

EIGHTY-SECOND SESSION OF N. C. CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY

BY REV. T. A. SYKES.

The eighty-second session of the North Carolina conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, south, will convene in St. Paul's church, Goldsboro, Wednesday morning, December 11, with Bishop U. V. W. Darlington, Huntington, West Virginia, presiding.

This session of conference gives promise of being of more than ordinary interest. There are several new matters that will be presented for the consideration of the brethren. Two constitutional questions will be voted upon during the session, viz., the question of lay rights for women and whether the word "Catholic" in the apostle's creed shall be changed to read, "The Church of Christ." One whole session will be given to the launching of the great Centenary missionary movement; a service flag with a star representing those who have gone from parenage to the conference, and have entered the service of the government during the war, will be presented, these and possibly other matters, besides the regular work of the conference, which consists of reports from the presiding elders and pastors, the appointing of committees which will have charge of the routine work of the session, anniversaries which will be held each night, and the stationing of the preachers for the next year will decide the attention of conference. The quadrennial boards will also be appointed to serve for the next four years. These will be among the matters of business that will be attended to during the session. The North Carolina Conference Historical society will meet on Tuesday night, which will be the first service of the conference.

The presidency of a new bishop over the conference will lend interest this year.

Bishop U. V. W. Darlington was elected bishop by the general conference held in Atlanta, Ga., during the latter part of this year. He is 67 years old and a native of Kentucky. He was educated at Kentucky Wesleyan college, and three years ago his alma mater honored him by conferring upon him the degree of doctor of divinity. At the time of his election to the episcopacy he was president of Morris Harvey college, in West Virginia. Before coming to this conference he has only presided over three conferences, the Western North Carolina which met recently in Charlotte, the Upper South Carolina and the South Carolina. The new bishop has wonderfully impressed himself upon those three conferences. He is brotherly, kind and approachable. In all of his deliverances from the chair and from the pulpit he is deeply spiritual as well as intellectual. The North Carolina conference extends to him a most cordial welcome as its presiding officer, and as it is understood, that he will soon move to the state, we would suggest to him that there is no conference that would rather have him as a citizen within its bounds than this conference, which place in the state would receive him more gladly than the capitol city which is one of the leading cities of the conference. It has been remarked that "Bishop Darlington is a real bishop, and that he himself has not found it out."

On Tuesday night the North Carolina Conference Historical society will hold its annual session. Rev. N. H. D. Wilson is president and in charge of the service at that hour. Rev. R. H. Willis, of Oxford, will deliver the address. This society was organized for the purpose of preserving the history of Methodism within the bounds of the conference.

The conference proper will be called to order Wednesday morning at 9 a. m. by Bishop Darlington. The devotional exercises will be opened with the sacrament of the Lord's supper as this has long been a custom of the conference. At the opening of each session Bishop Darlington is expected to deliver an address to the conference.

Dr. T. N. Ivey, of Nashville, Tenn., editor of the general organ of the church, will preach the conference sermon at 11 o'clock on Wednesday morning.

It is expected that the whole of Thursday morning's session will be given over to the consideration of the Centenary missionary movement, a movement which the church is launching for the purpose of raising \$35,000,000 during the next five years, for missions which sum the bishop and the various boards estimate will be necessary to meet the new demands that will be placed upon Methodism because of the new situation arising from the world-war and reconstruction times. The North Carolina Conference will at this session assume its share of this amount, and will set machinery in motion to raise more than \$1,000,000. This is the biggest thing that southern Methodism or any other church in the south, has ever undertaken, but that it will be accomplished there is no doubt.

The constitutional question as to granting the women of the church the same rights as male members will be voted on. This is a question that was sent down from the general conference, and must receive a two-thirds vote of all the annual conferences in the connection before it can become a law. If it is ratified by that number of annual conferences then the sisters will have the right to serve on boards, stewards, represent churches at district conferences and become delegates to the annual and general conferences.

It has been predicted that the good women will not have as smooth sailing in this conservative conference as they have had in others.

Another constitutional question to be voted on is whether the word "Catholic" in the apostle's creed shall be changed to read "Christ's Holy Church." A number of the brethren are afraid that the old way is calculated to lead some to think that the Roman Catholic church is meant.

During the year two active and one superannuate preachers have died, and on Sunday afternoon memorial services will be held in memory of these dead ministers.

Early in the year Rev. Charles E. Vale, pastor of the conference quartette, died. He was just entering upon a life of usefulness in the conference and his going away is a distinct loss to the church.

Rev. C. O. Armstrong, pastor at Stantonburg, fell a victim to influenza a few weeks ago, and died in a few days. He came to us from the Free Will Baptist church, and gave promise of becoming an influential member of the conference.

Rev. W. H. Kirton, one of the veterans, fell during the year.

The conference will adjourn with the reading of the appointments for next year by the bishop, possibly on Sunday night. The conferences that Bishop Darlington has presided over so far have finished their work and the preachers received their appointments on Sunday night. There is a precedent for this in the North Carolina conference. Eleven years ago at New Bern, Bishop Galloway read the appointments on Sunday night.

Goldsboro has entertained the conference several times and is a favorite with a great many of the members. That city always entertains with the far-famed eastern hospitality.

In the year of 1888 the old North Carolina conference, which embraced all the state except the counties north of the Albemarle sound and east of the Chowan river, was divided and the Western North Carolina conference formed. The following comparative

statistics will doubtless be of much interest throughout the state. These statistics were secured from the Journal of the undivided conference which was held in Reidsville, December 31, 1887, and the journals of the North Carolina and Western North Carolina conferences of 1917. The figures have nothing to do with the achievements of the church in the state for this year, which it is believed has marked the greatest material advancement of any year in the history of the church in the state.

At the Reidsville conference there were reported for the whole state 82,373 white members and 208 colored, making a total of white and colored of 83,081; last year's total shows 203,639 white members, an increase of 120,518, or an annual gain of 3,887 for the first 31 years. The reports of the preachers in charge indicate that there were at that time 379 1-2 churches valued at \$911,322. A year ago the same reports of both conferences show that within the state there were 1,694 churches owned, with a valuation of \$6,211,191; an increase of \$141,242 churches and \$5,389,868 in valuation. During the year 1886 the Methodist church in the state paid for all missionary enterprises of the church the sum of \$18,113.45. Last year for the same purpose it paid \$201,790 or an increase of \$183,676.55.

During the year 1886 the preachers of the Methodist church in the state received \$129,838.87 in salaries. Last year they received \$474,093 or \$344,204.13 more than in 1886. During the year before the conference was divided there were enrolled in the Sunday schools of the church in the state 57,067. In the same territory last year there were enrolled 175,049 an increase of 117,971. At that time there were 13 presiding elders' districts, now there are 20.

At the time of the division there were only seven charges in the state that paid their pastor's more than \$1,200. In the matter of salary at that time Front street (now Grace) Wilmington stood at the head of the list, paying her pastor \$1,800. At the present time in the state there are more than 25 charges which pay their pastor \$2,000 or more.

The average salary paid to the preachers of the Methodist church in the state in the year of 1886 was \$568. Last year it was \$987. The average salary paid by the Western North Carolina conference last year was \$917 and that of the North Carolina was \$1,001.

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Wifey Introduces Me to Beaufont

Landed in the house tonight tired, thirsty and out of sorts with everything—the reception wifey gave me impells me to sit right down and tell you all about it.

Of course, she kissed me and then led me into the dining room up to the buffet, where she had set out a cold bottle—filled up a glass for me and when I tasted the sparkling beverage, I patted wifey on the back and told her she had hit it at last. She was tickled as a kitten, and said that she was going to keep B-E-A-U-F-O-N-T on the ice all the time hereafter.

I'm going to see, too, that she has it all the time so that I can have it for myself and for the boys when they come up for those "little informals." You had better do the same thing for your "parties" the boys will be delighted. Believe me, BEAUFONT is the REAL Ginger Ale. Yours truly, Jack Wise

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CAPUDINE

Every boy and girl has the ideal of perfect manhood and womanhood before whom they try to model their lives; it is called the age of hero worship. Acquaint yourself with Christ, the matchless hero of all ages, and model your life as He directs. Begin now to study His character and begin again day by day, forgetting each failure, to conform to His teachings.

Begin now to read the Bible every day and to have a regular time for communion and prayer. No life can be complete, as God intended it should be, apart from this communion with Him. We may never assume a position in this world which will entitle us to be written up in "Who's Who in America," but it is a fact that each of us can have that distinction in God's great record of us, and the longer we delay the beginning of this record of worthy deeds the shorter and less interesting that record will be.

Let us now begin to take account of our spiritual progress during the year that is fast slipping past us, and find out our failures and short-comings so that we may be ready to frame our New Year's resolves intelligently. Is our faith stronger? Have we added to our supply of grace? Are we more filled with the Spirit? Are we more gentle, kind and sympathetic? Let us fearlessly face our short-comings and begin now to strive for the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Begin now to think of your responsibility to God for your income. Does God require us to give Him a tenth? Are you sure that you are living up to what He has a right to expect from you? Or has His tender mercies in your life this year made you fear that your tithe was only your duty and above that you have given Him a thank offering? Many are realizing how very gracious He has been in the past year of anxiety and sorrow and are finding new interests in which to invest for Him some of the money entrusted to them, and these are being enriched by a spiritual blessing never known before. As we are losing some of the rich experiences of God's love and tenderness by withholding our Thank offering for His great mercy in restoring and bringing back to us those we have entrusted to His care?

Begin now to look out for the "little sister" in our midst; she is always just "around the corner" from each of us. The following copied from the Presbyterian Standard is a good example of what we may find to do each day, and the article is entitled, "Keeping an Eye on Tina."

The little old woman looked at the clock as the girl came in. It was a small bare room. The old woman's figure was bowed by years of unrelaxing toil. The younger showed the effects of going into a factory when she should have been playing in the fields and searching the woods for wild flowers. It was a depressing picture they made.

"I am late," the girl acknowledged

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