

THE CHRISTIAN SUN.

RELIGION WITHOUT BIGOTRY; ZEAL WITHOUT FANATICISM; LIBERTY WITHOUT LICENTIOUSNESS.

Volume XXX.

SUFFOLK, VA., FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1877.

Number 4.

Our Contributors.

MINUTES OF THE DEEP RIVER CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

HELD WITH THE CHURCH AT SHADY GROVE, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, OCTOBER 5TH, 6TH, AND 7TH, 1876.

The Deep River Christian Conference assembled at this place to-day in its twelfth annual session.

Rev. A. S. Nelson, President of last session, called Conference to order, and led in religious exercises.

By order of the President, the members of Conference were divided into the following classes, which resulted as follows:

Elders present.—A. S. Nelson, \$1.00; S. Lawrence, W. M. Craven, \$1.00; Brown, and H. A. Albright, \$1.00. Absent.—Joseph J. Stinson, \$1.00; Anselm, W. W. Lawrence, \$1.00; and P. P. Umble, \$1.00.

Licentiate fees were paid monthly or quarterly, D. B. McLeod, Street advertisements to Stout.

CHURCHES AND DELEGATES.

Pleasant Grove.—Lewis Brady, A. W. Leonard, A. L. Needham and John W. McCoy.

Shiloh.—W. N. Hayse, S. A. Hayworth, B. F. Hayworth and Stephen T. Moffitt.

Pleasant Ridge.—John M. Stinson, Joseph J. Allen, and B. F. Cox.

Park's Cross Roads.—G. W. Parks and J. A. Parks.

Union Grove.—Adam Brown, B. S. Scott and B. F. Brown.

Shady Grove.—E. C. Martin, D. T. E. McLeod and John W. Moore.

New Providence.—Not represented.

New Center.—Westward Cox, Enoch Latham, Thos. W. Lawrence and K. B. Way.

Brown's Chapel.—Nicholas Nalls and Nathan Morgan.

Cool Springs.—Not represented.

Oldham Grove.—Not represented.

Mount Zion.—John Dunlap, Jr.

A quorum being present, the President announced that Conference was ready to close permanent officers to preside over the deliberations of this session.

On motion of Bro. J. A. Scott, Conference went into the election of officers by ballot.

Rev. John S. Lawrence was elected President, with Rev. W. R. Brown Vice President, and Bro. Solomon A. Hayworth Assistant Secretary.

In inducting the officers elect to their seats, Bro. Nelson made a few touching remarks.

Bro. Lawrence, on taking his seat, remarked that he felt the responsibility of the office, and would discharge its duties to the best of his ability.

On motion of Rev. W. R. Brown, Rev. M. L. Hurley, fraternal messenger of the North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference, was welcomed to a seat in Conference as a deliberative member.

By order of the President a letter from Rev. Peter P. Umble was read, stating that he could not be with us owing to ill health.

In direction of the President the Secretary read the Rules of Order adopted by this Conference.

On motion of Rev. W. R. Brown, no member shall speak longer than fifteen minutes at one time, on any subject; and that this be added to the Rules of Order.

On motion, Rev. A. S. Nelson was chosen to deliver the annual address to-morrow at 10 o'clock A. M., in the place of Rev. P. P. Umble, who is absent on account of sickness.

The Church at Bear Creek, was, on motion, received as a member of this Conference.

On motion, Conference meet at 9 o'clock A. M.; dismiss for refreshments at 11 o'clock A. M.; meet at 1 o'clock P. M., and adjourn at will.

The Chair appointed Bros. E. C. Martin, Adam Brown and John W. Moore to constitute a Committee on Religious Exercises.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

for the organization of a Home Missionary Society in the bounds of this Conference.

In pursuance of said motion, Conference appointed brethren E. C. Martin, Adam Brown, G. W. Parks to constitute that Committee. The Secretary was added to the Committee.

On motion, Conference adjourned for refreshments.

During intermission, Rev. A. S. Nelson delivered the annual address from the words "God is love," first John, 4th chapter, 16th verse. The address was delivered with much earnestness, and was interesting and instructive.

On motion, Conference adjourned for refreshments.

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3. It shall be the duty of the President to preside in all the meetings of the Society, and in case of his absence the Vice President shall preside.

4. The Secretary shall keep a faithful account of all the doings of the Society recorded in a book provided for that purpose.

5. The Treasurer shall take charge of all the funds of the Society, after giving bond and security, and pay them out as directed by a vote of the Society, or by a vote of four-fifths of the Executive Board.

6. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to credit all accounts of the Society, see that dues are collected, procure signatures to the Constitution, and in every laudable way exercise vigilance in promoting the interests of the Society.

7. The Society shall hold the right of determining how and where its funds shall be applied, provided it be conformable to the object specified in Article II.

8. Any person of good character shall be entitled to membership, on subscribing to this Constitution, and paying annually the interest on the amount subscribed, and the amount subscribed shall not be less than five dollars. Any subscription from that sum and upward shall constitute a life member.

9. The Society shall hold its meetings annually, and at the same place at which the Deep River Christian Conference shall meet, and on the second day of the session of said body.

10. The Executive Board shall meet upon the call of the President and Secretary.

11. The officers of this Society shall be elected annually and shall hold office until their successors shall be elected.

12. The Constitution may be altered or amended at the annual meeting of the Society, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

Respectfully submitted,
E. C. MARTIN,
ADAM BROWN,
G. W. PARKS,
H. A. ALBRIGHT,
Committee.

After remarks by many of the brethren, the report was unanimously adopted.

On motion, Conference suspended business for the purpose of organizing a Missionary Society.

Rev. John S. Lawrence acted as President, and Rev. H. A. Albright as Secretary.

The following are the names of those who joined the Society; also the amount subscribed; the amount subscribed making a life member:

M. L. Hurley \$50; S. H. Way \$15; K. B. Way \$15; G. W. Stout \$15; W. R. Brown \$10; A. L. Needham \$10; J. W. McCoy \$10; W. M. Craven \$10; D. K. McLeod \$10; J. S. Lawrence \$10; E. C. Martin \$10; Thomas Brown \$10; W. G. Brady \$10; H. A. Albright \$10; Joseph J. Allen \$5; B. F. Cox \$5; G. W. Parks \$10; D. B. McLeod \$5; R. F. Brown \$5; Adam Brown \$5; Thos. W. Lawrence \$5; W. W. Lawrence \$5; B. S. Scott \$5; George Cochran \$5; S. T. Moffitt \$5; B. F. Hayworth \$5; Miss Mary Deaton \$5; Miss Catharine Vinncannon \$5; J. A. Parks \$5; S. A. Hayworth \$5; Westward Cox \$5; A. W. Leonard \$5; A. S. Nelson \$5; Isham Cagle \$5; Monroe Brown \$5; W. A. Martin \$5; Jacob Vinncannon \$5; James Ryndol \$5; Z. T. Bird \$5; W. M. Cagle \$5; John Dunlap \$5; Enoch Latham \$5; J. M. Stinson \$5.

After some discussion the members adopted the Constitution recommended by the Committee of Conference, and proceeded to elect permanent officers.

Elijah C. Martin was elected President.

Adam Brown, Vice President.

S. A. Hayworth, Secretary.

Rev. John S. Lawrence, Treasurer.

The President, the Vice President with Revs. H. A. Albright, W. R. Brown, and G. W. Parks were appointed the Executive Committee.

Elijah C. Martin, President.

S. A. HAYWORTH, Secretary.

Conference resumed business. The hour for refreshments having arrived, Conference adjourned therefor.

During the intermission, Rev. W. R. Brown preached an interesting sermon from the words, "Get thee hence, Satan," Matthew 4: 10.

[EVENING SESSION.]

Conference assembled. The President presiding.

Rev. David Wright, of the Missionary Baptist Church, was invited to an honorary seat in Conference.

A. W. Leonard asked leave of absence for the remainder of the session. He was granted leave.

The Committee on Periodicals made their report; Your Committee on Periodicals, after duly considering the subject, would recommend the CHRISTIAN SUN, the Organ of the Christian Church, edited and published by our esteemed Brother, Rev. W. B. Wellons. We would further call to your favorable consideration the interest of Christian Union among all believers in Christ.

Respectfully submitted,
W. G. BRADY,
B. S. SCOTT,
W. M. CRAVEN,
Comtee.

The report, after Revs. M. L. Hurley, W. G. Brady, and other brethren had urged the great need of our people reading the Church paper, was adopted.

Brother D. B. McLeod was granted leave of absence for the remainder of the session.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools reported the following:

Your Committee to whom was referred the subject of Sabbath Schools desire to report: That the subject before us is one of vast magnitude to the church. It forms the nursery ground for the planting and rearing up of religious material prepared for the building of the church. It opens the way for the reception of gospel truth and for the inculcation of holy thoughts of the Deity; of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of sinners; of the great and incomparable plan of salvation; of our holy religion.

The object of the Sabbath School is second only to the preaching of the word. Indeed, it may be said to precede, and also, follow the gospel. The young minds are here prepared and opened to receive the teachings of the gospel. The mind is filled with the holy impressions of religion; the fallow ground of the heart is thus broken up. Hence, we see, in sections in which these schools have been conducted with success, the young, the little boys and girls, the young men and women, and also, the aged, brought to the door of the church of Christ; yea, we see them brought to the Saviour himself. And again, the Sabbath School follows the gospel. When the gospel of peace and love fills the soul, the heart's desire and prayer is that all others might be saved; and thus we see that every means of salvation is brought to bear for the spread and promulgation of this good news of glad tidings which shall be to all people.

Notwithstanding the advantages of these schools are so great and desirable, and the field presented so promising for the accomplishment of so much good to the cause of Christ, yet when we examine the subject in our Conference we see that our good brethren need to be encouraged and stirred up, and urged to more faithfulness and effort in this direction.

The cause seems not to be advancing as rapidly as it did some time since. Perhaps, less than half of our churches have conducted such schools since last Conference. But while some of our churches are neglecting this means of grace, yet we are happy to know that many of our brethren are earnestly engaged in carrying this good and glorious work forward.

Without saying more, we, your Committee, would most earnestly and prayerfully recommend to our churches and brethren, that they put forth renewed energy to establish and sustain Sabbath Schools at all of our churches.

Respectfully submitted,
H. A. ALBRIGHT,
W. G. BRADY,
J. J. ALLEN,
Comtee.

Remarks were made on the report by Revs. A. S. Nelson, M. L. Hurley, H. A. Albright, and Brother S. B. Klapp, after which it was unanimously adopted.

Rev. H. A. Albright, Standing Secretary, tendered the resignation of that office. He was, on motion, re-elected to the same office.

The Committee on Home Missions made their Report as follows: The Committee on Home Missions would submit the following: After consulting with the delegates of the churches composing this Conference, the churches will be supplied with ministerial labor as follows:

Pleasant Grove—W. G. Brady and S. H. Way.

Union Grove—John S. Lawrence and S. H. Way.

Shiloh—W. R. Brown.

Pleasant Ridge—W. R. Brown and H. A. Albright.

Park's Cross Roads—Wm. R. Brown.

Shady Grove—John S. Lawrence and D. B. McLeod.

New Providence—John S. Lawrence.

Oldham's Grove—W. G. Brady.

Brown's Chapel—John S. Lawrence.

Cool Spring—John S. Lawrence.

New Center—W. W. Lawrence and S. H. Way.

Mount Zion—W. W. Lawrence.

Salem—W. G. Brady.

Bear Creek—W. R. Brown.

Revs. A. S. Nelson, W. M. Craven, and P. P. Umble, are without assignment at their requests.

JOHN A. SCOTT,
G. W. PARKS,
S. NALLS,
Comtee.

The report was adopted.

On motion, the present Conference Committee, Revs. W. R. Brown, J. S. Lawrence, H. A. Albright; Brothers H. T. Moffitt, and H. C. Vestal, were re-appointed for the next Conference year.

On motion of Rev. A. S. Nelson, the thanks of Conference are hereby tendered to the officers of this session for the efficient manner in which they have discharged their duties; and also to the brethren and friends for the very kind and hospitable manner in which they have supported this body.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet in night session.

[NIGHT SESSION.]

Conference convened. The President presiding.

The Conference Committee made the following report:

We, the Conference Committee, found it necessary immediately after the close of last Conference to confer on Bro. P. P. Umble, which was done on the second Sabbath in December at Shiloh, Randolph county.

W. R. BROWN,
H. A. ALBRIGHT,
Committee.

Conference approved the action of the Committee in the ordination of Bro. Umble.

On motion of Rev. W. R. Brown, the license of Bro. S. H. Way was renewed for twelve months.

The Committee on Education reported that nothing had come before them.

The ministers made a report of their labors as follows:

W. R. Brown preached for the churches at Pleasant Ridge, Shiloh, Bear Creek and Brown's Chapel.

Preached several funerals, all together about 60 sermons; received 23 members into the Church, received about \$50.

W. M. Craven preached about 30 sermons.

A. S. Nelson preached in connection with Bro. J. S. Lawrence.

S. H. Way, assisted Brother Umble at Union Grove, aided in five protracted meetings, preached forty sermons at various points; feel greatly blessed.

W. G. Brady had the charge of Pleasant Grove and Oldham's Grove; preached monthly at both places. Received \$3.00.

H. A. Albright, labored with the church at Pleasant Ridge and at other points; assisted in five protracted meetings; preached four temperance sermons, in all forty-one sermons.—Received \$3.85.

J. S. Lawrence, had charge of the churches at Shady Grove, New Providence, and Park's Cross Roads, preached about one hundred sermons received about \$75.00.

W. W. Lawrence, had charge of New Center and Mt. Zion; preached thirty-six sermons, one funeral, married two couples, received fifty-two members into the church; fifty-three conversions in my charge. To God be all the glory.

P. P. Umble, had charge of the church at Union Grove, preached at other points; in all, preached eighty sermons. Received \$9.25.

The Committee on Statistics made the following report:

Pleasant Grove—Expelled 4, died 3, total number of communicants 176.

Shiloh—Received 7, expelled 1, died 2, total number of communicants 116.

Pleasant Ridge—Received 1, withdrawn 9, died 2, total number of communicants 97.

Mt. Zion—Received 13, expelled 1, total number of communicants 21.

Bear Creek—Received 11, total number of communicants 11.

S. A. HAYWORTH,
J. M. STINSON,
WESTWARD COX,
Comtee.

The report was adopted by motion.

On motion of Rev. W. R. Brown, Conference adjourned to meet with the church at Pleasant Ridge, on Thursday 12 o'clock, M., before the second Sabbath in October, 1877.

Closing religious services conducted by Rev. A. S. Nelson.

JOHN S. LAWRENCE,
W. R. BROWN, Vice Pres.,
H. A. ALBRIGHT, Secretary,
S. A. Hayworth, Asst. Sec.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

[From our Regular Correspondent.]

Washington, D. C., Jan. 17, 1877.

The recent discovery of an "exploded" planet in the constellation of the "SWAN"—A VISIT TO THE U. S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY—AN INSTITUTION THAT HAS ESCAPED NOTICE BY THE PRESS.—"CAMP HILL" AND ITS HISTORY.—THE "GREENWICH" OF THE UNITED STATES—BEGINNING OF AN INTERESTING SKETCH—ETC., ETC.

The recent discovery of an "exploded" planet in the constellation of the "SWAN" has set the astronomers to thinking and speculating upon the possibility of a similar catastrophe happening to our own mother earth.

From the published reports, it appears that most of the eminent astronomers of the present day, both in this country and in Europe, opine that we are in no immediate danger, and that if such a calamity should happen, it will probably be some 8,000,000 years before it occurs; and a great many others (among whom the eminent astronomer and scientist, Professor Parkhurst) think that the peculiar condition of affairs now witnessed in that remote star are the same as those to which our own planet was subjected while in a gaseous state, and before it assumed its solid form.

Be this as it may, the fact remains that phenomena of an extraordinary nature have recently been observed in the celestial spheres, which are now the subject of diligent inquiry and examination in almost every astronomical observatory in the world.

Not that these phenomena are of a recent occurrence, for it probably took the light some thousands of years to travel from the distant planet to the earth; but it is not until now that (in that particular instance) they have been observed and studied, and nowhere with greater interest than at the United States Naval Observatory in Washington.

That Observatory being the only "national" institution of the kind in the United States, it is not to be wondered at that its officers take a special interest in the matter, and are anxious to contribute their quota to science.

It was this reflection which caused your correspondent to make a trip out to the Naval Observatory on "Camp Hill," despite the rain and the slush. The day was anything but favorable; dark, dreary, and dismal, and even at night the heavens were clouded so that there was not the remotest chance of getting a glimpse at the coveted star.

However, seeing that none of the usually enterprising correspondents (not even those of the *New York Herald*, *World*, *Tribune* or *Sun*) located at the National Capital, had thought it worth their while to visit the Observatory and interview its officers with the view of ascertaining their opinion on the subject, your correspondent made it a special point to do so, and, taking a carriage, (the Observatory cannot be approached by any of the lines of street cars) was deposited safe and sound in the mud before its gates yesterday about noon.

Before arriving, it had been my purpose to simply ask some questions in regard to the phenomena in the "Swan" constellation; but finding so much of interest to be seen there, which, as I afterwards learned, had never "appeared in print" before; I concluded to make a more thorough investigation. For, curious to say, while almost every possible subject, from the Capital down to the dog-pound, in the Nation's Capitol has been "written up" at some time or other, the observatory seems to remain an exception; which is probably owing to the fact that it is so disagreeable and difficult of access—especially in winter. Or is it possible that our "correspondents" are unaware of its existence? Whatever may be the cause of this unjustifiable neglect, I shall, so far as stands in my power, make amends for the slight thus thrown (involuntarily, doubtless,) up

on a great National Institution in which every American ought to take a pride, and will endeavor in the course of two or three letters, to furnish some account of the growth, purpose, and operation of this most interesting institution.

To "begin with the beginning," then, the so-called Naval Observatory is located on an eminence in the south-west part of Washington, known as "Camp Hill." This name was attributed to the hill in question from the fact that it was occupied by the American army, as a camping ground, in the years 1813 and 1814.

Referring to some old files of the National Intelligencer, I find that on August 23d, 1814, a brigade of militia, including Stull's and Peter's riflemen, and a battalion of troops from Alexandria, having camped on this hill on the evening of August 22d, advanced the following morning on Bladensburg, for the defence of Washington against the threatened attacks of General Ross and Admiral Cockburn. It is, however, probable that the site was known as "Camp Hill" before this, because of its high elevation (it being the second highest elevation within the boundaries of the District of Columbia) would naturally suggest it as an important military post. Indeed, the earliest trace on record identifying "Camp Hill," appears to be in connection with General Braddock's march against Fort Duquesne, in the early part of the colonial wars. By reference to a volume of "Braddock's Expedition," by Winthrop Sargent, in the Congressional Library, I find therein the following entries: "April 11, 1755. Four companies of the forty-fourth regiment, under command of Lieutenant Gage, and a detachment of sailors from Alexandria, landed this day from the boats of the *Sea Horse* and the *Nightingale*, and pitched their tents on a high elevation on the borders of the Potomac, a short distance east of Rock Creek." No other elevation than this could possibly be referred to. But besides this, the published letters of General Washington conclusively state that he, on several occasions, for strategic purposes, placed his forces on this very hill.

So much for the early history of the site where the Naval Observatory is now located. "National" Observatory it used to be called formerly, and with more propriety; for although under the immediate control and supervision of the Secretary of the Navy, the observatory is national in character and in the scope of its operations, and is confined to no one sphere of action, nor limited to any one Department. As for the observatory itself, its history is a long and interesting one; but time and space forbid a reiteration of it here. Suffice it to say that the observatory had a hard time of it before it came to life, struggling all the weary years between 1804 and 1842 for existence, for it was not until the last named year that a bill finally passed Congress, providing for its permanent establishment on the present site. Hence, we find as we enter the modest gateway leading into the interior, the following inscription over the doorway:

Founded A. D. 1844.

JOHN TYLER,
President of the United States.

ABEL P. UPSHUR,
Secretary of the Navy.

In my next letter, I will give some account of the progress of this institution down to the present day, and of the work that has been accomplished there, quietly and unostentatiously, to be sure, but none the less important.

L. B.

FRESH AIR.—At the laying of the corner-stone of a chapel in London, a few weeks since, Mr. Spurgeon recounted his effectual way of securing pure air in a church where the windows were so rarely opened that it was found difficult to raise them. "It was so close and hot," he said, "that I asked every gentleman near a window to smash a pane or two. There was soon a very grand smash, but then