

CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.



G. W. Johnson

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Poetry.

"NOW."

Rabbi Eliezer said, "Turn to God one day before your death." His disciples said, "How can a man know the day of his death?"— "Therefore should you turn to God to-day," was the earnest reply.

I said that I would never yield
The world and all its joys,
While yet I felt the pangs of guilt,
The pain that peace destroys.

I said I'd wait, its pleasures know,
Its happiness to try,
I said I'd wait for serious thoughts
When I should come to die.

But O, the thought, the piercing thought
Ran through my inmost soul,
"And dost thou know when it will be,
That thou the hour hast told?"

And conscience whispered, "Ah, alas,
The hour thou dost not know?"
And then I cried, "farewell, ye cares,
For I will seek it now."
"Will seek the pearl of price untold,
The saving of my deathless soul."

From the Daily Advocate.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

THURSDAY, May 6.

Conference opened at half-past 8 A. M., Bishop Kavanaugh in the chair. R. J. Boyd conducted the devotions of the morning, reading the 12th chapter of Romans, and singing the hymn on page 193—

"Jesus, the name high over all
In hell, or earth, or sky."

S. Anthony asked to be excused from serving on the Committee on Temperance, which was granted.

The arrival of S. J. Davies, of the Louisiana Conference, and of J. J. Hutchison, of the Alabama Conference, was announced and they took their seats in the Conference.

Reports from committees were called for.

W. M. Wightman presented Report No. 1 from the committee on the Episcopacy, relating to

BISHOP CAPERS.

The Committee on Episcopacy beg leave respectfully to submit the following preamble and resolution as suitable to be entered upon the Journal of the General Conference:

WHEREAS, It has pleased God to remove by death, on the 26th of January, 1855, William Capers, one of the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, a man who for nearly half a century was identified with the itinerant ministry, served his generation faithfully, and will be honored by posterity as the founder of missions to the black in his native State; therefore,

Be it resolved, That in recording on the Journal this mournful event, we desire to magnify the riches of the Divine grace manifested in him, and which led to a full consecration of his abilities, from early manhood, to the work of the Methodist ministry. Eloquent, courteous, and influential, he filled with dignity and usefulness the varied spheres of service intrusted to him; and in the office of Episcopal oversight maintained such a position in the respect and affection of his brethren as warranted the universal confidence of the Church. Although declining health in the latter part of his life diminished the vigor and extent of his activities, yet his motto to the last was, "As much as in me lies." He died in the faith of that Jesus whom he had known and preached for forty-six years as an Almighty Saviour, and in the sure and certain hope of eternal life through the merits of His atoning sacrifice.

Resolved further, That the Secretary of the General Conference be and is hereby instructed to convey to the family of the deceased the foregoing resolution, accompanied with an expression of the sympathy of this body on the occasion of their late and severe bereavement.

Respectfully submitted,
W. M. WIGHTMAN, Chairman,
May 6, 2858.

J. B. McFerrin presented report No. 1 of the Committee on Books and Periodicals, recommending the publication of the Hymn Book, Discipline, and Catechisms in the German language.

After some remarks from J. B. McFerrin and J. Hamilton, it was, on motion of E. Wadsworth, laid on the table for the present.

The Chair now called for petitions, memorials and appeals.

W. C. Johnson presented a resolution, being a copy from the records of the Tennessee Conference, instructing the delegates of said Conference to use their influence to have the action of the last General Conference, on page 300 of their Journal, appended to the General Rule on Slavery, as explanatory of its nature.

It was, on motion referred to the Committee on Revisals.

C. K. Marshall presented a printed memorial on the subject of a great central paper.

The memorial contemplates the publication of a Church paper, on the principle of a weekly tract, for general distribution, without subscription or fixed price; every church to establish an agency for its circulation, and every

member and family to be supplied at their own price. The memorialist thinks that the Church will come up manfully to the support of such a publication; that one page devoted to high-priced advertisements will pay well; and that the church ought to raise two or three hundred thousand dollars, the interest of which should be devoted to this enterprise. Thousands of dollars have been already pledged to the object by worthy and liberal christian gentlemen, and any necessary amount may be procured by proper effort.

The memorialist sustained the paper by a characteristic and eloquent speech, and desired its reference to a special committee.

He said: "Many look upon the plan as visionary. To us it is plain, clear, and practical. If not approved, I can wait a century to see it done, and look down from heaven with satisfaction to see it in operation. My scheme may fail, but I would rather be the author of a valuable enterprise that failed because it was in advance of the times, than to raise a crop of Jonah's gourds that would shade the torrid zone for a century."

It was, on motion, referred to a special committee of nine.

B. M. Drake presented a resolution from the Quarterly Conference of Clinton circuit, Mississippi, recommending the plan for publishing papers given some time since in the New Orleans Christian Advocate; which was, on motion, referred to the same committee.

N. F. Reid presented a memorial calling for a Book Depository in Raleigh, N. C.; which was referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

A. H. Mitchell presented a memorial from R. Abbey, suggesting a plan for conducting our publishing operations, which was referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals. It is as follows:

Resolved, That the Committee on Books and Periodicals, and that on Tracts, be and they are hereby each instructed to inquire into the expediency of so changing the Discipline that there shall be one section on "Books and Tracts," and another on "Periodicals;" and that that on the former be made to read as follows, viz:

SECTION I.—

On the Publication of Books & Tracts.

1. The Publishing House in the city of Nashville shall be continued as heretofore, for the purpose of manufacturing and publishing books and tracts. It shall be under the control of two Book Agents and a Book Committee, consisting of five—two laymen and three ministers; three of whom shall be inhabitants of Nashville and vicinity, and all of whom shall be elected by the General Conference.

2. The Book Agents shall have charge of all the general funds of the church connected with that department, and shall be responsible to the General Conference for the faithful management of the same, under the general direction of the General Conference and Book Committee.

3. The object of the Publishing House is not to make money for the Church. The prices of books will therefore be arranged, from time to time, so as to keep the House in a safe, self-sustaining condition, and so as to put in circulation the largest amount of books and tracts.

4. The Book Committee shall be consulted on all matters of superior importance by the Book Agents; and no large investment shall be made, nor any general line of policy be pursued by the Agents which may be disapproved by the Committee. They shall fix the salaries of the Book Agents and all other General Conference officers resident in Nashville, which shall be paid by the Book Agents.

5. The Book Agents shall lay before the Annual Conference such information touching our publishing business as may be of general or special interest, and shall report fully the condition of the business in their hands to the General Conference.

6. There shall be also elected by the General Conference a Book and Tract Secretary, and a Book and Tract Editor. It shall be the duty of the former to co-operate with the Agents in getting our books and tracts into a wider and more thorough circulation. To this end, he will visit the Annual Conferences, as far as practicable, and give encouragement and assistance in the formation of Conference Book and Tract Societies, attend generally to the publishing interests at a distance, and encourage the formation of Tract Societies throughout the entire Church.

7. The several Annual Conferences are advised and requested that, as soon as practicable, they each organize a Book and Tract Society; or, when it may be deemed advisable, let two Conferences join in one Society, upon the following general plan, viz:

First. The Society will be for the more thorough sale and distribution of our books, tracts, and periodicals, and to be composed of those who contribute to its funds, under such regulations as may be prescribed, and be under the control of a Board of Managers and Book and Tract Agent, appointed to that work from the Conference.

Second. It will raise and possess a permanent fund in, or bills, receivable,

of such amount as may be judged proper, say from ten thousand to fifty thousand dollars, to supply its depository with books, tracts, etc. It will employ as many colporteurs as may be needed, and form small local Tract Societies whenever it may be practicable, for the gratuitous distribution of tracts.

Third. They will co-operate with the Publishing House, as far as practicable, for the gratuitous distribution of tracts.

Third. They will co-operate with the Publishing House, as far as practicable, by making purchases for cash, or on short time, based upon bills receivable in hand, and by pushing our books into circulation, and by giving a wider distribution to our periodicals.

EAST TEXAS CONFERENCE—BOUNDARY—NAME.

J. W. Fields, from the East Texas Conference, submitted, in behalf of said Conference, a resolution instructing the Committee on Boundaries to inquire into the expediency of changing the boundary-line between the East Texas and the Texas Conferences. Before the resolution was read, he remarked that it was sent up here after unavailing efforts to settle amongst themselves the question of boundary between the two Conferences of this State.

On his further motion, the resolution was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

J. W. Fields also submitted a resolution with reference to a change of name of these two Conferences, which was read by the Secretary.

W. H. Seat, of Texas, remarked, that if the brother desired any change of name for the East Texas Conference, he hoped the General Conference would hear him; but he would say for the west of Texas, that they were entirely satisfied with their Conference name.

On motion by J. W. Fields, the resolution was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

INDIAN MISSION CONFERENCE.

L. P. Lively, from the Indian Mission Conference, submitted a resolution, with two endorsing seconds, directing the Committee on Boundaries to inquire into the expediency of dividing said Conference, so as to attach the Choctaw District to the East Texas Conference, and add the remainder of said Conference to the Arkansas Conference. He moved that the resolution be referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

THE PACIFIC FIELD.

Bishop Kavanaugh (the President) now laid before the Conference a memorial from the Pacific Conference, presenting the necessities of that field of labor, and urging the necessity of the supply of laborers, signed by W. R. Guber and others; which was read. He suggested (though it was not his province to make a motion) that so much of the memorial as refers to the Episcopal Visitations should be referred to the Committee on the Episcopacy.

J. Boring—I do not desire, Mr. President, to contravene your judgment, or your instructions as to the particular direction to be given to the memorial.

Bishop Kavanaugh—I have no instructions.

J. Boring—I have heard the memorial, sir, with a great deal of interest—an interest which, in the very nature of things, no other member of this body can feel. The memorial sets forth what I know to be most true. It occurs to me, that if the paper were to be divided and referred—a part of it to the Committee on the Episcopacy, and a part to the Committee on Books and Periodicals, and if we should be called to act upon separate interests in that important field of labor—I fear that by such an arrangement this General Conference will again adjourn without any thing like an adequate idea of that vast work, its importance and its necessities. Four years ago I desired an opportunity of presenting these same facts, from my place in the General Conference; but it was denied me by the force of circumstances. Bishop Soule also sought an opportunity to do the same thing, but, as things came up, it could not be done. And now, sir, whilst I would not bring my judgment against yours, I would say to the body that, from personal knowledge derived from my connection with that work for four years from its beginning, my decided opinion is, that the whole interest ought to come before this General Conference, with its connections as a whole, and at the same time. It occurs to me that this object cannot be reached so well and so fully by any other method as by the appointment of a special committee to take charge of this memorial. Brother Kelly is here, formerly our missionary in that field; I am here; Bishop Soule and Bishop Andrew are here, and Bishop Kavanaugh who is now in charge of that work, is also here present; and it occurs to me that this is the time for the elicitation of full information upon this subject, and that, at last, this great work on the Pacific coast should, for once, be brought before the General Conference. I will add, that there are a number of very peculiar and important facts connected with the history and prosperity of that work, which are not and which could not be contained in that memorial, and

which ought to be brought before the Conference. I will move that the whole subject be referred to a special committee, with a request that they report at as early a day as practicable. I do so in the belief that this course will elicit all the desired information in the case. Upon this subject, sir, I stand to-day just where I stood in 1849, when I was assigned to that work; where I stood in 1854, when I left it, and where I stood when the last vestige of my property went for it. I am for this work, and I will stand for it, under all proper circumstances.

A. L. P. Green suggested that there be excepted from the reference that part of the paper having relation to the Episcopal visitations. According to the uniform practice of this body, that part must go to the Committee on the Episcopacy.

J. Boring—I was apprised of that, and I am a stickler for it—I know that subject must go before the Episcopal Committee, but still I apprehend that that need not prevent the reference of the whole of that California paper to a select committee.

W. McMahon—The paper ought to be referred to two committees. It was too long for one.

J. Boring—I accept Dr. Green's amendment.

Bishop Kavanaugh—I am glad of the interest Dr. Boring has manifested in this matter.

The motion for a select committee was adopted.

On motion by A. L. P. Green, it was ordered that so much of said paper as refers to the Episcopal visitations be referred to the Episcopal Committee.

J. Boring suggested that said Select Committee consist of nine members, to be appointed by the Chair; and it was so ordered.

BOOK AGENTS' ADDRESS.

J. B. McFerrin—Before the Conference proceeded to the special order of the day, I desire to say that there is an important matter waiting to be presented and read here, and which must be submitted, before one of the standing committees can proceed with their labors. The brethren have been two days waiting to get that paper before them.

J. E. Edwards moved that the special order be dispensed with for that purpose; which was agreed to.

E. Stevenson remarked, that the paper had been prepared amidst the multiplicity of other cares and labors; and whilst it might be found defective in many particulars, he trusts that it contained facts and reflections that might prove to be of some advantage to the Conference in their deliberations. It contains not only matter which we are bound to notice, but suggestions which we have deemed it our duty to submit; and upon the whole we trust that its suggestions will not be regarded as altogether out of place.

The Book Agents then submitted their Address, as an Appendix to their Report presented on Tuesday, setting forth the condition and prospects of the Publishing House.

L. M. Lee moved its reference to the Committee on Books and Periodicals. E. Wadsworth moved, as an amendment, that so much of the document as relates to the Tract cause be referred to the Committee on Tracts; so much as relates to Sunday schools to the Committee on Sunday schools; and the remainder to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

L. M. Lee wished permission to submit to the Committee on Books and Periodicals, in connection with the address of the Agents, an exhibit of the Richmond Depository for each year since he has had charge of it, with a detailed account of all the facts in connection with it; which was, on motion, granted.

E. H. Myers presented his report as Agent of the Charleston Depository, with a request that it might be added to the address of the Agents; which was, on motion, permitted.

F. E. Pitts thought the whole address ought to go to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

The vote was taken, and the address, with the accompanying papers, was referred to the committees, as named in E. Wadsworth's amendment.

T. O. Summers read a note from the Librarian of the Tennessee Library, presenting to the General Conference copies of Professor Safford's Geological Reconnaissance of Tennessee, with map, his Second Report, and other documents.

On motion of T. O. Summers, it was resolved, That the thanks of the Conference be tendered to the Librarian for this courtesy.

A communication was presented from the Young Men's Christian Association of Nashville, inviting the Conference to attend their daily prayer meeting at their hall.

The order of the day was now called up, to wit: The appeal of James Maclean from the action of the Mississippi Conference, in locating him without his consent.

The appellant desired the assistance of H. H. Montgomery in managing his case; which was, on motion, granted. The appellant occupied the time till near the hour of adjournment; when, on motion of C. F. Deems, it was

Resolved, That the appellant be allowed to prosecute his appeal to-morrow at 10 o'clock, A. M.

A. S. Riggs, from the Committee on Public Worship, now announced the appointments for preaching to-morrow (Friday) night, as printed in this day's Advocate.

G. Jones submitted a resolution directing to the Committee on Revisals, instructing them to inquire into the expediency of inserting a new rule in the book, prohibiting dancing and attendance on the theatre by our members; signed also by J. Lusk and B. M. Drake; which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisals.

J. Stacy submitted a resolution, (signed also by P. P. Smith,) directing the Committee on Revisals to consider the propriety of amending the Discipline on page 112, etc., with reference to the trial of ministers; which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisals.

C. K. Marshall submitted a resolution (signed also by H. E. Thwait) with reference to amendments of the Discipline on page 56, 58; which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisals.

C. Alexander submitted a resolution, (signed also by R. W. Kennon,) directing to the Committee on Itinerancy, and instructing them to inquire into the expediency of the Bishops' appointing certain traveling agents to promote the circulation of books in certain Conferences; which was read and referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

T. B. Payne submitted a resolution, signed also, by G. J. Pearce, directing the proper committee to inquire into the propriety of shortening the time of qualifying for deacons' and local preachers' orders, from two years to one year, and from four years to two years; and to consider the subject with special reference to the existing necessity in many quarters for the due administration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper; which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisals.

F. F. Sevier submitted a resolution, signed also by E. E. Wiley, to this effect:

Resolved, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences, That the present name of the churches we represent be changed, and that they be called and known hereafter by the name and style of the Methodist Church.

CENTRAL RELIGIOUS PAPER.

The Bishop presiding, under the order of this day, now announced the special committee to consider the memorial concerning a central religious paper, as follows: C. K. Marshall, Chairman; D. S. Doggett, J. Hamilton, W. J. Sannett, Lovick, Pierce, J. Boyle, F. E. Pitts, E. Stevenson, and R. Alexander.

C. K. Marshall besought the Conference, ineffably, to be excused from this service.

B. M. Drake, Chairman of the Committee on Education, (by leave,) appealed to the several members of said committee to be prompt in their attendance on their appointment for meeting this afternoon at five o'clock. He was particular in his request to members that they would come together prepared with written statements of the schools they severally represent. It was especially desirable to know the relation these schools sustain to the several Conferences; whether they are the property of the Conference, or simply patronized by the Conference. It was especially desirable to know the number and strength of all our schools, the amount of the several endowments, as well as the religious revivals with which they have been blessed, etc.

After the announcement of other committee appointments, the Conference adjourned.

Benediction by the Bishop presiding.

FRIDAY, MAY 7.

Conference met at the usual hour, Bishop Kavanaugh in the chair.

Thomas Maddin, of the Tennessee Conference, conducted the morning devotions.

The minutes of yesterday were read, corrected and approved; when Bishop Payne, having been requested, took the chair, and called for reports from standing committees.

RIO GRANDE MISSION CONFERENCE.

J. Boring, from the Committee on Missions, to whom the subject of the establishment of a new Conference, to be called the Rio Grande Conference, was referred, reported a recommendation for the establishment of such a Conference, and proposing boundaries, by a line beginning at the mouth of the Guadalupe river, and thence running up said river to San Antonio; thence along the Military Road to Fort Mason; thence north to the Colorado river, etc; thence round to the Rio Grande, down said Rio Grande to its mouth, and thence along the coast to the beginning.

The report lies on the table one day under the rules of Conference.

WILL OF PEYTON M. WYATT.

J. Boring, from the same Committee, to whom had been referred the memorial signed by W. J. Hays and others, asking the Conference to consider a certain bequest in the will of Peyton

M. Wyatt, reported the committee's concurrence in the opinion that the bequest should be turned over to the Boston circuit, East Texas Conference; it appearing to them that such was the design of the testator.

The President—It is not the province of the chair to give direction to the report.

E. H. Myers moved its adoption.

J. Boring stated, for the satisfaction of the Conference, that the Committee on Missions, after every investigation which could be had, came to the conclusion that such was the design of the testator.

The report was adopted.

CLAIM OF THE TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

J. Boring, from the same Committee, to whom had been referred the subject of expenditures for the German paper by the Texas Christian Advocate, reported that they were satisfied that the sum of \$550 should be refunded to said Advocate from the Treasury of the Missionary Society.

J. Boring—We had before us the delegation from Texas, two members of the Publishing Committee of the Texas Christian Advocate, and also conferred with Dr. Schon and Dr. Stevenson; so that there can be no question about the correctness of the matter reported. It is perhaps unnecessary to lay it on the table.

On motion of J. G. Bruce, the motion was adopted.

MISSION ON WESTERN COAST OF AFRICA.

J. Boring, from the same Committee, to whom had been referred the subject of establishing a mission on the Western Coast of Africa, reported that, having considered the subject, it was inexpedient, in their judgment, to establish such a mission at the present time.

G. W. Langhorne—As a member of that committee, I would offer a substitute for that report, which I drew up after leaving the committee last night. It is seconded by F. E. Pitts.

The substitute, which was read, proposes, in the form of a resolution, that if, at any time during the interim between this and the meeting of the next General Conference, the providence of God should open a door for the establishment of such a mission, our Missionary Board be requested to avail themselves of it.

J. Boring—Brother Langhorne's resolution meets my view entirely; and it occurs to me that it need not be offered as a substitute, but as an amendment; I am prepared to vote for it as an addition to the report.

G. W. Langhorne—I accept the suggestion, and offer it in that way.

The Chair—The amendment is not in order. It is not competent for the chairman to accept an amendment to a report.

E. H. Myers moved that the report be referred back to the committee.

The motion was adopted, and so the report and resolution were referred back to the Committee.

BOUNDARY-LINE BETWEEN ALABAMA AND MEMPHIS CONFERENCES.

L. Pierce, from the Committee on Boundaries, to whom was referred the proposition of Bros. Cogar and Sullivan, submitted a report, (No. 1,) recommending certain changes in the boundary-line between the Alabama and Memphis Conferences.

Also Report (No. 2) on the resolution of Bros. Smith and Andrews, asking that the Apalachicola Mission be transferred from the Alabama to the Florida Conference, and recommended its adoption.

Also Report (No. 3) on the paper of J. H. Linn and others, as to the formation of a new Conference, to be composed of portions of the Kentucky and Virginia Conferences; recommending that such Conference be not formed at this time.

The Chair—This report, of course, lies on the table, as it contemplates a change in the Discipline.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

J. B. McFerrin, from the Committee on Books and Periodicals, submitted a report, (No. 2.)

I. With reference to the claim of Mrs. Eliza V. Bascom, recommending that the whole matter be referred to the Book Agents.

II. The claim of Mrs. S. A. Latta, recommending that her claim be not allowed.

III. The claim of Thos. V. Brown, recommending that the same be not allowed.

IV. On the security of the Publishing House property, in accordance with the resolution of E. C. Slater and others, the Committee report—

1. That the deeds of the lands and buildings have all been duly made and recorded.

2. That the buildings are constructed in part with inflammable materials, and filled with inflammable matter; and owing to the contiguity of other buildings, they regard the establishment as liable to injury by fire.

3. That there is no insurance except on that part connected with the Binde-

4. That the Book Agents have found it difficult to procure a policy.

The Committee recommended that the General Conference take steps for the better security of the property, either by making the buildings fire-proof, or by securing a reasonable policy of insurance.

J. H. Linn moved to take up the report.

A. L. P. Green—There are a good many papers in the hands of committees, and I move that it be laid on the table for the present.

The motion prevailed, and the report was laid on the table.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON REVISALS.

A. L. P. Green, from the Committee on Revisals, submitted a report (No. 1) on the prayer of the Quarterly Conference of King and Queen Circuit, Virginia Conference, recommending an alteration in the Discipline—striking out, and inserting to this effect: At each Quarterly Conference the preacher in charge shall read the names of those who are received into the Church, and also the names of those who are excluded therefrom; and shall give a general statement of the condition of his circuit, station, or mission.

2. The Committee do not recommend the striking out of the word, 'expressly.'

3. The Committee recommend that the first Resolution from Prattville, Ala. be transferred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

4. That the second resolution from Prattville be transferred to the Committee on Temperance.

5. That the resolution of C. D. Oliver be transferred to the Committee on Sabbath-schools.

J. B. McFerrin moved to lay the report on the table, but did not press the motion.

A. L. P. Green—the first paper from Prattville, marked No. 3 in the report, refers to the subject of Lay delegation; which, of course belongs to the Committee on Itinerancy. The next paper from Prattville is on the subject of temperance; which, of course, belongs to the committee on that subject. The next is Bro. Oliver's on the creation of a Catechism for Sabbath-schools.—None of these properly belong to our committee.

The said paper was ordered to be transferred to the Committee on the Itinerancy.

The second paper from Prattville, asking for a rule of prohibition of the use of intoxicating liquors, except for medical purposes, was referred to the Committee on Temperance.

A. L. P. Green—as to the other paper, I am perfectly willing that it should take the direction suggested by Bro. Marshall, and go to the Committee on Books and Periodicals, and it was so referred.

The Chair—the balance of the report having respect to a change of the Discipline, of course it lies on the table one day.

WASHINGTON CITY STATION.

C. D. Oliver, from the special committee appointed to consider the memorial from the Quarterly Meeting of Washington City Station, Virginia Conference, submitted a favorable report in writing, which was read by the Secretary.

The committee to whom was referred the memorial of the Quarterly Conference of Washington City Station, Virginia Conference, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to present the following:

The interest in behalf of which your memorialists plead is one of the greatest importance to the Southern Church, and to the cause of true religion in the metropolis of the nation. This point needs no elaboration. Every member of this body must feel that so great and influential a denomination as the M. E. Church, South, should be represented by a large and flourishing society at the seat of