

The
Eighteenth Annual Session
Of the
Syracuse Conference
Of the
Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America.

Met at Blodgetts Mills N. Y. on the 30^{reth} [sic] of March. A. D. 1870.

The President, Rev. E Gaylord, called the house to order, and Rev. N. Frink was requested to open the session with prayer.

A Committe [sic] on Religious Services was appointed consisting of Rev R. Osborn. Brethren Lewis & Brown.

The four front seats were fixed as the bar of Conf.

Two ministers and two laymen were appointed a committee on Itinerancy and Orders. consisting of a A. Kelsey, G. M. Hardy, N. Smith and C Merrick – L. N. Stratton was added.

A session was fixed at half past one today.

[2]

Tomorrow morning at the opening of the session it was decided to elect officers.

Forenoon sessions were fixed to open at 8.30 and adjourned at 11.45.

D. W. Barton and N. Smith were appointed a committe [sic] on Statistics.

L. N. Stratton, A. S. Wightman, G. M. Hardy, Montgomery Merrick and W. H. Farrar were appointed a com on Presidency.

A. S. Wightman and C. Merrick were appointed a com on Book Concern.

Conf. Adjourned.

Afternoon Session, March 30.

Rev. G. M. Hardy conducted the religious services.

Rev. E. Gaylord and L. N. Stratton were appointed a Com. to prepare and publish an obituary of Rev. L. H. Collins.

Rev G. M. Hardy and L N Stratton were appointed to ~~prepep~~ assign persons to prepare certain reports essays and speeches for next year.

Friday Afternoon was fixed as the time for the detail of ministerial ~~cha~~ experience and the passage of character.

The com. on Itinerancy & Orders. were permitted to retire.

After prayer by Bro Owen

Conf. Adjourned.

[3]

Morning Session.
(Thurs Mar 31.)

Rev. T. H. Kenaston of the Champlain conference opened the session with religious services.

The Roll called and minutes approved. The order of the day being the election of officers that business was taken up.

Rev. M. Frink was elected President.

Rev L. N. Stratton was elected Secretary.

Tomorrow at the opening of the afternoon session was fixed for taking up a collection for the purchase of a ~~secretary~~ New Book of Records.

A committee on Pastoral Relations was appointed, consisting of consisting of [sic] brethren Hardy, Burgess, Gaylord, Willet, Hanor and Merrick.

A Com. on Sab. Schools was appointed consisting of Brethren Hardy and Gaylord.

A Com. on Reforms was appointed consisting of Rev. A. S. Wightman.

The com. on Itinerancy and Orders reported in favor of the reception of R. A. Ward to the travelling connection, as a licentiate to be employed under its direction.

Rev R Osborn read an essay on "Personal Examination." Ordered printed.

Rev D. W. Barton lead [sic] in the discussion of "The Work of the Laity."

Rev S. Cook spoke upon the question of "What is Faith."

Rev. G. M. Hardy read an essay upon "Our Church Literature. [sic] Ordered printed.

The Conference adjourned until 1.30 this Afternoon.

[4]

Afternoon Session.
(Thurs Mar 31)

Conference was opened with Religious services.

The Roll was called and minutes approved.

The place for holding the next Syracuse Annual Conference was taken up.

Boylston, Syracuse Fyler Settlement & Prattville were mentioned by ministers and delegates. Prattville was chosen with the provision that the Syracuse and Northern R. R. is completed in time. And Fyler Settlement was chosen in case it is not. The last Wed. in March was chosen as the time.

A list of Resolutions upon "the education of our ministry" was presented, and adopted.

Rev. J. Nason received "a traveling letter for one year and a superannuated relation.

Rev. N. Fessenden received a letter of standing for one year. To travel and preach.

[5]

Rev. J. P. Pierce opened conference with religious services. The Roll was called and minutes read and approved.

The name of members on the Unstationed and Superannuated lists were called for the passage of character and the fixing of relations.

Objections being made to the passage of Rev. E. Halsey's character a commission of [insert: examination and] trial was appointed consisting of Rev. E. Gaylord Chairman, Matthew Pressler J. M. Wait, Wm. Tubbs, J. L. Bortels and another layman to be added by the ~~secretary~~ L. N. Stratton.

N Bacon was placed on the Superannuated list. Also C. F. Barnett and T. Sims.

Resolutions on secret societies were presented by L. N. Stratton, discussed and adopted.

Conference stood, adjourned by limitation.

Afternoon Session.

(Friday Apr 1)

Rev H Lounsbury led the opening services.

The Collection for Secretaries [sic] book postponed.

The detail of ministerial labor and character was proceeded with.

R Benton and ~~M. Pressler~~ [insert: D. Prosser] were put on the Reserve List.

Rev. A Kelsey was placed on Superannuated List.

Rev. E. B. Mints left without appointment at his own request.

Rev. A. S. Wightman was granted a letter of standing in the conference.

A collection for secretary book taken amounting to \$5.87.

Conf. Adjourned.

[6]

Morning Session

Sat. Apr. 2

Rev. R. A. Ward opened with religious services. Roll called and minutes read and approved. A collection additional was taken up for the Conf. Record Book amounting to \$2.49. making a total of in both collections of \$8.36.

Rev. G. M. Hardy was chosen as conference missionary and evangelist.

Roll called and examination of ministerial character was continued.

Rev. P. Jones was put on the unstationed list.

Rev. A. Crooks presented a report from Rev. J. T. Peck D. D. asking for a delegation of Wesleyans to attend the contemplated Methodist convention, in inaugurate [sic] a new political party.

Rev. ~~S.~~ L. N. Stratton was appointed as a delegate for the year and Rev. E. Gaylord as his alternate.

E. F. Willett Esq. of Cortland was appointed a [insert: lay] delegate and S. T. Fyler Esq alternate.

Conf. Adjourned

Afternoon Session.

Sat. Apr. 2

Rev. A Ferris opened Conf with religious services.

The Committee on Statistics reported. Report adopted.

Rev. A. Crooks Reported as Agent of W. M. publishing interests. Viz. Last Ballance [sic] struck by C. Prindle Agent at General Conf. (at Adrian) was. \$1.9.00 [sic] At Book Com. meeting when he resigned "\$1.300 worse than nothing"

First Ballance [sic] struck by A. Crooks \$228.

Present Ballance [sic] " " " \$70.75

A vote of thanks was tendered Bro Crooks for efficient services.

A Com. on Reservation property consisting of [insert: A Crooks] M. Merrick. A. E. Kinnie

Rep. on Pastoral Relations adopted.

Minutes read up, adopted and Conf. Adjourned. Prayer by Bro. Crooks.

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[Note: the following reports were pasted into the pages of the journal.]

ON PASTORAL RELATIONS.

Blodgetts Mills, M. Frink.

Syracuse, not yet supplied.

Groton and Lock, L. F. Bingham.

Prattville and Texas, L. N. Stratton.

Central Square, S. Cook.

Windsor, S. Burgess.

Taylor, J. Barnum.

Tioga, H. Lounsbury.

Apalachin and North Branch, supplied by Evangelist and D. W. Barton.

Florence and Amboy, to be supplied.

Albion and Pine Meadows, J. M. Wait.

Harford and Virgil, G. W. Gillen and J. P. Pierce.

Hinmanville and Lamsons, to be supplied.

Ithica, T. N. Allen.

Candor and Spencer, to be supplied.

Boylston, E. Gaylord.

Fyler Settlement, to be supplied.

Onondaga Reservation, C. McClary.

Herrick, H. Lounsbury.

Missionary and Evangelist, G. M. Hardy.

Reserve List, M. Presler, A. Fassett, C. P. Owen, R. Benton, S. D. Prosser, B. Osborn, J. [sic] Eastham.

Superannuated List, J. Nason, N. Bacon, C. F. Barnett, A. Kelsey, T. Sims, M. B. Porter.

Unstationed List, E. Halsey, J. [sic] Sprague.

Without appointment at their own request, E. B. Mints, N. Fessenden.

Licentiate, R. M. Ward – in hands of President. [Note: initial crossed out over printing.]

THEMES FOR ESSAY AND ADDRESS.

Pastoral Theology, L. N. Stratton.
Missions, E. Gaylord.
Reforms, M. Frink.
Christian Oratory, J. Nason.
Inspiration of the Scriptures, H. Lounsbury.
Relation of Pastor and People, S. Burgess.
Regeneration, C. P. Owen.
Truth, D. W. Barton. [insert, in pencil: unreadable]
Self-denial, L. F. Bingham. [insert, in pencil: presented]
The Sabbath, J. Barnum.
Safety of the Righteous, N. Fassenden. [sic]
Sanctification, C. McClary. [insert, in pencil: absent]
Redemption, E. B. Mints. [insert, in pencil: absent]
Sabbath-schools, G. M. Hardy
Resurrection, R. Osborn.
Growth in Grace, R. A. Ward.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

The following resolutions introduced a variety of speeches engaged in by brethren Crooks, Kenaston, Frink, Willet and Stratton. The discussions however were all on one side, but illustrating many phases of the works of darkness.

Resolved, 1. That this body re-affirm its unqualified opposition to Secret Societies.

Resolved, 2. That we rejoice in the awakening interest on this question which seems to whisper in the air and breathe through the ranks of the moral army.

Resolved, 3. That we are highly gratified with the positions, purposes and prospects of the National Christian Association opposed to Secret Societies.

Resolved, 4. That the *Christian Synosure*, [sic] the paper printed in Chicago, in the interests of the above named Association at the exceeding low price of \$1 per annum, receives our unqualified [sic] approval.

Resolved, 5. That we will do what we are able in advancing the interests of the *Christian Cynosure*, and other publications of the Association printed or sold at 88 La Salle Street, Chicago, Ill.

Another paper passed afterward recommending that the *Christian Cynosure* be entirely unsectarian and unpolitical, except only as sectarianism and politics be connected with Secret Societies. It will be forward to the *Cynosure*.

[Note: Handwriting, "Over"]

[8]

AGENT'S REPORT.

It was a source of pleasure to us calling for our gratitude to God, to learn from our Connectional Agent.

1st. That there are more books now on the shelves of the Wesleyan Office than for many years before.

2nd. That the retiring Agent stated to the Book Committee that the WESLEYAN was \$1300 in arrears. When our present agent struck his first balance on the books, the account stood \$228 in our favor, and that now the balance stands in our favor by over \$7,000 in bank, and including missionary money in treasury yet unexpended; the amount of cash in bank is between nine and ten thousand dollars, besides \$20,000 assets [sic] belonging to our printing business.

3d. That the present is a better paying list of subscribers to the WESLEYAN than since he became Agent, and that the CHILDREN'S BANNER has a paying winter issue of near 5,000 copies, and over 10,000 copies during the summer season.

Conference passed the following resolution.

Resolved. That we feel grateful to Rev. A. Crooks for the able and efficient manner in which he, under God, has managed our Connectional finances and publications. May that God in whom we put our trust still be the guide and supporter of our editor and agent."

Rev. T. H. Kenaston, an honorable member of the Champlain Conference, paid our annual gathering a visit, which was indeed very pleasant to us.

THE MISSIONARY MEETING resulted in securing pledges to the amount of somewhere near \$100. The charges generally were not pledged for, as they might feel limited to the pledges made. The year just closed secured missionary money reported \$119, and collected in Conference beside, and paid to our Conference missionary on missionary fields \$278, or a total of \$397. But several stations and circuits were not reported as having paid any missionary money at all. As Syracuse, Groton, and Lock, Albion and Pine Meadows, Tioga, Hinmanville and Lamsons, which last year raised in the aggregate near \$250 are through some mistake not reported as having raised anything this year for missions. If all had reported this year the figures would stand at not far from \$800. The Church in Syracuse alone raised some \$400 for the important mission of building and sustaining a "Home Association," for the friendless and destitute of the city, and should have due credit for the part paid this year. The brethren one evening after service, raised fifty or fifty-five dollars for a sick ministerial brother whose cow was about to be taken away from him. His diligent and successful work for the Master, his advanced age and long continued sickness were reasons for the action. It was Rev. L. F. Bingham.

ABSENTEES.

Numerous absentees gave the long list of names to be daily called with no one to answer to them. It had a bad look. Ministers present through self-denial felt it. Delegates present often inquired why it was necessary for them to come if ministers remained at home. And gentlemanly spectators, often met us with the inquiry, "What does it mean?"

THE NEXT CONFERENCE.

Several places asked for the Conference next year through pastors and delegates. Each one however, requesting as a part of the stipulation that members should arrange to remain over Sabbath.

Prattville was selected as the seat of the next Conference. Passengers landing at the Union Square depot where they will be met by conveyances.

If the contemplated Syracuse and Northern R. R. is not completed, Conference will be held at Fyler's Settlement Church. The time fixed is the last Wednesday of March.

The various committees will forward the reports for publication not placed in the hands of the Secretary.

L. N. Stratton.