

# THE COURIER.

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No 13

## THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

### METHODIST IN SESSION AT ROXBORO

Proceedings of Two Days Session—Able Sermons and Interesting Papers

The 37th annual session of the Durham District Conference, convened in the Methodist church here last Thursday morning at 9:30 o'clock.

After Dr. J. T. Gibbs, Presiding Elder of the District, called the Conference to order, "How Firm a Foundation" was sung. Hymn No. 221 was then announced.

Dr. Gibbs offered prayer and read as the Scripture lesson a part of the 2nd Chapter of Second Timothy. The Presiding Elder made a brief expository talk on Paul's exhortation to Timothy. The man who is called to preach should be of the deepest piety. One of the supreme needs is to be strong in the grace of Jesus Christ. The preacher should be a great worker. The pulpit has aptly been styled the preacher's throne. A preacher should visit from house to house, but he must have some time study. Younger men should not risk too much on inspiration, but prepare their sermons, and when they grow older they will be better preachers by so doing. Dr. Gibbs said that he was most anxious to get every preacher on the District deeply interested in the work this year.

Then hymn No. 229 "Jesus the Truth, the Power Devine," was sung.

Rev. W. L. Cuninggim, pastor of Main Street church, Durham, was asked to act as temporary secretary of the Conference while an organization was being effected.

The first roll call showed nearly every church in the Conference was represented either by the pastor or by delegates. Rev. F. B. McCall, pastor of Carr church, East Durham was chosen as permanent secretary. The rear of the second windows of the church was designated as the bar of the Conference.

Two letters were read to the Conference, one from Rev. R. H. Willis, of Elizabeth City, secretary of the N. C. Conference Missionary movement, and the other from Mrs. J. E. Underwood, of Elizabeth City.

The following were designated as the hours for meeting of the Conference: Convene at 9 a. m., preaching at 11 a. m., after which adjournment will be taken. Reconvene at 3 p. m., and adjourn at will. Preaching at 8 p. m.

Reports of pastoral charges were called for, and at the morning session Trinity and Main Street, Durham; Carr church and Branson, Durham Circuit, West Durham Cuninggim and Chapel Hill all made excellent reports in regard to the work of the church.

Rev. Dr. E. A. Yates preached a soul stirring sermon at 11 o'clock to an immense congregation. His text was John 17:3, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou has sent."

The afternoon session was devoted to discussions of the Sunday School cause. The program for this was prepared by H. N. Snow, of Durham, and was most helpful and interesting. Talks were made

by several present, as follows: On "Some Sunday School Hinderances," by Rev. F. B. McCall, of Carr church; "Some School Helps," by Rev. C. P. Jerome, of West Durham church; "Some Primary Work," by Miss Blanche Whitmore, of Trinity church; "The pastor and Sunday Schools," by Rev. W. L. Cuninggim, of Main Street church. After this slips on "Sunday School Management" and "Primary Work," containing a number of questions, were distributed, and several were answered by Reys. W. L. Cuninggim, F. B. McCall and C. Jerome and Miss Blanche Whitmore.

At night, Rev. N. M. Watson, of Chapel Hill, preached an excellent sermon on "How Methodism provides for the spiritual training of her children."

Friday morning, after the opening exercises conducted by Rev. R. F. Taylor, of the Leasburg Circuit, the minutes of Thursday afternoon's session were read and approved.

When the roll was called several delegates who had arrived were enrolled.

The report of pastoral charges were then taken up. After these reports were in Dr. W. I. Cranford, of Trinity College, addressed the Conference on full Conference College.

At 11 a. m., Rev. W. L. Cuninggim, of Durham, preached to a very large audience. His text was selected from 1st Corinthians 9th chapter and 14th verse—"Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."

Rev. B. B. Culbreth, who at the last session of the Annual Conference was appointed to the Durham City Mission, has been transferred to Buckhorn Circuit. Rev. C. M. Lance, of Trinity College, who has been appointed in Mr. Culbreth's place, was unable to be present at the Conference, by reason of his accident by jumping from a street car in Durham a few days ago.

The reports from the various circuits and stations showed that the work of the church is encouraging.

Rev. J. M. Rhodes, president of Littleton Female College, and Rev. Dr. T. N. Ivey, editor of the Raleigh Christian Advocate, were introduced to the Conference.

Rev. J. M. Rhodes addressed the Conference on behalf of Littleton Female College.

Rev. Dr. T. N. Ivey conducted the opening religious services at the afternoon session.

Minutes of morning session read and approved.

Dr. Kilgo introduced a resolution signed by Dr. E. A. Yates and himself, to request the stewards of the various churches to collect the assessments, and not leave that to the preacher in charge to do. This resolution provoked some discussion and opposition, after which Dr. Kilgo withdrew it.

A letter was read from James H. Southgate in regard to the Durham District parsonage, located in Durham. The lot has 88½ feet front and is 100 feet deep, and is the gift of B. L. Duke. The report was accepted and the committee continued.

ferred and unanimously carried: "Resolved, That the thanks of this District Conference are hereby extended to Mr. B. L. Duke for the generous gift of such a desirable site in the town of Durham for the erection of the Durham District parsonage, and the secretary of this Conference is hereby requested to forward to Mr. Duke a copy of these resolutions. (Signed) N. M. Watson, M. D. Giles, J. A. Dailey."

The following were elected as delegates and alternates to the next Annual Conference, Jas. Southgate, G. W. Anthony, R. I. Featherstone and J. T. Ware. Alternates, O. R. Hinton and General Julian S. Carr.

Rev. R. C. Beaman, of Durham, preached a very fine sermon at 8 p. m.

Saturday morning Conference met at 9 o'clock. After religious services, conducted by Rev. J. A. Dailey, the Conference was declared open. The first thing to come up was the report of the examining committee. Reys, S. F. Nicks, L. P. Howard, C. M. Lance, W. B. Green and B. E. Stanfield were recommended for admittance to the North Carolina Conference.

After this came the selection of the place for the next meeting. West Durham was nominated by Rev. C. P. Jerome and Graham by Rev. W. B. Green. After a vote was taken it was found that Graham was selected.

At 11 o'clock Dr. W. I. Cranford, of Trinity College, delivered a very able address on education.

The Conference adjourned Saturday evening. Many of those present said this was the most interesting session ever held in the Durham district. The speaking and preaching was all of a very high order.

Two of the ministers, Rev. N. C. Yearby, of Mebane, and Rev. D. N. Caviness, of Burlington, were unable to be on hand on account of sickness in their families.

Among the visitors here were Rev. T. N. Ivey, editor of the Raleigh Christian Advocate, and Rev. J. M. Rhodes, president of Littleton Female College.

Dr. J. T. Gibbs makes a model presiding officer. Although just recovering from an attack of the grip, there was not a harder worker at this session of the Conference than he.

When nominations were being made for the place of holding the next Conference, Col. R. I. Featherstone placed Roxboro before the Conference. We are sure that the people of Roxboro would have been delighted to have had the Conference to come again next year.

While the Conference adjourned Saturday evening, quite a number remained over to hear Dr. Kilgo, President of Trinity College preach Sunday morning. His subject was the "Preeminence of Jesus Christ," and his sermon was eloquent and full of good sound doctrine.

The passage of the Watts and many local temperance acts by the legislature was but the first gun in the battle to shut up the saloons and dry up the stills in North Carolina. A great Anti-Saloon State Convention will be held on July 7th, and plans matured for a vigorous campaign in scores of towns in the state this summer and fall. News and Observer.

## TWO FARMERS KILLED

An Eastbound Passenger Train Crashes Into Their Wagon.


Durham, N. C. March, 27.—A horrible accident occurred yesterday afternoon, at Scarlett's crossing, on the Southern railway, some seven miles west of Durham. Train No. 136, was behind about twenty minutes, and was coming at a lively rate. The road curves there and the crossing is upon a steep grade. Just as the train turned the curve, and too close to stop, two farmers from Caswell county, Messrs W. A. Cooper and R. L. Bowland, from near Ridgeville, in a covered wagon drove upon the crossing. The engine struck the wagon about midway, and dashed it into splinters. The bodies of the men were found near the crossing in a horribly mangled condition. One had his head crushed, and the brains were exposed. The other had both legs broken and was badly mangled. It is probable that they never knew what struck them. The mules in a miraculous way escaped injury.

They were brought to Durham on the train that killed them, and carried to Howerton & Son's undertaking establishment, where their bodies were prepared for burial, and carried to Mebane on the early morning train. From there they were carried to their homes near Ridgeville, some twelve miles, and were buried this afternoon.

These gentlemen were in Durham Thursday and sold tobacco at the Banner Warehouse, and were on their way home with some four or five other wagons, in line. Mr. Cooper is said to be about 44 years of age, and leaves a wife and one daughter. He is said to be a well-to-do farmer. Mr. Bowland, his nephew, who lived with him, was about 21 years of age. Both are said to be sober and very industrious. Although a pint flask of liquor was found on the pilot of the engine, it is said that they were not under the influence of liquor. The cause of the accident is attributed to the fact that they in a covered wagon, and could not hear noise of the train, or see its approach around the sharp curve. It is reported to be a very dangerous place.

Squire Sittou Trying to Sell His Petrified man.

Asheville, March 27.—Squire Sittou is here from Henderson county negotiating with an Asheville gentleman for the sale of his petrified man. Squire Sittou says he has refused a thousand dollars for his flinty find.



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