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RALEIGH CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

EDITORIAL.

1838---1899.

The North Carolina Conference was set off from the Virginia Conference in 1837. Its first session was held at Greensboro, N. C., in January, 1838, Bishop Morris presiding, and Hezekiah G. Leigh acting as Secretary. For this year and the next we have no statistics. The first year for which we have statistics is 1840, when the Conference was held at Mocksville, N. C., Bishop Morris presiding, and S. S. Bryant acting as Secretary.

It is a long chain which stretches from 1840 to 1900, and the word "change" is engraved on every link. Of those who composed the Conference of 1840, not a single one, as far as we know, is alive. Of the five who were admitted into the Conference then—John Rich, W. W. Nesbitt, Jeremiah Johnson, W. S. Chaffin, and Nathan Hooker—not one is on these earthly shores. Rev. Nathan Hooker was the last to embark. In this Conference, in our memorial service, we will pay our tributes to his memory.

In 1840 there were in the North Carolina Conference, taking in territory from other States, only 16,090 white members. Now there are in the State nearly or quite 130,000. Then Methodist preachers were very thinly and irregularly scattered over the State. Now there is hardly a section, from Ocracoke to Ottertail, which is not regularly visited by a Methodist preacher. From the coast to the crags the smoke is ever ascending from Methodist altars. Methodism arrived late in North Carolina—behind the other principal denominations—but, conquering the time she has lived here, she has outstripped them all in numbers. Over 800 per cent. increase in sixty years!

Then we had no splendid church buildings, no educational institutions. Now we have temples whose beauty typifies the richness of Divine blessings, and colleges which are the pride of the whole connection. The Church since then has broadened in its activities and her vision, sweeping far beyond our borders, takes in "all the world."

But Methodist faith and loyalty have not changed. We are still preaching free grace, the necessity of repentance, the duty of a generation, the witness of the Spirit, the exalted privilege of the believer in being freed from all sin, the beauty and necessity of holiness, and the final triumph of the believer. Methodism still stands as the exponent of the new life, and still preaches it as the condition of communion with God. The conditions then are different now. No longer does the Methodist preacher receive his appointment to go out to conquer the wilderness, to fight wild beasts, to run the gauntlet of perils of flood and

field. He labors in the glare of civilization; yet he often goes out to face difficulties as great as those which confronted our fathers. There has been no obliteration of the heroic element. We still have heroes among us.

As we assemble in the historic home of Methodism, in this hospitable little city on the Pamlico, let us, as we press onward to the glowing future, look back across the waste of years, and seeing the wonderful things which God has wrought for Methodists, thank Him for His wonderful love, and ask that our lives may be girded with new strength.

liamentary tactics. But with firm hand and cool head he straightened out the tangled threads, saving himself and doing full justice to the measure and all concerned. Bishop Hendrix has those social graces which stamp him as the true gentleman and always make him a favorite in all circles. He is easily approachable and the preachers find in him the spirit of sympathy and companionship.

The Bishop is in the full flush of his manhood. We trust that he may be spared to the M. E. Church, South, for many years. Again, we extend to him a true North Carolina greeting.



BISHOP E. R. HENDRIX.

BISHOP HENDRIX.

Bishop E. R. Hendrix, whose face looks out from this page, presides for the first time over the North Carolina Conference. He receives a warm welcome from all—from the youngest Sunday school pupil to the grayhaired superannuate. We trust that he may have such a pleasant memory of his stay among us that it will be a pleasure for him to come again.

Eugene Russell Hendrix was born in Fayette, Howard County, Missouri, May 17, 1847. He united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1859. He was received on trial in the Missouri Conference in 1869, and into full connection in 1871. In 1876, he accompanied Bishop Marvin on that foreign tour of which both have written so charmingly and wisely. He was elected President of Central College in 1877, which position he held until he was elected Bishop by the General Conference of 1886.

Bishop Hendrix is what one would call a "well-rounded" man. In vigor and robustness, his mind has a perfect correspondence with his body, which is an excellent specimen of Western manhood. He is a laborious, painstaking student of books and men. He is an analytical thinker. His thought is clear cut, and practical. It is lacking somewhat in that warmth which comes from proximity to the emotional furnace. It may always find, however, a congenial place around the hearthstone of the heart. Bishop Hendrix has shown wonderful versatility as a writer. His letters, as published in the religious press, are characterized by elegance of style, compendious array of facts, and practical treatment of subjects interesting to the religious public. As a preacher, Bishop Hendrix is regarded as strong, rather than brilliant. His sermons ever evangelical, have the plain steel color of the Damascus blade rather than the flash of the Kimberly diamond. We have never seen a better parliamentarian than Bishop Hendrix. He is master of parliamentary law. We have seen him apparently enmeshed in obstructive par-

LET US SPEAK OUT.

There is no more vital question before the American people to-day than the seating of Congressman-elect Roberts of Utah. He was a polygamist before his election. He is a polygamist now, and his recognition in Congress means the recognition of polygamy by the United States government. We do not incline to the opinion that Congress has any right to prevent him from taking his seat. But we believe that Congress can unseat him on several grounds, and that it should be done at once. For Roberts to take his seat and perform the functions of a Congressman would give to our civilization a wound which would prove troublesome, if not deadly. We trust that the North Carolina Conference will speak with no uncertain voice on the question. Obstacles will be thrown in the way, we have no doubt. But when a wrong is to be righted, obstacles cannot be considered.

Much has been said about a certain character called the Sultan of Sulu, who is ruler of a little island somewhere in the great Philippine group. It is said that we cannot consistently say anything in the Roberts case because of the treaty made by this Government with the Sultan of Sulu, and recognizing slavery, polygamy, etc. Now, we will say that we have no idea that such a treaty has ever been made. When was it ever before Congress? When did President McKinley ever sanction any treaty or arrangement with the Sultan recognizing the aforementioned evils? No, we believe this is all talk. Even if it were true, it should not hush the cry of our people against the black crime of polygamy at our doors.

Let our resolutions at Conference be clear and ringing. The cause of decency demands instant and decisive action.

OUR DEAD.

Death has reaped a large harvest in our Conference field this year. Cuninggim, Reeks, Hooker, Troy, Herman, Holden and Abernethy—all gone in one short-

year! How we will miss them at Conference! Yet we will have them with us not only in spirit, but in the influence of their lives and labors. Then, Bro. W. H. Branson, for so long a useful member of the Conference, left us in the late winter. His was a rich and useful life. Then we have lost useful laymen all over the Conference. They are now in the upper courts. Our memorial service should have full time and attention. It is one of the most important services of the Conference. Let us enter upon it with the most earnest prayer; and while we, figuratively, drop a flower upon the graves of our departed brethren, may we receive a fresh supply of grace in order that we may finish our course with joy, and join our brethren above.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE METHODIST CHURCH IN WASHINGTON, N. C.

BY REV. L. L. NASH, D. D.

The early Methodist preachers commenced their labors in North Carolina before the Revolutionary War, and they found a fruitful field, in which they reaped many sheaves for the Master. North Carolina first appeared in the minutes of Methodism in 1773. Joseph Pilmoor, passing through this State, preached a few times in the early part of this year, and Robert Williams visited the State in the latter part of the same year, and in the latter part of the Spring of 1774 he began to organize societies. Some of the first societies formed in this State were in the Eastern part of the State, and here Methodism had its greatest strength in its infancy.

Among the first Methodist families in North Carolina we find the names of Col. Taylor and Dempsey Hinton. Dempsey Hinton and his wife, Sarah Hinton, were the first Methodists to settle in Washington. They came to the quiet little village of Washington in 1774, and opened their house for religious worship. At that time there was no church in the place. These good people were persecuted by the ignorant and vicious people of the community; but they were faithful to their Lord, and succeeded in founding the church. Bishop Asbury hearing of the infant Society, just struggling into life, made his first visit to Washington, and strengthened these early disciples of Christ, and of Wesley. James Hinton, a son of Dempsey Hinton, entered the ministry of the M. E. Church in 1783. So we see that the Church in Washington gave a minister to the cause of Methodism in the beginning of its history.

Bishop Asbury visited Washington again in 1784, and organized a church here—now just 115 years ago. So this church has existed as an organized church for that number of years. In 1792 there was a glorious revival of religion in this church, the first in its history, or in the history of the town. As the result of that revival, some of the most influential people of the place united with the church. The Society continued to worship in private houses until the year 1800, when the first house of worship was erected on Market street, through the efforts of Ralph Potts, who joined the church during the great revival in 1792.

The building was of wood, thirty feet square, and was painted red, the seats were common benches, without backs; but it was the first church ever erected in town, and was used by the Society until 1831, just thirty-one years. In that year (1831) there was a new house built on Second Street, the site on which the present beautiful structure, just completed, stands. In 1845, the church building was greatly improved. In 1849, there was a great revival of religion in this church, under the pastorate of Rev. Ira T. Wyche, and some of the fruit of that great revival still remains. In 1845, the Annual Conference was held in this church, presided over by Bishop James O. Andrew.

During the war between the States, the town of Washington was nearly burnt down, and the Methodist church and parsonage were burnt, and the membership of the church was reduced to poverty. But, as soon as peace was restored, the church got together, a preacher was sent to them, and after worshiping for some time in the Masonic Hall, steps were taken to rebuild. This was done after a great struggle, and the old brick church stood for nearly a generation, only to give place to the beautiful edifice, a copy of which accompanies this short and imperfect sketch of one of the oldest churches of our State, of which it would require much more space than can be given in these pages, to give but an outline of its history.

The next session of the North Carolina Annual Conference will be held in this church, at which time it is hoped this new church building can be dedicated to the worship of God. The Conference will convene here on the 7th day of next December. Fifty-four years, and much historical data lie between the last Annual Conference that assembled here, and the approaching session. Not a single preacher who met here in 1845 will be here in 1899. They have all been transferred to the Conference of the Blest. Of the labors of the many faithful ministers and laymen who have toiled and rejoiced here, we would delight to write, but we have not space. Their record is on high, and their works follow them here. This new church (as may be seen from the cut here presented) is a beautiful structure, and reflects great credit upon the taste and skill of the architect, Mr. C. E. Hartge, and does honor to Rev. J. E. Underwood, under whose ministry the church was known, and to the building committee who brought the enterprise to a successful completion. There are ten beautiful memorial windows in the church, a description of which would consume too much time and space. Suffice it to say the church is a thing of beauty, and may it be a joy forever.

SCIENCE NOTES.

The Appeal Court of England holds that a reporter has no copyright of the report of speeches giving not only ideas, but words by which the ideas are expressed. A lower court decided that the London Times had copyright in reports of speeches. The Times will take the case to the House of Lords.

There will be a model American post-office at the Paris Exposition. Arrangements have been made with the French postal authorities whereby mails for Americans in Paris will be sent directly to this office instead of going through the regular channels. The postoffice will be fitted up with all of the modern postal appliances.

Serious apprehensions are felt that the drought now prevalent throughout the United States will prove a serious injury to the paper trade. There is great difficulty in filling orders. In Maine, particularly, the water supply has not run as low as at the present for nearly forty years. Mills which run by water power are seriously crippled in most cases.

A prize of \$100 has been offered by Dr. Louis L. Seaman for the best thesis on the following subject: "The Ideal Ration for an Army in the Tropics." The competition is open to all commissioned medical officers of the United States army and navy. It is ordered through the Military Service Institution of the United States, and the competition will close on March 1, 1900.

It is said that silkworms are very sensitive to the action of light of different colors, and according to experiments recently described by Flammarion, before the French Academy of Science, silkworms were kept in boxes covered with glass of different shades. The silkworms all received the same food, but they gave different results as to the quantity of silk and eggs, and also in the proportionality of the sexes.