

MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Syracuse Conference

OF THE

Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America,

HELD AT

Rome, N. Y., April '24-29, 1894.

ROME, N. Y.:
ROME SENTINEL COMPANY, PRINTERS.
1894.

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C. P. MEADS.

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OFFICIARY.

PRESIDENT.

E. E. CURTIS, Texas, N. Y.

SECRETARY.

E. D. CARPENTER, North Manlius, N. Y.

TREASURER.

L. A. GRANT, 316 E. Castle Street, Syracuse, N. Y.

TREASURER S. M. A. SOCIETY.

GRANVILLE DRAPER, Rome, N. Y.

Standing Committees.

Presidency—E. D. Carpenter, H. Lounsbury, P. W. Bruce, M. C. Wire, G. G. Rich.

Publication of Minutes—E. D. Carpenter, N. Wardner, O. F. Mott, L. A. Grant.

Itinerancy and Orders—E. E. Curtis, H. Lounsbury, N. Wardner.

Themes—J. L. Benton.

Officers of Conference Missionary Society.

President, E. E. Curtis; Vice-President, H. Lounsbury; Secretary, T. C. Guernsey; Treasurer, M. C. Wire; Directors, Mrs. E. E. Curtis, Mrs. M. C. Wire.

Officers of Conference Camp Meeting Association.

President, P. W. Bruce; Vice-President, E. D. Carpenter; Secretary, D. C. Haven; Treasurer, J. L. Bortles; Committee on Order, J. H. Hastings, Wm. Presley, E. H. Mead, F. W. Slater; Committee on Finance, N. Wardner, D. C. Haven, G. S. Mead; Committee on Religious Service, D. C. Haven, E. E. Curtis, Ira VanAuken.

Roll of Members.

ELDERS ON STATIONED LIST.

NAME.	POST OFFICE ADDRESS.
Norman Atkins,	New Woodstock, Madison Co., N. Y.
A. A. Babcock,	Great Bend, Pa.
J. L. Benton,	Houghton, Allegany Co., N. Y.
P. W. Bruce,	Peruville, Tompkins Co., N. Y.
E. D. Carpenter,	North Manlius, Onondaga Co., N. Y.

OFFICIARY.

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NAME.	POST OFFICE ADDRESS.
E. E. Curtis,.....	Texas, Oswego Co., N. Y.
P. S. Culver,.....	Taylor, Cortland Co., N. Y.
L. A. Grant,.....	316 E. Castle Street, Syracuse, N. Y.
T. C. Guernsey,.....	Killawog, Broome Co., N. Y.
D. C. Haven,.....	Lacona, Oswego Co., N. Y.
*Thomas LaFort,.....	Onondaga Castle, Onondaga Co., N. Y.
H. Lounsbury,.....	Tioga Centre, Tioga Co., N. Y.
O. F. Mott,.....	Velarde, Bradford Co., Pa.
G. W. Van Arsdale,.....	Ricard, Oswego Co., N. Y.
N. Wardner,.....	603 W. Dominick Street, Rome N. Y.
*J. M. Wait,.....	Sand Bank, Oswego Co., N. Y.

SUPERANNUATED ELDERS.

*J. H. Barnum,.....	Vestal, Broome Co., N. Y.
*W. L. Fessenden,.....	Candor, Tioga Co., N. Y.
*George Fish,.....	11 Grove Street, Watertown, N. Y.

UNSTATIONED ELDER.

*J. P. Pierce,.....	Freeville, Tompkins Co., N. Y.
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LICENTIATES ON STATIONED LIST.

T. B. Chidester,.....	98 Park Avenue, Binghamton, N. Y.
Wesley P. French,.....	Houghton, Allegany Co., N. Y.
H. C. Shares,.....	Minetto, Oswego Co., N. Y.
Ira Van Auken,.....	Orwell, Oswego Co., N. Y.
Lottie Van Arsdale,.....	Ricard, Oswego Co., N. Y.
A. P. Worden,.....	Box 60, Ricard, Oswego Co., N. Y.

LAY DELEGATES.

*Maria Bishop,.....	Velarde, Bradford Co., Pa.
V. C. Blatchly,.....	Lester, Broome Co., N. Y.
W. O. Cushing,.....	Texas, Oswego Co., N. Y.
Granville Draper,.....	307 W. Stone Alley, Rome, N. Y.
Mary C. Farr,.....	Texas, Oswego Co., N. Y.
Jennie Hutton,.....	Fulton, Oswego Co., N. Y.
*George Jennings,.....	Velarde, Bradford Co., N. Y.
E. H. Mead,.....	Lacona, Oswego Co., N. Y.
Rose Prosser,.....	North Manlius, Onondaga Co., N. Y.
H. Parkis,.....	Ricard, Oswego Co., N. Y.
Nicholas Ott,.....	Owego, Tioga Co., N. Y.
*Mariette Starcks,.....	Peruville, Tompkins Co., N. Y.
M. F. Smith,.....	Adams St. Cor. Crouse Ave., Syracuse.
M. C. Wire,.....	Taylor, Cortland Co., N. Y.
R. A. Wire,.....	Taylor, Cortland Co., N. Y.

*Not Present.

Journal of Daily Proceedings.

FIRST DAY—Evening Session.

The Syracuse Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America convened for its forty-second annual session in the Wesleyan Methodist Church at Rome, N. Y., April 24, 1894, at 7:30 P. M.

Conference called to order by the president, N. Wardner.

The opening sermon of Conference was preached by E. E. Curtis, from a text found in Romans i:15.

At the close of the sermon a few moments were spent in a consecration service.

Voted that the session of Conference to-morrow morning open at nine o'clock.

Voted that N. Wardner and G. G. Rich be the committee on religious services.

Adjourned by vote.

Doxology sung. Benediction by B. S. Laughlin.

SECOND DAY—Morning Session.

Conference convened at 9 o'clock.

Religious service conducted by E. D. Carpenter.

Roll called. Minutes read and approved.

Voted that the bar of Conference be fixed to include first five slips across the house.

Voted that D. C. Haven and P. C. Culver be Committee on Delegates' Credentials.

Voted that the Conference sessions open at 8:30 and close at 11:30 o'clock A. M., and open at 2 o'clock P. M. and close by vote.

A. A. Babcock and Granville Draper were elected Committee on Statistics.

Voted that the election of Conference officers be the first business to-morrow afternoon, immediately after religious services.

The Committee on Credentials made a partial report. Report adopted and the names of ten delegates were added to the roll.

The Committee on Pastoral Relations was elected as follows: E. E. Curtis, J. L. Benton, G. W. Van Arsdale, Mary C. Farr, M. C. Wire, G. Draper.

P. S. Culver was elected committee to formulate resolutions of thanks to the people of Rome for entertainment.

Voted that the Committee on Themes be continued, said committee to assign themes to be reported on during this session of Conference.

B. S. Laughlin, agent for Houghton Seminary, was introduced to the Conference.

Voted that we hear Bro. Laughlin's report in the interests of Houghton Seminary, immediately after the election of Conference officers to-morrow afternoon.

Voted that visiting brethren from our own and other churches in harmony with our reformatory principles be invited to honorary seats in Conference.

T. B. Chidester, a licentiate of the Free Will Baptist Church of Binghamton, was introduced to the Conference.

Communications were read from J. H. Barnum and from Herickville and Rummerfield charges, and were referred to the Committee on Pastoral Relations. Bro. Barnum's character passed.

Voted that Wesley P. French, recommended by the Syracuse Church as a suitable person to travel under direction of Conference, be referred to the Committee on Itinerancy and Orders.

Proceeded to the examination of character. J. L. Benton's name called and character passed. E. W. Bruce's name called and was reported as transferred to the Lockport Conference; P. W. Bruce's name called and character passed.

Bro. Draper asked to be relieved from serving on the Committee on Statistics; request granted and J. D. Russell elected to fill the vacancy on the committee.

P. S. Culver's name called and character passed.

Adjourned by limitation.

Benediction by H. Lounsbury.

SECOND DAY—Afternoon Session.

Conference convened at 2 o'clock.

Religious service conducted by J. L. Benton.

Roll called. Minutes read, corrected and approved.

Committee on Credentials made further report and one name was added to the roll.

Voted that in further reports of Committee on Credentials the committee report the names and if there are no objections they be added to the roll without vote of Conference.

Resumed the examination of character. T. C. Guernsey and D. C. Haven's names called and characters passed.

Nicholas Ott's name added to the roll as delegate from Owego.

H. Lounsbury, J. D. Russell, J. M. Wait's names called and characters passed.

Voted that the Secretary be instructed to write a letter to Bro. Wait in behalf of this Conference expressing to him our sympathy in his bodily affliction, and rejoicing with him in seeing the fruit of his labor in the salvation of souls.

N. Atkins, W. L. Fessenden, George Fish's names called and characters passed. J. D. Prosser's name called; reported deceased.

Voted that a committee be elected on memorial service. Committee elected as follows: H. Lounsbury, E. D. Carpenter, E. E. Curtis.

Adjourned by vote.

Sang Doxology. Benediction by O. F. Mott.

Evening service. Preaching by B. S. Laughlin; text Col. ii:10.

THIRD DAY—Morning Session.

Conference convened at 8:30 o'clock.

Religious service conducted by H. Lounsbury.

Roll called. Minutes read and approved.

Resumed examination of character. J. P. Pierce's name called and character passed.

The Committee on Itinerancy and Orders reported. Report adopted. (See report.)

Voted that Sister R. A. Wire's name be added to the roll as second delegate from Taylor.

G. W. Van Arsdale's name called. Pending the passage of his character W. H. Kennedy, General Missionary Superintendent, was introduced to the Conference.

Voted that Bro. Kennedy have the time to present his report that will best suit his convenience after the Connectional Agent's report.

The passage of Bro. Van Arsdale's character, which was pending at the time of introduction of Bro. Kennedy, was taken up and his character passed. E. E. Curtis's name called and character passed.

Adjourned by vote. Benediction by N. Atkins.

THIRD DAY—Afternoon Session.

Conference convened at 2 o'clock.

Religious service conducted by G. W. Van Arsdale.

Roll called. Minutes read and approved.

M. F. Smith's name entered on the roll as delegate from Syracuse Church.

A. W. Hall, Connectional Agent, was introduced to Conference.

Voted that it be the order of the day to hear the report of the Connectional Agent to-morrow afternoon, immediately after the opening exercises.

C. G. Buck, of the New York Conference, D. W. Clark, pastor of the Free Methodist Church of Rome, and George Humphries, captain of the Salvation Army of Rome, were introduced to the Conference.

The order of the day was taken up, being the election of Conference officers. L. A. Grant and O. F. Mott were elected tellers.

The following officers were elected: E. E. Curtis, President; E. D. Carpenter, Secretary; L. A. Grant, Conference Treasurer; Granville Draper, Treasurer of the S. M. A. Society; N. Wardner, member of the Committee on Itinerancy and Orders for three years; N. Wardner, member of the committee on Pastoral Relations to fill vacancy.

The order of the day was taken up and B. S. Laughlin, Agent of Houghton Seminary, presented the interests and needs of that institution. At the close of his address, cash and pledges were taken to the amount of \$58.25.

A petition was presented to Conference from East Randolph Church, and the matter was referred to the following committee: H. Lounsbury, J. L. Benton, N. Wardner, V. C. Blatchly, M. F. Smith.

The committee on "The Observance of the Sabbath," reported. Report adopted. (See report.)

Voted that it be the order of the day, at 10 o'clock to-morrow, to hold a meeting of the Conference Camp Meeting Association.

Voted that following the above order of the day we fix the time and place of holding the next session of Conference.

Voted that J. L. Benton be committee to assign themes next year.

Committee on Presidency elected as follows: E. D. Carpenter, H. Lounsbury, P. W. Bruce, M. C. Wire, G. G. Rich.

Adjourned by vote. Benediction by O. F. Mott.

Evening service. Preaching by N. Atkins; text John xix:30.

FOURTH DAY—Morning Session.

Conference convened at 8:30 o'clock.

Religious service conducted by A. A. Babcock.

Roll called. Minutes read and approved.

Voted that on account of his not being able to be here the name of L. J. Culver be stricken from the roll and that Sister Jennie Hutton's name be entered thereon as delegate from Oswego.

Resumed the examination of character. A. A. Babcock's name called and character passed.

The following resolution was offered and adopted:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Conference that after this session no person shall be received as delegate to this body except it is shown that such person was duly elected by said charge.

The Committee on Publication of Conference Minutes of last year reported verbally, showing that the minutes were paid for and a surplus of five dollars; the five dollars not yet paid in.

Voted that the following named persons be the Committee on the Publication of the Minutes of the present session of Conference: E. D. Carpenter, N. Wardner, L. A. Grant, O. F. Mott.

Voted that Rose Prosser be received as delegate from Fyler Charge.

Voted that the next session of Conference be held at Fyler, N. Y., commencing the first Tuesday in April, 1895, at 7:30 P. M.

Adjourned by limitation. Benediction by A. A. Babcock.

FOURTH DAY—Afternoon Session.

Conference convened at 2 o'clock.

Religious service conducted by O. F. Mott.

Roll called. Minutes read and approved.

Voted that it is the sense of this Conference that at its future sessions the President of the Conference preach the opening sermon, and that the secretary be the alternate.

E. H. Mead's name added to the roll as delegate from Boylston Charge.

The following resolution was offered and adopted:

Resolved, That it is the sentiment of the Syracuse Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America,

1st. That we should not take up the regular appointment of any preaching or prayer service of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, in order to unite with any society, or in any service of said society, who are not in perfect harmony with our reformatory principles.

The order of the day was taken up, being the report of the Connectional Agent. The agent presented a financial system involving the raising of one dollar per member by the churches.

Voted that we adopt the plan as presented.

Voted that a committee of three be elected to take into consideration the matter of funds for superannuated preachers.

The following were elected such committee: N. Wardner, M. C. Wire, E. E. Curtis,

G. W. Newman's name called. and a communication was read from the secretary of the Rochester Conference, saying Bro. Newman had become a member of that Conference.

Adjourned by vote. Benediction by D. C. Haven.

Evening service. Preaching by W. H. Kennedy; text Heb. v:12.

FIFTH DAY—Morning Session.

Conference convened at 8:30 o'clock.

Religious service conducted by T. B. Chidester.

Roll call. Minutes read and approved.

Bro. T. B. Chidester and Sister Lottie Van Arsdale were recommended by the Rome Church as suitable persons to travel under the direction of Conference.

Voted that they be so received and their names entered on the roll.

Resumed the examination of character. L. A. Grant, Thos. LaFort, E. D. Carpenter, N. Wardner, Ira Van Auken, O. F. Mott, names called and character passed.

Adjourned by vote. Benediction by G. W. Van Arsdale.

FIFTH DAY—Afternoon Session.

Conference convened at 2 o'clock.

Religious service conducted by P. W. Bruce.

Roll called. Minutes read and approved.

The order of the day was taken up, being memorial service in memory of Bro. J. D. Prosser, in charge of H. Lounsbury. The 982d hymn in our collection of hymns was sung. Scripture reading, 15th chapter of I Cor. Prayer by H. Lounsbury. Remarks were made in reference to deceased by E. D. Carpenter, L. A. Grant, N. Wardner and H. Lounsbury.

The Committee on Resolutions of Thanks reported. Report adopted. (See report.)

The Committee on "Perils to Social, Political and Religious Interests Growing Out of Secret Societies" reported. Report adopted. (See report.)

Committee on Pastoral Relations reported. Report adopted. (See report.)

W. H. Kennedy, G. M. S., addressed the Conference on the subject of missions.

The Treasurer of the S. M. A. Society reported. Report adopted. (See report.)

Voted that the Treasurer of the S. M. A. Society in loaning money, require an endorser satisfactory to himself.

Voted that the Conference accept the report of the Committee on Statistics as given in the aggregate.

The committee so reported. Report adopted. (See report.)

The salary of the Secretary of the Conference of ten dollars reported as paid.

The committee elected to take into consideration the petition of the East Randolph Church reported verbally. Report adopted.

Adjourned to meet at the call of the chair to give time for a meeting of the Conference Missionary Society. Conference called to order by the chair. Voted that this session of Conference now adjourn. The President of the Conference gave his brethren an excellent exhortation in reference to the work this Conference year.

Benediction by N. Wardner.

Evening service. Preaching by E. D. Carpenter; text Deut. xxviii:1.

Sunday Services.

Lovefeast opened at 9:30 led by E. W. Bruce. The power of God was truly manifest in this service and copious showers of blessings fell all through. At the close of the lovefeast W. H. Kennedy broke to us the Bread of Life from a text found in Luke·xi:5. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered at the close of the preaching service, Bro. H. Lounsbury having charge. At four o'clock the people assembled again. Bro. W. H. Kennedy at that hour led a holiness meeting. At 7:30 in the evening preaching by J. L. Benton; text Matt. xi:28-29.

After the preaching service and the congregation was dismissed still it seemed some were unwilling to go until they were forgiven, and until the midnight hour souls were at the altar pleading for and receiving forgiveness. Praise the Lord.



Reports of Committees.

Report on Pastoral Relations.

Albion, J. M. Wait and A. P. Worden.
Belgium, H. C. Shares.
Boylston, D. C. Haven.
East Randolph and Hazzardville, A. A. Babcock.
Fyler, E. D. Carpenter.
Groton, P. W. Bruce.
Herrickville and Rome, Pa., supplied from Rummerfield.
LaFayette, to be supplied.
Nelson, unsupplied.
Onondaga Indian Mission, Thomas LaFort.
Orwell and Williamstown, G. W. and Lottie Van Arsdale.
Oswego and Riverside, L. A. Grant.
Owego, H. Lounsbury.
Prattville, supplied from Texas.
Rome, N. Y., N. Wardner.
Rummerfield, O. F. Mott.
Syracuse, to supply itself.
Taylor, P. S. Culver.
Texas, E. E. Curtis.
Virgil and Blodgett Mills, not supplied.
Wyalusing, in care of President.
J. L. Benton, in charge of Houghton Bible Training School.
T. C. Guernsey, in general revival work.
W. P. French, student in Houghton Bible Training School.
To select their own fields of labor, N. Atkins, T. B. Chidester,
Ira Van Auken.
Superannuates, J. H. Barnum, W. L. Fessenden, Geo. Fish.
Unstationed Elder, J. P. Pierce.
Licentiates on Stationed List, T. B. Chidester, W. P. French,
H. C. Shares, Lottie Van Arsdale, Ira Van Auken, A. P. Worden.
Joined this year, to travel under the direction of Conference,
T. B. Chidester, W. P. French, H. C. Shares, Lottie Van Arsdale,
A. P. Worden.

Removed, E. W. Bruce, by transfer to the Lockport Conference, J. D. Russell, by transfer to the Champlain Conference, G. W. Newman, took letter of standing.

Deceased, J. D. Prosser.

Discontinued, F. E. Widrig, licentiate.

E. E. CURTIS,	}	<i>Committee.</i>
N. WARDNER,		
J. L. BENTON,		
G. W. VAN ARSDALE,		
M. C. WIRE,		
MARY C. FARR,		

Itinerancy and Orders.

Your Committee on Itinerancy and Orders respectfully submit the following report:

1st. F. E. Widrig came before your committee expecting to be examined on the third year's course, but with no recommend for ordination. From examination and reliable information we find him unsuitable for the ministry and recommend that his name be dropped from the roll of licentiates.

2d. Wesley P. French of the Syracuse Church referred to this committee by this Conference was not before it. The teacher of the Bible training class of Houghton Seminary came before the committee and stated that Brother French had passed all the studies of the first year, getting standing ranging from 90 to 100. In view of this we recommend that he be received and advanced to the second year's course.

3rd. H. C. Shares and A. P. Worden were before the committee recommended for itinerancy by the Riverside Charge. They passed an examination sufficiently satisfactory to your committee so that we recommend that they be received and put upon the first year's course.

N. WARDNER,	}	<i>Committee.</i>
E. E. CURTIS,		
H. LOUNSBURY,		
G. DRAPER,		

Treasurer of S. M. A. Society.

Treasurer's report of the S. M. A. Society for the year ending April 28, 1894:

Cash on hand at close of last Conference.....	\$133.49
Paid by order of Conference to Rev. Geo. Fish..	5.10
Leaving balance on hand of.....	\$128.39
Balance on hand at beginning of present session.....	\$128.39
Receipts for the year: Interest.....	6.00
Texas Charge.....	1.00
Rome, N. Y., Charge.....	4.10
Fyler Charge.....	2.01
Orwell Charge.....	.50
Taylor Charge.....	7.65
Groton Charge.....	2.77
Syracuse Charge.....	.50
East Randolph and Hazzardville Charge.....	.50
Wyalusing Charge.....	.50
Owego Charge.....	.43
Oswego Charge.....	1.80
Total on hand to date.....	\$156.15

GRANVILLE DRAPER, *Treasurer.*

Thanks.

Your Committee on Thanks, cheerfully submit the following:

WHEREAS, The Rome Church kindly invited this Conference to hold its present session with them, and, whereas, they have labored diligently and spared no pains to give most acceptable accommodations and entertainment to all, therefore,

Resolved, that in behalf of our President, members and visiting friends, we tender to both pastor and people, our most sincere thanks for their kind hospitality.

P. S. CULVER, *Committee.*

Statistics.

BOYLSTON.—G. W. Newman, pastor. Time employed 1 year; appointments 2; church 1; received 5; discontinued 1; died 2; present number 68; baptized 11; licentiates 1; Wesleyan Methodists taken 23; Children's Banner 30; Good Words 30; Early Seekers 30; Our Temperance Paper 30; Sabbath schools 2; superintendents 2; teachers 9; scholars 100; meeting house 1; value \$1,200; parsonage 1; value \$800; pastor's salary \$349.45; evangelist's receipts \$5.63; missions \$7.50; Sabbath schools \$16.00; building and repairs \$6.25; incidentals \$75.00.

EAST RANDOLPH AND HAZZARDVILLE.—A. A. Babcock pastor. Time employed 1 year; appointments 3; present number 20; Wesleyan Methodists taken 3; Children's Banner 25; Good Words 25; Early Seekers 25; Our Temperance Paper 25; Iconoclast Helps 30; Sabbath school 1; superintendent 1; teachers 3; scholars 16; meeting houses 1½; value \$1,100; pastor's salary \$200; evangelist's receipts \$6.00; superannuated ministers 50 cents; missions \$8.22; Sabbath school \$11; building and repairs \$30; incidentals 50 cents; other benevolent objects \$2.00.

FYLER.—E. D. Carpenter pastor. Time employed 1 year; appointments 1; church 1; received 11; died 4; granted letters 2; present number 45; baptized 5; Wesleyan Methodists taken 10; Children's Banner 25; Good Words 25; Early Seekers 25; Our Temperance Paper 25; Iconoclast Helps 70; Sabbath school 1; superintendent 1; teachers 5; scholars 60; meeting house (union) 1; value \$1,000; pastor's salary \$325.21; evangelist's receipts \$2.25; superannuated ministers \$2.01; educational \$2.00; missions \$30.30; Sabbath school \$20.00; incidentals \$15.00; other benevolent objects \$21.50.

GROTON.—E. E. Curtis pastor. Time employed 1 year; appointments 2; church 1; received 5; granted letters 5; present number 50; baptized 5; unstationed elder 1; licentiate 1; Wesleyan Methodists taken 20; Children's Banner 25; Good Words 25; Early Seekers 25; Our Temperance Paper 25; Sabbath school 1; superintendent 1; teachers 4; scholars 75; meeting house 1; value \$1,000; parsonage 1; value \$1,000; pastor's salary \$300; evangelist's receipts \$20; superannuated ministers \$2.77; missions \$40; educational \$24; Sabbath school \$27.71; building and repairs \$10; incidentals \$40; other benevolent objects \$12.

HERRICKVILLE AND ROME, PA.—P. W. Bruce, pastor. Time employed 1 year; appointments 3; churches 2; discontinued 1; died 1; granted letters 4; present number 36; Wesleyan Methodists taken 12; meeting house 2; value \$1,900; pastor's salary \$23.42; evangelist's receipts \$6.23; missions \$5.57.

ORWELL AND WILLIAMSTOWN.—O. F. Mott, pastor. Time employed 1 year; appointments 4; churches 2; received 5; present number 46; baptized 4; Wesleyan Methodists taken 7; Children's Banner 20; Good Words 20; Early Seekers 20; Our Temperance Paper 20; Iconoclast Helps 46; Sabbath school 1; superintendent 1; teachers 6; scholars 26; pastor's salary \$397.00; evangelist's receipts \$3.00; superannuated ministers 50c.; missions \$23.25; Sabbath school \$13.00.

OWEGO.—H. Lounsbury, pastor. Time employed 1 year; appointments 2; received 1; present number 28; Wesleyan Methodists taken 6; Children's Banner 40; Good Words 40; Early Seekers 40; Our Temperance Paper 40; Sabbath schools 2; superintendents 2; teachers 8; scholars 60; pastor's salary \$93.01; evangelist's receipts \$3.00; superannuated ministers 43 cents; missions \$16.38; educational 61 cents; Sabbath schools \$16.79; incidentals \$3.00; other benevolent objects \$3.00.

PRATTVILLE.—Present number 19; Wesleyan Methodists taken 2.

RIVERSIDE.—L. A. Grant, pastor. Time employed 1 year; appointments 3; church 1; received 21; discontinued 1; present number 28; baptized 8; licentiates 3; Wesleyan Methodists taken 7; Children's Banner 20; Good Words 20; Early Seekers 20; Our Temperance Paper 20; Iconoclast Helps 55; Sabbath school 1; superintendent 1; teachers 5; scholars 39; pastor's salary \$100; evangelist's receipts \$6.80; superannuated ministers \$1.80; missions \$5.58; educational \$3.32; Sabbath school \$4.13; incidentals \$52.80; other benevolent objects \$9.70.

ROME, N. Y.—N. Wardner pastor. Time employed 1 year; appointments 2; church 1; received 17; discontinued 2; died 3; granted letters 2; present number 88; baptized 2; Wesleyan Methodists taken 14; Children's Banner 40; Good Words 40; Early Seekers 40; Our Temperance Paper 40; Iconoclast Helps 102; Sabbath school 1; superintendent 1; teachers and officers 17; scholars 70; books in library 157; meeting house 1; value \$5,000; pastor's salary \$468.22; superannuated ministers \$4.10; missions \$36.63; Sabbath schools \$31.90; incidentals \$135.00.

RUMMERFIELD.—P. W. Bruce, pastor. Time employed 1 year; appointments 1; church 1; received 1; expelled 2; present number 14; baptized 1; Wesleyan Methodists taken 2; Sabbath school 1; superintendent 1; teachers 3; scholars 25; pastor's salary \$88.71; evangelist's receipts \$3.03; missions \$3.40; Sabbath school \$2.08.

TAYLOR.—P. S. Culver, pastor. Time employed 1 year; appointments 1; church 1; received 2; discontinued 3; died 1; granted letters 1; present number 34; baptized 1; Wesleyan Methodists taken 14; Children's Banner 26; Good Words 26; Early Seekers 26; Our Temperance Paper 26; Iconoclast Helps 75; Sabbath school 1; superintendent 1; teachers 6; scholars 50; meeting house 1; value \$2,000; parsonage 1; value \$950; pastor's salary \$351.36; evangelist's receipts \$6.31; superannuated ministers \$7.65; missions \$10.96; Sabbath school \$9.08; building and repairs \$4.06; incidentals \$31.41.

TEXAS.—J. D. Russell pastor. Time employed 1 year; appointments 1; church 1; received 1; discontinued 13; present number 25; Wesleyan Methodists taken 21; Iconoclast Helps 12; Sabbath school 1; superintendent 1; teachers 1; scholars 12; meeting house (stockholders) 1; value \$1,000; pastor's salary \$245.17; evangelist's receipts \$16.25; superannuated ministers \$1.00; missions \$18.71; educational \$2.00; Sabbath school \$4.50; building and repairs 50c.; incidentals \$20.00.

WYALUSING.—G. W. Van Arsdale pastor. Time employed 10 months; appointments 2; churches 2; received 2; discontinued 10; granted letters 1; present number 20; baptized 2; Wesleyan Methodists taken 6; Children's Banner 15; Good Words 15; Early Seekers 15; Our Temperance Paper 15; Sabbath schools 1; superintendents 1; teachers 3; scholars 25; meeting houses 2; value \$1,600; pastor's salary \$152.39; superannuated ministers 50 cents; missions \$3.76; educational 16 cents; Sabbath schools \$6.00; incidentals \$2.50.

D. C. Haven, General Missionary Agent, received \$174.42.

T. C. Guernsey, Evangelist, received \$23.90.

AGGREGATE.—Time employed 12 years 10 months; appointments 24; churches 18; received 69; discontinued 31; died 11; granted letters 15; present number 521; baptized 39; unstationed elder 1; licentiates 6; Wesleyan Methodists taken 147; Children's Banner 266; Good Words 266; Early Seekers 266; Our Temperance Paper 266; Iconoclast Helps 390; Sabbath schools 14; superintendents 14; teachers 70; scholars 558; churches 11½; value \$15,800; parsonages 3; value \$2,700; pastor's salary \$3,093.94; evangelist's receipts \$78.50; superannuated ministers \$21.26; missions \$210.26; educational \$32.09; Sabbath schools \$162.19; building and repairs \$51.35; incidentals \$375.21; other benevolent objects \$48.20.

A. A. BABCOCK, }
J. D. RUSSELL, } *Committee.*

The Observance of the Sabbath.

There are few, if any, subjects of more vital importance to us as individuals or as a nation at the present time than the one at the head of this report. Upon it hangs the welfare of every human being and the destiny of the nations of the world. God is unchangeable. His dealings with men and nations are just the same to-day as when Israel flourished as the most mighty nation of the world, and was afterward blotted out of existence as a nation and its inhabitants scattered into every nation under heaven. Whatever God has pronounced his blessing upon he will continue to bless, and whatever has been a sufficient cause for the destruction of a nation in the past is a sufficient cause still. Every prophecy which referred to the destruction of Israel will, with equal force, apply to us if the same causes exist as did exist then. That God has pronounced a blessing upon individuals and nations that keep the Sabbath holy and a curse upon those who do not is too plainly stated to be denied.

Isaiah says in lvi:2, "Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it."

In lviii:13, 14, "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shalt honor him, not doing thy own way, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words, then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

In lvi:6 and 7, "Every one that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer." So his threatenings and curses rest upon those who desecrate the Sabbath.

Exod. xxxi:13, "Ye shall keep the Sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death."

Neh. xiii:17 and 18, "What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the Sabbath day? Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? Yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the Sabbath."

Jer. xvii:27, "But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the Sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched."

Eze. xx:15 and 16, "Yet also I lifted up my hand unto them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them unto the land which I had given them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands; because they despised my judgments, and walked not in my statutes, but polluted my Sabbaths: for their heart went after their idols."

Eze. xxiii:38 and 46, "They have defiled my sanctuary in the same day, and have profaned my Sabbaths. Thus saith the Lord God, I will bring up a company upon them, and will cause them to be removed and spoiled."

These passages might be added to almost indefinitely, and are too plain to need comment. But is our own nation treading in the same path? Are individuals and firms entirely responsible for all the Sabbath desecration in our land to-day? or does the guilt (in part at least) rest with our government in not making or enforcing proper laws and thus making it a national affair? Is the bellowing and thundering of railroad trains in our cities and by our churches on God's holy Sabbath day, and thus disturbing the worshiper in his worship, a work of mercy or necessity? Is the loading and unloading of boats at our wharfs on the Sabbath of the nature of feeding or watering domestic animals or lifting them out of a pit? Is the running of shops and factories (milk factories in particular) on the Sabbath an indispensable necessity to keep the finances of our nation from entire ruin? Can there be no law made and enforced to prevent this wholesale Sabbath desecration? If not, then is the nation free? But, to say the least, the nation has winked at these things and has made no effort to prevent them, and therefore brought upon itself the guilt of them. What we might prevent we shall be held responsible for. "To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not to him it is sin." So sure as God lives and his Bible is true, this nation is rapidly nearing the whirlpool of destruction. God's word has gone forth, "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish;" and "I will sweep them with the besom of destruction." The storm is already gathering that is to destroy us as a nation unless this wholesale Sabbath desecration and other violations of God's law shall be repented of and stopped. It needs no prophetic vision to see the clouds thickening in the distance and blackening the moral heavens; no ear trumpet to hear the peals of thunder which follow the lightning flash. Catholicism, with its determined purpose to rule or ruin, is arming for the conflict; secret societies are placing their infernal machines under our national structure; and intemperance, a hydra-headed monster, is roaring for its prey. Our only hope is in God, and in him only as we acknowledge him as our leader and seek protection from him by obedience to his commands.

The question of the day of the week to be observed as the Sabbath is not the vital one in connection with it, only so as to secure uniformity in its observance, as it is not the moral part of the Sabbath institution. Without doubt the breaking away from the day observed by the large majority of Christians, and the organization of several churches that take another day as the chief corner stone of their structure, together with the discussion attending such movements, has had much to do with the present wholesale and rapidly increasing desecration of God's holy Sabbath day. A few, or even one, in a community claiming to be a Christian and entirely ignoring the day observed by others, is a lesson which Satan will use to ruin the whole community, and with which he can at least create a discord and rupture the harmony of the cause of Christ. The children of such parents, as a rule, grow up to have no regard for any day, and become habitual Sabbath-breakers and a running and spreading sore to spread contagion and putrefaction in the community.

In view of these things and the danger arising therefrom, we, the Syracuse Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, do enter our earnest protest against Sabbath desecration of all kinds, including the running of railroad trains, loading and unloading boats at our wharfs, the running and patronage of milk and other factories on God's holy day, and urge our government to make and execute such laws as will suppress all such desecration.

E. E. CURTIS, *Committee.*

Perils to Social, Political and Religious Interests Growing Out of Secret Societies.

We read in Paul's letter to Timothy that "In the last days perilous times shall come," and the keen observer can not fail to see that the fulfillment of the prophecy is being fully realized in these days.

Among the perilous influences that surround us organic secretism is second to none in its power of influence and dangerous tendencies, and its overthrow would very largely solve the problem of the overthrow of other gigantic evils that now seem to baffle all attempts to either suppress or destroy.

We will notice the perilous tendencies of secret organizations in the order named in the subject :

1. *Social.* All secret organizations are under the management and control of worldly minded, if not absolutely wicked men and women ; and the rank and file of the membership are of the same class. Social drinking, card playing and other vices are practiced

in lodges and among lodge members which have a tendency to drown morality and spread immorality among the people. In the order known as the G. A. R. it is estimated that at least three-fourths of the members are habitual users of strong drink. The prevalence of worldly practices shuts out the moral and spiritual influence that ought to be extended among the people.

Evil begets evil and no one can become a member of an organization which is composed of, and governed by, worldly minds without being unfavorably affected by such surroundings. The sacredness of home relations is marred and marriage vows are broken by locking the heart with the key of secrecy that has been pledged with all of its contents to one who by divine sanction has become of the same bone and flesh. Many other things might be mentioned as among the social perils connected with secret organizations, but one more will suffice. Every secret organization made up of its various local lodges resorts to dances and other parties, festivals, excursions (many of which occur on the Lord's day) and banquets, all the tendencies of which are bad and lead to social immorality, which gives force to the Bible declaration that "It is a shame even to speak of those things which are done in secret."

2. *Political.* Secret organizations that are designed for the advancement of political measures are not the only ones whose influence moulds political conditions in our country. Every member of a secret organization may not be notoriously bad in character and practice, but those who possess such characters and inclinations are more than likely to form such relations for the protection that may be secured if not the encouragement arising from associates of like character that they may find in the lodge.

Political aspirants find it to their advantage to be connected with one or more of these associations, and members of said associations will rally to the support of their representative candidates without any regard for the condition of their habits or characters.

Most of the secret orders have companies of drilled men around sufficiently to indicate that they would be prepared for any emergency, and that emergency would be most likely to occur when some measure was pending, legislative or otherwise, that would be likely to have an unfavorable effect upon their interests.

3. *Religious.* The religious interests of our country are imperiled by secret societies,

(1.) By the spirit of worldliness which pervades the lodge system and controls its practices, which not only affects the whole system, but each individual member. A pure minded Christian can not be connected with such associations long without drinking in the spirit of worldliness and compromise, and losing communion with God and his influence for good in the world. Many

church members belong to one or more of these organizations, and this fact helps to explain the spiritual dearth in the churches of the present time, and also the fact that so many souls are going into hell every day. What an awful responsibility rests on the professed followers of Christ in these (we believe to be) last days.

(2.) By attracting the attention and absorbing the interests of those who ought to be wholly given up to the work of the church. Members of various churches who can not be induced to attend the social means of grace, or render proper support to the church, are ready to attend every meeting of the lodge, act upon lodge committees requiring much time and physical exertion, and contribute freely of their money for the honor of the fraternity. Those who are thus alienated will not be warned by faithful admonitions, but will continue their forgetfulness of God until they shall hear him say: "Inasmuch as ye did it not to these my brethren, ye did it not to me."

God help us to see the perils that surround us, and not only avoid them ourselves, but faithfully hold up the light before others that they may not be caught in the snare of the Devil.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

P. W. BRUCE, *Committee.*

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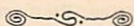
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