

MINUTES

OF THE

PHILADELPHIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

Held at Easton, Maryland, March 29—April 6, 1848.

Quest. 1. What Preachers have been admitted on trial?

Wm. H. Brisbane,	George Maddux,	Curtis F. Turner,
Alfred Cookman,	Adam Wallace,	Samuel R. Gillingham,
Henry F. Hurn,	Wm. Walton,	Jeremiah Pasterfield,
Chas. J. Thompson,	Wm. Major,	David Price,
Jacob Dickerson,	John Hough,	Wm. B. Mezick,

Quest. 2. Who remain on trial?—None.

Quest. 3. Who are admitted into full connection?

Edward G. Asay,	R. H. Pattison,	Thos. J. Burrows,
John Cummins,	Jonathan Turner,	W. Robb.
James E. Meredith,	J. B. McCullough,	

Quest. 4. Who are the deacons?

*Edward G. Asay,	John Maddox,	*R. H. Pattison,
Thomas A. Fernley,	Henry Sanderson,	*Jonathan Turner,
Charles Hill,	Joshua H. Turner,	*J. B. McCullough,
D. R. Thomas,	Wm. E. England,	*Thos. J. Burrows,
Peter Hallowell,	*John Cummins,	*W. Robb,
William Rink,	*J. E. Meredith,	

Quest. 5. Who have been elected and ordained Elders this year?

Newton Heston,	J. R. Anderson,	John Shields,
Samuel Pancoast,	G. D. Bowen,	Solomon M. Cooper.
G. W. Lybrand,	J. W. Mecaskey,	

Quest. 6. Who have located this year?

J. A. Boyle.

Quest. 7. Who are the Supernumeraries?

James Mitchell,	W. Quinn,	S. Patterson,
John Tally,	J. Woolson,	J. A. Watson,
J. Nichols,	S. Higgins,	W. W. McMichael,
W. H. Gilder,	J. Hand,	J. D. Long,
E. Kennard,	G. Barton,	E. J. Way,
J. Niell,	L. K. Berridge,	R. R. Richardson.
M. Sorin.		

Quest. 8. Who are the Superannuated or worn out preachers?

G. Wiltshire,	H. White,	W. C. Thomas,
	John Lednum.	

Quest. 9. Who have been expelled from the connection this year?—None.

Quest. 10. Who have withdrawn from the connection this year?

J. J. Elsegood.

Quest. 11. Were all the preachers' characters examined?

This was strictly attended to by calling over their names before the Conference.

Quest. 12. Who have died this year?

†W. A. Wiggins,	†W. Ryder,	†F. Rutter.
†T. Miller,	†W. Spry,	

* Those marked thus * were ordained this year.

† See memoirs at the end of the minutes.

Stoddardsville,
Harrisburgh,
{ Dauphin,
{ Lebanon,
Halifax,
Pottstown,
Bristol,
Auleborough,
{ Norristown,
{ Bethel and Evansburgh,
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, James Smith, P. E.
T. J. Thompson.
J. Castle.
E. Kennard, sup.
Peter Hallowell, J. D. Long, sup.
R. McNamee, W. H. Bristbane.
J. B. Ayers, J. Bayne.
C. Shock, W. Robb.
E. Reed, J. Bissey.
J. Harmer, one to be supplied, A. John, sup.
J. Carlisle, one to be supplied.
H. S. Atmore, one to be supplied.
J. Shields.
J. L. Taft.
J. W. Arthur.
Wm. H. Elliott.
H. Sanderson.
Stephen Townsend, W. K. Goentner, J. Tally, sup.

EASTON DISTRICT, J. T. Hazzard, P. E.

Middleton and Cantwell's
Bridge,
Smyrna,
Smyrna Ct.,
Dover,
Frederica,
Milford,
Denton,
Caroline,
Talbot,
Easton,
Centreville,
Church Hill,
Kent,
Millington,
Snow HILL DISTRICT, J. D. Onins, P. E.
R. E. Kemp, H. F. Hurn.
M. D. Kurtz, W. Rink, R. R. Richardson, sup.
E. Millar, C. F. Turner.
V. Smith, G. Maddux.
J. S. Taylor, T. Allen.
Wm. Cambell, R. H. Pattison.
J. Hargis, W. B. Mezic.
J. A. Brindle, Wm. Quinn, sup.
Wm. Mullin, T. B. Maddux.
C. Hill, one to be supplied.
S. M. Cooper, W. E. England.
Thomas Newman.
Jonathan Turner.
A. W. Milby, one to be supplied.
D. L. Patterson, one to be supplied.
J. R. Merrill, Adam Wallace.
D. D. Lore, Missionary.

Wm. Walton.
Wm. Cooper.
Geo. R. Crooks, S. Patterson, sup.
Thomas S Johnson, one to be supplied.
Valentine Gray, one to be supplied.
J. C. Thomas, one to be supplied, J. A. Watson, sup.
G. D. Carrow, L. K. Berridge, sup.
G. Quigley, one to be supplied, J. Hand, sup.
Thomas C. Murphy.
D. R. Thomas.

Quest. 15. When and where shall the next Conference be held ?
At Union M. E. Church, Philadelphia, 1849.

Quest. 16. What has been collected for the superannuated preachers,
and the widows and orphans of preachers?

North Philadelphia District.

	Conference Col.	Ten Cent		Conference Col.	Ten Cent
St. Georges,	29 00	74 40	Reading,	19 35	13 95
Nazareth,	26 50	77 62	Pottsville 1st. Ch.	9 00	11 42
Eighth St.	41 44	71 50	Port Carbon,	7 62	6 00
St. Johns,	19 31	22 49	Port Clinton,	8 50	7 00
Fifth St.	26 00	50 00	Pottsville 2d Ch.	4 37	2 79
Kensington,	31 13	15 12	Minersville,	6 13	5 82
Sanctuary,	6 00	5 00	Mauch Chunk,	4 00	6 00
Zoar,		1 50	Easton,	16 25	48 45
Wesley,		3 77	Allentown,		3 00
New Market St.	15 31	12 66	Richmond,	10 75	10 20
Twelfth St.	7 50	8 75	Stroudsburg	7 79	7 14
Bethlehem,	10 00	13 00	Stoddartsville,	6 61	5 08
Cohocksink,	8 20	11 00	Harrisburgh,	17 04	20 80
Manayunk, }	15 06	12 56	Dauphin,	10 00	7 75
Mount Zion, }			Halifax,	9 81	7 87
Germantown,	12 43	19 04	Lebanon,	13 00	9 75
Milestown,	8 90	8 10	Pine Grove,	4 80	
Lehman's Chapel,	4 10	6 41	Pottstown,	10 03	9 00
Frankford,	16 02	15 94	Bristol,	11 55	9 00
N. Phila. Miss.	8 17	4 42	Attleborough,	19 42	24 52
Holmesburgh,	2 26	4 08	Norristown,	10 50	9 57
Bustleton,	9 46	8 66	Bethel & Evansb'g	6 32	6 48
	296 79	446 02		222 81	231 59

South Philadelphia District.

	Conference Col.	Ten Cent		Conference Col.	Ten Cent
Union,	43 53	147 20	Wilmington, Asbury	28 84	37 40
German Mission,	3 00		" St. Pauls	11 00	26 75
Trinity,	66 46	98 20	Cecil	16 50	8 30
Mariner's Bethel,	21 65	21 75	Nottingham	14 50	15 35
Ebenezer,	31 96	72 47	Strasburgh	18 83	30 12
Wharton St.	11 50	34 02	Brandywine	7 70	6 70
St. Pauls,	31 52	54 50	West Chester	10 50	9 65
Salem,	27 80	60 50	Port Deposit	16 36	19 15
Western Church,	17 43	16 43	North East	13 00	17 63
Asbury,	9 36	15 89	Elkton	4 01	5 15
Haddington,	4 69	4 60	Chester, Ct.	25 50	24 20
Radnor,	14 18	10 00	Chester Station	6 15	5 02
Phoenixville,	6 12	13 25	Grove	5 10	7 92
Springfield,	17 42	15 50	Delaware City	16 76	24 27
Lancaster,	12 00	14 20	New Castle	1 76	2 15
Columbia,	13 00	8 37	Chatham	4 13	4 25
Marietta,	12 26	8 67	Soudersburgh	12 00	
S. Phila. Miss.				211 64	244 01
	343 88	595 55			

*Thirty dollars of this was a donation.

Easton District.

	Conference Coll.	Ten Cent Coll.
Middleton and Cantwell's Bridge	5 12	10 68
Smyrna, Ct.	9 56	9 00
Smyrna Station	6 35	4 05
Dover	16 00	24 00
Frederica	11 00	8 12
Milford	13 06	11 68
Denton	5 50	9 37
Caroline	12 00	10 25
Talbot	12 22	46 51
Easton	15 12	17 00
Centreville	8 20	8 50
Church Hill	11 18	18 00
Kent	18 75	11 00
Millington	21 00	23 25
Donations, Easton, \$20, do. \$5, do., \$1.25		26 25
	160 88	237 66

Snow Hill District.

	Conference Coll.	Ten Cent Coll.
Seaford	11 00	10 00
Dorchester	18 00	24 00
Cambridge	20 00	19 05
Church Creek	31 97	36 35
Salisbury	23 45	
Princess Ann	30 92	
Annapessex	22 09	22 45
Newtown	5 25	3 00
Accomac	11 15	32 20
Northampton	3 00	5 53
Snow Hill	6 90	8 75
Berlin	12 50	17 37
Milton	10 00	7 06
Georgetown	12 00	12 50
Laurel	5 10	7 75
Pocomoke	3 63	6 70
	226 96	212 71

The following collections have been divided as follows:

Bishop Hedding,	\$14 13	Sister Quinby,	\$100 00
Waugh,	14 13	Willet,	93 58
Morris,	14 13	Nicholson,	130 25
Hamline,	14 13	Connelly,	105 60
Janes,	16 57	Drain,	140 00
Roberts, widow,	4 35	Rusling,	105 65
John Woolson,	200 00	Best,	100 00
Joseph Carlisle,	200 00	Potts,	100 00
George Wiltshire,	100 00	Williams,	90 74
Wm. Rider,	174 04	McLenehan,	100 00
John Talley,	50 00	Fisher,	100 00
Mathew Sorin,	80 66	Finley,	100 00
Solomon Higgins,	63 26	McCoy,	87 06
I. T. Cooper,	10 00	Sharp,	100 00
J. Flannery,	54 26	Foull,	111 31
Jonas Bissey,	70 58	Lybrand,	124 00
J. A. Watson,	100 00	Smith,	100 00
George Barton,	75 62	Gardner,	204 00
James Hand,	63 02	Wiggins,	62 00
William Quinn,	6 00	Spry,	70 00
Sister Warfield,	87 17	Brother Allen's Children,	48 00
Hill,	87 17	Printing Circulars addressed	
Leonard,	100 00	to the Priscillian Mite So.,	2 50
McElwee,	100 00	Incidental Expenses,	2 30
Vanschoick,	77 05		
Collins,	100 00		
Henderson,	65 83		

RFCAPITULATION.

Conference Collection,	- - -	\$1462 96
Ten Cent Collections,	- - -	1967 54
Chartered Fund,	- - -	50 00
Book Concern,	- - -	500 00
Priscillian Mite Society of Annapessex,		34 25
Priscillian Mite Society of Princess Ann,		62 31
Salisbury Mite Society,	- - -	27 87
		<u>\$4104 93</u>

Amount of interest on Centenary Fund, \$403 51, was divided as follows:

Brother J. Woolson,	\$20 00	Sister McLenehan,	\$15 00
J. Carlisle,	20 00	Fisher,	25 00
G. Wiltshire,	10 00	Findley,	25 00
Sister Warfield,	15 00	Sharp,	10 00
Hill,	10 00	Smith,	15 00
Leonard,	15 00	Gardner,	15 00
McElwee,	10 00	Wiggins,	10 00
Vanschoick,	10 00	Spry,	37 98
Collins,	15 00	Lybrand,	10 00
Nicholson,	10 00	Foull,	10 00
Connelly,	10 00	Best,	10 00
Drain,	15 00	Quinby,	10 00
Rusling,	10 00		
Potts,	10 00		
Williams,	10 00		
			<u>\$403 51</u>

COMMITTEES OF EXAMINATION AND COURSE OF STUDY.

First Year.

1. Bible as to Doctrine, H. G. King; 2. Wesley's sermons, J. Mason; 3. Fletcher's Appeal and Christian Perfection, J. D. Curtis; 4. English Grammar and Composition, J. A. Roche.

Second Year.

1. Bible as to Ordinances or Sacraments, T. J. Thompson; 2. Watson's Life of Wesley, James Flannery; 3. Watson's Apology and Fletcher's Christian Perfection, Elijah Miller; 4. Methodist Discipline, Wm. Cooper; 5. Geography and Composition, Joseph Castle.

Third Year.

1. Bible as to History and Chronology, D. Dailey; 2. First and Second parts of Watson's Institutes, J. P. Durbin; 3. Gregory's Church History, L. M. Prettyman; 4. Rhetoric, Whateley's; Essay or Sermon, Vaughn Smith.

Fourth Year.

1. The Bible generally, R. M. Greenbank; 2. The Third and Fourth parts of Watson's Institutes, I. T. Cooper; 3. Powell on Apostolical Succession, J. C. Lyon; 4. Old Christianity again Papal Novelties, J. C. Lyon; 5. Essay or Sermon, Logic, R. W. Thomas.

VISITING COMMITTEES.

Dickenson College Seminary at Williamsport, Pa., William Cooper, G. R. Crooks.

Dickinson College, J. P. Durbin, J. Kennady.

Pennington Male Seminary, Anthony Atwood, Wm. H. Gilder.

Wesleyan Female College Institute, J. Castle, F. Hodgson, J. Flannery.

Pennington Female Seminary James Cunningham, David Shields.

Belle-Vue Female Seminary, Thomas J. Thompson, George Lacy, C. J. Crouch.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONFERENCE.

FINANCE.

Resolved, That, hereafter, all collections ordered by the Conference, shall be paid, when practicable, in current money of as large a denomination as possible, and that each collection be folded and marked with the name of the appointment from which it comes, the amount it contains, and the object for which it is intended.

BIBLE SOCIETY.

Resolved, That we will heartily co-operate as usual with the agents of the American Bible Society and its auxiliaries, in the blessed work of circulating the Holy Scriptures, and that we will take up a collection in each of our principal congregations, in the early part of the year in behalf of the Bible cause.

TIMES OF COLLECTIONS.

Resolved, That the Public Collections ordered by this Conference, be taken at the following periods of the Conference year, viz :

1. The Bible collection in June; 2. The Sunday School Union in July, August or September; 3. The Education in October; 4. The Missionary in November or December; 5. The Philadelphia Conference in February and March; 6. The ten cent collection during the year at the discretion of each preacher.

CONFERENCE SERMON.

Rev. T. J. Thompson was appointed to preach the Annual Sermon on the first day of the next Conference, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

CLAIMS.

1. Resolved, That the effective and supernumerary members of this Conference will be understood as making no claim on the funds of this Conference, unless it be made expressly in person or by representative at the call of the Stewards in Conference, accompanied with a statement of the whole amount of claim, and the amount received from the fields on which they may have laboured.

2. Resolved, That the claims of superannuated preachers residing within the Conference bounds, of the widows of the deceased preachers will be considered as made, unless expressly renounced, but they must make a statement of amount in person or by representative at the call of the Stewards, or be bound by the Steward's Report.

EDUCATION.

Resolved, That each preacher in charge shall take, or cause to be taken, a collection in each congregation under his care, for educational purposes under the direction of this Conference, and report the same to this Conference at its next session.

MEMOIRS.

REV. ASA SMITH was received on trial in the Philadelphia Annual Conference in the year 1800, and appointed to the Northumberland and Wyoming Circuit. He subsequently travelled Salem, Freehold, Gloucester, Bristol, Cecil, Chester, Bohemia, Kent, Dover, Queen Ann's, Lancaster and Northampton Circuits. He was then returned superannuated on the minutes for 1818. The next year, however, he took an effective relation and travelled Essex and Staten Island Circuits for two years; but his health seems not to have been firm, or the duties of the circuit were too heavy for him, as he was returned supernumerary the next year, and continued that relation for five years. At the expiration of that time he again became effective, and successively travelled Somerset, Snow Hill, Anamesssex, Dorchester, Accomac and Salisbury Circuits, which terminated his active ministry.

His early labours reach so far back, and we have so few materials at command, that it is wholly impossible to say when, or by what instrumentality he was brought to the knowledge of the truth, or what was the success of his early ministry. His constitution was hale, and as a minister, he was often denominated a son of thunder; and while in active service, he was abundant in labours. "The fathers, where are they? and the Prophets, do they live forever?" His last years were spent in Salem Co., N. J., in deep bodily affliction. He had only had the use of one eye for a number of years, and by a singular Providence, a year or two before his death, while attempting to split a small stick of wood, a fragment destroyed the sight of the other, and left him for the balance of his life in total blindness. He died in April, 1847, while the Conference of which he was a member was in session in Wilmington, Delaware.

REV. WILLIAM SPRY was born of pious parents, in Queen Ann County, Maryland, on the 23d of February, 1806, and was converted to God in August, 1822, and joined the Methodist Church at Dudley's Chapel, Queen Ann Circuit, under the pastoral charge of the Rev. James Smith. In 1827 he obtained the blessing of entire sanctification, and as "a burning and shining light," adorned the doctrine of God our Saviour. In 1832 he was admitted on trial in the Philadelphia Conference and appointed to Cecil Circuit. In 1833 he was stationed in Elkton, and in was appointed to Salisbury Circuit, where in preaching and other labours he greatly abounded in the work of the Lord. In 1835 he was induced by severe bodily affliction to take a supernumerary relation, and was appointed to labour on Denton, as his health would permit. At the next annual conference he was made effective, and was returned to the same circuit; and the two succeeding years was appointed to Dorchester Circuit. In 1839 he was stationed at Lewistown, and the next year travelled Lewistown Circuit. In 1841 he filled Easton station in Talbot County, Md., and subsequently travelled Cambridge, Georgetown and Accomac circuits, on the last of which he finished his mortal career in the triumphs of faith, on the 29th of November, 1847, in the 42d year of his age and the 16th of his itinerant ministry. On the day of his departure he called his family together and bade them an affectionate and final farewell; and after committing them into the hands of his gracious Benefactor and merciful Saviour, he calmly and sweetly fell asleep in Jesus until the morning of the resurrection.

As a Christian, our dearly beloved brother was an honour to his profession, faithful in his devotions, exemplary in his life, plain in his dress and manners, and dignified in his proceedings; he became an example to the flock of Christ and a blessing to all around him.

As a Minister of the Gospel, his talents were respectable and useful. His sermons were delivered with that holy fervour which always maintains an ascendancy over the kingdom of darkness, and brings sinners to know him, whom to know is life eternal. Many in the day of judgment will be stars in his crown of rejoicing, and will unite with him in everlastingly ascribing the glory to Him that sitteth on the throne, and to the Lamb for ever and ever. He was one of our sweetest singers in Israel. His melodious voice often charmed listening congregations, and in sacred song raised them on contemplations pinions to the palace and the throne where glorified spirits roll the anthem of redeeming love all along the tide of endless ages. And as he lived, laboured, suffered and died in the cause of his Master, we can therefore now triumphantly proclaim that he "rests from his labours and his works do follow him." He has left an affectionate widow and two interesting little children to mourn their loss. But notwithstanding all the sorrows and tears that surround his departure, his dying testimony is gloriously consoling to all his relations and friends, for instead of meeting the king of terrors as a devouring enemy, he hailed him as a messenger of triumph, and joyfully exclaimed, "Death has lost his sting, I have no fears. Glory to God, I die in the faith, I die a Christian.

"Soldier of Christ, well done;
Begin thy new employ;
Sing, while eternal ages run,
Thy Master and his joy."

The REV. WILLIAM RYDER, the subject of this memoir, was born in Dorchester County, Maryland, October 13th, 1773, and experienced religion February 23d, 1805, and immediately connected himself with the M. E. Church; and being constrained by the love of Christ, he straightway, like Paul, began to exhort his neighbours to flee from the wrath to come, telling them what God had done for his own soul; and such was the effect of these efforts that a gracious work of God followed and spread through the neighbourhood. It soon became evident to the church that God intended him for a more extended field of labour and usefulness. He entered the travelling connection in 1811, and was appointed to Caroline Circuit, where his labours were greatly owned and blessed of God. He continued his effective labours, with the bare exception of one year—1827—till 1840, when he took a supernumerary relation. From that time till his death, which occurred July 8th, 1847, he continued to preach Christ to the people as his strength would allow. His talents as a preacher were respectable, and his preaching was powerful, but in exhortation he excelled. Brother J. B. Ayers says in an obituary published in the Christian Advocate and Journal of Oct. 13, 1847, "I had the satisfaction of sitting up with him the last night of his life, and found him as might have been expected, happy in God, strong in faith, and in full expectation of the exceeding great reward. He spoke freely of the gracious dealings of God with his soul, and of the sore conflicts and deep waters he had passed through. 'I have,' he said, 'often afflicted myself, when God has not laid his chastening rod upon me. The enemy of my soul has often pursued me close and frequently tried to rob me of my confidence in God, and of the evidence of my acceptance with him, and of my usefulness to my fellow men, but glory be to God, when I have been suitably tried,

the Lord has invariably interposed in my behalf, rebuked the enemy, cleared my sky, blessed my soul, and I have always praised him and sometimes shouted for joy.' He then added, 'my work is done, the conflict is passed, I am free, my way is clear, my confidence strong, my soul is happy, and I shall soon be in heaven; of this I have no doubt; but all my dependence is on the atoning blood of Christ; other refuge have I none; through it I shall have everlasting life and I shall be eternally happy. Glory! Glory!' He was rational to the last, and said several things further in reference to the state of his soul and his confidence of heaven. He fell asleep, sweetly and triumphantly, in the arms of Jesus, and now shares, no doubt, in the happiness of the redeemed. He has left a widow and three children to mourn their loss."

REV. FRANCIS RUTTER. The subject of this brief notice was a native of Kent Co. Md. Of his early history and conversion we have no special information, but of the reality and soundness of the latter we have many proofs. He was received on trial in the Philadelphia Annual Conference in the spring of 1844, and sent to Cambridge circuit; in 1845 to Salisbury—in 1846 to Princess Ann—in 1841 to Berlin, where July the 15th he ended his toils and found a grave. Brother Rutter sustained himself well in all his appointments, and lived high in the affections and esteem of his people. His health was feeble from the beginning, and consequently he labored amidst pain and bodily infirmities. He possessed a fine mind, well cultivated in English literature. In his manners he was a gentleman. His piety was deep and uniform. He professed to enjoy the blessing of sanctification. He was a good minister of Jesus Christ, rightly dividing the word of truth. His last illness was rather protracted and painful, but he died as he lived, in a full hope of eternal life, in the 29th year of his age. His remains, at his own request, were deposited in the rear of the M E Church in Berlin, to rest till the glorious morn of the resurrection. He married the year before his death, and his widow is left to mourn his early loss.

THE REV. WM. ASHBY WIGGINS was born in the city of Trenton, N. J. October 30, 1796. In the thirteenth year of his age he forsook the follies of youth by embracing religion. At what time he began as a Local preacher to call sinners to repentance, is not certainly known. It was in the year 1823, and in the 27th of his age, he entered the Philadelphia Conference on trial. His first field of labor in his new relation to the church was Hamburg circuit. The appointments which followed were Essex and Staten Island, Bergin and Bellville circuits, Bridgeton and Patterson stations, Asbury circuit, Kensington, St. Paul's, Wilmington, Port Deposits, Nazareth and Western Church. At the Conference of 1845 he was appointed to Lancaster, Pa. Shortly after his arrival there, the natural tendency of his constitution developed itself in alarming symptoms of decline. He recovered however so far as to be able to resume the duties of his station, which he discharged with all his accustomed fidelity and zeal. Leaving Lancaster, where the public esteem of his character and labours found expression through the press, and receiving his appointment to Reading, he flattered himself that his health might be fully established, and that he should still live to work in the vineyard of the Lord: but He, who discharges his servants when and where it seems best in His sight, had ordained an early conclusion of both his work and life.

In the early part of the fall his disease renewed its violence, and rapidly prostrated his strength and confined him to his chamber and bed. Inquiry was made concerning the state of his mind, to which he replied, "I am

calm and happy in my Redeemer." He said he had just been looking over the list of distinguished ministers who had attended the last anniversary of the American Bible Society, and while admiring that assemblage of the great spirits of the church, he thought, (and the happy reflection dissolved him into tenderness and tears,) "Jesus died for poor *me*, as much as for the greatest of them all." At the same time he observed, "that though he had done some good in the earth—had been the instrument of salvation to others,—yet he had no dependence, no plea, but in the availing merits of the dying Redeemer, and on that ground he felt an undoubted assurance of a glorious immortality. Indeed the cross of Christ, as viewed from the bed of death, was covered with a thousand charms.

The following is a part of the dying testimony which gives such comfortable assurance to his family and the church that he was led in the right way to the city of habitation. "I am a great sufferer," he would say, "but I must suffer to glorify God, and through suffering to be made perfect." To his children who stood about his bed he said, "Oh my dear children;

"Then I shall see, and hear, and know,
All I desired or wished below;
And every hour find sweet employ
In that eternal world of joy."

"Oh, my children, your mother (his first wife) expressed her belief on her dying bed, that God would bring us, an unbroken family, to Heaven; you will live awhile in affliction, perhaps in poverty; but what are the riches of this world? We brought nothing into it, and we can carry nothing out. But let me see you, not only within the gates of heaven, but with us about the throne." When the hour had come that saw his spirit's happy release, he desired his sons to raise him in his bed; when this was done, he turned towards them a smiling countenance. It was the beaming forth of a dying father's love. His devoted wife then asked him if he knew her. "Yes," he answered, "dear Elizabeth I am going to leave you, but we shall have a happy meeting in heaven. Farewell." His children sung, "On Jordan's stormy banks I stand." He joined in the singing as well as he could, also in the hymn, "Jesus lover of my soul."

He was then asked by the Presiding Elder, Brother McFarland, to tell of the prospects before him. He replied with his last remaining strength, "*Triumph! Triumph!*" and in a few moments entered his rest, about 6 o'clock on Thursday evening, Oct. 21, 1847, in the 51st year of his age and 25th of his ministry. As a faithful and successful minister of the Lord Jesus Christ, he will be long held in affectionate remembrance by thousands who have been benefited by his labours. And the fact that he was successively elected for fourteen years as Secretary of the Conference, indicates the confidence his brethren in the ministry reposed in him. "He was a good man and full of the Holy Ghost, and much people were added unto the Lord."

REV. THOMAS MILLER. The subject of this memoir was born in Cecil County, Maryland, in the year of our Lord 1770. His parents were Presbyterians, and his mother was deeply pious according to the light she had. Her religious example was gratefully remembered by her son in after life, who acknowledged that he received his early religious impressions from her careful instructions and admonitions. From a child he had so much of the Lord as enabled him to abstain from all profanity of speech and all conduct that could disgrace the youth. Thus he lived till thirty years old with the form of godliness without the power; often, however, desiring to

know that he had a saving interest in Christ. Being convinced that he must be born again, he sought the Lord with all his heart until he found him precious to his soul. The love of God was now shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Ghost, and he immediately felt a burning zeal for the salvation of his fellow men. Finding among the Methodists the Bible doctrine that he believed, and the experience he enjoyed, he united with them in church fellowship. His love of souls soon led him to exhort his acquaintances to seek the experience he enjoyed. The Lord was with him, owning his labours, and the darkness with regard to experimental religion that had long covered the people fled away, and many, as the first fruits of his ministerial labours, sought and found the pearl of great price. His usefulness among his neighbours had brought him into notice among the proper authorities of the church, and being licensed to preach, he was called into the itinerant service in 1808 by Dr. Chandler, and placed on Chester circuit, where he continued his labours in 1809. The fields of his labour subsequently, were Milford, Talbot, Cecil, Lancaster, Smyrna, Dover, Philadelphia, Strasburg, Soudersburg, Waynesburg and West Philadelphia. For further particulars we refer to the printed minutes. A few of the last years of his life were spent in a supernumerary relation to the church; the year, however, in which he died, he stood as effective. As a Christian, he was serious, solemn and circumspect, to a degree seldom equalled. Never given to jesting or foolish talking. At all times he seemed to be deeply impressed with the fear and presence of God; and while his example was the exhibition of his doctrine, his presence was a powerful application of his sermons. All that enjoyed his company were brought to feel that he was living as he urged others to live.

As a preacher of the Gospel, he was plain, pathetic and powerful; the feelings of his soul imbued his sermons, and often the spirit that he felt lighted on his congregation; when aided by the spirit he was a Sampson in our Israel that could shake a congregation composed of hundreds and thousands. Few among us have been more successful in awakening and winning souls to Christ. For forty years his ministry made a deep impression on the community he laboured among. His faithful warnings to the people fully delivered his soul from their blood, and we doubt not, when the weeping bearers of precious seed shall come again with rejoicing, Father Miller will be among them with many sheaves. During his last sickness, that lasted for several weeks, he maintained close and constant communication with God through his Saviour. Prayer having been a leading exercise of his Christian life, while his friends were engaged in prayer, committing him to the care of Jesus, his spirit fled and was carried by angels to Paradise. He died in the 78th year of his life, at the house of his son Joseph, at Cherry Hill, near the place of his nativity.

"'Tis finished, 'tis done, the spirit is fled,
The minister's gone, the Christian is dead;
The Christian is living through Jesus's love,
And gladly receiving a kingdom above."

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