W. Story, A. W. Hall, Committee.

## TO NOMINATE BOOK COMMITTEE.

Your Committee would report as follows :

*Ministers* :—N. Wardner, J. L. Benton, E. W. Bruce, G. W. Sibley, W. H. Kennedy, G. L. Paine.

*Laymen* :—A. W. Brim, S. J. Dudley, G. S. Mead, M. F. Smith, S. DuBois, J. S. Joslin.

Thos. K. Doty, G. W. Sibley, L. S. Cooper, S. J. Dudley, P. D. Cutshall, Committee.

## CONTESTED SEATS.

1. In the case of N. Wardner your Committee find that he is entitled to a seat in this Conference.

2. In the case of U. D. Lathrop your Committee find that he also is entitled to a seat in this Conference.

3. In the case of J. L. Benton and G. G. Rich your Committee find on hearing the evidence that the Syracuse Conference is entitled to four delegates, without counting the Churches called in question, therefore these brethren are entitled to seats in this Conference.

4. The case of the Pacific Conference was called, and a communication was read from H. C. Morgan and O. P. Hedge. Statements were also made before the Committee by D. A. Richards and D. Lesh. Upon what evidence we have your Committee find that D. Lesh is the legal delegate from the Pacific Conference, and entitled to a seat in this Conference.

J. H. Canfield, J. L. Bush, H. D. Inman, A. W. Brim, P. D. Cutshall, Committee.

## WHEATON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

Your Committee to which was referred the matters pertaining to Wheaton Theological Seminary, and rumors pertaining thereto, beg leave to report as follows :

1. We find by statements put in our hands by the Committee of the Educational Board, that a final settlement of the accounts of the Wheaton Seminary has been effected, and all matters per-

taining to this feature will be learned from their report, which will be published in the Minutes in connection with this report.

2. We find from evidence placed in our hands that the representatives of the Educational Board had just grounds for asking the resignation of L. N. Stratton from the presidency of said educational institution, and the evidences presented to the Committee will appear in the Minutes in connection with this report.

Respectfully submitted.

H. R. Smith, H. Ackers, U. D. Lathrop, J. L. Bush, W. H. Kennedy, G. H. Mattoon, Committee.

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### MEMORIAL.

To the General Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America, assembled in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Oct. 21, 1891 :

DEAR BRETHREN.—Since our last quadrennial gathering our beloved brother, D. S. Kinney, Financial Agent of the Connection, has been gathered unto his fathers in death. And while we bow in sorrow to the will of a Providence which we cannot fully understand, we wish to enter upon the Minutes of this General Conference an expression of our regard for his invaluable service to our Connection, and for so faithfully conserving the interests of the cause of Christ through the entire denomination. And while it seemed at first as if his place could not be filled, we rejoice to know that if God's workmen are buried his work still goes on. And we hereby enter upon record this tribute to his memory, of unflinching fidelity to the right, and devotion to all the interests of our beloved Zion, which we believe, under God, is destined to spread Scriptural holiness through these lands.

A. Worth, E. Teter, L. S. Cooper, Committee.

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### CONFERENCE RECORDS.

Your Committee beg leave to report as follows :

1. We find the records of the following Conferences kept in a clean, excellent condition :—Minnesota, Wisconsin, Rochester,

North Michigan, Michigan, Indiana, Syracuse, and Central Ohio.

2. The Lockport Conference records are fair as to penmanship, but fail in giving signatures to reports ; also have the appearance of a scrap book, by containing printed reports pasted therein.

3. The Iowa Conference records are good, with the exception of a few blots.

4. The Miami Conference records contain many indefinite and misleading statements, and fail to give signatures to reports, and contain abbreviations unintelligible to one unacquainted with the facts.

5. The Dakota Conference records are fairly kept, except they contain some improper abbreviations, and a failure to attach signatures to reports.

6. The Illinois Conference records contain irregularities in abbreviations not intelligible to one unacquainted with the facts ; also motions apparently made were not recorded.

7. The Pacific Conference records of 1888 and 1889 are not signed, also other irregularities ; otherwise they are fair.

8. The Tennessee Conference records are meager and incomplete.

9. The New York, Champlain and Allegheny Conferences records are good.

10. The Kansas Conference records are fair.

James Dayton, W. J. Seekins, M. R. Baldrige, U. D. Lathrop, A. W. Greer, Committee.

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### COURSE OF STUDY.

We recommend : 1. That the Secretary of the General Conference be instructed to insert in connection with the Course of Study in the Discipline, as a foot-note, as follows : Those who have already purchased the books of the old course shall be permitted to take examination in such books, but all who purchase new books shall be required to take the course as provided above.

2. Course of Study :

FIRST YEAR :—Binney's Compend ; Wesley's Plain Account of Christian Perfection ; Wesleyan Methodist Discipline ; History

of the United States (Barnes); Lectures on Preaching (Simpson); Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation (Walker). Course of Readings :—Watson's Life of Wesley; Life of St. Paul (Stalker).

SECOND YEAR :—Lee's Theology; Blackburn's Church History (first half); Hogg's Homiletics; Natural Theology (Lee); McIlvain's Christian Evidences; D'Aubigne's History of the Reformation. Course of Readings :—Life of Christ (Stalker); Nelson on Infidelity.

THIRD YEAR :—Lee's Theology; Angus' Hand Book of the Bible; Mental Philosophy (Haven); D'Aubigne's History of the Reformation continued; Homiletics (Kidder); Blackburn's Church History (second half); Wayland's Moral Philosophy. Course of Readings :—Life of Hester Ann Rogers; Love Enthroned (Steele).

A. T. Jennings, B. S. Laughlin, A. W. Brim, H. Frink, Committee.

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### BOOK CONCERN.

1. We ascribe praise to the God of all grace in that he has enabled us as a people to prosper in the past four years beyond any former period.

2. That under the management of Revs. D. S. Kinney and A. W. Hall we are not only solvent, but have buildings, machinery and material, ample in size and superior in quality, with a handsome surplus in cash.

3. We heartily endorse the **WESLEYAN METHODIST** as our Connectional organ, but recommend that in the matter of secular advertising the Agent insert only such advertisements as in his judgment he deems best.

4. We also recommend that our Agent be instructed to bring up all arrears as soon as possible, and when brought up he rule all delinquent subscribers who do not respond after sixty days notice be dropped from the list.

5. We endorse the action of the Agent in the publication of the Iconoclast series of Sabbath-school helps, also **EARLY SEEKERS** and **OUR TEMPERANCE PAPER**.

6. We recommend that the publishing of the GOSPEL RECORD, either in its present form, or to be as a Monthly Review, be submitted to the Publishing Association for its consideration and action.

7. We commend both the subject matter and the style of the books, papers and periodicals issued at our Publishing House, and hope that special pains will be taken to place them in the hands of all our people.

8. We recommend that our Agent issue a Wesleyan Year Book, to contain almanac matter, general reading, and a summary of Conference Minutes.

9. We urge the General Conference in its present session to create the office of General Conference Superintendent, also that an election be held to fill said office ; it to continue the same as the General Agent.

10. We recommend that our ministers and people order their books, papers and periodicals through our own Publishing House.

G. W. Story, Wm. Pinckney, W. H. Kennedy, H. M. Rorabacher, P. D. Cutshall, Committee.

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### BOUNDARIES.

The Committee on Boundaries report as follows :

1. That the Iowa Conference shall comprise the State of Iowa, and that the West Iowa Conference having been absorbed by the Iowa Conference all reference thereto be removed from the Discipline.

2. That the Allegheny Conference be bounded as follows :—The Allegheny Conference shall comprise all of the State of Pennsylvania lying west of a line running due south from the eastern border of Potter County, the rest of the description to remain as already in the Discipline.

3. That the petition of the Tennessee Conference made to this body be granted, except that the word "white" be stricken out. That the territory of the Tennessee Conference remain as it now is described in the Discipline. That the territory of the West Tennessee Conference, when it is organized, shall comprise North-



ern Alabama, Northern Mississippi, and so much of Tennessee as the said Conference shall choose to occupy.

4. That in the description of the boundaries of the Michigan Conference the word "together," with all following it, be stricken out.

5. The South Ohio Conference shall comprise that part of Ohio lying southerly from a line commencing at Richmond, Indiana, and running along the Pan Handle Railroad to Xenia, Ohio, thence east to the west line of the Central Ohio Conference, thence south along this line to the northern border of the southern tier of the counties of Ohio, thence east along said northern border to the County of Monroe, thence south to the Ohio River; also the States of West Virginia and Kentucky.

6. In the description of the Allegheny Conference leave off the last four words.

7. The Miami Conference shall comprise that part of Ohio not included in the Allegheny, Central Ohio, and South Ohio Conferences.

8. The editors of the Discipline shall number the Conferences alphabetically. At the beginning of the description of each Conference they shall place the name of said Conference in small capitals or italic letters.

G. W. Story, E. Teter, Thos. K. Doty, S. J. Dudley, L. W. Mills, Committee.

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### MISSIONS.

Your Committee to whom was referred the subject of missions offer the following report on missions :

The word mission means : 1. Any number of persons appointed by authority to perform any service. 2. One sent to spread the religion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This line of work has its foundation or beginning in the benevolent heart of God, manifested in the gift of his Son to spread glad tidings of salvation to a lost world; who, when his work was completed, just before his ascension, gave to his disciples this comprehensive and world-embracing command, "Go ye, there-

fore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." In this command we recognize our blood-bought privilege and opportunity of joining our efforts with the multiplied thousands that are sent of God to spread the glad tidings of salvation to a lost world. We hail with joy, and give thanks to God for the increased missionary spirit that is being manifested throughout our denomination, as concerns both home and foreign missionary work. We hail with joy, and thank God for the organization of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society as an auxiliary to this line of work. We recommend that our ministers on the different circuits give their influence, and as far as possible aid them in their work. And, further, that where circuits have no such societies organized that they do not cease their efforts until such organization is completed. And, further, that there be a general altar service called all through the entire Connection. First, to confess our sins of dereliction on this line of work, and that we dedicate anew our time, talent and money for the carrying forward of this line of work. And, further, that we heartily indorse the action of this General Conference in the creating the office of a General Missionary Superintendent. And, further, that we leave the line of work, or method of work to be pursued, to the judgment of said Missionary Superintendent.

J. Hester, E. M. Perhacs, George Smith, H. H. Rickert, Almira Ellet, Committee.

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### MORAL REFORMS.

TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE:—We reaffirm the past utterances of this body on the various phases of moral reform now before the people of this country, and believe that we, as a Church, should not slacken our zeal, but continue to cry aloud and spare not, and lift up our voices like a trumpet, and show the people the sins that so prevail in Church and State.

#### THE HOME.

The home is a divine institution, one that had its beginning in a sinless Paradise; one around which gathers the memories of

childhood and the endearments of maturer years ; a place where father and mother, husband and wife, reign in a unity that symbolizes the mystical union existing between Christ and his Church. The home is the basis of society and of the state. As is the home so is the community ; as is the community so is the state. Jesus sanctified the home with his earth-life, and made it a symbol of the highest bliss of heaven. Under these considerations we should earnestly seek to bring the home-life under the sanctifying, elevating influences of the gospel, and should earnestly withstand all of those evils which work its degradation, such as social vices, free-loveism, hasty and inconsiderate marriages, lax divorce laws, filthy literature, and the curse of curses, the drink traffic. We believe in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, and that God loves every human being, without any regard to sex, nationality, wealth, or social standing, with the same love of benevolence, and is no respecter of persons because of those things. Therefore, Christians should discourage those caste barriers that are so manifest in fashionable society, and which are invading the churches of Christ, to the extent of practically excluding the poor, and even persons of moderate means, from many churches, and their children from the Sabbath-school. We further deplore the fact that many churches are becoming, to a large extent, mere social organizations.

We further rejoice in the fact that the advancing power of the kingdom of our God and his Christ is rapidly eliminating from the world all forms of human slavery, and would call to mind the fact that the conflict for human liberty, and the complicity of great churches with the crime of American slavery, and the persecutions heaped on those who opposed this system of bondage, were leading causes that led to our denominational existence.

#### SECRET SOCIETIES.

No good cause needs concealment in order to success. Jesus said he ever spake openly, and in secret said nothing. He warned his followers against seeking for a religious benefit in the secret chamber. He positively forbade forswearing or the taking of any extra judicial obligation or oath. His Word says, If a soul

swear either to do good or evil, and it be hid from it, he shall be guilty and take steps for repentance. His gospel forbids Christians from being unequally yoked with unbelievers, or in covenant relations with them. He also forbids fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness, and the shameful things done by them in secret. As many of these societies are avowedly religious, and profess to save their votaries from sin and fit them for the great lodge above, and this without recognizing the atonement of Christ, and as there is an essential oneness in the whole secret system, we believe that connection with the multiplicity of secret societies so absorbs time and money that it has become one of the most serious obstructions to reaching them with the gospel. We hold our position on this subject is entirely in accord with the Bible and the convictions of multitudes of Christians in all Churches, and ought to be maintained.

#### THE SABBATH.

We believe the Sabbath to be of Divine appointment; that the spiritual and physical needs of man require such a day; that it is one of the essentials to the success of the gospel. We deplore its widespread desecration, and would urge all Christians and philanthropists to secure its better advancement.

#### TEMPERANCE.

We believe that the tobacco habit is closely allied to the drink habit; that it is a prolific source of disease and death, scarcely second to that of rum; that it is a filthy habit, and necessitates the enormous and useless waste of over \$6,000,000,000 yearly in our own country. We believe its injurious and poisonous effects on the immature youth can hardly be estimated, hence teaching on this subject in all our public schools and Sabbath-schools should be fully and thoroughly given. We commend the good work of the W. C. T. U. in this direction. We urge ministers and churches to take more decided ground in opposition to this evil and sinful habit.

Among the direct products of the liquor traffic are drunkard paupers, criminals, blighted homes, high taxes, wasted resources,

murders, political and social degradation, and many other forms of human misery.

Saloons exist through the expressed consent of the voters, hence to vote for this legalization, or for parties that do this, is to become responsible for, and a party to every act of crime, and to all the misery resulting from the legalized agent—the saloon. Hence, we affirm that any form of license or taxation of the liquor traffic is unscriptural and sinful, and contrary to good government, and ought to be opposed by all good citizens. We further affirm that the true aim of the friends of the cause of God and humanity should be the complete suppression of the manufacture of, and traffic in intoxicating liquors as a beverage. We believe that no party is worthy of the support of Christian men that does not antagonize the saloon.

We favor the abolition of the government tax on intoxicating liquors, because the revenue derived from this source is a bribe for its continuance, and is the price of our brother's blood. We have learned, with shame and deep regret, of the action of the department of State at our national Capital, in using the influence of our Government through the foreign appointees of a professedly Christian President, to extend the market for the product of American breweries and distilleries among the less civilized South American republics, and of the refusal or neglect of our Government in joining with the fifteen nations from Europe, in a treaty excluding rum from the continent of Africa, and thus defeating such a treaty.

#### CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

Civil government is of divine authority. The powers that be are ordained of God. Therefore God's authority should be recognized in all National and State constitutions. Laws should be enacted in harmony with Divine law. Those in authority should rule in righteousness. Jesus Christ is King of nations as well as King of saints. He is declared to be "the Prince of the kings of the earth." Inspiration declares that the time shall come when it shall be said, "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our God and his Christ." Therefore we avow the

nations of the earth to be of one blood, members of the same kingly family, bound together by the ligaments of mutual interdependence, and common interest one in the other in matters of commerce, productions, and moral and spiritual developments. Therefore we hold to the following propositions :

1. That all selfish restrictions on commerce and productions that discriminate in favor of one nation, or class of producers, as against other nations and producers, are unscriptural, and must go down before the triumphant progress of Christ's kingdom.

2. That all selfish restrictions on immigration that are based on nationality alone are not warranted in the gospel of the fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man. Hence we hold the illegal course taken by the United States Government toward the Chinese is a national reproach.

3. That the renovation of politics according to the Decalogue and golden rule should obtain, and that rulers and officials should possess moral, as well as other qualifications.

4. That there should be better satisfaction for, and security of human life. Four thousand, five hundred and seventy murders are committed in our land each year, and only one hundred executions of murderers.

5. That political equality should prevail, including the enfranchisement of woman. Evil surmisings, thinking evil, rendering evil for evil, prejudging others, seeking to avenge ourselves, impugning or condemning the motives of others, when there may be room for doubt as to motive, are unscriptural, and contrary to the spirit of love, and should not have place among Christians.

Unity in diversity is a wonder and glory of physical creation. The same spirit, with diversity of manifestations, is a beauty of the gospel. Therefore we recognize the fact that there may be diversity of opinion among brethren, yet oneness of spirit exist.

Truth in principle and doctrine is immutable when founded on God's Word, and the most searching investigation and discussion will only establish more strongly the stability of said truths. Hence we challenge the world and our people to fully examine our principles in the light of God's Word.

Lastly, we affirm that "holiness to the Lord" is the primal basis of all true reform, in family, Church and State.

Respectfully submitted.

H. R. Smith, D. Lesh, J. H. Canfield, G. S. Mead, James Arnold, Committee.

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### CONNECTIONAL AGENT'S REPORT.

To the General Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America, assembled in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Oct. 21, 1891 :

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS :—At your last quadrennial session you were pleased to re-elect to the Connectional Agency Rev. D. S. Kinney, who rested from his labors and fell asleep in Jesus on the afternoon of the 7th day of January, 1890, after having ably and faithfully served the Connection in such relation over fifteen years. By the action of your Book Committee the present incumbent was elected to fill out the remainder of the quadrennial term.

The Book Committee thereupon appointed a Committee of Invoice, who made a careful and complete inventory of all assets pertaining to the Publishing Association, and passed the same over into the hands of the present Agent. This Committee in its work discarded all former estimates and placed its invoice upon a strictly cash valuation, irrespective of original cost. The Committee appointed to make the invoice for the year ending June, 1891, in no instance placed valuations in excess of those made when the assets were turned over to the present Agent, but are as a rule below; the purpose being to present a plain and faithful exhibit of the Association and its business for the year, that an accurate idea of the condition might be known by all interested. The estimates we believe are reliable, and our accounts include only those known to be good.

In accord with the object of this Association we have sought to utilize its facilities for the printing of Church literature, largely discarding job work, and giving attention to book printing, with

a view of increasing the number of our own publications. Our efforts in this direction have met with success to an extent of demanding the introduction of new and improved machinery, which has been purchased since the close of the fiscal year.

In pursuance with the action of the last General Conference we have begun the publication of a complete line of Sunday-school Lesson Helps, which we have named the "Iconoclast Series." Although in the third quarter of their circulation they have passed to paying proportions. They have been ably edited by Rev. A. T. Jennings, of the Rochester Conference, who was engaged to edit the same until the convening of this body. The series comprise Teacher's, Scholar's and Intermediate Quarterlies, supplemented by a weekly lesson paper designed for primary classes. We have designated the line by the name "Iconoclast," which Webster defines to be, "A breaker or destroyer of images or idols; a determined enemy of idol worship; one who exposes or destroys impositions or shams of any kind." As these publications are now presented to this body for the first time they are subject to your endorsement, criticism or rejection, as your wisdom may determine. If receiving your endorsement you will also provide for their editorial management, by designating their Editor, or referring the same to the Publishing Association.

Since your last session we began the publication of two monthly Sunday-school papers, called OUR EARLY SEEKERS, and OUR TEMPERANCE PAPER, now in the thirteenth month of circulation. These are also subject to your approval. They are edited by the Connectional Editor, and printed on our own press, and, taken with our CHILDREN'S BANNER and GOOD WORDS, form a quartette of the best Sunday-school papers in print. The circulation of the four papers is 4,500 each.

The GOSPEL RECORD AND BIBLE STANDARD has proven under its new form a valuable exponent of Gospel work. Its circulation is about 800. As some important suggestions may be made touching its future, farther mention here is unnecessary. We trust it will receive weighty consideration at your hands.

The WESLEYAN METHODIST makes its weekly visit to the homes



of its subscribers, recently in new form, being now pasted, trimmed and folded, by our new combination folder, much improving its convenience and appearance. Of its loyal utterances to the cause we maintain, both in doctrine and reform, no comment is necessary. Its list has received such attention as the time of our service and multifarious duties permitted. Its circulation June 1st, 1890, was 4,550 ; since that date there has been 1,300 new subscriptions received. We have labored, first, to cut off all non-paying, irresponsible subscribers ; second, to bring up all in arrears. We have succeeded better in the first than in the second. At the present date very few names appear on its list in arrears which are not financially responsible. Notices have been sent to all subscribers in arrears, and payment urged. At this date there yet remains upwards of 900 in arrears. While we have brought up the list to a responsible standing the sum due on arrearages is much needed by the Association for the extension of its business. Our discontinuances from June 1st, 1890, from all sources, aggregate 1,500. Present circulation, 4,250. Cash receipts for the last year accruing from the paper, are \$1,391.12, greater than last quadrennial year, and at least \$700 over year closing June 1st, 1890. The receipts from all sources for the fiscal year ending June 1st, 1890, were \$6,800. We recommend that this body instruct the incoming Agent to bring up all in arrears on its list at the earliest practicable date, and thenceforward to make it the rule that the names of all subscribers failing to renew their subscriptions, after thirty days' notice, be struck from its list. The question of secular advertising in its columns will also be open for your consideration. A very limited number of advertisements have been admitted during the present year.

During the year we have printed : WESLEYAN METHODISTS, 234,000 copies ; GOSPEL RECORDS, 10,600 copies ; Sabbath-school papers, 183,600 copies ; Iconoclast Quarterlies, 984,000 pages ; books, pamphlets and tracts, 1,280,500 pages.

We give below our last annual exhibit in detail. The liabilities given in this exhibit are for bills not due, incurred in the purchase of stock for the press and business departments. There

is neither note, bond, mortgage, lien, or judgment, or other liability, save those mentioned, against the Association or its property. We do a strictly cash business.

CASH RECEIPTS FROM MAY 31, '90, TO JUNE 1, '91.

Cash on hand May 31, '90,	\$ 2158 82
Received from business,	18004 29
Total from business and treasury,	\$20163 11
Total disbursements,	16635 30
Cash on hand June 1, '91,	3527 81
Total,	\$20163 11

INVOICE OF '91.

1st. Stock on hand :

Books,	\$2060 94	
Bibles,	409 43	
Paper,	662 15	
		\$3132 52

2d. Furniture and fixtures :

Book Room,	\$472 10	
Agent's Room,	138 00	
Editor's Room,	100 00	
		\$710 10

3d. Machinery, presses, tools :

Press Room,	\$6051 81	
Type Room,	1936 50	
		\$7988 31

4th. Property and Chattels :

Real Estate,	\$36250 00	
Notes,	692 10	
Good Accounts,	5555 55	
Unexpired Insurance,	79 45	
Cash on hand,	3527 81	
		\$46104 91

Total assets,	\$57935 84
Liabilities,	1233 28

Net assets,	\$56702 56
Assets 1890,	52771 04

Net gain for year,	\$3961 52
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## Comparative exhibit.

Assets 1891,	.	.	.	.	.	\$56702 56
Assets 1887,	.	.	.	.	.	46581 64
						<hr/>
Net gain for 1891 as against 1887,	.					\$10120 92
Assets 1891,	.	.	.	.	.	56702 56
Assets 1887,	.	.	.	.	\$46581 64	
Assets 1883,	.	.	.	.	44175 23	
Assets 1879,	.	.	.	.	.	\$37392 92
						<hr/>
Net gain in 12 years,	.	.	.	.	.	\$19309 64

I beg leave to close this feature of the report in the language used by our sainted Brother Kinney in a former address to this body: "We record our grateful recognition of that gracious Providence, who has given us, during a long night of trial, protection and prosperity. Surely, had not our Heavenly Father been at the helm, our Connectional ship would have been stranded long ago. But while Jesus abides in the ship *all is safe.*"

TREASURER'S REPORT OF MISSIONARY SOCIETY FOR FISCAL YEAR,  
ENDING MAY 31, 1891.

During the year we have received the deed of the Wesleyan Methodist Church property of Union Center, Kansas, upon payment of \$200, as agreed by the former Agent of this Society.

Request was made by the Wesleyan Methodist Church in the city of Topeka, Kansas, that this Society purchase its property under threatened foreclosure of mortgage, for the sum of \$1,050. The property is estimated at several times this amount, and as the Society was unable to pay the indebtedness it chose to sell the same to this Society for the face of the mortgage held against it. Negotiations were consummated, by which upon payment of \$1,050 the property was deeded direct to this Society without provision, save a tacit understanding that the local Society should have the privilege of redeeming the property within the period of five years from date of its transfer, by payment of principal of purchase, with interest at six per cent. The local Society, during its occupancy, are responsible for all taxes and repairs.

The following are our receipts and disbursements for the year:

## RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand June 1, 1890, . . . . .	\$1356 14
Other sources, . . . . .	4470 54
Total, . . . . .	<hr/> \$5826 68

## DISBURSEMENTS.

Total disbursements, . . . . .	\$4468 98
Cash on hand June 1, 1891, . . . . .	1357 70
Total, . . . . .	<hr/> \$5826 68

## EDUCATIONAL.

The receipts of the Parent Educational Society for the past year were \$388.70. Disbursements, \$138.85. Balance in treasury June 1st, 1891, \$249.85

During the quadrennial term Wheaton Theological Seminary has been discontinued, and as the Educational Society, through a Committee, has prepared a report to be presented to this body, rendering the reason for its discontinuance, it is not necessary that I should make further mention of it here. The other schools will probably be represented by proper agencies, and will make their own showing.

The Educational Society has in charge the Bible Training department in Houghton Seminary, which will be represented by Rev. W. J. Houghton, if such is desired on the part of this body.

## FOREIGN MISSIONS.

During the quadrennial term our contemplated work in Africa has been fully inaugurated, and at present date Revs. H. W. Johnston and J. B. Omerod are locating in the Western Soudan, under the direction of the Missionary Society, the most interior mission post in that part of the continent. Our work upon the coast, begun with St. John's Church, has not proven altogether the most desirable. The epidemic of yellow fever which visited the west coast during last winter had a demoralizing effect upon it, causing every white person in the colony to flee from its presence. This epidemic made its appearance in our mission room in the sickness of Miss Jean Dick, who was at that time enjoying

our hospitality. Sister Harris upon its appearance repaired to Rotufunk, headquarters of the Woman's Missionary Society work of the United Brethren Church, and will remain in their employment until our interior work shall have been established, and the wives of Brothers Johnston and Omerod accompany them to its location. The accidental poisoning of Sister Johnston necessitated her immediate return to this country as the only hope of saving her life.

As Sierra Leone is more or less occupied by English Missionary Societies, whose type of religion is sadly formal, and to little extent reformatory, proving a severe barrier to the entrance of evangelical truth, and the fact of the presence of rum, flowing as the waters through its streets, and eagerly consumed by the natives, and so destructive in its influence as to make hopeless the task of reaching those contaminated by it, led the American missionaries of the west coast to abandon, in a large measure, their efforts upon the coast, and to enter the interior, where a nobler type of manhood is found among the natives, and the presence of these other evils named is not found. The proposed site of our missionary station was visited by the writer, and is located in a most inviting region. Within half a day's walk in any direction are to be found scores of villages, aggregating thousands of souls, among whom the Gospel has never been preached, or the face of a missionary seen, who are eagerly waiting for its coming, and where, by maintaining a post for the next ten years, preaching from town to town, and establishing a school for the education of the young, preparatory to their engaging in the work of the redemption of their fellows, a host of souls may be gathered to Christ.

Brother Johnston estimates that in order to locate our work in that region upon a self-supporting basis, the sum of three thousand dollars will be required for the transportation of wives of the workers to the field, provisions, building of such structures as are necessary for the work, and other improvements that will establish it upon a firm basis. As our people have been drawn to this work by the Divine Providence we commend it to your serious consideration. It demands immediate attention. We believe

the amount asked can be speedily raised among us, as many are watching the work with interest. It should receive, with our Home Missionary work, the undivided attention of some person aside from the Connectional Agent, to direct its affairs, present its appeals, and awaken an interest in its behalf. We trust at this time such action will be taken as will arouse and awaken our people to missionary effort. From this day a missionary campaign should be inaugurated, whose key-note should be, "A revival in every church, the church-paper in every home, and \$25,000 for missions annually." This, we think, is within the range of possibilities. It is the opinion of the writer that in the enlargement of our publishing interests there is too great a task laid upon the Connectional Agent. As a matter of fact the Connectional Agent should be but a small portion of the time absent from the Publishing House ; present there in person to direct its affairs, superintend the publishing department, and take a personal and active oversight of the same. The profits accruing from his presence would aggregate in hundreds of dollars more than will accrue from his long visitations upon the Conferences. We recommend this Conference to inaugurate an extensive missionary movement throughout all our churches, by the election of a Missionary Superintendent, who shall have in charge the direction of our missionary work, raising funds, opening new fields, and maintaining those already in existence. If through your wisdom such a happy selection can be made as will combine business tact and ecclesiastical oversight, such Superintendent might perform more or less the duties of the Agent in the field which require his absence from the general office, and in such case the Publishing Association, we believe, in some measure could help bear the burden of expense of maintaining such superintendence. We submit these things for your candid and serious consideration.

In this particular permit me to call your attention to another feature, which we hope will receive your consideration, although our mention is attended with some embarrassment. Our former Connectional Agents, especially Rev. A. Crooks and D. S. Kinney, are each in premature graves, hurried thither by the aggre-

gating of the duties of all our Associations. We think we are within the bounds of reason when we say those sainted men would to-day grace our assembly, and still be to us towers of strength and Joshuas of God, had it not been for their excessive duties, and the burden of travel necessary for their performance, in which they were compelled to pass up and down, through and around the various portions of the country, the climatic changes of which few constitutions are able to bear. We speak for the incoming Agent, whom we trust will be selected without reference to present occupancy, that his life may be spared, and his years lengthened, by absolving him from labors whose requirements are beyond human strength.

We congratulate you, brethren and fathers, in your assembling at this time under such favorable auspices of the Divine Providence. While our fears may have been many for the prosperity of our little Zion ; while many heart-aches have filled our souls at thoughts of possible dissolution ; while many of you have come to this hour through days and months of tearful and prayerful solicitations, crying in your hearts, as we sometimes sing :

“I love thy Church, O God,  
Her walls before thee stand ;  
Dear as the apple of thine eye,  
And graven on thy hand.

“For her my tears shall fall,  
For her my prayers ascend ;  
To her my cares and toils be given,  
Till toils and cares shall end.”

To-day we meet under Heaven's manifest approval, Christ's banner of love waving over us, and a bow of promise spanning our future, whose possibilities are beyond computation. Truly we may say at this time, God has been better to us than all our fears ; in him will we trust. Respectfully submitted.

A. W. HALL,

## APPENDIX.

### RELATING TO THE CONNECTION OF L. N. STRATTON WITH WHEATON THEO- LOGICAL SEMINARY.

#### FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT—REPORT OF COM- MITTEE.

The Committee appointed by the Educational Board convened in Syracuse, N. Y., June 24th, 1891, to examine the books and to ascertain the financial condition of the Educational Society, beg leave to submit the following report :

We find the accounts of the Society to have been partly in the hands of its Treasurer, and partly in the hands of its Agent, both receiving and disbursing funds. The Treasurer's book, as far as it shows, is an accurate statement of receipts and disbursements, and the present condition of the Society is as reported by the Treasurer, A. W. Hall, at the meeting convened June 24th, 1891 :

Total receipts,	\$388.70
Total disbursements,	138.85

Cash on hand,	249.85
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As regards the accounts of the former Agent, L. N. Stratton, we have no means of ascertaining whether they are correct or not. In fact, for two years we find no annual report from the aforesaid Agent, and during the other years his reports are such that we can come to no definite conclusion as to his collections and disbursements. We submit to your consideration a sample :

Months.	Overplus and Receipts.	Deficits and Expenses.	Balance of Overplus.	Balance of Deficit.
July, 1887.....	137.75	129.42	8.33	
Aug. " .....	173.51	115.10	58.41	
Sept. " .....	266.30	173.51	92.79	
Oct. " .....	196.42	149.28	47.14	
Nov. " .....	87.28	111.03		23.75
Dec. " .....	47.39	230.36		182.97
Jan. 1888.....	57.25	307.98		250.73
Feb. " .....	40.00	385.72		245.12
Mar. " .....	71.90	460.02		388.12
April " .....	227.00	585.10		359.10
May " .....	192.20	485.15		284.62
June " .....	17.53	479.58		462.05



This report was made by L. N. Stratton to the Board which convened June 28th, 1888.

In regard to the reports being circulated that the Educational Society has failed to meet the obligations due him from said Society, we do find indisputable evidence that the aforesaid Society has paid him in full his salary and traveling expenses incurred in raising funds, clerk hire, flat paper, note paper, envelopes, postage, ink, pens, pencils, post-office box rent, taxes and repairs, exchange, printing, lessons in elocution, coal, coal-bin, Hebrew books and express, and that these payments have been based upon his own representations and reports, and final settlement with the Board being made upon his own showing, after having presented to the Board the following so-called balance sheet, concerning which he says, in a letter accompanying it: "Am now not afraid of these accounts being shattered by the most searching scrutiny of men, or the great Judgment day."

Balance sheet of L. N. Stratton, in account with "Wesleyan Educational Society," giving the receipts, expenditures, and balances from August 15th, 1881, to February 28th, 1889, A. D.

1882, June 30, Receipts,	\$ 1526.52,	Expenses,	\$ 1900.47,	Deficit,	\$ 373.95
1883, June 30, Receipts,	1468.03,	Expenses,	1628.39,	Deficit,	160.36
1884, June 30, Receipts,	1200.98,	Expenses,	1529.45,	Deficit,	328.47
1885, June 30, Receipts,	1115.96,	Expenses,	1694.14,	Deficit,	578.18
1886, June 30, Receipts,	1228.74,	Expenses,	1182.05,	Surplus,	46.69
1887, June 30, Receipts,	988.71,	Expenses,	1327.87,	Deficit,	339.16
1888, June 30, Receipts,	1307.97,	Expenses,	1744.02,	Deficit,	436.05
1889, Feb. 28, Receipts,	1209.90,	Expenses,	1269.80,	Deficit,	59.90

Total,	<u>\$10,046.81,</u>	\$12,276.19,	<u>\$2,276.07</u>
	Receipts,	10,046.81,	Surplus, 46.69
	Balance,	\$2,229.38,	Deficit, \$2,229.38

In regard to the above balance sheet we find from L. N. Stratton's reports to the Board that the deficit of one year is carried into the expense of the next year, so that when the deficit disappeared in the year 1886, he was paid, and overpaid, \$46.69. We find, also, that according to the report of L. N. Stratton made to the Board in 1887, there was due him \$257.53, which was paid, as per book of the Educational Society, July 2d of same year. This balance sheet he abandoned on advice of his attorney in this city. His attorney then prepared a balance sheet from L. N. Stratton's books, which the Board accepted as the basis of final settlement.

We would submit the following in regard to this final settlement, adopted by the Board at its session January 15th, 1890:

Your Committee would beg leave to report further that after as thorough and careful examination of the books and accounts of L. N. Stratton as we could make, also considering his claims, we find the following:

1st. L. N. Stratton asks interest in the following amounts on annual deficits as follows:

1882, \$198.00,	interest one year,	- - - - -	\$11.88
1883, 170.00,	" " " " " " " "	- - - - -	10.20
1884, 338.00,	" " " " " " " "	- - - - -	20.28
1885, 588.00,	" " " " " " " "	- - - - -	35.28
1887, 25.00,	" " " " " " " "	- - - - -	1.50
1888, 715.00,	" " " " " " " "	- - - - -	42.90
1889, 936.00,	" 8 months,	- - - - -	37.44

Total,	- - - - -	\$159.48
Salary and expenses for last year of service,	- - - - -	936.38

Total claim, - - - - - \$1095.86

The Educational Society, through your Committee, asked for the face of the note held against said Stratton, of \$1,000, and the interest for two years. Total claim of Educational Society, \$1130.00.

Your Committee effected settlement as follows: We allowed L. N. Stratton \$136.70 interest, and \$936.38 for services rendered. Total, \$1073.08. We demanded our full claim, \$1,130. Balance due the Educational Society, to be paid in cash or a personal note due on demand, \$56.92.

We have reliable information that this was accepted by Mr. Stratton, he giving his note, which was afterward paid, thus settling all claims he had against the Board, as the following receipt will show:

“*Syracuse, N. Y., Nov. 6, 1889.*

“Received from D. S. Kinney, Treasurer of Educational Society, one thousand one hundred and thirty dollars in note, being the full amount of my claim on final settlement with Auditing Committee of said Society.

“Said note being delivered to me. (Signed) L. N. STRATTON.”

The books do not show that one dollar has ever been paid by this Society to Houghton Seminary, and we have satisfactory and reliable evidence outside the books that no funds have ever been paid by this Society to the above named Seminary. All of which is respectfully submitted.

N. E. JENKINS,  
A. R. DODD.

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## HIS RESIGNATION—WHY DEMANDED.

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### REPORT OF EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.

To the members of the General Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection, convened at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

BRETHREN:—In harmony with your request the Educational Society would respectfully submit to you the following condensed statement relative to the resignation of Rev. L. N. Stratton as President of Wheaton Theological Seminary, and the reasons for demanding the same. Some time during the fall of 1888 information was received by members of this Society concerning the existence of certain letters supposed to have been written by Mr. Stratton, which indicated licentious relations between the writer and a woman in Youngstown, Ohio. These letters were subsequently obtained, and when confronted by them by Brothers D. S. Kinney and A. W. Hall he not only confessed having written them, but confessed that he was guilty as the letters indicated. In view of these facts he was asked to resign his position as President of the Theological Seminary, which he did, and his resignation was accepted by the Educational Board.

It was deemed best for the sake of his family and the church not to give the matter publication through the press, hence no account of it has been given to the public, except as it has been circulated among our people by private individuals. Taking advantage of the silence of the Board he has sought to avert public condemnation, and secure sympathy to himself, by denying the whole matter and charging his accusers with falsehood and forgery. But little attention was paid to his statements, however, until an article appeared in a paper called the *Wesleyan Advocate*, in its issue of May 1st, 1891, which contained, among other misrepresentations, the following: “I have suffered as no mortal can tell by the skill of an expert and cruel imitator of my penmanship, and the unkind tongues of those who knew that I was aware of how it seemed to me. They were wronging our people out of their benevolent gifts, and because it was in my heart to lessen

the abuses I was turned upon and injured in the most merciless manner with unfounded falsehood."

With appearance of said article the members of the Society felt that forbearance had ceased to be a virtue, hence at the annual meeting of the Society, in June, 1891, they appointed a Committee to inquire into the authenticity and credibility of the letters, and in order that the grounds for our action may be fully understood we herewith present the following report of said Committee:

As Chairman of a Committee appointed by the Educational Society for the purpose of ascertaining the truthfulness or falsity of certain reports about L. N. Stratton, touching his relation to, and correspondence with, a certain woman, which reports he emphatically denies, and directly or impliedly accuses members of the Educational Society, and members of our denomination, of falsehood, and of circulating these reports with malicious design, I wish to preface our report with a few personal remarks.

1st. I have had no part in giving publicity to these reports, having never spoken one word about them in a public way, and only mentioned them to a few personal friends, and then speaking only of reports that I had heard, also that I had read the letters said to have been written by Mr. Stratton.

2d. Mr. Stratton and myself have been personal friends for years, and there has never been one word exchanged between us to break or mar our friendship.

3d. I believe that there is not a person outside of his relations whose heart would be filled with greater joy than my own, could I find ample proof of his innocence in regard to these damaging reports.

4th. In this unpleasant work which we have done I have acted with an impartial principle of justice to all.

N. E. JENKINS.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

Your Committee went to Youngstown, Ohio, to investigate and satisfy themselves in reference to certain letters that are in our hands, believed to have been written by L. N. Stratton, and directed to Mrs. Anna Stephenson, Youngstown, Mahoning County, Ohio. These letters were taken from the office by a widow lady by the name of Stephenson. We saw her and showed her the letters, and she identified them as the same which she gave to Mr. Kinney, a large, fleshy man. She thought another man was with him, but did not remember him so distinctly as she did the fleshy one. These letters were given to her by the postmaster. She opened them, and seeing they were not designed for her returned with them to the post-office. The postmaster would not take them, saying he knew of no other person who got their mail there who could claim them. Two of these letters are signed "Jennie," one is signed "Jane." One is dated, Syracuse, N. Y., March 7, 1881. The others gives no place, simply the date; one is May 28, 1881, the other, June 8, 1881. The post-mark on the wrappers are as follows: Syracuse, Mch. 7, 7 P. M., N. Y., and, Utica, June 8, 1881." We have but two wrappers. We have two envelopes with printed address, which this lady who received and opened these letters affirms were in them, which are marked as follows:

L. N. Stratton,

American Wesleyan Office,  
Syracuse, N. Y.

(Personal)

This lady, after receiving these letters, showed them to her attorney, and asked what she should do with them, saying that she had returned them to the post-office and the postmaster would not take them. He told her to keep them.

The way they came into the hands of D. S. Kinney and A. W. Hall was as follows: A man by the name of Hunter, who resided in Syracuse, not over fifteen or twenty rods from where L. N. Stratton lived, was engaged in the book business, and was selling a recipe book in Youngstown, and

employed this Mrs. Stephenson to act as his agent. She, learning that he was from Syracuse, inquired of him if he knew a man by the name of Stratton living in Syracuse. He told her he did. She said she had some letters in her possession which she supposed were written by him. She got these letters and showed them to him. (The Chairman of this Committee personally interviewed the lady at Youngstown, Ohio, who received the letters, as also Mr. Hunter, of Syracuse, and they both told in substance the same story.) Mr. Hunter told E. W. Bruce about this, and they wrote to Youngstown and ascertained that this lady was still there, and Kinney and Hall went to Youngstown and secured the letters. Kinney at once suspected the person for whom these letters were designed to be a Mrs. Stoddard, a daughter of the Rev. Mr. Lamb. Hall took an attorney with him and proceeded at once to the residence of Mrs. Stoddard, when the interview took place as given in the sworn statement of Disney Rogers:

The State of Ohio, }  
Mahoning County, ss. }

Before me, the undersigned authority, personally came Disney Rogers, who, being duly sworn upon oath, says that in the winter of 1888-9, probably in the month of February, as nearly as I now recollect, I was called upon at my office by Revs. A. W. Hall and D. S. Kinney, who stated to me they were members and ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and desired to procure information with reference to a correspondence between L. N. Stratton, who was then President of Wheaton Theological Seminary, an institution under the auspices of their religious denomination, and a lady residing in Youngstown, whom they believed to be Mrs. Anna Stoddard, the daughter of a man who, in his life-time, had been a minister of their denomination, and whose name was Lamb; that after consultation with these gentlemen, and after having seen certain letters, said to be letters written by Rev. L. N. Stratton, intended for Mrs. Stoddard, in company with said A. W. Hall I went to the residence of Mrs. Anna Stoddard and introduced Mr. Hall to her there, and was present at an interview between Rev. A. W. Hall and Mrs. Stoddard, and heard all of said interview. That in said interview Mr. Hall said in substance that he was acquainted with Rev. L. N. Stratton, who he understood was a friend of Mrs. Stoddard, and asked her if she knew him. Mrs. Stoddard replied that she did. Mr. Hall stated that he desired to have some conversation with her with reference to Mr. Stratton having had a correspondence by letters with her. Mrs. Stoddard replied: "A correspondence with me! I am surprised. I am puzzled. I don't know what you mean." Mr. Hall replied: "I think you understand very well what I mean. There are letters in existence which show to my mind conclusively that there has been such correspondence." Mrs. Stoddard said: "My letters?" Mr. Hall replied: "I refer more particularly to letters in the handwriting of Mr. Stratton. I have seen these letters and they are in the handwriting of Mr. Stratton." Mrs. Stoddard replied in substance: "I don't understand this. If Mr. Stratton ever wrote any letters to me they have all been destroyed long since, and if you have any letters addressed to me that Mr. Stratton has written I have never seen them." At this point I remember some one about the house called Mrs. Stoddard; and she retired from the room in which we were for a few moments, and again returned and the conversation was resumed. As I remember Mrs. Stoddard resumed the conversation by saying to Mr. Hall: "Are you a friend of Mr. Stratton?" Mr. Hall replied: "I have been, and am not unfriendly to him now. I know his wife and his family." He (Hall) said that he was especially interested in Mr. Stratton's boys; that he did not desire to do anything to disgrace the family of Mr. Stratton; that he desired to act judiciously, and wanted to see right prevail, and did not desire to give unnecessary publicity to the position that Mr. Stratton occupied, for the sake of the school and the denomina-

tion ; that he especially desired that there should be no newspaper scandal over Mr. Stratton's position, if it could be avoided, and that he wished that Mrs. Stoddard, knowing whatever she did know, would through him send whatever message she desired to Mr. Stratton ; that he expected to see Mr. Stratton within the next thirty-six hours ; that Mr. Stratton would have an opportunity to see these letters, and desired from Mrs. Stoddard any message that she might intrust him with he would deliver to Mr. Stratton. Mrs. Stoddard said : " Can I trust you ? " Mr. Hall replied : " You can trust me to truthfully carry to Mr. Stratton any message you may send by me, and I would be very glad to have you allow me to say to him what advice you would give him under the circumstances. He is in a position where he is training young men for the ministry, where other young people are under his care as students." Mrs. Stoddard replied : " I will say this : My advice to Mr. Stratton is to have no scandal over this matter if it can be avoided, and rather than have a scandal to step down and out. If he wrote these letters which you say you have in your possession it is the best thing he can do."

That is the substance of the interview, and as we were about to depart Mrs. Stoddard said to Mr. Hall : " I would be pleased to have you take tea with me, if you can, and I will talk this matter over further with you. Perhaps I will tell you some other things with reference to the matter." Mr. Hall said he could not accept her invitation ; that he was obliged to take a train that evening and go to Chicago. And I returned to my office. In the course of the interview I remember that Mr. Hall stated that there was evidence which satisfied his mind that there was an arrangement, through correspondence, by which Rev. Stratton and Mrs. Stoddard were to meet at a Conference, or some denominational meeting, in the neighborhood of Zion's Church ; that it was arranged in this way, that they were to meet at Zion's Church. Mrs. Stoddard replied, there was a meeting ; they had met at Zion's Church. She freely acknowledged that, and in addition they had ridden in the same conveyance, one belonging to her brother-in-law, Mr. Westlake. In addition to that Mr. Hall stated there was evidence also of an arrangement for another meeting, which he believed was with her. The arrangement, in substance, was this : That Mr. Stratton would be at the meeting there ; and during the course of the conversation Mr. Hall remarked, stating this in substance, to Mrs. Stoddard : That there was evidence in existence which satisfied his mind that Rev. Stratton had made an arrangement to meet a lady who he believed was Mrs. Stoddard, at some meeting of his denomination, either at Meadville or at Erie, Pa. ; that the arrangement was that if Mrs. Stoddard could meet Mr. Stratton she was to send him a telegram, saying : " Will send package." If she could not meet him there she was to send a telegram, " Will not send package ; " that said telegram was received by another person who had business relations with the denomination, and, supposing it to be upon business, although it was addressed to Mr. Stratton, it had been opened by the person receiving it, in Mr. Stratton's absence, and not understanding the subject turned it over to Mr. Stratton, and explained the circumstances under which it had been received. That Mr. Hall said : " Was the package sent ? " Mrs. Stoddard smiled, and said : " Did it go on two legs ? " Mr. Hall said : " You know." She made no reply. I remember in the course of the conversation, further, that Mr. Hall asked Mrs. Stoddard if she knew Mrs. Stratton. Mrs. Stoddard replied : " I know this much about Mrs. Stratton. His wife is not congenial. Mr. Stratton is a very smart man, and a very intellectual man, and Mrs. Stratton is not a woman who sympathizes with him. She is of a strong and coarse nature, and people have often wondered how in the world such a man as Mr. Stratton ever came to marry her."

I have not thought of this matter for a long time, and there may have

been, and probably was, much more conversation. The interview lasted an hour and a half, or two hours, and I do not pretend to give anything except the substance, as before stated, and there may have been other topics discussed which I do not now recollect.

After Mr. Hall had left the city on the next day, Mrs. Stoddard came to my office and asked me if Mr. Hall had really gone to Chicago; said that she went up to the depot and she didn't notice him getting on the train; that she had a mind to go to Chicago herself, but after thinking the matter over concluded that she would not. She inquired of me if I knew whether or not Mr. Hall had, while at her house, procured one of her photographs. She said that she thought she missed one, but was not sure. She said she hoped there would be no newspaper scandal over this matter. What if Mrs. Stratton should commence suit for divorce! Wouldn't my picture with Mr. Stratton's look nice in a Chicago paper as the woman in the case? I told her I didn't believe Mr. Hall had procured any photograph of hers while there; if he had I didn't know it. She said: "I am very sorry that you and Mr. Hall came to see me about this matter. I was a good deal excited over the matter yesterday. I hope there will be no scandal about this matter, but if there is a lawsuit growing out of it Mr. Stratton and everybody else can understand if I am compelled to be a witness that I won't stain my soul with perjury." She said in that same interview that she had been to the Methodist Church that evening, and all the while during the evening this thought of the Scripture was in her mind: "Be sure your sin will find you out." I will say in substance that on several different occasions Mrs. Stoddard came to see me with reference to the matter, but in all such conversations she said in substance that not having seen these letters herself, and only knowing what had been stated to her, that she would neither affirm or deny with reference to them.

DISNEY ROGERS.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence by said Disney Rogers, this 26th day of June, A. D. 1891.

B. O. EDDY,

Notary Public.

The following statement of B. O. Eddy, Esq., is also given as evidence:  
The State of Ohio, }  
Mahoning County, ss. }

Before me personally appeared B. O. Eddy, an attorney-at-law, of Youngstown, Ohio, who being duly sworn on oath says as follows: That the letter dated "Syracuse, N. Y., March 7th, 1881," and marked "Exhibit A, June 26th, 1891;" also the one dated, "May 28th, 1881," and marked "Exhibit B, June 26th, 1891;" also one dated, "June 8th, 1881," and marked "Exhibit C, June 26th, 1891;" also the one without date, marked "Exhibit D, June 26th, 1891;" also envelope post marked, "Syracuse, N. Y., March 7th, 7 P. M.," and, "Youngstown, March 9th, 10 A. M.," directed to "Anna Stephenson, Youngsville, Mahoning Co., O.," and marked "Exhibit E, June 26th, 1891;" and also envelope directed to "Mrs. Anna Stephenson, Youngstown, Mahoning Co., O.," post marked, "Utica, N. Y., June 8th, 1881," and, "Youngstown, O., June 10th, 8 A. M.," and marked "Exhibit F, June 26th, 1891;" also two addressed envelopes, as follows, "L. N. Stratton, American Wesleyan Office, Syracuse, N. Y., (Personal)" each marked, "Exhibit G, June 26th, 1891." I saw in the hands of a lady in this town, who informed affiant that she had taken said letters from the post-office. That on her returning them one of the officials in the post-office told her that she was the only person by that name in town, and to keep them unless some one called for them; that the lady then asked affiant what she had better do with them; that affiant told the lady it did not make much difference, as they were then so old the rightful owner would never be found. She then put the letters in a cupboard that was in the room, and affiant saw nothing more of said papers

until the Rev. A. W. Hall and D. S. Kinney, in company with Disney Rogers, Esq., came to office of affiant sometime in the winter of 1888-1889, and about two months thereafter, and one of the gentleman, and am not positive now which one it was, produced said papers heretofore referred to, and asked affiant if he ever saw said papers before, and affiant told them he had, and told the gentlemen when and where.

Affiant is positive as to all of the papers in writing being the same he first saw, as he examined them very closely at the time, for the purpose of recognizing the handwriting, which affiant failed to do, the writing being in a strange hand to him. Affiant says he is not acquainted with L. N. Stratton, and never saw him write. As to the two addressed envelopes referred to affiant could not positively identify them as being the identical ones he first saw, but that there was in each of the envelopes referred to an addressed envelope, exactly similar to the ones referred to. Affiant further says that he has not seen said papers from that time until to-day, but is positive they are the same ones he first saw in the hands of the lady, and, second, were shown to him in his office at the time referred. And further affiant saith not.

B. O. EDDY.

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence this 26th day of June, A. D 1891.

E. M. WILSON, Probate Judge.

By L. E. ALLEN, Deputy Clerk.

The following is the sworn statement of A. W. Hall covering his knowledge of the case :

The State of New York, }  
Onondaga County, ss. }

Before the undersigned authority personally came A. W. Hall, who being duly sworn upon oath says : That in the month of November, 1888, I was in the Wesleyan Methodist Publishing House, in the city of Syracuse, N. Y. While there a gentleman giving his name as A. S. Hunter came into the House, and said he desired to communicate to those in authority in the Church information regarding letters, which he thought to be written by Rev. L. N. Stratton, which letters indicated immorality on the part of their writer ; that he believed such letters to be in existence at that date, giving the written address of a lady in Youngstown, Ohio, who he believed had such letters in her possession.

I had no personal acquaintance or knowledge of said Hunter prior to said interview, and his statement was made in the presence of Revs. D. S. Kinney, N. Wardner, and myself. This statement was made the afternoon of the day I had perfected arrangements to leave the city of Syracuse on the evening train, going to the city of Pittsburgh, Pa., and had purchased my railroad ticket to that point by way of Cleveland and Youngstown, Ohio. Reaching Youngstown on the evening of the following day, in company with Rev. D. S. Kinney, we called upon the person whose address had been handed us by Mr. Hunter, and made inquiry if the representation made by Mr. Hunter was true. She replied that she had letters in her possession of an immoral nature, which had been delivered to her address by the postal authorities, bearing her surname, but were evidently intended for somebody else ; that there were return envelopes in some of these letters, having printed on them, "Rev. L. N. Stratton, American Wesleyan Office, Syracuse, N. Y., (Personal)," and that she had no knowledge of who the writer was, nor of the person for whom they were intended ; and that she had received the same through the mails and had taken them back to the postal authorities, explaining that they evidently were not for her, but the postal authorities declined to receive them, saying that if they were not for her they did not know for whom they were. She delivered into the hands of Rev. D. S. Kinney and myself four letters of the character indicated, receiving from us no remuneration or reward for the same. The contents of these letters were of such character as to indicate

criminal relations between the person writing and the person for whom they were intended. They bore the address of Mrs. Anna Stephenson, Youngstown, Mahoning Co., Ohio. The handwriting we verily believe to be that of Mr. Stratton, as we were each familiar with his handwriting, although the name signed to the letter was "Jennie," and in one case, "Jane." Our belief as to their authorship was further confirmed by the contents of the letters, in the making of appointments therein arranged, between the writer and the party addressed, in which reference was made to persons, places, occasions and dates, with which we were more or less familiar, and which we knew to correspond, in some instances, with Mr. Stratton's whereabouts.

In company with Rev. D. S. Kinney, in the month of February, 1889, I re-visited Youngstown, and in company with Disney Rogers, an attorney in that city, called upon a woman who was believed to be the person for whom the letters were intended, and bearing the name of Mrs. Anna Stoddard. As to the conversation that took place at that time I refer all interested to the deposition of said attorney (Rogers), all of which I corroborate and sustain, so far as related while in my presence.

From Youngstown I accompanied Mr. Kinney to Chicago, Illinois, where we met Mr. Stratton in the parlor of the Atlantic Hotel. Mr. Kinney and Mr. Stratton were alone in the parlor of the hotel when the matter was laid before Mr. Stratton by Mr. Kinney. After having been thus together for possibly an hour, I was called into the room, when Mr. Stratton began by informing me of what Mr. Kinney had told him, and most positively, with an appeal to Almighty God, denied any knowledge of the letters, or any person to whom they might be properly addressed. Up to this point a full revelation of the evidence substantiating his guilt of illicit relations with some person had not been laid before him, but were now revealed more fully in its details, whereupon he said: "What do you propose to do with me? to crush me and not give me a chance for my life?" The reply made by Mr. Kinney, and sustained by myself, was: "We are not seeking to crush you, but believe you to be guilty of those things; and have no desire to give this matter publicity, or in any way bring the Church and your family under its knowledge and reproach. We ask you to simply act in the principles of the Gospel you have been preaching. Under the circumstances we feel that we are only making a righteous demand in asking you to step down and out of the ministry uncredentiated, and repenting of your sins before God, and promise to live in the future a pure life." Mr. Stratton replied: "Brethren, you are more merciful to me than I thought. I confess I am guilty of illicit relations with this woman." And stretching forth his finger toward, if not upon, one of the open letters which Mr. Kinney held in his hand, and said: "I confess writing these letters, and signing my name 'Jennie.' But compassionately consider my circumstances. I am of a very social nature. My married life has not been the most harmonious and agreeable. You know my wife is of a cold and indifferent nature, and does not reciprocate my social disposition, and to sleep by her side for a period of years at a time without putting my hand upon her person, or receiving a single caress, was more than I could endure, and I went elsewhere to satisfy my social cravings. But I confess before you, brethren, and before God, that for the last two years I have been a pure man, and, God helping me, from this hour will I live a pure life." Mr. Stratton thereupon agreed to resign his professorship in Wheaton Theological Seminary, and to quietly withdraw from the ministry.

A. W. HALL.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public of Kent County, Michigan, this 27th day of October, 1891.

W. W. THOMAS, Notary Public,  
Kent County, Michigan.



We must believe that these letters were written by Mr. Stratton, and no one else. 1st. His penmanship is very marked, and any one acquainted with it would at once say that it was his. I will give two exact quotations, each from a different letter: "It did seem to me to be two months before your letter came. Can it be so short a time since we gave the parting salutation? It was precious to enjoy so much. I can never express it in language which can be syllabled into words. The humble places we occupied seemed to grow into the splendor of divans and bedchambers of eastern nobles and kings." "Oh dear, I wish you were with me to-day in this quiet octagonal, steam-heated office. You could visit and rest from your long journey on the couch while I write, and we would have a visit and go down to the Talbot or Burns for dinner, and have a little recreation to suit us."

These letters indicated a wicked and unlawful relation existing between the writer and the one addressed, and everything goes to show to every unbiased mind that they were written by L. N. Stratton, and no one else.

All of which is submitted to the Local Board.

N. E. JENKINS.

G. W. STORY.

The letters in question have not been presented, as they are too obscene to be read before a mixed congregation. They are preserved, however, in the hands of our Connectional Agent, and can be seen by any who may doubt the proof of their authenticity as herein set forth. The statement of A. W. Hall, as given in the report of the Committee, especially the parts referring to the finding of the letters and the confession of Mr. Stratton, was fully corroborated by Rev. D. S. Kinney before the Educational Board, at their annual session prior to his death.

Signed on behalf of the Educational Society.

SECRETARY.

# STATISTICS.

CONFERENCES.	Years Months	Time.	Appointments.	Churches.	Received.	Expelled.	Discontinued.	Died.	Removed.	Granted Letters.	Withdrawn.	Present Number.	Baptized.	Unstationed Elders.	Licentiates.	Wesleyans Taken.	Gospel Records Taken.	Children's Banners Taken.	Good Words Taken.	Early Seekers Taken.	Our Temperance Paper T'en.	Number of Sunday-schools.	Superintendents.	Teachers.	Scholars.	Number of Meeting-houses.	Value of.	Number of Parsonages.	Value of.	Pastors' Salaries.	Evangelists' Salaries.	Incidental Expenses.	Building and Repairs.	Sunday-schools.	Missions.	Superannuated Ministers.	Education.	Other Benevolent Objects.		
Indiana,.....	22	66	66	318	16	85	26	29	39	12	2,385	167	48	390	77	466	406	406	406	406	406	52	52	289	2,425	44	\$ 44,100	9	\$ 4,805	\$ 4,293.00	\$ 875.00	\$ 758.00	\$ 2,238.00	\$ 492.00	\$ 252.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 487.00		
Rochester,.....	18	49	36	60	12	12	18	14	14	15	1,006	38	12	234	38	364	364	364	364	364	364	31	36	154	2,425	44	48,900	12	9,400	4,931.63	306.62	635.13	1,304.21	388.52	189.49	42.99	110.20	22.60		
Syracuse,.....	11	22	12	63	5	5	5	5	5	5	553	35	5	134	11	144	144	144	144	144	144	15	15	97	663	11	7,050	3	2,900	3,146.81	143.70	328.31	2,040.27	188.44	54.89	17.70	38.60	23.30		
Miami,.....	13	19	19	44	3	3	3	3	3	3	904	42	4	65	12	170	170	170	170	170	170	10	10	73	702	13	14,990	12	400	2,009.73	178.96	669.99	1,296.40	177.30	123.31	10.97	.....	46.06		
Central Ohio,.....	8	17	17	44	3	3	3	3	3	3	782	45	6	76	12	170	170	170	170	170	170	10	10	52	463	13	10,000	5	3,300	1,445.00	98.86	309.97	186.00	223.91	137.39	171.07	.....	42.65		
Michigan,.....	34	88	72	155	3	55	26	71	71	16	1,752	71	30	246	8	780	765	216	216	216	216	50	60	285	2,358	41	45,100	19	12,850	8,398.37	822.03	707.05	1,845.70	750.53	327.61	59.12	40.00	347.65		
Champlain,.....	16	74	30	108	3	21	14	31	26	26	1,295	92	10	228	18	193	193	193	193	193	193	43	45	190	1,914	27	33,800	15	10,500	8,079.20	268.11	438.75	951.29	413.71	133.03	19.00	34.24	140.11		
Iowa,.....	16	45	35	234	3	21	8	40	40	40	1,063	68	15	276	48	346	346	346	346	346	346	27	26	114	952	23	21,000	10	4,300	1,064.09	719.63	389.78	46.21	328.83	250.52	46.21	87.00	282.85		
Kansas,.....	9	20	18	53	5	5	3	31	31	23	393	11	12	98	14	90	90	90	90	90	90	14	14	64	534	7	9,700	5	1,850	1,956.98	202.23	229.54	1,533.00	176.29	118.21	27.17	71.00	187.59		
Lockport,.....	18	35	34	70	170	12	8	23	23	23	836	53	25	263	56	389	438	137	137	137	137	31	37	147	1,026	22	31,550	5	3,500	4,466.34	392.36	707.09	2,789.26	325.52	194.49	29.24	50.29	420.50		
Allegheny,.....	11	29	25	26	43	10	24	24	24	24	853	19	15	104	24	107	97	97	97	97	22	23	101	815	28	31,500	5	2,250	2,398.40	332.02	263.32	463.30	195.19	167.37	40.19	107.55	138.01			
Wisconsin,.....	7	22	15	32	6	6	4	14	14	14	317	22	8	80	...	92	77	50	50	50	50	10	11	41	262	9	7,000	2	800	1,345.82	152.44	55.50	47.50	116.76	18.82	11.67	14.54	44.55		
Illinois,.....	10	13	13	35	6	10	24	24	24	24	536	22	4	110	16	189	189	189	189	189	189	13	13	70	697	12	20,400	7	4,550	3,600.00	86.00	332.00	498.00	382.00	58.00	5.00	37.00	134.00		
Dakota,.....	11	33	18	59	33	2	21	21	21	21	337	33	3	110	16	189	189	189	189	189	189	17	17	54	460	5	4,900	2	450	1,600.40	245.15	76.75	858.00	97.52	102.83	.....	13.75	39.00		
Nebraska,.....	3	4	6	5	2	1	12	12	12	12	105	...	...	22	1	30	20	20	20	20	20	4	3	12	102	...	...	...	...	233.13	217.00	8.00	.....	7.50	2.36	.....	.....	.....		
Minnesota,.....	6	10	9	50	19	2	12	12	12	12	200	...	...	28	1	19	74	11	50	50	50	8	9	42	302	9	2,750	1	600	600.00	50.00	50.00	600.00	100.00	15.00	2.00	150.00	.....		
New York,.....	7	10	9	50	19	2	12	12	12	12	249	28	1	172	19	415	415	415	415	415	415	39	40	155	1,278	10	6,850	10	4,350	1,155.95	80.00	374.48	222.42	64.55	44.62	19.50	42.00	11.00		
North Michigan,.....	22	11	86	56	113	21	69	9	33	33	781	64	26	172	19	415	415	415	415	415	415	39	40	155	1,278	10	6,850	10	4,350	3,819.05	307.53	203.28	217.80	203.82	126.61	17.36	116.22	66.19		
Pacific,.....	3	10	3	13	4	...	...	...	...	...	109	10	1	38	5	30	30	30	30	30	30	1	1	5	35	1	950	...	...	504.80	...	27.00	...	30.00	...	...	...	...	...	
Tennessee,.....	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	500	...	...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5	20	240	7	300	...	...	100.00	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
South Kansas,.....	2	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Summary,.....	241	652	491	884	42	450	180	38	399	38	15,106	840	50	241	2,700	368	3,915	3,884	903	903	417	415	1,965	16,676	306	\$342,840	114	\$67,905	\$55,148.70	\$5,477.64	\$6,583.94	\$17,137.36	\$4,632.39	\$2,306.55	\$ 744.19	\$1,087.39	\$2,432.96			

NOTE.—This report is *very* incomplete. As evidence we note the following: In the item of missions only \$2,306.55 is here reported, when in the Connectional Agent's report \$4,470.54 is reported, which is wholly in excess of the footings here. Again, in the item of Wesleyan Methodists taken, 2,700 is the footing here, when 4,250 is the full list of subscribers. One Conference is not reported at all, and reports from others are very meager.—SECRETARIES.

E. E. CURTIS,  
W. PINCKNEY,  
L. W. MILLS. } *Com.*