

The Fourteenth
Annual Session of The
Syracuse.
Wesleyan Methodist
Conference.

Met at Prattville Oswego Co. New York, April the 5th, 1866, at 9 oclock in the morning. The morning session was opened by prayer engaged in by Rev's E. Gaylord, L. C. Matlack and Cyrus Prindle.

The roll was called by secretary Burgess. And the names of laymen on their credentials were added to the list as follows, B. D. Davis, C. W. McClary, E. J. Evans, M. Merrick.

A request from E. M. High asking for a certificate of standing was read and referred to a special committee consisting of A. P. Burgess, Jno. Gregory, and M. Merrick. Which committee was directed to report to this body.

The following Committees were appointed On Pastoral Relations. Rev. E. Gaylord Rev. D. Malpass, Rev H Benton, B. D. Davis, M. Merrick, and E. J. Evans.

[Note: The person writing the Minutes for this year, 1866, added no page numbers. So, for the sake of clarity, the transcriber will add them in brackets.]

[2]

On Centinary [sic] – C. Prindle J M Wait.

On Missions J. Gregory, J. T. Hewitt L. M. Stratton.

It was ordered that the sessions open at 8 ½ oclock in the morning, and close at 11 ½ A.M.

The examination of ministerial character was taken up, and [insert: it was arranged] that at some future time during the session ~~that~~ their experiences of the past year.

The relation of Rev. C. Prindle was by vote referred to the Com. on Pas Relations.

Rev. A. Kelsey's request was referred to the Com. on Pastoral Relations.

Rev. J. Palmer, received at his own request a transfer to the Iowa Conference.

Rev. S. Nelson received at his request a transfer to the from this body.

Rev. N. Fessenden. Presented a request for a travelling letter. Pending a motion to grant his request, remarks were made by sevrал [sic], and a committee was finaly [sic] ~~appointed~~ nominated for appointment, pending which conference adjourned, with Doxology and Benediction by Rev. C. P. Owen.

Afternoon Session

Conference was opened at half past two oclock [sic] with a prayer meeting in which many participated.

[3]

The Amendment offered by Bro. Prindle to apoint [sic] a com. in Bro. Fessendens [sic] case was taken up, adopeted [sic], and the com appointed, consisting of H Lounsbury, N. Merrick. And D. W. Barton.

Rev. J. Lott was returned to the unstationed list.

The unstationed list was taken up, and names called.

Rev. J. D. Townsend was reported removed to Lockport Conf. A transfer was forwarded him. Rev. J. Nason was placed on the Stationed List. Rev. N. B. Porter by action of conference was referred to the Pres. and secretary, who were directed to confer with this Bro. and ask him to return his credentials to this body as his employment docs not comport with the dignity of the Christian ministry.

Rev. L. L. Gaskil [sic], On motion it was voted that the same procedure be taken with this brother, as with bro Porter.

Conference then voted to proceed to choose officers for the ensuing Conf. Year, and L. N. Stratton and A. P. Burgess were appointed tellers.

The result of the 1st ballot was 24 votes cast. Of which Rev. C. Prindle Recd 12. J. T Hewitt. 6. D. Malpas 3. E. Gaylord 3. Bro. Prindle was declared elected.

For Sec. J. Gregory rec'd 2 votes. E Gaylord 1. H. Lounsbury 1. L. N. Stratton 20.

The following resolution was offered by Rev. J. Gregory in favor of the retiring Sec.

[4]

Resolved that the grateful thanks of this Conference are hereby ~~eh~~ tendered to our retiring Secretary Rev. A. P. Burgess, for his faithful, long continued and efficient labors, as an officers [sic] of this body.

Rev. Cyrus Prindle D. D. offered a paper upon the importance and claims of the Cincinnati Convention of Non. Episcopal Meth., and asked the appointment of delegates. The paper was lain upon the table until tomorrow morning.

Rev. C. Prindle then offered the report on Sab. Schools, which was accepted and adopted.

The committee on Meth Centinary [sic] then ~~repeper~~ reported through the Chairman Rev. C. Prindle. Report adopted.

Rev. A. P. Burgess, then reported upon Education. Report adopted.

On motion Conference adjourned.

Morning Session. 2nd Day.
Apr 6.

Conference was opened with religious services by E. Gaylord.
The roll was called and corrected, and the minutes were read and approved.
A Com. on Statistics was appointed consisting of Revs. J. Gregory and L. F. Bingham.
Bro. Prindle reported the state of the Book Concern. And the report upon that question was presented by the Com and adopted.

[5]

The paper upon the appointment of delegates to the Cincinnati Convention was taken up and discussed by Brethren Prindle, Burgess, Gaylord, Barton, Bingham, Stratton, Hewitt, Gregory, Merrick and Filer. Pending which the house adjourned.

Afternoon Session.

2nd Day.

Conference was opened by a prayer meeting, after which the roll was called and minutes approved. The pending question was then taken up; and further discussed, by Brother Owen and Fyler, and the question then being called for was put, and lost by a majority of two.

The report upon the State of the Country was presented by Rev. E. Gaylord, which was adopted.

The motion to send delegates to the Cincinnati Convention was reconsidered to give other brethren a chance to vote, and the motion was agreed to by a majority of one.

A letter of standing was asked, and granted to bro. Hewitt.

A Com. on Presidency was appointed consisting of Rev. L N Stratton. Rev E. Gaylord, Rev. L. F. Bingham, S. T. Filer and M Merrick.

Blodgetts Mills was fixed as the place and the first Thurs. of April 1867 as the time for the next annual session.

A preamble and resolutions were presented by Rev. J. Gregory, respecting the

[6]

as supposed misuse of Bro Prindle at the hands of "certain persons." Paper tabled. Afterward it was taken up and referred [sic] to Bros. Burgess and Gregory for revision.

Rev. C. Prindle asked leave of absence which was granted, and Bro. E. Gaylord was chosen as temporary Chairman.

Revs. C. Prindle and L. N. Stratton, and Layman Merrick and Fyler were elected delegates to attend the Cincinnati Non Episcopal Convention.

A partial report was made in the case of Rev. A. S. Wightmore [sic] by the Com on Itinerancy and Orders. Pending which the house adjourned.

Benediction by the President.

Morning Session. 3d. Day.

Apr. 7.

The Conference was opened with religious services conducted by Rev. J. P. Pierce.

The roll was called, the minutes read & approved, after which the pending paper respecting the reception and adoption of Rev. A. S. Wightman upon his former ~~credentials~~ ordination was discussed and agreed to, and he was granted a letter of his good standing agreeable to and based upon his 5 letters of good standing received from Presiding Elders in the M. E. Church.

[7]

The Com. on Itinerancy and Orders, reported ~~that~~ they were not authorized to ordain Rev. Z. Tyler, and a committee consisting of Revs D. Malpas, J. Nason, and C. P. Owen were appointed to do so during the year if they upon examination deemed it advisable.

Rev. Seth Burgess was restored to his former place in the minutes and roll of the Conference.

Rev. J. Gregory presented the report on missions which ~~roll~~ was adopted.

M. Merrick, delegate from Syracuse presented a paper of instructions to the delegates of the Cin. Convention.

The committee on the case of Rev. E. M. High reported the recommendation [sic] of the following certificate.

Rev. E. M. High The bearer has for a [insert: long] time been connected with the Syracuse Am. Conf. of the W. M. Con. Of Am. For several [sic] years past he has however sustained but a nominal relation to the conf., and has not taken regular work.

So far as we know there is nothing against his moral character, and he is entitled to this certificate of his standing.

The Com. to whom was referred the paper prepared by Rev. J. Gregory upon the supposed injurious rumors against Bro. Prindle was presented and adopted.

Bro. Gaylord retired, and bro Gregory was called to the chairs.

The Committee, in Bro. Fessenden's case reported, ~~who~~ which was amended and adopted as follows

[8]

The Committee in Rev. N. Fessendens [sic] case find upon examination that he is in possession of some 40 acres of land and a good house and barn. Probable valuation [sic] \$1,800 or \$2,000. Received last year, including place \$250.

We recommend the appointment of Bro. N. Fessenden as a Home Missionary and that he be directed to report at our next annual session the exact amount of labor performed and moneys received, and how his moneys were disposed of. And the committee further recommends that ~~that~~ the missionary board appropriate a certain amount at their discretion for his support, And that this body give him a letter stating his relation to ~~this~~ it.

H. Lounsbury, D. W. Barton, M. Merrick. Com.

Brethren Gaylord Filer and Merrick were granted leave of absence. After some incidental items appointments &c the Conf. adjourned.

Afternoon Session. 3d Day.

Apr. 7.

Conference was opened with religious services – (L.N.S.) The Roll called and minutes read and approved.

The report on Pastoral Relations was presented, amended and adopted.
Com. for next year were appointed [sic] as follows.

[9]

State of Country	Rev. J. Gregory.
Reforms	Rev C. Prindle.
Education	L N Stratton.
Book Concern	Rev. E. Gaylord.
Sunday Schools	Rev. H. Lounsbury.
Missions	Rev. A. S. Wightman.

The report on Statistics was presented and adopted.

Rev. A. P Burgess, was appointed to deliver a lecture on Pastoral Theology, next year.

The Paper in Bro. Wightmans [sic] Case was taken up, and so amended as to insert into his letter of standing (given in place of parchments) allusions by name to the various letters of good standing he has received from Presiding Elders, Pastors, and Churches, during his suspension from active pastoral service in that denomination.

A Com. on Itinerancy and orders was appointed to meet at Blodgetts Mills next year previous to the Session of Conf. to examine any cases for Itinerancy or Orders, that may come before them. The com to consist of J. Gregory. D. Malpass, E. Gaylord, and the delegates at Syracuse and Blog. Mills.

The hour having arrived, the experiences of ministerial members was listened to.

Bro. Wightman was on the Reserved List.

Bro Bingham was excused from reporting upon Reforms.

After singing the Conf. was adjourned by Benediction.

L. N. Stratton Sec.

C. Prindle Pres.

[10-11]

[Note: The following report is split into two parts, due to space; also, headings "turned."]

Report on Statistics for the 14th Annual Session of Conference

	Members	Admitted	Removed or Died	Raised for Salary	Raised for pub worship	Raised for Mission	Raised for Sab. Sch.	Raised for Education
Syracuse.	138	33	10	\$570	\$760	\$300	\$150	\$25
Blodgetts Mills.	60	4	1	212	48	148	10	49
Groton & Lock.	34	1	4	286	5		5	
Chenango.	50							
Prattville.	50	8	1	\$500	150	50	3	
Central Sq. and Smiths Mills.	36		1	197	15			
Winsor.	60							
Taylor.	30		3	256	5	5	3	
Tioga.	6							
Apalachin.	38	3		155		2	40	
Vienna and Florence.	55		4	181				
Pittston	38	1	5	300	77	42	48	29
Geddes.	16	6		75	100	15	50	
Orwell Albion and Amboy.	40		2	81			2	
Virgil.	31		1	38				
Harford and Peruville.	37		2	85		35		25
Yatesville.	16	5		73	422		24	
State Road.	34			250				
Camden.	29							
Hinmanville and Lampsons.	17			119				
West Verona.	10							
Ithica Mission.	9			88				
Candor and Spencer	35	3		200				
Boylston and Ellisburg.	45							
Filers Settlement.	28	6		107		5		
Onondaga Mission.	89	40	2	388		8		
	865	110	36	4161	1582	610	325	140

	No. of Sab. Sch.	No of Teachers	Scholars No. of	No. of Pastoral Visits	Value of Ch. Property	Value Parsonages
Syracuse.	1	13	130	200	\$4,000	
Blodgetts Mills.	1	10	60		2,000	
Groton & Lock.	1	8	35	93	500	
Chenango.						
Prattville.	1	12	80		2,000	\$500
Central Sq. and Smiths Mills.	1	5	40		1200	
Winsor.						
Taylor.	1	5	23		1500	
Tioga.						
Apalachin.	2	13	67	130	2200	
Vienna and Florence.	2	6	45			
Pittston	1	9	67			
Geddes.	1	12	125			
Orwell Albion and Amboy.	1	8	45 125			
Virgil.	1	4	23			
Harford and Peruville.					600	
Yatesville.	1	9	30		1150	
State Road.	2					
Camden.						
Hinmanville and Lampsons.						
West Verona.						
Ithica Mission.						
Candor and Spencer	3	20	80		1500	
Boylston and Ellisburg.	1	5	25		1000	
Filers Settlement.	1	8	30		500	
Onondaga Mission.	1	10	48	123	2,400	
	23	147	913	546	20,000	\$500

[12]

Roll of Members.

Ministers.

E. Gaylord.

A. P. Burgess.

L. F. Bingham.

J. P. Pierce.

Layman.

B. D. Davis

C. W. McClary.

E. J. Evans.

H. Streeter

L. N. Stratton.
J. N. Wait.
E. Halsey.
D. Malpass.
H. Lousbury.
I. Sprague.
D. W. Barton.
R. Benton.
J. H. Barnum.
Thos. Eastham.
W. Griswold.
A. Ferris.
R. Osburn.
J. D. Prosser.
C. P. Owen.
A. Fasset.
G. M. Hardy.
N. Fessenden.
N. Bacon.
A. S. Wightman.
C. Prindle.
J. T. Hewitt.
J. Gregory.

N. Flower.
S. T. Fyler.
Z. Tyler
John Olmsted.

[13]

Published Reports of Conf for 1866.

[Note: These reports were pasted into the pages of this Journal.]

SYRACUSE CONFERENCE

The Syracuse Annual Conference, held last month was the sweetest spiritual convocation of the brethren we have ever attended. And although in some things there was a difference of opinion, all differences with scarce an exception were expressed in a kind an christian [sic] spirit.

Rev. C. Prindle was chosen President, and L. N. Stratton, Secretary. Not as many members were present as ordinarilly [sic] on account of the remoteness of the place of holding the Conference,--Nevertheless the advance of the work during the past year throughout the Conference was a noticeable fact.

The Union question was discussed at length under motion to send delegates to Cincinnati. The motion was put and lost. It was afterward reconsidered and the motion re-put and carried. The delegates elected were Rev. C. Prindle, Rev. L. N. Stratton, Montgomery Merrick, and T. S. Fyler, with R. Burlingham reserve.

The following instructions were presented and passed without discussion or dissent.

Whereas, The organization of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America was demanded by the enlightened consciences of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ,

commending itself to every man's conscience in the sight of God, and the doctrines taught by Scott, Lee, Prindle and others to come out from corrupt ecclesiastical organizations and other associations, are no less true now than when first declared. Therefore,

Resolved, That we respectfully instruct our delegates to the Cincinnati Convention, as our representatives, to be flexible in non-essentials, but in the fundamental doctrines and practical christianity [sic] which have hitherto distinguished us, to be firm and inflexible; that whatever else they may do, to strenuously oppose any action which might tend to divide or break us up as a denomination.

Resolved, That if the will of the Lord so direct, we will cheerfully be with that little number spoken of by the word of the Lord—one of whom can chase a thousand and two put ten thousand to flight.

BOOK CONCERN

Your Committee learn with pleasure the gratifying financial, and working condition of our Book Concern.

The ready presses, and splendid new engine are worth the noble cause in which they labor, and in which may they always find enough to do. We are also gratified to know that although the list of subscribers is lessened by a few hundred, that it is less for the most part by so many delinquent subscribers; and those remaining are a better paying list than formerly. The above named facts are the result of the unquestionable ability of those having charge of the affairs connected with our Book Concern, and suggest the adoption of the following items.

1st. We refer the pecuniary success of our publishing interests to the financial acumen and executive ability of our long-tried and ever-faithful Agen. And while we sincerely regret that he feels himself called upon to vacate his well filled office, we give him our parting "God bless you!"

2d. That the Editor of the *Wesleyan*, placed in so trying a position as the one he now occupies, deserves our thanks, prayers, words of goodly cheer, and support.

3d. Knowing as we do, that fine printing furniture, elegant presses and splendid engines will not work without something to do, and somebody to work them. And that they as well as the buildings which contain them are a worthless burden unless appropriated to the uses intended,--therefore we as individuals pledge ourselves to procure subscribers for the American *Wesleyan* and the books on sale at office, and that we immediately set to work in this cause like earnest men as we are and ever must be.

L. N. Stratton, Ch'n.

EDUCATION

Education and Christianity are joined in sublime alliance. Neither can accomplish its mission alone; --united they conduct the soul to the very acme of happiness, and society to the highest plan of excellence. Education without evangelical truth, gives no symmetry, no true development. Christianity, unaided by the unfoldings [sic] of Science degenerates into superstition, mummery and extravagances. Education only,

would people the earth with gigantic wickedness and infidelity. Christianity subordinated to the groveling conceptions of ignorance but complicates the miseries and intensifies the disorders of the world. But complementing each other, they go forth, heave ordained to an unequalled work of beneficence.

Evangelical education, is specifically the work of the Church; and there is no other to which this is not equal.

To no other control is it safe to commit the great interests of education except the faithful supervision of the Church of Christ. The spirit and power of evangelical truth should permeate every Institution of Learning, reign in the breast of every Teacher. The moral and social bias of Institutions and Educators should ever be on the side of the glorious gospel of God our Savior. The magnificent work of Education thus christianized [sic], challenges the admiration of men and angels.

Whether viewed in its relations to individual development and destiny—to social life—to the Church or to the Commonwealth no language can protrait [sic] its results or exaggerate its claims. It takes in hand the undeveloped faculties of infancy, and conducts them in their unfoldings [sic] till in their expansion they grasp the problems of Nature, and by their power they penetrate its profoundest mysteries, and ascend its loftiest heights. It leads the soul out amid the winding labyrinths of Science, reveals to its delighted vision the wonderful complications of its laws, and the manifold forms of beauty and utility, design and harmony, power and beneficence through which the mind is guided from Nature up to "Nature's God." It acquaints man with his Maker, with himself—the laws of his being—the moral contingencies of life and the primary conditions of his eternal future. And last of all, it brings its subjects, cultured, refined, laden with learning and endowed with power and consecrates them at the Saviors' [sic] feet to the highest uses here, and to glory, honor and immortality hereafter.

It imparts to social life, real worth, true refinement, exalted tastes, consistent habits and ennobling sentiments. It places the Church foremost among agencies for the world's well-being, gives it control of the most potent influences to mold community and harmonize its moral elements with the law of God; and places within the scope of evangelizing forces the cultivated talent and disciplined and unwasted powers of thousands of young men, that otherwise might fail to bless mankind. It pledges security and glory to the commonwealth, by pouring the promethean light of a true civilization around the pillars of its organization, and the altars of its worship. Let the masses be Christianly educated, let general intelligence be diffused, let the duties and obligations and mutual relations of life be laid open to the apprehension of all—let the ring of the school bell be heard by the side of every sanctuary whose spire points heavenward,--let faithful Seminaries and Colleges, continue to send forth ranks of young men, disciplined, molded, educated,--converted, spiritual endowed from heaven, and consecrated, to fill our pulpits and the responsible places in Church and State, and Treason emboldened by ignorance will never again see the overthrow of a Government that promotes the highest weal of each by seeking the general good of all.

If these considerations are not overstated, it becomes apparent that bodies ecclesiastic cannot be neglectful of a work so peculiarly their own and so vast in its results, without the greatest culpability and loss.

Among the grandest chapters in the present history of the Church, is that which embraces a view of its Schools, and educational plans, labors and outlays. The power of evangelism is thus being immensely augmented, and its mission more fully realized. not underate these interests and leave others to triumph by our misfortune. Hence be it resolved,

1. That we will seek to appreciate and promote the great work of evangelical education.

2. Denominational fidelity requires that we more especially give our influence and aid to these ends through our own organizations.

3. We have undisturbed and increasing confidence in the financial prosperity educational facilities, and moral soundness of our College at Adrian, Mich; we cherish the highest confidence in the moral and intellectual worth of all its incumbents, and will do all we can by effort and influence, to encourage patronage and financial aid, thus giving needed encouragement to these men, and brighter prospects and greater usefulness to the College.

All of which is respectfully submitted, &c.

A. P. Burgess, Com.

~~~ ● ~~~

[15]

Syracuse Conference.  
Report on Pastoral Relations.

Syracuse—Supplied by A. Crooks.

Blodgetts Mills—John Nason

Groton and Lock—H. Lounsbury.

Chenango—C. F. Barnett.

Prattville—L. N. Stratton.

Central Square and Smith's Mills—L. F. Bingham.

Windsor—To be supplied.

Taylor—J. H. Barnum.

Tioga—To be supplied.

Appalachin—D. W. Barton, one half of the time,

Hane's Settlement—N. Bacon.

Watertown—Not supplied.

Vienna and Florence—A. Ferrice.

Pittstown—To be supplied.

Geddes—To be supplied.

Albion, Amboy, and Pine Meadows—J. M. Wait.

South Cortland—A. Kelsey.

Virgil, Harford and Peruville—W. Griswold, J. Olmstead, John Gillings.

Yatesville—To be supplied.

State Road—To be supplied.

Hinmansville and Lamsons—To be supplied.

Ithica—Zechariah Tyler.

Candor and Spencer—To be supplied.  
Boylston and Ellisburgh—To be supplied.  
Fylers Settlement—To be supplied.  
Onondaga Reservation and Indian Mission—R. Benton.  
D. Malpass—Conference Evangelist.  
A. P. Burgess supplying the Church at East Dennis, Mass.  
G. M. Hardy, supplying Fillmore, Lockport Conference.  
N. Fessenden, Home Missionary.  
E. Gaylord, M. Pressler, and E. Halsey, supplying destitute places, contiguous to their residences.  
J. Palmer, transferred to Iowa Conference.  
J. T. Hewett, E. M. High, N. Shepherd and S. Nelson, received letters of their standing.  
J. D. Townsend, transferred to Lockport Conference.  
T. Coggins, deceased.  
J. Gregory, without an appointment, at his own request.  
Reserve List.—R. Osborn, J. P. Pierce, J. D. Prosser, C. P. Owen, A. S. Wightman, I Sprague, O.P. Hazzard, Thos. Eastham, A. Fassett.  
Unstationed List.—Thos. Sims, M. B. Porter, P. Jones, L. L. Gaskill, A. George, J. Lotte, W. L. Fessenden, E. B. Mints, M. Frink.  
Superanuated [sic].—W. Westcott.  
Joined.—A. S. Wightman, S. Burgess.  
Z. Taylor, Licentiate.